UNGA CONFERENCE 2020

unga-conference.org

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD
Five Years of Actions Towards the SDGs

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

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VIRTUAL

JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) is an international civil society organization dedicated to the culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The JWF promotes diversity and inclusion by creating forums for intellectual and social engagement; generates and shares knowledge with stakeholders, builds partnerships worldwide and develops policy recommendations for positive social change.

* JWF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in New York State, USA
* JWF is associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications.

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Introduction

On the Occasion of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Journalists and Writers Foundation and its Global Partners organized the 5th Annual UNGA Conference, entitled; "Transforming Our World: Five Years of Action Towards the SDGs".

Organized by 35 Global Partners from 24 countries, the UNGA Conference 2020 hosted 21 distinguished panelists from 11 countries who shared their knowledge and years of experience in advocating for women empowerment and gender equality, implementing the SDG Goal #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and assessing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 500 participants from 47 countries actively contributed the discussions with their questions, arguments, and comments from different points of views.

The successful implementation of SDG #17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) remained at the focus of the UNGA Conference 2020. The JWF contributed to this mandate by mobilizing its Global Partners to share best-practices and policy suggestions on the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030.

2020 has been a strategic turning point for our global community, as we all fight the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented global threat is however expected to strengthen the international communication and facilitate collaboration between the Member States of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, towards a common objective of creating peaceful and inclusive societies, where everyone is equally entitled to human rights, without discrimination.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Today, **20 million** people are **refugees,** over 41 million people have been internally **displaced,** and at least 4 million people are **stateless**

Strong international **cooperation** is needed now **more than ever to ensure** that countries have the means **to achieve** the SDGs

UNGA CONFERENCE 2020: PIONEERS IN SDGs
AWARDS CEREMONY 2020

The Pioneers in SDGs Awards ceremony was the final event held on September 24, 2020, at 12:00pm EST time. The Journalists and Writers Foundation and its Global Partners recognized outstanding individuals and organizations as "Pioneers" in implementing the SDGs. Participating projects had tried to implement at least one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They showcased their innovative and creative expertise on how their project benefitted their societies. The winners were selected by a collection of an international jury, who evaluated the projects' contributions based on four criteria: innovation, stakeholders, scope, and impact besides community service, philanthropy, and their dedication to society. After reviewing the projects, the international jury selected the first, second, and third place winners from among the projects submitted from countries worldwide. The awards were presented to the winners during the UNGA Conference on September 24, 2020.

Award CEREMONY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020 NEW YORK

AWARD WINNERS AND CATEGORIES

FIRST PLACE AWARD
Global Call for Action: Save Lake Victoria Now and Stop Toxic Flow
By ACAD Interfaith Kenya-Swiss-Turk Curatorium Bamboo-Equator Africa, Kenya

SECOND PLACE AWARD
Localizing the SDGs by Empowering Youth as Changemakers
By Green Hope Foundation, Canada

THIRD PLACE AWARD
Language Conversation and Integration Classes for Refugee and Migrant Women
By Turquoise Harmony Institute, South Africa

INNOVATION AWARD
Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism
By Kamukunji Community Peace Network-KACPEN, Kenya

STAKEHOLDERS AWARD
Community
By Intercultural Dialogue Platform, Belgium

SCOPE AWARD
Tunu Football Club
By Tunu Foundation, Kenya

IMPACT AWARD
Culture Conservation-Based Integrated Development Project
By EMIC Culture Union, CHINA (Hong Kong)

CHANGE MAKER AWARD
100 Mile Hunger Walk
By Maurice A. Bloem and Diana Muresan, USA, Indonesia, Timor-Leste

CHANGE MAKER AWARD
Ambassadors of Humanity
By Ambassadors of Humanity, Kenya

CHANGE MAKER AWARD
Prevent 240 Million Nilotes from Contaminated Fish and Lake water Borne Diseases - Cure Toxic Flow in Kenya's Winam Gulf
By ACAD Interfaith Kenya-Swiss-Turk Curatorium Bamboo-Equator, UN Civil Society EAC, Kenya

Speakers

OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

WELCOME REMARKS:

MEHMET KILIC, President, Journalists and Writers Foundation (USA)

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

HON. PROF. BOB CARR, Former Foreign Minister of Australia (AUSTRALIA)

DR. WAYNE HENRY, JP, Director-General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (JAMAICA)

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MODERATOR:

DONNA ORENDER, Founder and CEO of Orender Unlimited and Generation W, Former President of The Women's National Basketball Association (USA)

PANELISTS:

HOURY GEUDELEKIAN, Chair, NGO CSW (USA)
Review of the Beijing Declaration: 1995 to 2020

MOHNA ANSARI, Member Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission (NEPAL)
Gender Perspectives and Women's Leadership in Policy Making

PROF. DIANE ELSON, Emeritus Professor, University of Essex - Department of Sociology (U.K.)
Inclusive Economies for Women's Empowerment

DIYA K. WYNN, AI/ML Ethicist, Emerging Technologies & Intelligent Platforms GSP, Amazon Web Services (USA)
Technological Advancements for Women's Empowerment: Opportunities & Challenges

DISCUSSANT:

DR. MARINA SOROKINA, Head of the Department of History, Alexander Solzhenitsyn Center for the Study of the Russian Diaspora (RUSSIA)
Russia`s best practices on implementing the SDG #5: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering all Women and Girls

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MODERATOR:

PAULA BOLAND, President, UNA-NCA (USA)

PANELISTS:

NATALIA MARCELA MOLINA, Member IAWJ (ARGENTINA)
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

MICHAEL COLLINS, Executive Director, Institute for Economics and Peace (USA)
Decline of Democratic Values and Rise of Autocracy Globally

WAQAR GILLANI, Senior Correspondent, "The News" on Sunday (PAKISTAN)
Rise of Violence against Journalists and Right to Access Information for Strong Institutions

DR. SHEKH M. ALTAFUR RAHMAN, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University (THAILAND)
Access to Justice for Transparency and Accountability in Governance

VIDEO PRESENTATION: **"Grade A Human: Too Viral,"** Cage Free Voices, USA

VIDEO PRESENTATION: **"Smile Beneath Your Mask,"** A Song About Love and Hope, IFLC Youth Response to COVID-19 by Paradise College, Papua New Guinea

PANEL 3: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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ANTON MOROZOV, Deputy of the State Duma, Member of the High Council of the LDPR (RUSSIA)

MODERATOR:

JJ GREEN, National Security Correspondent at WTOP Radio (USA)

PANELISTS:

JEFF SCHLEGELMILCH, Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, The Earth Institute, Columbia University (USA)
Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19

SHIV VIKRAM KHEMKA, Vice-Chairman, SUN Group Global, Executive Chairman, The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (INDIA)
The New Era of Online Engagement: Evolving Economic Development and Private Sector

BASMA ALAWEE, State Refugee Organizer, Florida Immigrant Coalition (USA)
Refugee Rights during the Pandemic

BURAK HAYLAMAZ, Human Rights Solidarity (U.K.)
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Concept Note

PANEL 1 - WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY: 25 YEARS AFTER THE BEIJING DECLARATION

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at this landmark gathering continues to guide the work of UN Agencies, the Member States, and women's rights organizations in addressing the current challenges and constraints in the empowerment of women and girls all around the world under its 12 critical areas of concern.

Panel 1 brought together champions of promoting their agenda. The prominent speakers discussed rich experiences to address SDG #5 (Gender Equality) and SDG #10 (Reduced Inequalities). Key points from the panel touched on women's and girls' empowerment, achieving gender equality in policymaking and decision-making mechanisms, and addressing the challenges and opportunities created by today's technology to advance the contributions of women to social and economic development.

1.1: Gender Perspectives and Women's Leadership in Policy Making

Good governance and accountability with the inclusion of women and youth, both in the public and private sectors, were recognized as key to transforming social and economic development. According to UN Women,

"the most recent data indicates that 44.2 percent of professional and higher-level staff are women, up from 32.6 percent reported in 1995. The number of women parliamentarians around the world has more than doubled to 25%." However, the panelists acknowledged the numerous missing grounds in most developing countries to have a gender-balanced parliament, government cabinet, considering and prioritizing women's rights in policymaking, strategy, and research areas, ensuring commitments made for women to participate equally in decision-making processes at all levels in government and employment. They acknowledged the slow gender-responsive implementation of the Global Goals 2030.

1.2: On Gaining Grounds on Girls Empowerment

The report "Women's Rights in Review after 25 Years

UNGA CONFERENCE 2020
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Senior Vice President, Strategic Development, Orender Unlimited & Former President of the Women's National Basketball Association

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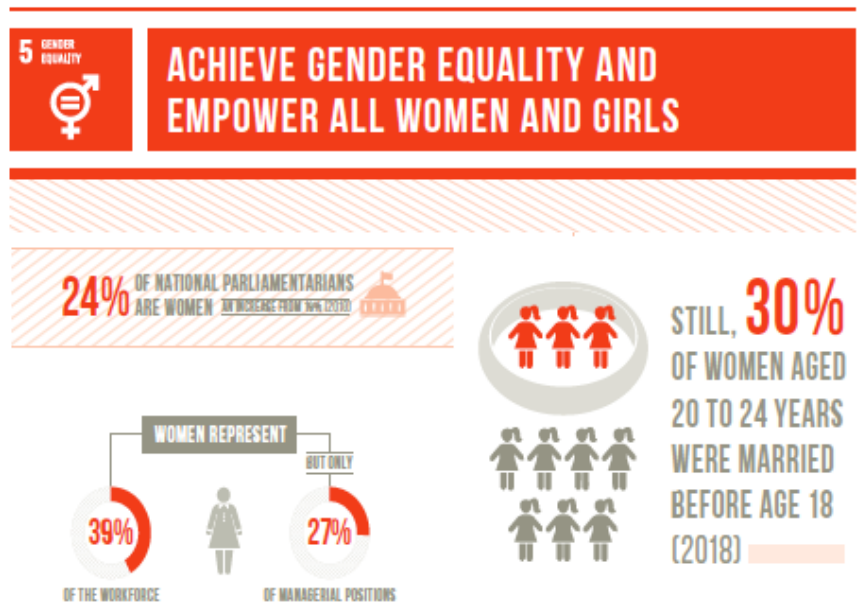**PANEL 1** WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY: 25 YEARS AFTER the BEIJING DECLARATION

Beijing," published by UN Women, indicates that, in 2020, "an estimated 32 million girls of primary age are out of school." The elimination of barriers to access quality education, training, and skills development promotes girls' participation in all sectors of society. Fulfilling her education creates lifelong opportunities for the girl child in her transition to be a young adult and professional. Discrimination in girls` access to education is directly linked with the gender-biased traditional norms, early pregnancies, young marriages, heavy domestic work, and lack of reinforcement of girls` self-esteem, especially in underdeveloped countries.

The panelists called on the Civil society and mass media to develop a critical responsibility to raise awareness, combat the stereotypes in society, and provide an informal education on the importance of girls' access to STEM and higher education. Governments are also expected to allocate sufficient resources to encourage girls to go to school. There were side questions that also acknowledged the inclusive nature of family members in this debate. The weak point has been putting girls, women aside from the rest of the household. Yet, in most cultures, the exclusion is about suspicion and misinformation on the value of women, men, boys, girls working to understand the common good of society.

1.3: Inclusive Economies for Women's Empowerment

Women play a critical role in the labor force; however, there are still inadmissible differences in women's access to occupational training and financial resources. They lack representation in higher-level decision-making positions in the private sector. While women's share in the economy continues to rise due to the modern era's changing gender norms, women still have many barriers to achieve their full economic potential. The gender pay gap is one of the critical issues discouraging women from participating in the economy. The report "Women's Rights in Review after 25 Years Beijing" underlines that "the gender gap in labor force participation among adults aged 25 to 54 has stagnated over the past 20 years, standing at 31

percent" and that "women are paid 16% less than men". Ending occupational segregation, tackling violence and harassment at the workplace, and work-family reconciliation policies are the priority areas that need improvement to boost women's active participation in the economy. The current pandemic situation has accelerated domestic violence, where women have become victims. Psychosocial therapy for each gender seems to be a gap in gender empowerment. Men seem lost when they lose employment.

1.4: Technological Advancements for Women's Empowerment

It was a fair evaluation of opportunities and challenges of new technologies in most communities and the emergence of innovative occupational structures that lead the global economy to be more inclusive for women and girls. However, technological advancements carry with them both opportunities and challenges. Increasing women's access to technical resources encourages them to be entrepreneurs and contribute to the economy through remunerative work rather than the domestic economy only. On the other hand, there is a rising trend of cyber violence against women that should also be addressed. Furthermore, globally growing harassment cuts across national borders, cultures, and races, increasing online hate crimes. This point touched on migration across borders and challenges faced by women and children.

PANEL 2 - IMPLEMENTING SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Panel 2 focused on the review of five years of actions in implementing SDG #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. SDG #16 is an intersectional enabler for the implementation of the Global Agenda 2030. Despite its vital role, there are many global threats against establishing peaceful and just institutions, including shrinking space of the civil society, severe human rights violations, particularly against women, immigrants, and people of color, increasing conflicts and violence.

The HLPF 2019 SDG 16 Conference organized by UN DESA indicates that the "SDG #16 is considered one of the most difficult SDGs to monitor," due to data collection's political sensitivities and related complexities. The JWF 2019 UNGA Conference outcomes address SDG 16 extensively. This session was like a good recap of the UNGA Conference 2019. The key points that came out of the panel discussions were about SDG #16 with a particular focus on promoting and protecting human rights, the decline of democratic values and the rise of autocracies globally, the increase in violence against human rights defenders and journalists, and the right to access information for better transparency and accountability in governance.

While identifying these issues, the panel also provided a framework of collaboration between the development stakeholders to tackle the challenges of implementing SDG #16. It called on all nations to address SDG 16 as part of their policy framework.

2.1: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Agenda 2030 declared the objective to leave no one behind; therefore, advancing sustainable development through human rights is essential. Promotion and protection of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights are necessary to mitigate the national and international crisis. The Member States, national human rights organizations, and civil society should prioritize the integration of human rights to create peaceful, just, and strong institutions. All nations were challenged to include SDG #16 in their policy development.

2.2: Decline of Democratic Values and Rise of Autocracies Globally

Promoting democratic values is directly linked with the SDG #16. In discussing this, the panelists received questions across the globe, and key points touched on the waning public confidence in the judiciary mechanisms, morality, and ethics in public institutions.

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The International Association of
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WAQAR GILLANI
Special Correspondent
The News on Sunday

DR. SHEKH MOHAMMAD
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School of Global Studies
Thammasat University

PANEL 2:
IMPLEMENTING SDG #16:
PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development. Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions All Levels.

According to Freedom House, there are 14 consecutive years of decline in global freedom. This negative trend inevitably affects building strong institutions to create inclusive societies. The freedom index in the World 2020 indicates that "The unchecked brutality of autocratic regimes and the ethical decay of democratic powers globally, are combining to make the world increasingly hostile to fresh demands for better governance." Recently, rising calls for democratic values show that ethnic, religious, minority, and racial groups are combating autocracies globally.

2.3: Rise of Violence Against Human Rights Defenders and Journalists

Threats against human rights defenders and journalists worldwide are an alarming setback of the failing democracies and unjust institutions. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019 underlines that "United Nations recorded and verified 397 additional killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists across 41 countries." The civic space for human rights defenders and journalists is shrinking more than ever. The UN Member States and other inter-governmental organizations are obligated to protect the defenders' and journalists' fundamental rights, standing up to create peaceful and just societies for all, leaving no one behind.

2.4: Right to Access to Information for Transparency and Accountability in Governance

The right to access information is essential in establishing accountable institutions. Transparency, accountability, and access to information are the key to building sustainable and strong institutions. Uninformed citizens cannot hold their government accountable for violations of human rights and public sector corruption. HLPF 2019 SDG 16 Conference, held in Rome, recommends that "Governments should connect human rights data collectors and the central SDG monitoring/collection bodies at the national level.

SDG monitoring bodies should request data from human rights institutions and information commissioners." Therefore, there is a clear good governance linkage between the right to access information, transparency, and accountability. Most countries are drifting to totalitarianism.

> *The civic space for human rights defenders and journalists is shrinking more than ever. The UN Member States and other inter-governmental organizations are obligated to protect the defenders' and journalists' fundamental rights, standing up to create peaceful and just societies for all, leaving no one behind.*

PANEL 3 - LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Panel Session 3 discussed the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on SDG #3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG #17: Partnerships for the Goals. This ongoing pandemic continues to pose an unprecedented threat to the global community without sparing any country or region.

Implementation of the Global Agenda 2030 is now more challenging than ever as this historical situation has evolved the social and economic development for sustainability. Extraordinary circumstances redefined governments and societies' essential functions as the global community is going through difficult and challenging times since the emergence of the coronavirus. The panelists discussed the COVID-19 pandemic by focusing on the response until now to this global health crisis emergency and best practices, the new era of online engagement, refugee rights during the pandemic, and the right to life in prisons for journalists, political prisoners, women, and children.

3.1: Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19

Some of the highlights that the global community had experienced and excelled at during COVID-19 include the importance of data collection and its analysis, global information and communication systems, civil society contributions to facilitate solidarity, compassion, unity, and the assessment of public health readiness for health crises.

There have been study groups across continents collecting data on COVID-19 pandemic like Virus Outbreak data Network (VODAN Africa), in collaboration with research teams in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Tunisia, University of Leiden, University of Tilburg, CEDAR user teams at Stanford University and San Diego. As well as collecting data and storage calls for FAIR Data principles as part of the national policy in collaboration with WHO.

While the pandemic has inevitably strained national finances, civil society organizations significantly contributed to assisting governments in combating the crisis. The panelists agreed that COVID-19 is not a health crisis by itself. The UN Report "COVID-19 and Human Rights" indicates that "[Pandemic] is highlighting deep economic and social inequalities and inadequate health and social protection systems that require urgent attention as part of the public health response." Social distancing contributed to the loss of employment in every country.

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PANEL 3: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Therefore, the global response to the pandemic has put human rights at the center to achieve the best results in combating the spread of the coronavirus. While most advanced economies can afford to give households an allowance to survive during this pandemic, some continents, especially Africa, cannot have the luxury of providing a monetary support to its citizens to buy most essential family goods for sustainability.

3.2: The New Era of Online Engagement

Online engagement has placed the right to health care services at the center of the pandemic crisis management. However, months of lockdowns throughout the world have created additional needs and requirements to assist elderly citizens, immigrants, and other individuals in need, and restrained children's right to access quality education in schools. The civil society organizations and the private sector have been incredibly creative in their online engagement to alleviate the governments' recovery policies. Mental health service centers have also carried out an essential mission of supporting individuals during their isolation in the quarantine process.

Educators have developed innovative distance learning tools and implemented online schooling programs. This new era of online engagement has seemingly made limited resources more accessible to many individuals. The outcome has revealed an education imbalance gap policy in giving classes online between the rich and poor children in developing countries.

3.3: Refugee Rights during the Pandemic

Refugees, the people on the move, are disproportionately affected by the Pandemic because of their limited access to social and health services, restrictions of their freedom of movement, and resettlement efforts. Those who tried to cross over to Europe have had their cases dimmed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Unsanitary and crowded living conditions in refugee camps have put the refugees even more in danger of getting infected. The UN Policy Brief entitled "COVID-19 and People on the Move" rightly states that "all of the above risks are compounded by the difficulty of delivering humanitarian assistance to the world's most vulnerable people on the move in light of canceled flights, closed borders, lockdown, and some countries placing export controls on medical supplies and equipment."

Despite the severe constraints, there are also countless examples of refugees contributing to their new countries: youth immigrants mobilizing resources for the elderly, qualified immigrant doctors getting their licenses, and serving on the front line in hospitals. Many other such contributions once again showed how valuable immigrants are for their new homelands.

3.4: COVID-19 and Right to Life in Prisons

Given the conditions of limited space, overcrowding, and limited access to health services, the right to life in prisons has been another critical issue during the pandemic. Therefore, human rights and intergovernmental organizations have repeatedly urged governments to take urgent action in addressing the full range of infection risks faced by persons deprived of their liberty. In closed settings, in particular prisons, UN Member States must respect the human rights of those deprived of liberty. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has also urged the UN Member States to comply with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules) to protect individuals under detention, vulnerable prisoners, and prison officers.

Proceedings

UNGA CONFERENCE 2020
FIVE YEARS of ACTION TOWARDS the SDGs

HON. PROF. BOB CARR
Former Foreign Minister of Australia

MEHMET KILIC
President
The Journalists and Writers Foundation

DR. WAYNE HENRY, JP
Director–General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica

UNGA CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION
OPENING REMARKS - Mehmet Kilic, President, Journalists and Writers Foundation – USA

Mehmet Kilic is the President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation which is dedicated to the advancement of peace, human rights and sustainable development. Prior to his current position, Mr. Kilic served as the UN Representative at the UN ECOSOC from 2012 to 2017. To raise awareness on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, he has mobilized civil society organizations by organizing international conferences, panel discussions, international trips, and youth projects. Mr. Kilic also creates platforms for intellectual and social engagement that aims to promote peace, diversity and inclusion for positive social change. With over 20 years of experience in global affairs, public relations, and non-profit sector, Mr. Kilic pioneered educational and social responsibility projects. Mr. Kilic organized Ambassadors Series discussions hosting ambassadors and diplomats accredited to the United Nations with a focus on Africa, South Asia, and the Balkans. He initiated the Young Peace Ambassadors Academy that offers free global studies programs for high school students to inspire young leaders and responsible global citizens. Mr. Kilic has a master's degree in Education from Mercy College and is a doctoral candidate at Walden University, pursuing his PhD in Global and Comparative Education.

On the Occasion of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, I welcome you all to the 5th Annual UNGA Conference 2020, entitled "Transforming Our World: Five Years of Action Towards the SDGs." We are proud to host 21 distinguished panelists from 11 countries who will share their knowledge and years of experience, including women empowerment and gender equality, implementing the SDG Goal #16: peace, justice, and strong institutions, and assessing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year 2020 is historic time as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration on women empowerment and gender equality. It is also the 5th Year of the Adoption of the UN Global Agenda 2030.

UNGA Conference 2020 aims to review the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is an opportunity for us to look back on the achievements while facing the challenges. Partnership is important to achieve these goals so I want to thank all of our global partners for their dedication and support to make this conference a success!

In Panel 1, we will discuss current challenges and constraints on women empowerment and gender equality in

policymaking and decision-making mechanisms with a comparative analysis of how technological advancements influence women empowerment with opportunities and challenges, and understand how women's empowerment, leadership, and participation contribute to social and economic development. I believe that women empowerment and gender equality are not a singular issue that emphasizes only on the rights of the women. Rather promoting and protecting women's rights ensure peaceful and inclusive societies and contributes to social and economic development.

The UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres made "gender parity and equality" a priority in his agenda that turned the United Nations into a gender-equal organization with 50/50 representation of women and men in the senior leadership levels. This policy change in the senior leadership has inspired millions of women and girls around the world.

In Panel 2, distinguished speakers will address the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal #16: peace, justice, and strong institutions. We thank our panel for their outstanding presentations, remarks, and substantial analysis of data on peace, justice, and human rights issues.

Youth Empowerment, leadership, and participation play an important role to offer sustainable solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges. There are amazing young people around the world who have the knowledge, skills, and determination to make a difference in our global world. Greta Thunberg is one of the renown environmental activists who has inspired and energized and millions of young people across the globe to take action on climate change. Malala Yousafzai is another young activist who is known for human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children. She is the youngest Nobel Prize laureate. There are tens of thousands of young people who want to make a difference in our society who want to express their ideas on peacebuilding, climate change, gender equality, social justice, equality,

I believe that women empowerment and gender equality are not a singular issue that emphasizes only on the rights of women.

Rather promoting and protecting women's rights ensure peaceful and inclusive societies and contributes to social and economic development.

and other issues.

A group of Youth from the Cage Free Voices will present an amazing performance, entitled: "Grade A Human: Too Viral" that gives a strong message to the world. Our special thanks go to Drake and Donovan Brown from Matthew Henson Middle School in Maryland, Oluwa Feranmi Davies from Essy Gold School from Lagos in Nigeria, and Terrence Everett from North Carolina A&T Company. We also have another wonderful youth performance by the IFLC Youth, entitled: "Smile Beneath Your Mask", which is a song about love and hope despite many challenges. We thank Paradise College students from Papua Neu-Guinea for their participation and contributions.

In Panel 3, we will discuss the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic with evolving social and economic development for sustainability. Our panelists will share their expertise on responding to global emergencies and best practices from covid-19, the new era of online engagement: evolving economic development and private sector, refugee rights during the pandemic, and covid-19 and right to life in prisons: Turkey case.

We are living in an unprecedent time in the history of humanity that we face a global health crisis: COVID-19. We must remember that this is not only a health crisis, but a social, economic, and environmental crisis. The COVID-19 taught us at least one lesson that diseases, disasters, and crisis do not discriminate people by race, ethnicity, gender, or socio-economic background. It doesn't matter if you are a developed or a developing country; when it hits, it hits everybody hard!

To overcome this disease, we need collective efforts and actions to fight against the coronavirus that is targeting our health, our economy, and our security. It is important that we work together in this fight because we are stronger together! But of course, we are not pessimistic about the future. On the contrary, we are hopeful for the future; if we all work together, we can come out of this crisis even stronger!

In closing, I would like to thank all of the speakers for their contributions during panel discussions. The discussions have been very productive with so much information to digest, learn, and act on in the next 10 years. The Journalists and Writers Foundation's and its Global Partners' commitment to inclusive, transformative, and achievable UN Development Agenda for humanity and the planet that help achieve our global mission of Leaving No One Behind.

The UNGA Conference hosted 21 speakers from 11 countries with over 520 participants from 48 countries. Partnership is one of the highlights of the conference that 35 global partners from 24 different countries put their efforts to make this conference a success. We thank our global partners for their leadership, dedication, and support in organizing the UNGA Conference 2020.

Last but not least, I would like to announce that we will host the Pioneers in SDGs Awards that pay tribute to outstanding individuals and organizations contributing to sustainable peace and development through innovative and creative projects. Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies; protecting human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values; empowering women, girls, and youth

for social justice and equal opportunities play an essential role in achieving sustainable development goals worldwide.

The Pioneers in SDGs Awards Ceremony will be held on September 24, 2020 at 12:00pm-1:30pm EST. The Journalists and Writers Foundation and its 35 Global Partners acknowledge the contributions of projects to society serving as an exemplary model that inspires others towards positive social change while contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This is a remarkable opportunity for project participants to share their project as best-practices with the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders while exploring other opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

The UNGA conference declaration and resolutions will be disseminated within the United Nations, the UN Member States and other relevant bodies as a policy recommendation for the assessment of the implementation of the SDGs. The UNGA 2020 Conference Proceedings, including speakers' papers and presentations, will be published and shared with multiple stakeholders as a point of reference to rethink and realign implementation policies and practices for higher levels of outcomes considering the new normal in the post-COVID era.

KEYNOTE - Wayne Henry, PhD, JP, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica - JAMAICA

COVID-19 and Beyond: Perspectives from Jamaica's experience in integrating the SDGs in the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, 2015–2020

Dr. Wayne Henry, JP holds a PhD in agricultural and development economics as well as an MA in economics from the Ohio State University, an MBA in finance from Howard University, and a BSc in economics and management from the University of the West Indies. Prior to joining PIOJ, Dr. Henry spent five years as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Scotiabank Group, served as Chief Technical Advisor to the Minister of Finance, as well as Special Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Wayne Henry, JP delivered his Keynote Remarks on the topic "COVID-19 and Beyond: Perspectives from Jamaica's experience in integrating the SDGs in the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan". Dr. Henry examined the

areas of progress, strengths, gaps, shared early insights on the way forward and discussed Jamaica`s response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Jamaica's motto is "Out of Many One People." This is representative of an approach to nation building that advances integration, equity and inclusion as core principles in advancing a vision for not only Jamaicans, but one that connects us with our regional and global communities— and which culminated in the development and launch of the 21-year Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan (NDP), in 2009; Jamaica's first long-term national development plan.[1]

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1 *https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/en/plans/vision-2030-jamaica-national-development-plan-ndp*

Vision 2030 Jamaica provides a road map, governance and institutional framework for the achievement of developed country status, a secure and prosperous future to realize the vision of "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business". It is geared towards the achievement of four synergistic and interdependent sustainable development goals which cascade into 15 National Outcomes.

The Road Map for SDG Implementation in Jamaica, which was approved by Cabinet in 2017, identifies Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) — the main mechanism for policy-based implementation of the long-term strategies of Vision 2030 Jamaica, as providing the framework and mechanisms for advancing the achievement of the SDGs. The Road Map was informed by stakeholder consultations and a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA), in 2016, that determined Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs to be 91.0 per cent aligned. Jamaica determined that based on efforts to address gaps in alignment, estimates show the country to have exceeded 99.0 percent alignment in 2018.[2]

In the MTF, the SDGs have been aligned with the goals and outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica and targets of the SDGs have been aligned with the medium-term strategic priorities. Jamaica's first Voluntary National Review Report (2018) comprised a report on action and performance based on this alignment of the SDGs with Vision 2030 Jamaica and integration in Plan implementation.[3]

In alignment with the implementation framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica, the Road Map for SDGs Implementation prioritizes coordination, institutional arrangements and partnerships; capacity building in planning, monitoring and evaluation, data and statistics, development financing and other resourcing; and communications and advocacy; and states that implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica can lead to the achievement of the SDGs. It presents recommendations towards supporting the enablement of existing strategies and programmes to be integrated in policy bundles and serve as entry points that have accelerative effects.

Prior to the onset of the novel coronavirus "COVID-19" Pandemic, Jamaica in its pursuit of Vision 2030 Jamaica,

had experienced mixed results over the first 11 years of Plan implementation, with performance steadily advancing in some areas while slipping or remaining the same in others—gains were made in human capital development, macroeconomic stability, and governance, among other areas; while challenges were experienced in such as areas as security and safety, environmental sustainability and the rate of non-communicable diseases.

The country recorded positive performance on key international governance indicators such as voice, accountability, government effectiveness and was ranked 6 of 180 countries in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index[4]; and the case clearance rate increased owing to targeted efforts to improve access to court and other justice services. Continued focus was given to advancing women's empowerment and gender equality within the framework of the National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE, 2011)[5] and alignment with the Beijing Platform. Communication and Reporting on Plan Implementation and performance have been geared towards maximum reach and ease of access.

Based on lessons learned, Jamaica has engaged systems and practices for improved coordination of the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs towards improved development outcomes. These include:

- Full alignment of MTF 2018–2021 with relevant SDGs and targets
- Strengthening the capacity of the Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat for coordination, and monitoring and evaluation regarding the integration of the SDGs in Plan Implementation and the capacity of the SDGs Secretariat for coordination of SDG implementation
- Establishing a two-tiered stakeholder-driven governance mechanism—a Core Group and National Oversight Committee; integrating the SDGs in partnership frameworks and institutional arrangements
- Strengthening national capacity to report on the SDG Indicators
- Strengthening capacity for sustainable and adequate development financing, including, innovative financing
- Developing the systems and structures for a digital society and technology enablement.

2 http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/the-agenda/implementing-the-sdgs-and-vision-2030-perspectives-from-jamaica-s-experience-in-pursuing-the-national-development-plan-2015-2020_203855?profile=1444
3 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19499JamaicaMain_VNR_Report.pdf
4 https://rsf.org/en/ranking
5 https://www.nlj.gov.jm/files/u8/NPGE-JA-FINALwCover21311.pdf

COVID-19 has demonstrated how quickly a development path can be challenged. From the PIOJ's preliminary review of the development targets under Vision 2030 Jamaica, it is anticipated that based on projections for the Jamaican and wider global society and economy, as well as on-going national demand for social assistance, economic stimulus and worker protection interventions, there will be slippages in several development indicators.

COVID-19 has already been demonstrated to have deleterious effects on lives and livelihoods with an estimated economic contraction of 10.0 percent for the fiscal year[6]; increases in the experience of different types of vulnerabilities for the majority of the population and for particularly those traditionally most at risk; and requiring Jamaica, like the rest of the global community, to balance public health and economic survivability concerns.

Within this context, the significance of national development policy and planning as prerequisites for mitigating losses, damages and seizing opportunities for stability and growth, has been highlighted. The role of government and the importance of public policy have been elevated as critical success factors in governing markets, including informing the relationships and linkages within and among the financial and real sectors as well as the protection of a country's economic capital and investments—such as its entrepreneurs, workers and national and global value chains. The necessity for agility and adhering to strategic priorities in not only programming but in the means of implementation is critical to the pursuit of stakeholder/partnership driven development within a context where private and public interests may simultaneously intersect and conflict.

We see this in our own country response where government has had to extend its direct management and intervention beyond traditional areas such as macro-economic and fiscal management, public health, education and environmental management; to economic value chains, including financial and technical interventions in both supply and demand logistics; and income security within a pay-check protection framework to both the formal and informal sectors; among others. Yet, the importance of public-private and other partnerships, and the role of civil society and non-governmental actors, has been demonstrably critical to ensuring that the necessary capital, expertise and ownership as well as local level

and needs-based reach and translation of policies and programs is achieved.

This reality, coupled with the reigniting of debates—on the implications of globalization and technological advancement on the future of work; sustainability, equity and resilience within global value chains; and climate change—particularly on small island developing states (SIDS), have signaled possible enduring shifts in the global development landscape post COVID-19.

Jamaica's commitment to Vision 2030 Jamaica and the SDGs provides a framework for response to crises such as COVID-19—the relevance of our long-term goals and overarching strategic framework for development has been reinforced, but strategic actions in the medium to long term to realize our goals and maintain that path, require strategic review and revision, including revisiting our development targets up to 2030 and the period/schedule for achieving planned outcomes and our national development goals.

COVID-19 has created and exposed cracks in global systems and structures which pose threats and present opportunities for change and growth. Jamaica has been responding to the recognized the critical importance of ensuring that Vision 2030 Jamaica and SDG aligned policies regarding human capital development and social protection are integrated in shifting economic and business practices and social responsibility efforts. This approach seeks to ensure that post COVID-19 societal shifts do not result in slippage or deviations away from the pursuit of development that is multi-dimensionally sustainable and inclusive. Jamaica is committed to moving beyond business as usual and embracing a "new normal" that "leaves no one behind".

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6 https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/05/27/na052720-jamaica-ramps-up-social-and-economic-support-in-covid-19-response

KEYNOTE - Hon. Prof. Bob Carr, Former Foreign Minister of Australia & Industry Professor, University of Technology Sydney - AUSTRALIA

Implementing SDG #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Hon. Prof. Bob Carr served as the Minister for Planning and Environment and as Leader of the Opposition until his election as Premier in March 1995. Hon. Prof. Carr received the World Conservation Union International Parks Merit Award for creating 350 new national parks. He was a member of the International Task Force on Climate Change convened by Tony Blair. Hon. Prof. Carr has served as Honorary Scholar of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue. Being the author of several books, he was appointed as the Professor of Industry in Climate and Business at the University of Technology Sydney in May 2019. Hon. Prof. Bob Carr discussed the importance of building peaceful, just and strong institutions to combat the challenges of internal conflicts, protecting the journalists and human rights defenders who risk their lives to monitor and report human rights violations. By focusing on the Agenda 2030, with the motto of "Leaving No One Behind", Hon. Prof. Carr also underlined the role of collaboration between the states and non-governmental organizations to mitigate the national and international crisis.

Humanity has witnessed tragically a retreat of the civic space where people could operate independently of the government, make constructive criticisms, seek information and fight for their rights. For a lot of people, for far too many, the opportunity of speaking out and advancing the frontiers of freedom is becoming restricted and we need the views of global participants on the evidence of this. The civic space is becoming restricted and is not being expanded. The rulers can be persuaded to stick to the norms of political contestability and pluralism, by respecting the views of others, and not persecuting people for holding dissident opinions.

Today, societies tend to celebrate a dissident, especially when the forces of the state are turned against them. They represent a great vote of confidence in our culture, in our civilization, and we need more leaders to see that and to be persuaded not to resort to the easier task of closing down dissident voices, of limiting the room for difference or not permitting people who think they discriminated against or repressed to speak out and draw attention to their case. This has particular sensitivity to people already disadvantaged, in most cases, women and

We live in a time of substantial challenges. The global warming, which is confirming its reality year by year, shapes the world we live in and the challenge of producing a world where there is peace, justice and strong institutions. The leadership of the UN Secretary-General in drawing the world's attention to the persistent challenge of climate is very valid because the problems we face in achieving peace, security and robust institutions is all

greater given the difficulty the people of this planet have in surviving against sometimes catastrophically forceful changes in the way the natural world works.

girls, immigrants, including those who suddenly find themselves without a nationality, at loose in the world, seeking a new home and persons of color, many times in the context of increasing conflicts and violence.

It is important to defend those who are now risking their lives seeking to disseminate public information. As a journalist myself, I feel particularly sensitive about the reporters, who are at risk in many jurisdictions from seeking the truth, and inform the public accordingly. There are many journalists in prison across the world. The UN has charted hundreds of cases where people have lost their freedom by attempting to exert their energies to obtain information. In the times of crises, people are empowered by their right to access true public information. Human rights defenders are traveling to riskier parts of the planet to monitor and report the case of people who have been dispossessed and are at risk. They need our support as well.

Agenda 2030 is declared to "leave no one behind" and therefore advancing sustainable development through human rights was elevated as an essential process promotion, protection of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, all this scene is essential to mitigate the national and international crisis. Member states and national human rights organizations and civil society need to speak again about the integration of human rights to create peaceful and just and strong institutions. The great threat is the shift in the world's climate patterns and the destabilization of all aspects of human interaction as human beings living together on the planet. It calls for promoting democratic values integrally linked to SDG #16. The public should have confidence in the way its judicial systems, public ethics in public institutions work play themselves out.

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Sadly, according to Freedom House, there are 14 consecutive years in which global freedoms have declined[7]. The humanity needs strong and respected global institutions; however, the freedom of the World 2020 challenged us by finding "the unchecked brutality of autocratic regimes and the ethical decay of democratic powers are combining to make the world increasingly hostile to fresh demands for better governance."[8]

The call should be towards an accountable governance that society needs to achieve together by rallying behind every effort in this direction. Report 2019 reminded us that the UN recorded and verified a total of 397 additional killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists across the world. In 41 countries out of 190 countries or jurisdictions, where these violations can occur, member states and intergovernmental organizations have an obligation to protect the defenders and the reporters; otherwise, the recorders of fundamental rights being undermined or corroded.

In conclusion, the information is in fact vital. The world can't make the right decisions if denied access to information about the condition of life on the planet. So, I would like to encourage everyone to push the agenda, to push the frontier so that we can see more clearly where to protect those at risk and entrench more robustly the rights to the fair hearing, we think, which goes with being a human being on planet Earth.

7 https://freedomhouse.org/article/new-report-freedom-world-2020-finds-established-democracies-are-decline
8 https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2020/leaderless-struggle-democracy

PANEL 1 SESSION: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY: 25 YEARS AFTER the BEIJING DECLARATION

MODERATOR - Donna Orender, Founder and CEO of Orender Unlimited and Generation W, Former President, The Women's National Basketball Association – USA

The Role of Sports in Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

Donna Orender has been recognized as one of the top 10 Most Powerful Women in sports and one of Newsweek`s100 most Influential people in the business of sports and is a best-selling author with her 2018 release of Wowsdom! the Girl's Guide to the Positive and the Possible. Prior to the WNBA, Donna spent 17 years at the PGA TOUR where she was one of 3 senior executives serving in the Office of the Commissioner. As the CEO of Orender Unlimited, she works on the development of a strategic plan for the golf industry, initiated by the PGA of America. A Hall of Fame athlete at Queens College, Donna has been a recipient of the March of Dimes Sports Leadership Award and was honored by the UJA-Federation of New York's Entertainment, Media and Communications Division for her dedication to the community. Donna Orender discussed the transformative role of sports in building inclusive and peaceful socieites for all. Sharing her years of leadership experiences, Orender underlined the life-changing empowerment that sports provides for women and girls. As she elaborated on Generation W's mission, she underlined that elevating girls means elevating the world.

Generation W, whose mission is educating, inspiring and connecting women and girls while building community, recently hosted the annual thought leadership event with the theme focused on the Vision 20/20.[9] Generation W was excited to be exploring how they saw the world, the differing lenses, perspectives and who was focusing on what and why.

Then the unexpected happened. Who could have predicted, our eyes widely open, confronted by something one could not see, a small pathogen that would turn the world upside down? Today, as human persons, we could not have imagined previously such a situation and yet eagerly anticipated as all need to be together the interconnectivity of our global community. The need for the connection has never been more apparent.

The pandemic continues to disproportionately impact women and girls by laying bare the inequities that are

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9 https://genwnow.com/generation-w-broadcasts-vision-20-20-signature-event-as-a-digital-experience/

found across the globe, despite efforts over the years to arrest them. The efforts from different quarters have not been lessened, on the contrary.

Our sense of urgency and pursuit of actionable change is heightened by the recent loss of one of the greatest champions, leaders and warriors. This is the American Supreme Court JUSTICE Ruth Bader Ginsburg. With her tremendous vision, intellect, powerful words and writings, paved the way for the policy which initiated tangible and actionable changes to creating a more equitable world. While progress has been made, all are well aware that women continue to disproportionately represent the encumbered, the beleaguered, the impoverished and the embattled.

In my work and passionate pursuits, I have been struck by how the world speaks to us. It tells us, women, in a myriad of ways who is worth more and who is worth less. As an athlete, who competed at all levels and ultimately as a professional athlete, I encountered signs, signals even silence that showed how the world valued me or it did not. It was the same for ultimately the strong accomplished women I was privileged to represent as the President of the WNBA. It speaks to all of us every day, women and men, whether we choose to see it or not in the resources afforded, economic support, business partnerships,

marketing relationships, overall visibility, media support, fields to play on, it is a long list.

The summary of this struggle, when you stripped down, is about power; who has it, who does not. Ultimately it is important to underline how do we work together to show that power shared, is power amplified. Research has proven that diverse voices in any room where decisions are made, produces better results. It has been proven that women make great leaders, that they are innovators and managers. Most recently, women leaders across the globe, have charted the most effective responses to COVID-19 for their countries.

When sports is used as an analogy while one is putting together a team to compete, talent is a difference maker and having access to an entire talent pool, men and women only make a person stronger. Together makes us all stronger, stronger families, communities, cities, nations and a planet.

The most impactful tools we have today are not new at all. It has been proven to work for boys for generations. Equal access to sports for girls is a game changer for everyone. The physical and emotional benefits of better health, increased strength, confidence and specifically, a reduction in the incidence of cancers among women is life

It is about the extra pass and not holding onto it for yourself. It is imperative that our future teams have gender parity

and that young girls, who continue to face the realities of child marriage, genital mutilation, trafficking, domestic violence and lack of educational opportunities are given the chance to compete and succeed just as it has been for young boys for generations.

changing. Girls are learning how to compete, to lead others and themselves. As girls lead, they pull their families and their communities upward with them. The emphasis is not about making elite athletes, although that will and can happen, it is about building more inclusive communities through sports. Sports speak loudly to men. It is something they can see, a place where they can relate. It is a common space to build respect and understanding. It is more challenging in some villages and cities than others. However, it is happening as men increasingly come to champion their daughters' opportunities.

The power of sports drives our global institution, lifts nations, forges peace and is the greatest of international languages. All people can speak about the power of the ball and most importantly how to share that power, how we can share that ball, teams win when that happens and that is statistically verifiable.

It is about the extra pass and not holding onto it for yourself. It is imperative that our future teams have gender parity and that young girls, who continue to face the realities of child marriage, genital mutilation, trafficking, domestic violence and lack of educational opportunities are given the chance to compete and succeed just as it has been for young boys for generations. I had the privilege, recently, to participate as a judge in the Beyond Sports initiative that drives collaboration to increase the ability for organizations to drive social change through sport and in this case with a particular focus on gender equality.

It was exciting and inspiring to see how:

- Soccer, and football becomes a platform for teamwork and physical strength but also a knowledge base for sharing better maternal health practices, and education around child marriage in Uganda and India. In Zambia, football is a way of teaching Through the Girls Money savvy Project, how to become financially literate where girls learn how to earn money to support their schooling just as boys do.

- In Nepal, Empowering Women of Nepal is a group that works with disadvantaged young women and girls offering a comprehensive training program to become trekking guides. Women who began with no self-esteem or a pathway to hope emerge with leadership skills and opportunities to become economically independent with an ability to pursue education. As reported, they become multipliers of positive change changing social norms around a society free of discrimination and oppression.

- In America we have many organizations, including the Women's Sports foundation whose mission is to unlock the possibilities in every girl and woman through the power of sport founded by the inimitable Billie Jean King[10]. It is worthy to mention the World Surf League's program, Rising Tides, that builds young girls` confidence through surfing around the world while teaching them the values of sustainability and the vital life force of our oceans.

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10 *https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/*

- The strong correlation between athletic and business success speaks to the support of sport as a difference making strategy in changing the trajectory of girls and women's lives. With EY research reporting 94% of executive women having a background in sport, 80% of fortune 500 women exec having played competitive sports and over 60% of those women believing that playing sports contributed positively to their career success and advancement. They are joined in that belief by male executives as well.

I am one of those women. Sports allows me to sit with all the esteemed leaders today. I am a part of a global community of athletes who have lived first-hand the opportunity to realize self, and then team and then world. It is the power of the mind and body that enables, unleashes the power of change. Yet all are still very much on the front lines of fighting for gender equality and equity here in America, both on our playing fields and in our board rooms. When I look at the game clock on this team sport called life, I am dismayed to see that humankind is way too far into overtime with respect to the wins they are looking for girls, women, their families. Society is losing their opportunities, collectively by leaning to believe in this WE situation.

One of the core beliefs at Generation W is: When you elevate a woman, you elevate us all. This intergenerational mentorship is the way all can learn, live and ultimately lead together. The interaction with Vital Voices, a global NGO borne out of Beijing 1995 Conference, has taught all that when you invest in women you improve the world. They bring to the fore an undeniable truth that women are essential to progress to their communities and that our world cannot move forward without their full participation. Thank you to their great leader Alyse Nelson.

Esteemed supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg shared her thoughts on a meaningful life, by stating, "A meaningful life is living not for oneself but for one's community."[11] Where a devotion to equity and equality are goals worth fighting for every day. We should remember that what we do not see can be just as informative as what we do. Everyone should reach for new ideas, break out of the box, seek innovation, deploy technology for its best and highest usage, recognize that we must discard strategies that have not worked and demand with our actions that an acceleration of progress is the only next step that we can take.

The stakes are high not only for our daughters, but for our sons, for our families, for our communities. Life is a team sport and gender equality are a game changer. Let us change the game, and when we do, we all win.

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11 *https://news.stanford.edu/2017/02/06/supreme-court-associate-justice-ginsburg-talks-meaningful-life/*

PANELIST - Houry Geudelekian, Chair, NGO CSW - USA
A Review of the Beijing Declaration from 1995 to 2020

Houry Geudelekian was the previous Gender Program Coordinator at NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY and the UN Coordinator of Unchained at Last working to end child marriage in US. She recently ended her term as Co-Chair of the Working Group on Girls and Co-Chair of NYC4 CEDAW. In her capacity as UN Coordinator for Armenian Relief Society (2011-2016), Geudelekian served as the Executive Committee member of NGO CSW NY, Co-Chaired NGO CSW Forum Planning Committee, MC'd two Consultation Days and chaired the Women of Distinction Award for CSW57/58. Houry Geudelekian acknowledged the advancements that have taken place since the Beijing 1995. Geudelekain talked about the programs of the NGO CSW. She underlined the importance of the collaboration that is needed to establish gender equality globally.

I am the girl who needed so much to have a voice because I was married off at an early age, which deprived me from my education. I am not sharing my expertise here as an advocate of women`s empowerment, but the embodiment of who we should be fighting for.

I would like to discuss the NGO CSW and what we have been doing with generation equality in 20202. We all live the reality that COVID-19 changed our lives. The work of NGO CSW was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were organizing our largest gathering in New York, last March 2020, as part of our mandate for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Under normal circumstances, NGO CSW would bring voices of women and girls globally to the headquarters at the United Nations.

For the March 2020 event, over twenty thousand women had signed up to be present in New York. The organizers dimmed it as the Second Coming of Beijing Platform for Action, to mark the Beijing +25. The NGO CSW had planned five hundred and fifty panel discussions during the CSW. The organizers had come up with an elaborate good plan to have a grand silver jubilee celebration, were it not for that silent enemy called COVID-19.

Was this COVID-19 pandemic a surprise to humanity? There were signs in the world to show that the human person was acting irresponsibly and it would not take long before a tragedy took place. The irresponsible actions are interconnected with the current pandemic taking place. If humanity does not respond to climate change, well, there might be similar tragedies in the upcoming years.

People are now blindly buying into the patriarchy, new type of colonialism, and global capitalism. The world

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> *We have been fighting for centuries, and at least for the last twenty-five years to specifically implement Beijing Platform for Action. I think that document is the strongest document that we have had for gender equality.*

needs everyone`s dedication, the experts to advise and the rest to forge a unified collaboration. Women, girls and our allies, our men and boys, who are on board in this fight for better gender relations. All must keep going by doing what all know to be the best, by giving voices to women and girls. CSW was planning to organize what they call the Generation Equality Forum, spearheaded by UN women in partnerships with France and Mexico.

We are open, striving for ideas and collaborations on how we can move the needle. We have been fighting for centuries, and at least for the last twenty-five years to specifically implement Beijing Platform for Action. I think that document is the strongest document that we have had for gender equality. The problem is that we never knew how to hold our governments accountable for the implementation. There are so many landmark documents at the UN right now. And if we really adhere to their agreements, we would not be in this situation.

Imagine if we had global health coverage. Imagine if we had truly the direct connection to what climate change is and how it has really affected us all. We would all be in a better position. We truly have to see how we can make a difference. We need to work on modeling a shared leadership for humanity. This is what we want to do as women and girls and how we are leading our platform going forward. Our next CSW65 is upcoming in March 2021.

CSW65 has its online engagement at its official website www.ngocsw.org. During the pandemic, it is not practical to bring twenty thousand people to New York. However, if all the twenty thousand can join the discussions online, the better it will be for CSW, despite the well-known challenges of everyone not having an access to an advance technology. We are working with grassroot organizations where they can bring local women and girls around a table under a tent if they have to and share their laptops so that they would have an access to the same information of what it is that we are doing globally to speak up.

As a girl of 14 years old, married off at that tender age, one can only say that coming to New York helped nurture myself. However, this situation should be combatted as child marriages do not transform societies. When a girl cannot access good quality education, her voice is taken away, as well as the community's force and strength. Do not give up on humanity by giving up on women and girls. The inspirational late Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."[12] All present and those across the globe who fight for women's rights must model the leadership and achieve gender equality together.

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12 *https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/news/in-news/ruth-bader-ginsburg-tells-young-women-fight-things-you-care-about*

PANELIST - Mohna Ansari, Member Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission - NEPAL

Gender Perspectives and Women's Leadership in Policy Making

Mohna Ansari started her career as a journalist and subsequently graduated as a lawyer, becoming the first and only Nepal's female attorney from the Muslim community. She worked with Amnesty International Nepal, Action Aid Nepal, UNDP, IDEA International and other national organizations. In 2010, Ansari was appointed as member of the National Women Commission (NWC) of Nepal. She also served as spokesperson of the NWC and the NHRC. Ansari also took up advocacy work through media and public forums, by writing in national dailies and appearing in TV debates. Mohna Ansari overviewed the women`s leadership in the policy and decision-making mechanisms in Nepal. Ansari underlined that there is still a progress needed to increase the women`s participation in public administration. She also discusses the challenges that women have to combat to establish a future with gender equality for all.

The Beijing Summit took place in 1995, when I was a young girl. Today, after 25 years, Nepal has made notable progress in women's rights, gender equality and social inclusion. However, the deep-rooted patriarchal norms and practice continue to undermine women's rights of equality, self-respect and independence.

Nepal has gone through major challenges in the last two decades following a decade long conflict, a peace process which started in 2006 that transformed the country into a secular, republican, secular state. Women had a significant role in this transformation. The first elected constituent assembly in 2008, it had 197 women members out of 601 members. The second one had 176 of women. A new constitution was adopted in 2015. Nepal's Constitution

has ensured women's representation in federal and provincial parliaments, as well as local government bodies 32 percent and 40 percent, respectively. Currently, 90 of the 275 MPs are women in the Lower House. The Upper House has 22 women members of the 59 members. Six of the 10 parliamentary committees are headed by women lawmakers.

Election Act has ensured 50 percent women candidates in leadership positions of the local boards. In 2016 local elections were elected as a deputy chair or mayor of a seven hundred local bodies of the 753, also 18 women were elected as a mayor or Chair. Based on the act, over 6500 women were elected in a local body, these are Dalit women, and we all know in South Asia that Dalits are highly oppressive caste group.[13]

According to a 2019 survey that looked over women's representation in the parliament, Nepal ranked second in the entire Asia. This is a significant achievement compared to 1999's parliament, which only had 5.8 percent women in parliament. Reservation policy and

electoral reform had been instrumental in promoting women's participation in policymaking roles. In the Civil Service Act, women have 33 percent reservation of the total 45 percent inclusive quota.

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13 *https://theannapurnaexpress.com/news/the-woeful-presence-of-nepali-women-in-politics-and-government-1265*
14 *https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_616209.pdf*

The Army and Police Act has also made a reservation for women.[14] However, the inclusion of the women from the socially excluded group is still a major challenge for us. Despite these positive indicators, women still face multiple challenges. None of the major political parties have a woman in decision making positions.

Therefore, selection or election of women in any higher position to remain under control of the male decision-maker in their political party. The legislation ratio of women does not reflect in the mainstream appointments. When it comes about the women's inclusion in ministerial positions, Nepal ranks at 123rd position.[15] The constitutional principle of the inclusive appointment in the government is also frequently overlooked within the given opportunity.

The representation in the judiciary is a very important factor. How Nepal is improving the constitutional body, civil service and security sector? Three of the 21 judges of the Supreme Court are female. Likewise, 14 of the 148 judges of high quota for women. In 2019, only three women were appointed after 13 Nepali Embassies. It is truly disappointing to see that the political parties have limited women mostly to the deputy mayor positioning in the local election. The women leadership in decision making cannot be achieved without their economic empowerment.

In the Global Gender Gap Report of 2018, which looked at women's participation in the economy, Nepal ranked 110th among the other 149 participating countries.[16] This was that Nepalese women are discouraged from economic participation factors like their poor social status, access to information, discriminatory dangerous practices, global violence, and free access to economic opportunity. For example, the Foreign Employment Act prohibited women from seeking foreign employment and foreign domestic work without the permission of their guardian or spouse. The government introduced this recently.

Another challenge that Nepali government yet has to tackle is a protection from the violence against women. And I think it is not only Asia, it is a worldwide problem. The violence against women take place in forms of trafficking, rape, domestic violence, child marriage, and in Nepal, dowry related violence of witchcraft and harmful traditional practices such as child poverty or

mistral isolation. Every year, women are dying due to the mistral isolation. The Parliament in 2017 enacted and amended various laws to end violence against women and girls and protect the survivors, such as the Domestic Violence Act, Anti Trafficking Act, the Sexual Harassment Act at Workplace.

In 2016, national strategy was adopted to end child marriage. This is a global commitment that Nepal has introduced this policy. Recently, the government has decided to increase punishment in the crime of acid attack to ensure protection of the survivor. The National Women's Commission has established a 24-hour helpline to tackle this issue and to reconcile or provide the legal assistance through the victims. 240 Women and Children Senior Citizens Center have been expanded throughout the country. In last 10 year, I myself have work with the legislative committees, policy makers and stakeholders to amend and enact several laws related to the violence against women. However, weak implementation of the laws remains a critical challenge. Impunity prevails due to failure of proper investigation and prosecution in a serious case of the violence against women. Lack of shelter and rehabilitation, support for the victim is the major challenge.

According to our police data, filing the case against violence against women is basically coming the domestic violence and rape and attempted rape and witchcraft allegation. It is rising during the last five years. Being a state party to the CEDAW, along with the other major human rights instrument, Nepal is committed to guarantee and promote gender equality. The principle of non-discrimination and gender equality have been enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal. However, the unequal citizenship provision for women remains in violation of Article 9 of CEDAW. Let me conclude by saying that this event is taking place at a time when COVID-19 pandemic has brought an extraordinary challenge.

In conclusion, Nepal is careful not to allow the pandemic and lockdown to be an excuse for ongoing violation of women and children, women's and girls' rights. On the other hand, we must appreciate the luxury that this gives us to step back and think and organize, to look at our effort so far and learn from them. So, we bounce back stronger than ever when this nightmare is over. We still have the opportunity to meet 2030 SDG Goals.

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15 https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/nepal/session_23_-_november_2015/un_nepal_upr23_npl_e_annexe3.pdf
16 ibid.

PANELIST - Prof. Diane Elson, Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology from University of Essex – UK
Inclusive Economies for Women's Empowerment

Diane Elson is an Emeritus Professor at the Department of Sociology in Essex University, a Visiting Professor at the WiSE Research Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University and a Research Associate at the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University. She is a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy and is a consultant to UN Women. In 2016, Dr. Elson was awarded the Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. She has served as chair of the UK Women's Budget Group and as Vice-President of the International Association for Feminist Economics. Diane Elson elaborated on the inclusive economies for women's empowerment as a feminist economist. Dr. Elson discussed the positive and negative factors that inclusion have on women`s participation in the economy. She elaborated on the interaction between participation in the economy and the unpaid work. In her remarks, Dr. Elson also underlined how women are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Economic inclusion and women's empowerment are both themes of the sustainable development agenda; although there is no goal or target that specifically brings them together. The goals that focuses on sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth do not reflect on women's empowerment specifically. Sustainable Development Goal #5, which requires governments to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, does not mention economic inclusion.

Although it set targets on governments to undertake reforms to increase women`s equal rights to economic resources, I think we need to focus more on the issue of rights, not just participation, to ensure that economic inclusion really does empower women.

Inclusion is a positive dimension. However, in reality, there are many forms of inclusion in economies that can be harmful: forcible inclusion, forced labor and modern slavery, injurious inclusion, unsafe working conditions,

long and exhausting hours of work. Impoverished inclusion where earnings are not above the poverty level, precarious inclusion where employment is insecure, segregated inclusion, inclusion in low paying occupations at the bottom of the job's hierarchy.

Those are not the factors that people have in mind when they talk about how inclusion in the economy will empower women. Those are indeed many of the realities that many women face. Therefore, we have to be very careful what kind of inclusion we want to achieve. Some of the inclusion in financial markets sounds very positive. Every woman should have a bank account, but when a person starts to engage with financial markets, there may be consequences; predators who mis-sell financial products, who make defraud to increase the level of indebtedness, lead to loss of assets and to vulnerability of harassment by debt collectors.

Financial inclusion needs unpacking the reforms of financial inclusion that are beneficial. As underlined, there are also harmful forms. One of the problems that many women face is that they are simultaneously included and excluded.

This is a framework that the Trade and Development Report 2017 put forward. Women are included in the sense that they are participating in the labor market and in financial markets; however, they are often excluded from the prosperity that is supposed to come from this

inclusion. The global data sets of the International Labour Organization (ILO) shows that women predominate among workers in vulnerable employment, defined as own-account workers and contributing family workers. ILO data on a broader range of so-called non-standard forms of employment refer to temporary employment, seasonal work, casual work, part-time on-call employment agency work. Women, young people and migrants are more likely to be found in non-standard arrangements compared to men.

How can inclusion be made empowering despite of its challenges? It is not enough to celebrate that many women are participating in the labor market. It is not enough to celebrate that more women are participating in financial markets. We have to focus on the issue of how this inclusion can be made empowering or the ILO put forward some ideas and it is the 1999 decent work agenda paying attention to four issues. The first is the creation of fair and productive employment that can provide a decent livelihood. The second is rights at work and the third is social protection, including cash benefits and access to basic services. The last factor is the promotion of social dialogue between government, employers, subcontractors and workers organizations. Gender equality is a cross cutting objective of the decent work agenda. It is important that this agenda recognizes that empowerment does not come from employment alone, but also needs access to social protection, to cash benefits and access to basic services.

This becomes very apparent when we look at the impact of COVID-19. There is an important interaction between participation in the economy and the unpaid work that most women around the world have to do and some women are really burdened with. Inclusion in paid work will not be empowering if it is to pay paid work to already long hours unpaid work. Many low-income women are overworked that they're already participating in work that generates some income, although not enough, but also burdened with the need to collect fuel, water, prepare meals, take care of children, frail elderly people, people living with long term illness. The long hours of exhausting work, both paid and unpaid, deplete their own health and strength.

Work load is far from empowering. For these women, empowerment must include a reduction of the overall burden and more time for rest and for participation in the life of the community through the political processes. Empowerment isn't just a matter of having an income. It's also having some free time to participate in personal development. Investment is needed to provide affordable access to clean energy, water, sanitation and care. When we talk about women's economic empowerment, we only talk about the labour market and the financial market. We forget the need for this complementary investment in energy, water, sanitation and care services.

Women play a disproportionate role in responding to the COVID-19 as they are the majority of frontline health care workers despite the fact that they also undertake the majority of care in the home. Women's unpaid care work has increased significantly as a result of school closures and the increased needs of older people. Women have also been hard hit by the economic impact of measures to halt the spread of COVID-19, especially women who work in the informal economy. Globally, nearly 60 percent of women work in the informal economy, both as self-employed workers and as wage workers, and this goes up to 90 percent in developing countries.

The empowerment of women through inclusion in the economy has to focus on the informal economy. Governments aiming to combat the Corona virus have implemented measures ranging from border closures to full lockdown. Many of these measures of forced informal

workers to give up their livelihoods, alter their ways of working, causing their incomes to be reduced. Sometimes it is impossible for informal workers to earn their livelihood in other ways, which threatens the survival of these workers and their families. The government should issue clear directives to lock down enforcement agents to refrain from harassment, violence, bribery, forced evictions and demolition of informal workers assets, including their homes and workplaces. The misuse of public health measures to contain COVID-19 causes destruction of inclusion and empowerment of the large numbers of women in the informal economy.

However, many governments are expanding and adapting social protection measures in an attempt to provide at least a basic level of food and income security to the many households that rely on earnings from informal work. In April 2020, the World Bank identified 133 countries which have implemented such measures,[18] which are mostly short-term emergency measures. There's new research from a wonderful organization "Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing - WEGO", which suggests that the impact of COVID-19 on informal incomes is unlikely to be short term.

While the safety nets are vital in the time of immediate crisis when they come to an end, former workers need access to recovery packages, including low interest loans, access to start-up capital, access to public procurement processes. These opportunities will allow informal workers participation and reskilling and training programs. Women's empowerment requires much more than participation in the labour market and the financial market. It requires participation that is accompanied by measures to realize women, economic and social rights.

PANELIST - Diya K. Wynn, Amazon Web Services, AI/ML Ethicist, Emerging Technologies & Intelligent Platforms GSP - USA
Technological Advancements for Women's Empowerment: Opportunities and Challenges

Diya K. Wynn has worked in technology for 25 years building, operating, delivering and leading in early and growth-stage companies. Diya is an Ambassador for Inclusion & Diversity and a pioneer in the company leading the Women in Professional Services, an affinity group focused on gender diversity. She was awarded an Inclusion Ambassador Award in February 2020 from her company and is a 2020 finalist for the Women in IT Awards Advocate of the Year. Diya is a leader in her local church and as a mayoral appointee in Environmental Affairs in the city of Laurel for 6 consecutive years. She currently serves as a Class Agent for Suffield Academy (HS), is a lifetime member of National Alumnae Association of Spelman College and is the President of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College Southern MD chapter. Diya K. Wynn talked about the transformative role of technology in women's empowerment. She addressed the systemic and institutional barriers that marginalize women. Wynn underlined that gender equality can be achieved only through the collaboration of all stakeholders in the society.

I would like to share with you a story of a little girl, who was born in Harlem and grew up in a single parent, poverty-stricken home in the South Bronx, NY. She spent her early education in the public-school system. This girl was taught to value and take seriously her education, and in the 3rd grade, her diligence in her studies was rewarded. She received a computer for having high academic achievement in her school. She was fascinated by this technology and it opened up a world for her unlike any

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18 https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_627189/lang--en/index.htm

she had been exposed to or frankly was aware of. None of the fairy tales she watched had women with jobs.

- None of her books she read told stories of women working in computers or science.
- It was not reflected in any of her school studies either.
- The prevailing thought and pictures from media portrayed certain roles for women as homemakers, teachers or maybe a nurse.

And it was not something she saw in the women around her.

You can imagine, even though she was in new, exciting and intriguing territory, it was foreign and a frightening prospect. Perhaps she was too young to know this, so with all the intellect she had she decided at 8 that set her on a course to study and pursue a career in computers.

That girl is me!

I shared that story because it speaks to the very heart and intent of the Beijing Declaration, our goal for gender equality and women empowered; it is not about me. My story is not uncommon. One only rises to the level that she/he is exposed. I come from meager beginnings, but it was the exposure to technology at an early age and education that changed the trajectory of my life.

I consider exposure or access to education and technology critical in seeing gender equality; however, I would be presenting an incomplete picture if I failed to mention how our dream and work toward gender equality is undermined because of systems, policies, socio-cultural norms and patriarchal structures that have supported mindsets of gender inequality for decades, or dare I say hundreds of years.

My journey has been one met with opposition and

We must be determined to address systemic and institutional barriers that perpetuate discrimination

against and keep us all from being equal. This cannot be done by women or people from marginalized communities alone. It requires the active work and partnership of men and the majority..

struggle, not just because of being a woman, rather coupled with the scourge of being black, an African American woman in America In order to see the promise of the Beijing Declaration and UN sustainable development goals, we must be determined to address systemic and institutional barriers that perpetuate discrimination against and keep us all from being equal. This cannot be done by women or people from marginalized communities alone. It requires the active work and partnership of men and the majority.

When I reflect on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA) from 1995, which refers 189 countries signifying their commitment to achieving equality, development and peace for women and girls worldwide, I was nearing the end of my undergraduate studies in computer science at Spelman College and the parent company where I now work was just a year old.

- The unmanned Galileo spacecraft arrived at planet Jupiter
- Ebola was ravaging the Congo and Central Africa
- The NATO bombing led to the Peace Agreement, after thousands of Muslims were killed and women raped.
- The Dayton accord was signed by leaders of Bosnia,
- The US troops pull out of Somalia where women were disproportionately affected by war, raped and mutilation.
- At least 60 million girls worldwide were without access to primary school educations, and more than two thirds of the world's (960 million) illiterate adults were women. 58% of the world population was women but only 46% over 16 had jobs.[19]

This was 1995. These among other events and statistics all reflect severe impediments to the advancement of women and to development. That is what made the Declaration so monumental. Since then, the international community has

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19 *https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/chapter3/chapter3.html*

seen slow progress in areas of women`s equality globally, but there have been rapid advances in technology that can benefit the cause, including:

- Broadband makes higher speed internet access available in homes [1995]
- Flash was introduced for rich content delivery on the web [1996]
- Google was founded transforming [1998] how we attain data
- Ontologies give way to the semantic web [2004]
- Social networking gives rise to a new paradigm for connecting, interacting and influencing [2007]
- Cloud computing provided internet-based access to democratized IT resources [2006]
- Artificial intelligence (more specifically machine learning) and big data emerge driving change in how we live and work, and
- Quantum computing promises unparalleled processing power to solve previously unapproachable problems

If we think about technology in its simplest form, society as a whole has benefitted from methods, systems, and devices improved or invented that use knowledge to solve some problems. These specific technological advancements provide jobs, upward mobility, create income, stability and opportunities to build up, inherit, and share in wealth. Technology is providing us with tools to tackle gender inequality and empower women such as:
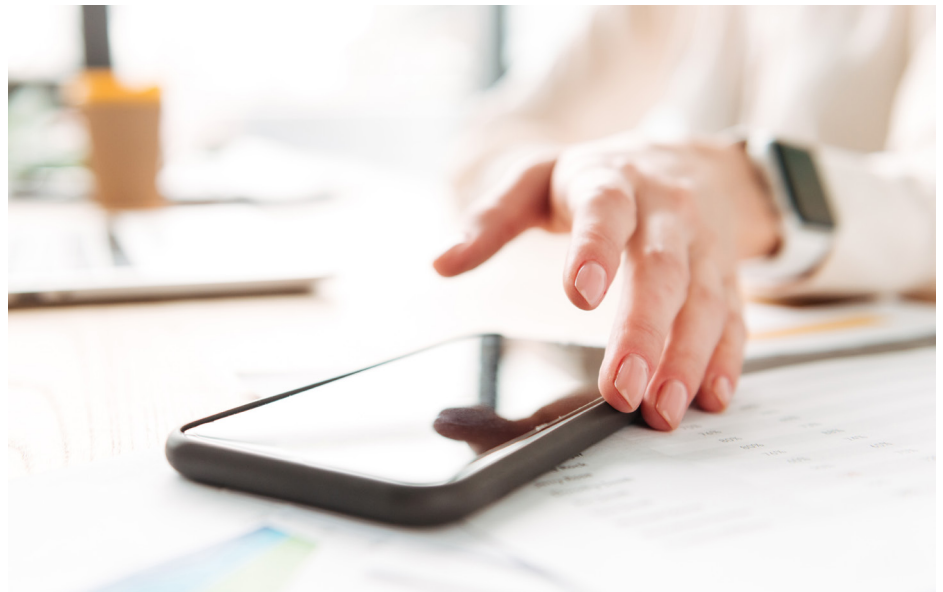
- Digital platforms, social media, medical and emerging technologies, have opened up avenues for
- Engagement in cultures where women's physical mobility is restricted and their voices silenced
- Online activism, community-building which increases awareness and engagement around women's health and rights issues,
- Career opportunities and learning made is available online and in apps on mobile devices
- Women to set up businesses and earn income

connecting to wider/global sources for financing, marketing and funding

- Femtech introduces technical solutions that address female health needs exclusively, including diagnostic tools, software, mobile apps and wearables
- Women participate in political campaigns and can have greater access to knowledge and general information.

This is technology used for the good and the result is seen in women empowered in areas like:

- Afghanistan, where women used Twitter to engage with a US Congressional hearing on women's inclusion in peace and security in 2019
- East Africa and Philippines SPENN by Blockbonds is a Block chain app that is allowing secure money transfer and financial access for women in rural areas
- An Israeli company Mobile ODT offers cervical cancer screening leveraging and AI- based smartphone app
- In India, Egypt, Lebanon and in other countries Harrassmap is mobile/online platform using reporting and mapping to tackle sexual harassment

Even with these advancements there is so much yet to be done. The World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report benchmarks 153 countries on their progress towards gender parity across four dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, Political Empowerment. In 2020, it is

indicated that it will take approximately 100 years for us to see gender equality globally.[20] This is because:

- Outside of the US, women on average are 26 percent less likely than men to have a smart phone (In Africa, the proportion stands at 34 percent and in South Asia, it doubles to 70 percent.)

- Men hold 75% of parliamentary seats worldwide and 73% of managerial positions.

- Women are paid 16% less than men on average, rising to 35% less in some countries.

- 50 to 78% of women experienced gender discrimination at work.

- Nearly one in five women has faced domestic violence in the last year.

At least 60% of countries still discriminate against rights to inherit land and other assets. Raya Bidshari said, "When half of the human population is denied their full potential, the world as a whole is at an enormous disadvantage". This is where the work remains. True women's empowerment is for women to be full players in every area of society, with freedom to create, earn, own and build. That means being able to take full advantage of the benefits of technology and having a seat at the table. In the words of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, "Women belong in all places decisions are being made."

- Women have to be in the board rooms and in government.

- Women have to be employed and be entrepreneurs.

- Women have to have access to healthcare and own the decisions for their bodies.

- Women have to be educated and be able to pave the way for those that follow.

- Women have to be included in history and make history.

- Women have to see themselves in positions in society and be seen by society

To see more women empowered, women need exposure, education and a real commitment to change that means our collective willingness and courage to put down policies and systems of oppression and create opportunity. The words of the CEO of AWS, Andy Jassy says "we need missionaries not mercenaries." People willing to do the work to make women equal and empowered.

DISCUSSANT - Dr. Marina Sorokina, Head of the Department of History, The Alexander Solzhenitsyn Center for the Study of the Russian Diaspora – RUSSIA
Helen Antipov, the Russian Psychologist in Brazil

Dr. Marina Sorokina was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for the Advanced Studies in Humanities at the Russian State University for the Humanities. She has also served at the Russian Academy of Sciences Archive in Moscow. Russian Academy of Natural Sciences awarded her with a Vernadsky Silver Medal for her academic studies. She is a member at The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Association for the Study of the Asian and Pacific Ocean Region and Russian Society for the History of Medicine.

Women scholars in exile, women and immigration in the contemporary world. In contrast to many other countries, Russia survived three major waves of mass migration in the 20th century. These are the refugees of the Bolshevik Revolution and civil war, refugees of World War II, and migration after Gorbachev`s perestroika. Many thousands of Russians left their homeland and traditional environment under the pressure of political persecution and settled down in many countries in the world, in Latin America, especially in Brazil.

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20 *http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf*

A number of schools and scientists work within these emigrants. Issues concerning scholars in exile have attracted attention, especially in relation to the larger immigration wave that hit Europe facing the Nazi regime. This has been already well documented by the academic works, in contrast, there has been no scholarly treatment of the Russian academic migration in the 20th century that has grappled systematically with the topic on the basis of archival research.

For many years, refugees, invalids and dissidents were hidden groups ignored by the Soviet authorities, civil society and public memory. Only today, historians shifted their focus to study those groups. We shall now look at the life story of one of the very interesting women scholars in exile, Helen Antipov. Russian born Brazilian psychologist and educator, founder of the System of Support to Disabled Children.

Her life is very important in our perspective. Why Helen Antipov? As many other women refugee scholars were searching for professional employment in the changing European environment. Brazil opened the window of opportunities for her and many other scholars and scientists. Russia, Switzerland, Brazil marked not only the geographical shift of the immigrant scholar positions, but reflected new communications.

The ways how the European scholarly approaches and techniques were applied to the new institutions before World War II. The role of the immigrant scholars and especially women immigrant scholars were pioneering in this process. As such, Antipov`s story contributes to gender and immigration history, to the social history of psychology and human rights. But it also demonstrates the ways in which the formation of a very strong and persistent transnational or international network of scholars whose professional biographies on the level of concepts and ideas grew up from multicultural, intellectual components and traditions.

Antipov`s work and the work of many Russian refugee women were marked by a strong commitment with the achievement of human ideals of social justice and happiness. As a scientist, director of one of the first laboratories of psychology established in Brazil, she did the kid herself to know Brazilian children so that their education would be better oriented. Following the guidelines of the Geneva Declaration of Children`s Rights issued by the League of Nations in 1924, she focused education as a right in itself. And her views, schools were not supposed to provide

Antipov`s story demonstrates the ways in which the formation of a very strong and persistent transnational network of scholars whose professional biographies, and their concepts and ideas, grew up from multicultural, intellectual components and traditions.

the limited citizenship consciousness. On the contrary, citizenship was seen as a consequence of a steady support for the development of the children`s capacities.

With her experience with war and revolution in Europe, Helen Antipov strove for harmony, not for struggle. In her view, social harmony would be attained if each individual were given the opportunity to develop his own calling. In this development, education had a central role. Thank you very much for your attention and giving you this example in order to show the great role of the women`s corps in the contemporary world. We are looking at history, but we are living today. I hope that our network will work for many years.

PANEL 2 SESSION: IMPLEMENTING SDG #16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

MODERATOR - Paula Boland, UNA-NCA, President – USA
Implementing SDG #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Paula Boland is an attorney specializing in environmental law and international affairs. Her strong interest in the protection of the environment led her to the LL.M. program in Environmental Law at Vermont Law School. Following a clerkship with the Environmental Enforcement Section of the US Department of Justice, Boland assisted a number of environmental nongovernmental organizations in the development of conservation projects to be carried out in Latin America. Paula joined the UNA-NCA staff, serving first as Program Director, and then as Executive Director. Paula received the UNA-NCA Evelyn Falkowski Volunteer Service Award and the United Nations Association of the USA's 70th Anniversary Chapter Legacy Award. Paula Boland discussed the framework of implementing the SDG 16, which aims to build peace, just and strong institutions. Boland underlined how delivering SDG 16 is interconnected with the rest of the Global Goals. She highlighted the transformative role of SDG 16 in promoting economic, social, and environmental rights.

Through Sustainable Development Goal #16, member states have committed to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and being effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. When the international community look back on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), governance emerged as a critical element in explaining the uneven progress across these goals in many countries. One of the lessons from the MDGs was that democratic governance, peace and security and the rule of law, including protection of human rights, are critical to sustainable development. A human rights approach helps identify who is vulnerable or being left behind and the ways in which those who are marginalized can be empowered to overcome their vulnerability.

The 2030 Agenda presents a shift, a significant shift and radical new approach to transforming our world, focusing on the integrated pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It is universal, including issues such as inequality, access to justice, peace and security, and aims at leaving no one behind. Moreover, the SDG Agenda has an additional complexity in terms of its implementation and requires a mix of national ownership, flexibility, innovation, political acumen, high quality technical support and collective multi-stakeholder effort at all levels in order to become progressively a reality. SDG #16 is key to achieving the transformative

2030 Agenda. Its focus on seven principles of strong institutions: effective, inclusive, responsive, participative, representative, accountable and transparent as well as peaceful society are necessary for achieving all SDGs. This is true whether the goal is related to education, health, economic growth, climate change or beyond.

Without sustaining peace, which goes beyond the absence of violence and includes respect for human rights and the rule of law, development gains are reversed. Without inclusion and access to justice for all, inequalities in poverty reduction and socioeconomic development will increase and the country`s commitment to leave no one behind will not be met.

SDG Goal #16 has the potential to catalyze profound social transformation that requires addressing the root causes and drivers that generate and reproduce economic, social, political and environmental problems and inequities, not merely the symptoms. Transformation involves changes in social structures, institutions and relations, including patterns of inequalities related to income, gender, ethnicity, religion or geography that might lock people into positions of disadvantage or limit their choices. Global Goal #16 means changing norms and institutions that shape the behavior of people and organizations in the social, economic, environmental and political spheres. Without specific attention to how SDG #16 applies in all dimensions of human life, it will be impossible to realize the transformative potential of the SDGs.

SDG #16 also has tremendous value as an enabler and accelerator for all SDGs. SDG #16 also acknowledges the other SDG targets that contribute to peace, justice and responsive institutions. SDG #16 offers a framework for institutions at all levels to build peaceful, just and inclusive society that place human rights protection and inclusive and accountable governance at the heart at the center of tackling inequality. The SDG #16 framework provides countries with a rights-based approach to tackling the

drivers of suffering that affords dignity and agency to those left behind.

Advancement towards ending violence, promotion of the rule of law, strengthening institutions and increasing access to justice are uneven and continue to deprive millions of people`s security, rights and opportunities and undermine the delivery of public services and broader economic development. Attacks on civil society are also holding back development progress. Renewed efforts are essential to move towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals #16. The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict is nearing 80 million, the highest level recorded by the UN Refugee

Agency. In 2019, the UN tracked 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries.[21]

The birth of around one in four children under age five worldwide are never officially recorded, depriving them of a proof of legal identity crucial for the protection of their rights and for access to justice and social services. No one can hope for sustainable development without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law. Yet our world is increasingly divided, some regions enjoying more peace, security and prosperity than others, while many are falling into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is not inevitable and must be addressed.

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21 https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2020.pdf

PANELIST - Natalia Marcela Molina, Member IAWJ, ARGENTINA
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Natalia Marcela Molina is a Judge specializing in cyber-crimes against minors of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has certifications in criminal law and organized crimes. She is a Member of the International Association of Women Judges and Second Vice President of the Women Judges Association in Argentina. Judge Molina is a Professor at Universidad de San Isidro and Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales in Online Crimes, focusing on gender issues and sexual slavery. Natalia Marcela Molina discussed the dramatically increasing child sexual abuse content in the social media. She underlined that many states do not have laws ensuring justice for victims and preventing the child cyber crime abuse the minors. Molina also called the international community to take a strong joint action to collaborate with the governments in raising awareness to combat the children sexual abuse content.

As a consequence of the COVID Pandemic, online education and communication has increased drastically, which has led to the earlier exposure of our children to digital environments and their threats. The production and distribution of child sexual abuse content and online harassment is a crime in many countries, and is growing as we speak.

Both of these crimes take place in the digital environment, more specifically in social media. It is important to mention that, in all cases, they are committed offline and recorded to later on be uploaded on the internet. The Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse has underlined the need to protect children using internet. Once the images or videos are online, they automatically become a part of an enormous child sexual abuse network that not only exposes the pain of these victims to millions, but puts at risk, once again, their physical and psychic integrity.

During this COVID-19 pandemic year, these types of crimes have increased strongly in Argentina, and the number keeps growing every minute that goes by. But what is truly frightening, is that there are no boundaries for these crimes and that, even today, there are many countries that still do not have any laws to prevent or punish these terrible acts on children. Latin America is known to lead in this campaign, the most advanced region in the implementation of these new measures, has not learnt how to face these challenges. The call is to have internet abuse of children incorporated as part of the agenda in all countries, especially in those who have not yet implemented laws to ensure justice for victims and prevent this from happening, over and over again.

It is absolutely necessary that these countries reconsider their position and adapt their legislation to guarantee the human rights of children that are abused under the eyes of the world. Cybercrime, organized or not, has no boundaries and expands fast; which is why we need a world that is united, with international collaboration and fluent communication on this topic.

The international community`s joint efforts will not only help prevent this horrible act, but will also put pressure on your governments to modify their legislations, to ensure justice to all victims. There are thousands of people online distributing or consuming child sexual abuse content, and their victims keep getting younger and younger.

What is required is to do the following:

- To start working on campaigns that inform and prevent online sexual harassment of minors at all levels.

- Call the attention of respective governments, to teach not only kids about the matter, but also their parents, so that they can share this knowledge with their children and prevent them from being exposed to this type of danger.

- Work actively on digital education, the concept of "privacy" and the prevention of cyber abuse.

- A kid alone in his room, playing with his laptop and without the correct digital education, is no longer safe. Information is freedom, privacy is freedom.

- Work on prevention by inspiring all countries to acknowledge this problem and work on their legislation, in order to minimize this issue.

- Expose this crime and encourage victims to report these acts. This is really important.

- Let us help them lose their fear. (LETS HELP DEMLOS DER FIER)
- Use excellent professionals willing to help out, for example, the National Centre for Missing Exploited Children (NCMEC) who has been doing a magnificent job

There is something I want to make very clear:

- **Child sexual abuse content IS NOT "Child Pornography".**
- **Child pornography does not exist, as sexual activities are a part of the adult world and they are supposed to take place with consent from all parties.**

Child sexual abuse content is nothing like that. It is about the suffering and hurting of minors, and addressing it the wrong way continues to harm the integrity of children over and over again. Kids are the most valuable part of society and it is our job to do everything in our power to ensure a safer and better world for all of them.

The suffering and hurting of minors and addressing it the wrong way continues to harm the integrity of children over and over again. It's important that companies which provide internet services are obliged to inform and report these acts, as it is equally important to teach our children about online environments. They might have been born with these technologies but that does not mean they were told how to use them.

PANELIST - Michael Collins, Institute for Economics and Peace, Executive Director – USA
Decline of Democratic Values and Rise of Autocracy Globally

Michael Collins manages IEP relations with the US Government and the United Nations, develops working partnerships with US-based civil society organizations, foundations, universities, businesses and think tanks and seeks new opportunities to build IEP's presence and impact throughout North, Central and South America. Prior to working with IEP, Michael helped develop and oversee educational and job creation programs in emerging nations recovering from natural disasters, working frequently in communities affected by poverty and gang violence. Michael Collins discussed the Global Peace Index 2020 insights, with a particular focus on the decline of democratic values and the rise of autocracy globally. Collins presented information on the indicators of the peace and its three main domains. He also underlined the significant decrease of peacefulness in democracies.

The recent IEP Report provides insight into how well the international community is working towards reducing violence in reference to targets and indicators of SDG #16.[22] The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute. It is dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, tangible and achievable measure of human well-being and progress. The origins of the institute stem essentially from the question, what are the most peaceful countries on Earth?

At the time, there was sort of a lot of debate about this, but there was very little quantitative research around this subject. The Global Peace Index stems from the desire to answer that question, as well as to track trends in peace and to calculate the economic cost of violence as a way of incentivizing peace building activities. This work has been very well received and it is consulted frequently by a variety of multilateral organizations and governments around the world, as well as university courses. This is the 14th year of the Global Peace Index and it ranks 163 countries according to their relative state of peace. The definition of peace in the index is the "lack of violence or fear of violence."

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22 *http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/03/SDG16Progress-Report-2019-web.pdf*

The track uses 23 different indicators, which are largely distributed in three domains:

- The first one is related to domestic and international conflict.
- The second is related to measures of safety and security within society,
- The third is the degree of militarization.

The situation overall is that the average level of peacefulness has deteriorated by 0.34 percent. That is the ninth deterioration in the last 12 years. 81 countries became more peaceful, 80 countries deteriorated and improvements were driven by changes in terrorism.

The political terror scale underlines the differences of democracies and authoritarian regimes. It refers to things like extrajudicial killings, imprisonment without trial and torture. Iceland, New Zealand, Portugal, Austria, Denmark, Canada, Singapore, Czech Republic, Japan, and Switzerland are the 10 most peaceful countries for the 2020 report. All of these, with the exception of Singapore, are considered or assumed to be full democracies.

Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Congo DRC, Central African Republic, and Russia are the 10 least peaceful countries. All of these, with the exception of South Sudan that hasn't made it into the metric that we consult are authoritarian, deemed to be authoritarian regimes. In terms of trends of peace, there has been a decline in peace over the last 12 years. Overall, 81 countries became less peaceful, 79 countries became more peaceful, highlighting that decreases in peace, larger than increases in peacefulness and overall peace over the last 10, 12 years has declined by 2.5 percent.

It is also observed that the levels of militarization have continued to improve by 4.5 percent, a small deterioration in safety and security. There has been a significant increase in ongoing conflict that is largely an authoritarian regime in the Middle East. There is a general difference even in trends with regards to levels of peacefulness for democracies versus authoritarian regimes. But interestingly, peacefulness in democracies is significantly decreased over the last and full democracies over the last five years.

That correlates very closely with the civil unrest seen since the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis. This is breaking down these indicators slightly more. The deaths from terrorism are now at the lowest point that they have been in the last decade. This situation is a result of a large spike that coincides with Iraq and Syria, where it is often seen a very close correlation between battle deaths and the impact of terrorism, because terrorism is essentially used as an instrument of war. They have seen that the number of refugees in decades has steadily increased in the world. On the good side, there has seen a sustained decrease in global homicide rates.

In terms of militarization, a general decrease in armed forces personnel, sustained decrease in military expenditure; although there has been a steady increase in the number of weapons imports. The economic impact of violence in 2020 is calculated to be 14.5 trillion dollars. It equates to 10 percent of the world's GDP or nearly 2,000 dollars per person. This is the image of a world that is completely peaceful. But, what if they can make it 10 percent more peaceful? That would mean that there is 1.5 trillion dollars that could be used for other economic activities that are going to contribute further to development of peacefulness.

Positive peace refers to the attitude, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. This

2020 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

A SNAPSHOT OF THE GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE

THE STATE OF PEACE

VERY HIGH   HIGH   MEDIUM   LOW   VERY LOW   NOT INCLUDED

is a term that is used commonly in the peacebuilding field. We have tried to develop a quantitative measure and compare the results of Global Peace Index with thousands of measures of socioeconomic progress to see which of the ones that correlate most closely with subsequent ups and downs in a country's level of peace to be able to see essentially what makes peace tick.

There were 300 indicators that correlate very closely which fall into eight buckets, also called as the eight pillars of positive peace. These are the characteristics of the most peaceful societies on earth. These pillars interact and relate to each other systemically and incredibly complex ways. Countries with high levels of positive peace also have higher per capita income, high levels of resilience to crises such as COVID-19, political shocks, ecological threats, better environmental outcomes, higher measures of wellbeing and better performance on development goals. There is also a very strong correlation with the SDGs. It is observed that %85 of the SDG 169 targets are relevant to at least sort of two pillars of positive peace. The only area that is not reflected largely is the free flow of information and low levels of corruption, which are actually most described in SDG #16.

The overall positive peace globally has improved 2.5 percent over the last decade. There is a slow but progressive increase in the operations of the governments. Poverty and GDP, which are embedded in societies, have significantly been improved, that is largely a reflection of high levels of equality in society. However, over the last decade there have been a significa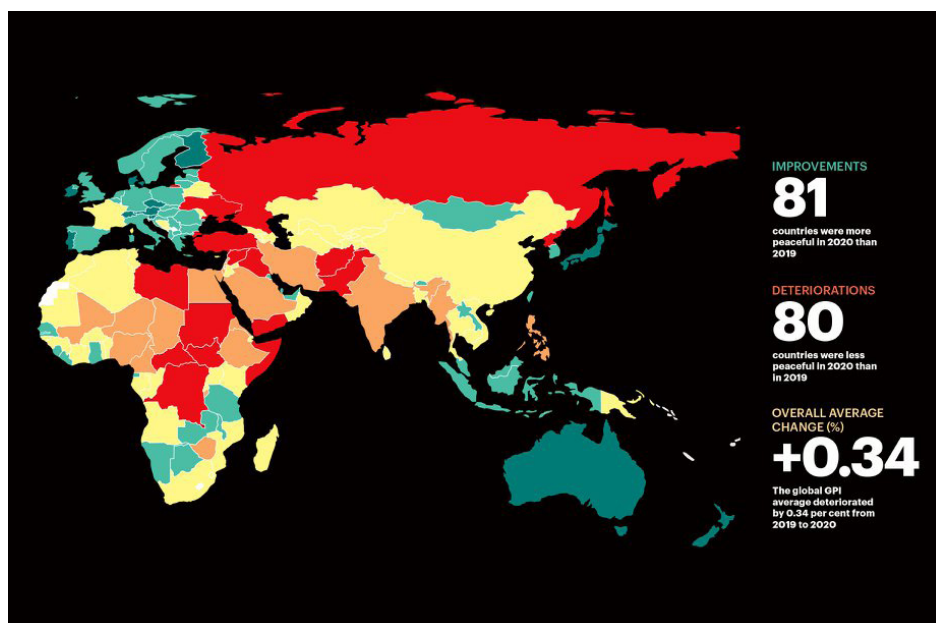nt decrease in the attitude's domain, which runs very counterintuitively to the improvements in structures. What does this look like in an individual country? Among the positive indicators, the largest deteriorations have been the quality of information that people have access to. A term commonly used, "fake news", factionalized elites, which is the reality or the impression that the government does not represent the people or is controlled by a very small group of people and group grievances, as well as restrictions on freedom of the press as well. These are all also generally considered as the characteristics of authoritarian regimes. This also correlates with some of the global trends in civil unrest. There has been a sharp rise in the level of civil unrest over the last decade. The number of riots, general strikes and anti-government protests has more than doubled.

Europe has had the largest number of protests, riots and strikes, although the majority of those have been peaceful and civil unrest in sub-Saharan Africa has risen more than 800 percent. This is a breakout based on types of governance in which there is a general increase in civil unrest and all of this, but especially in what was deemed to be slowed democracies. The general impression that there is a measure of inequality and people protesting those measures.

Most of the indicators on the Global Peace Index deteriorates. On the other hand, the military expenditure may improve as countries will need all the financial resources essentially to be able to prop up their own economies. US and Europe are expected to see an increase in political instability. US-China relations are deteriorating that could have wider global implications. Support for UN Peacekeeping Operations and development aid is expected to significantly decrease that could have significant repercussions on foreign countries that are currently receiving aid and even countries that are developed are likely to be impacted.

Now, this is a very apt time to sort of reconsider how we are doing, because obviously we're in the five-year mark of the SDGs in general. They ended by seeking foundation partners to make this possible, as well as for the development of the US Peace Index that I think would be extremely relevant to the time as well.

IMPROVEMENTS
81
countries were more peaceful in 2020 than 2019

DETERIORATIONS
80
countries were less peaceful in 2020 than in 2019

OVERALL AVERAGE CHANGE (%)
+0.34
The global GPI average deteriorated by 0.34 per cent from 2019 to 2020

PANELIST - Waqar Gillani, The News on Sunday, Special Correspondent – PAKISTAN
Rise of Violence Against Journalists and Right to Access Information for Strong Institutions

Waqar Gillani is a Pakistan based journalist focusing on human rights violations, religious extremism and persecution. Gillani has contributed to a number of local and international publications The News International, The New York Times, Agency France Press, The Guardian, and The Wall Street Journal. Gilani was a World Press Institute Fellow in 2011 and attended the US International Visitors Leadership program for Investigative Journalism in the past. He is a founding member of International Association of Religion Journalists and currently works as South Asia representative of the IARJ in honorary capacity. Waqar Gillani discussed the role of independent and free media in implementing the SDG 16 and building strong, accountable institutions. Gillani focused on the Pakistani case, underlined that current challenges of journalism in Pakistan, and presented recent incidents regarding the violation of freedom of expression. He also put an emphasis on the role of the civil society organizations to promote freedom of expression and independency of the media outlets.

The rise of violence against journalists and right to access to information for strong institutions is an important subject for every country, but particularly in Pakistan. Pakistan is the sixth largest population of the world, which makes this subject a priority as freedom of expression is facing multiple challenges. Pakistan is working towards effectively implementing the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 16 is particularly a prime target. Pakistan, along with the civil society, initiates strong and sustainable institutions.

SDG 16.10 refers to the access to information and press freedom. There are efforts to make better laws for accessing information along with guidelines and policies for the safety and protection of journalists. However, target 16.10 specifically aims to promote access to information and freedom by making laws, policies and strengthening institutions. Target 16.10 calls to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Efforts are underway with the contributions of civil society organizations promoting the right to access to information. In terms of violence against journalists, however, the

process is slow and there is a clear difference in theory and practice. The global media rights organizations analyses the press freedom and freedom of expression situation as not at a satisfactory level in Pakistan. The Reporters Without Borders and International Media Rights body declared in the 2020 Annual Report that Pakistan is below where it used to rank in 2019 on the World Press Freedom Index. This index considers various factors to reflect an overall score.

In 2019, different press, media and other civil society reports indicate that there have been more than are 100 attacks on media groups or media persons in different parts the country. These attacks involve physical harm, mental torture, verbal attacks and harassment through different means, especially exercising power and authority allegedly by the state- or state-owned institutions. There is a strong impression that the present democratic regime backed by the military establishment, is systematically curbing freedom and independence, particularly against the critical dissidents. Military, by and large, controls most of the media outlets of digital or TV channels. It uses the media for the news and propaganda of its own agenda in the name of national interest of the country.

Apparently, media propaganda is introduced under the slogan of nationalism and patriotism. A decent example is an online story about the alleged ethics. A recently retired, influential army general was actually published by a new online group through an old journalist. The general was quickly offered a lucrative job by the government after his retirement and later appointed Special Advisor to the Prime Minister. The media has quite miseries and exposes the realities of access to information and freedom of expression. After a certain alleged pressure of the government, all the media outlets issued a clear contradiction and clarification about the military general. Similarly, the Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan, which is a body that regulates companies, has a press officer who was appointed by certain organizations with alleged security and military establishment. The press officer was fired shortly after. The alleged impression is that he was questioned about leaking information, which was protected by that commission. There is another owner of a prominent media organization of the country, who is under arrest for the last six months because of a property transaction that took place 34 years ago. The impression is

that all these incidents are political because that particular media organization was critical of the present regime. Since the last six months, there have been no formal charge against that media organization or its owner.

There are other instances where it is observed that access to information or freedom of expression are censored. Journalists are being arrested by the government regime or military establishment. Critical media experts are allegedly fired from their jobs due to a certain pressure. Stability and use of words by the journalists criticizing government and military establishment are always questioned. Large-scale polarization of the local media is a serious concern which is actually affecting the performance of all the information channels. Recently, Prime Minister of Imran Khan said that the Pakistani media is freer than any other country. He also added that the right to freedom of speech cannot be justified when individuals are overly criticizing the government.

Having different perspectives is indeed required to establish a healthy society. The challenge in Pakistan is that the state and local governments are even sometimes journalists overreact to the differences in opinion. They lack tolerance and act verbally or physically violent against the individuals or organizations who criticize their acts. A balanced approach certainly is required to allow independent media and freedom of expression to flourish. Similarly, access to information is also selective. It is easy for us to get access to information for everyday stories; however, it is very complex when it comes to sensitive stories. As I mentioned, the CCP Security Exchange Commission officers were kidnapped, picked up by the security establishment for the alleged involvement of leaking of their story.

Considering the Target 16.10 that promotes the right to access information and combats the violence against journalists, Pakistan needs to achieve more to be in track. State and political regimes need to adopt a balanced approach and should welcome criticism, rather often violently, call off freedom of expression and media. Pakistan still lacks a reduction of crime and violence against journalists, which refers to the SDG 16.10. An effective legislator and the proper implementation of laws related to access to information is still required. There is a need to create a supporting environment to help the improvement of the independent media rather often one sided and a polarized approach. We cannot bring long-term changes either in the state institutions or in the civil society without having a consensual and balanced approach towards SDGs to transform institutions through better policies and laws. There is a need for the proper regulatory framework that helps in freedom of expression.

Active and responsible use of social media and the independency of journalists is also a challenge in this oppressive atmosphere. Media outlets and editors have a prominent role to initiate fruitful debates and discussions on this subject. Similarly, there is a need for protection and safety mechanisms by the media outlets for their staff, for the ones who are reporting at the local level. We should have a collective and balanced approach to tolerate criticism and to practice freedom of media and expression. The most prominent challenge for Pakistan is to ensure freedom of expression, free media and tackle violence against journalists to bring behavioral changes within the institutions which are owned by the state and within the civil society and within the media houses.

PANELIST - Dr. Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman, Thammasat University, School of Global Studies – THAILAND

Access to Justice for Transparency and Accountability in Governance

Dr. Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman is a human rights lawyer and faculty member of the School of Global Studies, Thammasat University in Thailand. Born in Bangladesh, Dr. Rahman had built a professional career through voluntary services and community support program. He has been focusing on human rights and development in Asia. Rahman`s area of expertise comprises international human rights mechanisms, election and democratization, conflict transformation, emergency management, and application of human security framework. Dr. Rahman He has his PhD in Human Rights and Peace Studies from Mahidol University in Thailand.Dr. Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman talked about the importance of access to justice to better implement SDG 16. He underlined the challenges of measuring justice and discuss the methods of strengthening individuals` right to access just and strong institutions. Dr. Rahman also discussed in detail the components of a good and accountable governance and put an emphasis on the importance of a critical implementation process review for the SDG #16.

What is the nature of SDG #16's access to justice component vis-a-vis the other component as in a functional modality? What is the challenge of measuring this particular component and how to overcome this situation? Goal #16 promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, improves access to justice for all and builds effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Peaceful societies and freedom from violence are both important goals and a means of sustainable development. No permanent progress can be achieved in a context dominated by violence, conflict and the threat of violence.

An effective state administration with responsible institutions, transparency and the rule of law all have an intrinsic value of their own. They constitute the basis of good governance including anti-corruption measures, and are important driving forces for development. Everyone is equal before the law and must have equal access to justice and the opportunity to exert influence

and demand accountability from decision-makers. Good governance and the rule of law are fundamental components of development. Violence in all its forms is one of the greatest threats to development at both the individual and community level.

First of all, SDG #16 and the access to justice have a clear characteristic of overlapping features. It is not something that stands alone as an achievable component. Rather, it has the overlapping features with all of the targets within the scope of the SDG #16. If a society prioritize strong institutions, then it would have a clear relationship with the notion of the judicial system. Peace, extrajudicial killings, trafficking and child rights are also important components that overlap with the notion of access to justice. In that regard, the feature of overlapping is a very important characteristic of access to justice.

The second component is to understand what it means to access justice, which is not uniform everywhere in the world. The word of access itself has a very different kind of connotation, depending on where you are. For a person in a society which is more hierarchical, the notion of access is very different from the person who is living in a free society. The interpretation of access to justice itself is heavily used by the dominant political forces in the society and the country for their own benefit in many senses, and in many cases.

The indicator that is used to access to justice are targets 16.3.1 and 16.3.2. The SDG 16.3.1 is all about the idea of political crime, crime repartition and the SDG 16.3.2 is the unsentenced detainee. Reflecting on the indicators will underline the contrast with what the UN perceived as the indicator of rule of law. In the UN system, there are at least 135 indicators regarding the rule of law; the SDG #16 is only referring to two out of 135 indicators. The gap is enormous and it is very obvious that just by reporting on the criminal prosecution and the detainee, we cannot understand the whole state of accessing to justice. There are so many other issues that are relevant.

The other component of the discussion is the way those indicators are used, the collection of data for the voluntary

report or the progress report which is often very much restricted in nature. The shift from the MDGs to SDGs took place to bring the development stakeholders from the narrow interpretation of development to move towards an inclusive idea of sustainable development. However, how we process these reports often focus on a very restricted way of collecting data rather than getting it from the third source or even through a civil society contribution. When this is the case, the only available source of data is the government institutions. Unfortunately, most of the government institutions are not really capable enough to provide a data support. Therefore, when there is no data, no credible information, there is little to achieve. The policy formation may not take place.

The participation and the authority of the state over some of these institutions is very important. When the state institutions provide the data, some of them would be very biased, depending on the political structure and establishment of the country. Considering this fact, a country establishment can easily be motivated to some

extent to change the data. If this is the case, that means a country is assessed based on a completely wrong data, a complete incorrect set of information. When the extreme kinds of government and strong institutions are analyzed, it is observed that the judiciary is likely to be manipulated. This is exactly what is happening in many countries across the world. The judiciary, an independent pillar of the state, has been changed to be a tool of excessive power or control. It is one of the circumstances showing how the human rights are violated at the local levels.

This is an important time to reflect observations especially to those who are at the policymaking level to assess whether a policy is correct, a process is working, or a framework is really functional or not. We need to review the implementation of the SDG 16 in detail and see how it can be improved, developed and brought for a better protection of human rights and ensure everyone`s equal access to justice.

PANEL 3 SESSION: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID19 EVOLVING SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

KEYNOTE - Anton Morozov, The Member of the High Council of the LDPR, Deputy of the State Duma – RUSSIA

Ongoing Communication and Engagement Strategies in Combating the Pandemic in Russia

Anton Morozov is the MP of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and a Member of State Duma Committee on International Affairs. Morozov also serves at the LDPR High Council as a Member. He graduated from the Moscow State University, Faculty of Physics in 1995 and completed the Russian Academy of State Service at the President of Russian Federation in 2005. Anton Morozov has worked at multiple levels of Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in different capacities, from Party Leader Assistant to LDPR HQ Chairman. From 2006 to 2011, he was the Deputy of Novgorod Provincial Duma. Mr. Morozov also served at the Permanent Mission of Russia to the UN as a Counselor. Anton Morozov discussed the best-practices in Russia to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic. He underlined that an effective strategy to fight the pandemic included the following: strengthening the country's health care system, expansion of intensive care capacities and measures to slow down the infection. Morozov also talked about the Government of Russia`s response to the pandemic with preventive measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease.

Humankind has never faced as many global challenges as it does today. The COVID-19 Pandemic has become a real global health and economic crisis. Russia was affected by COVID-19 like many other countries and became a part of the ongoing pandemic of this disease. There are many speculations about the origin of that disease; some sources insist that this virus is a kind of bio-weapon.

However, all scientific analyses found no evidence that the virus was made in a laboratory or otherwise artificially engineered. It was confirmed that the virus came to Russia on January 31, 2020 through two Chinese citizens visiting Tyumen (Siberia) and Chita (Russian Far East). Both Chinese were tested positive for the virus. As the first step to prevent virus spreading, the extensive testing had started and the border with China was closed.

From February 2020 on, passengers arriving to Moscow by air from the most affected COVID-19 countries such as China, Iran, and South Korea were examined by a number of medical workers in protective gear to conduct passengers' screening. People, who came from Europe before the flights were cancelled, had their temperatures checked and were sent home for a mandatory fourteen-day quarantine.

We fully support the UN position that the COVID-19 Pandemic is more than a health crisis,

it is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis, and a human rights crisis. Coming out of this crisis will require a whole-of-society, whole-of-government and whole-of-the-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity.

On March 2, 2020 the infection spread from Italy and we brought in additional measures such as cancelling mass public events, closing schools, theaters and museums as well as shutting the international borders and declaring a non-working period, which, after two extensions, lasted until May 11, 2020. By the end of March, the vast majority of regions and cities, including Moscow, had imposed lockdowns. However, by April 17, 2020 COVID cases had been confirmed all over the country.

As a transcontinental country, Russia had the highest number of confirmed cases in Europe and the second highest in Asia after India. However, at the global level, Russia had less cases than the United States, Brazil and India. We have had over one million total cases, over 170 thousand active cases, around 900 thousand recovered and close to two thousand deaths. Those figures are quite impressive; however, as per 1000 population Russia takes the 40th place by total cases and only the 100th place by the number of deaths. Furthermore, we are the first by number of COVID tests per 1000 population.

Over 38 million coronavirus tests have been done already and the members of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and its MPs are among the most active participants of this campaign. All Party headquarters have tests twice a month.

Our effective strategy to fight the pandemic included the following: strengthening the country's health care system, expansion of intensive care capacities and measures to slow down the infection. A great number of hospitals all over the country got the "red zone" wards to treat COVID-19 patients. On a very short notice, Russian Army has established 18 field emergency hospitals to cover remote and the most affected areas. Only mass vaccination could stop any pandemic, therefore the main Russia research institutes started to work on it from the very beginning. Clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute were officially completed on August 1, 2020 followed by six other research institutes.

The Government of Russia has initially responded to the pandemic with preventive measures to curb the spread of coronavirus disease, which involved imposing quarantines, carrying raids on potential virus carriers, and using facial recognition to impose quarantine measures. Other measures to prevent crisis in Russia included banning the export of medical masks, random checks on the Moscow transport system, including Moscow subway, cancellation of large-scale public events. The Russian government has also taken measures to prevent foreign citizens from heavily affected countries to visit Russia. Regional governments have also responded to the pandemic by imposing their own preventive measures in their local communities.

On March 29, 2020, stay-at-home order for all residents was introduced in Moscow. Citizens were not allowed to leave their homes except in cases of emergency medical care and other threats to life and health. Only a limited number of people from vital industries were allowed to travel to work, Moscow citizens could make purchases only in the nearest shop or pharmacy, to walk pets at a distance not exceeding 100 meters from their residence, as well as to take out the garbage. Socially safe distance of one and a half meters should

be kept between people. The similar self-isolation regime was imposed in Moscow region and many other regions and cities. Such limitations were not popular among our population and even caused some social tension.

Testing, identification of cases, tracing contacts, isolation are all measures that W.H.O. proposes and recommends;

they were in place at the times all over in Russia. This disease affected the whole nation with no exception. On April 25, two cases of COVID were confirmed in the State Duma, the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly, our Parliament. On May 13, 2020 the Chairman of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin announced that five Deputies had been infected. On May 20, the Chairwoman of the Federation Council, the Upper Chamber of our Parliament Valentina Matvienko said that five Senators had recovered from COVID-19. Thus, over 30 Deputies of our Parliament in total were affected by coronavirus.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) and its Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovsky were among the first who started an active campaign against COVID-19. From the very beginning on February 19, LDPR Chairman demanded that all Duma Deputies should strictly comply with the rules of personal hygiene: wear protective masks and gloves, periodically and properly clean hands, maintain safe distance with others. Furthermore, Vladimir Zhirinovsky demanded to stop all handshakes and greeting hugs. As a result, being the first in those protective measures, LDPR Duma Deputies have avoided getting sick by COVID-19.

It was also decided to minimize the number of Deputy Assistants in the State Duma. The general access to Duma was limited and the majority of Deputy Assistants had started to work online from home. Duty trips for Duma Deputies were canceled as well as many public gatherings planned for the Spring-Summer 2020 were indefinitely postponed, including the annual international large-scale Forum "Development of the Parliamentarism." The State Duma authorities announced extra sanitization measures, limitation of quantity for parliamentary hearings and round tables.

On April 30, the Minister of Health of the Russian Federation Mikhail Murashko came to the State Duma to meet LDPR Deputies and the Party Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovsky. Both sides discussed the joint efforts to contain COVID – 19 spreading, how to provide people with low income with required medical assistance and medicines. Telecommunication has already proved to be the most effective measure to minimize COVID spread thus further emergency telemedicine development was the main topic of the discussion. Talking about preventive measures LDPR Chairman again pointed out the urgent necessity to wear protective masks and gloves in public.

When Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin was in Duma on July 22 with his report of the Cabinet recent activities, Vladimir Zhirinovsky draw attention to the fact, that the Prime Minister is not wearing protective mask giving a wrong example for all the others, especially taking into consideration that Mikhail Mishustin got sick with COVID – 19 last April and even was hospitalized. Other LDPR Deputies also actively participated in the joint fight against COVID-19 with concentration on the importance of preventive measures. LDPR Fraction Deputies made several initiatives and proposals to fight COVID-19 more effectively. Among LDPR Fraction initiatives are a proposal to reserve a significant share of advertising spaces in the city center for anti-pandemic campaign, to provide schoolchildren and students with protective masks free of charge and even to start a new school year one month later on October 1, 2020 to minimize the risk of pandemic among our children. Being a Member of State Duma

Committee on International Affairs, I advocate against premature reopening of international flights to resort areas. COVID-19 came to our country from abroad and we should not forget about it.

On August 11 2020, Russia became the first country across the globe to register a vaccine against the coronavirus infection. The vaccine was developed by the Russian Health Ministry's Gamaleya National Research Center underwent clinical trials in July. This great achievement of Russian medical science got full support from the LDPR. Vladimir Zhirinovsky proposed to reward all people involved. The Sputnik vaccine proved again that Russia is one of the greatest medical powers.

Western countries are trying to neglect our achievements, because they were looking for monopoly in vaccine production that could bring billions of super profits for their pharmaceutical giants. Russia also took part in an international project to develop and distribute a vaccine against coronavirus of a new type, one of the founders of which is the World Health Organization.

Moreover, the Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovsky was among the first injected with the first in the world registered coronavirus vaccine. He also called to vaccinate all the party's 300 000 members as volunteers at the first test stage and we have already started our registration and medical tests for this forthcoming vaccination.

Yes, our country had some achievements in that fight against COVID-19 pandemic. However, we could not rest until the threat could be eliminated completely. With reference to the LDPR Chairman's opinion, the ongoing pandemic revealed weak points and mistakes of the Russia country health care policy system; therefore, the forthcoming parliamentary session should be fully concentrated on required corrective measures.

We fully support the UN position that the COVID-19 Pandemic is more than a health crisis; it is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis, and a human rights crisis. Coming out of this crisis will require a whole-of-society, whole-of-government and whole-of-the-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity. On September 11, 2020 the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution for a "comprehensive and coordinated response" to the COVID-19 Pandemic which became an important contribution to enhancing global solidarity and give more possibility for international cooperation. Finally, no country in the world will be able to tackle COVID-19 on its own. The main strategy should be to act collectively so that nobody could be left behind.

MODERATOR - JJ Green, National Security Correspondent, WTOP Radio

Lessons Learned from COVID-19: Evolving Social and Economic Development for Sustainability

JJ Green reports daily on international security, intelligence, foreign policy, terrorism and cyber developments and provides regular on-air analysis. He hosts the weekly podcast Target USA, The Hunt, and conducts in-depth interviews with experts on ISIS, al-Qaida, and the Taliban. He is the recipient of the 2017 Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation award and also received a National Edward R. Murrow Award (2009) for Hidden Hunter. He also won the prestigious Associated Press Douglas S. Freeman award for his investigative series, "Dignity Denied". Green was honored by the University of Maryland, University College as their commencement speaker, in recognition of his broad body of national security reporting accomplishments. He is also a contributor to Jane's Intelligence Review magazine. JJ Green briefed about how the COVID-19 had impacted our everyday lives. He talked about the lessons that we should be learning while combatting the pandemic, underlined the importance of appreciation. He also underlined that 2020 is a strategic turning point for the global community to facilitate international collaborations to create peaceful, and inclusive societies.

Almost one million people have died from COVID-19, about 5 thousand a day. There are 1440 minutes in each day. There are 86,400 seconds in a day. During the next five minutes, many people will lose their lives to COVID-19. The most important takeaway from the UNGA Conference 2020 is that the time is critical. Every second counts, so the information that we share can save many lives.

As a journalist, who has traveled to foreign war zones many times in the last 15 years, I have seen the toll that pandemics, war, famine and political chaos can take on humanity. However, 2020 is the first time that I lived through it, at home. By the time of the UNGA Conference 2020, the US death toll from COVID-19 had reached 200,000 deaths. Our family members and friends, needlessly in some cases, because of bad information or no information in one of the most developed countries

in the world. This experience has made me much more committed to working tirelessly to help bring an end to this pandemic and prevent another from happening.

As racial tension, COVID-19, on-going conflicts, and political chaos test the cohesiveness of our planet and it is time for us to reach deeper. Our world faces unprecedented challenges that; day by day, degree by degree, undermine our ability to perform the vital work of truth-seeking and responsible and inclusive reporting. Those challenges are existential threats to our industry, our constituents and our world. We must work to defeat those challenges, which include distortion of facts and efforts to discredit and harm journalists.

People are dying in the U.S. and around the world because they are confused about what is true and what is not about the spread of COVID-19. People are dying because they cannot get access to the care they need. People are dying because they have lost their jobs, family members to the disease and they've lost their hope. We have work to do. This work involves exposing the lies, threats to our safety and security, promoting understanding of them, and helping to create mechanisms to overcome them.

The very fact that UNGA Conference is virtual this year carries with it both the gravity of situation the world faces by being physically cut off from moving freely, engaging in necessary business, governance, security, and health matters. This means that in reality we can still get done most of what needs to be done.

But it comes at a cost that takes more time, patience and real ingenuity. Many of us have had to figure out how to do things that we as a have forgotten how to do. Many of us forgot how to stay home for months at a time. Many of us forgot how to get by without jumping in a car or on a train or a bus to go someplace. Many of us forget how to sit with just our thoughts and imaginations.

COVID-19 has reminded us of all those things. It reminds us that there are people on this planet, even in the best

of times, who stay home for months at a time. There are people on this planet that get by without jumping in a car or on a train or a bus to go someplace. There are people on this planet who sit with just their thoughts and imaginations. We, who had so much before COVID-19, have been reminded of the plight of those who live without so many things we take for granted each day. We now know that we must work harder to make sure that they too have every opportunity to succeed in life that we have.

We are aware, 2020 is a strategic turning point for the global community. The UNGA Conference 2020 is in the process of strengthening the response of the international community and facilitating collaboration between UN Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, towards a common objective of creating peaceful and inclusive societies, where everyone is entitled to undeniable rights, without discrimination.

PANELIST - Jeff Schlegelmilch, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, Director – USA

Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19

Jeff Schlegelmilch was the Manager for the International and Non-Healthcare Business Sector for the Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. Schlegelmilch led a study to determine the requirements for a national operational epidemiological modelling process. He is also a FEMA certified Master Exercise Practitioner and has been in a leadership role on numerous discussion and operations-based exercises, including one of the largest municipal bioterrorism response exercises ever conducted. Schlegelmilch has also been published as an Opinion Contributor by The Hill and Fortune and has been used as a subject matter expert for numerous media outlets. Jeff Schlegelmilch presented the findings of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness on how the marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19. He referred to the social aspect of the pandemic to implement better responding strategies considering the different structures inside the society. Schlegelmilch also discussed the political and financial aspect of the COVID-19 and underlined that fostering the connections within a community leads to a better recovery.

One of the key factors in responding to the COVID-19 is that it is a very uneven experience and it is going to continue to be as persistent. This is driven by a lot of determinants, from ecological conditions to the natural spread of the disease to population density and movement, seasonal effects that are not fully understood as well as within communities themselves.

The data was produced by the National Center for Disaster Preparedness in New York reports about the marginalized communities that are historically disenfranchised or bearing a disproportionate burden of this disease. The first outcome is that there is an outsized number of cases among African-Americans, Hispanic and Latino populations. These are individuals who are historically bearing the brunt of chronic diseases due to structural inequities and structural racism and a lot of policies. It predisposes people to outsized effects of disasters and in this case, infectious diseases. But also amplifying that it is these populations, those who are more likely to be essential workers. They have to go to work when many other people could stay home or work remotely. There is a social aspect to disease, and a social aspect to the response in combatting the Pandemic.

Second outcome in response to COVID-19 is the false narrative that the economy is either has to shut down or keep going while fighting the disease. When USA is compared with the European countries, it is seen that the lockdown is more aggressive, uniformly and temporarily in Europe. It depressed economic activity and then it bounced back faster than the US. Pandemic affects society in waves. What is important is that when you get through one wave, what do you do immediately afterwards to keep that transmission low. How do you prepare for the inevitability of another wave coming down the road?

Controlling disease spread creates options for the

economy. It means that there can be re-openings, travels with restrictions, and makes individuals responsible for their actions. COVID-19 is not just about the illness; it is about loneliness. It is about not being able to work, being stuck at home, which has cascading effects across civil society. We see statistics for abuse. We see it in loss of traction for other public health threats, increases in STDs, loss of traction and in malaria prevention.

Third outcome is the hints on the rise in nationalistic tendencies. What is experienced in the USA is seen throughout the world. Politicians are pushing for dubious science, trying to say that improperly tested vaccines are ready, which is a conspiracy. This is just unfortunately undermining broader efforts for COVID-19 response. However, there is a silver lining, and some best practices. There is a spiritual effect in terms of seeing what it could be like if we look at climate change, if we look at the impact we are having on our society and. There are some things that we need to go back to the way they were before, but not everything. We have new methods in remote collaboration and education that are connecting people like never before such as telemedicine and e-commerce. These are not a replacement for in person transactions. However, it does open new avenues of connection. One can see investments in healthier buildings in terms of cleanliness, the quality of air purification, just better environments, professional education. Some people were all learning to be better online collaborators as well as seen a lot of incredible work across sectors, particularly in the biopharmaceutical sectors, in terms of sharing technologies and sharing platforms and also this relooking at domestic and regional production.

How much do people really want to move towards the fragility of global just-in-time supply chains? It saves a lot of money and obviously creates a vulnerability. When we talk about the total cost of disasters, there are vast majority of the countries identified which high income or upper middle-income societies are there is a lot of expensive

materials in the way of disasters. When the actually impact on the overall economy is analyzed, what is the cost of the pandemic in relative to the Gross Domestic Product, the output of a country's economy? The most affected were the vast majority of low income or lower middle-income countries. What the cost really represents is the loss of lives, loss of livelihoods and the human element of these disasters.

When we are talking about resilience and disasters, whether it is COVID-19 or a weather-related disaster, there is a political component. There is a component of the built environment, of the of the social environment, of the ecology in wherever the disaster is taking place. All of these various aspects of society come together to formulate resilience. There is no single answer. There is no single person responsible, but it is distributed across all of civil society and requires us to work towards that common goal. Otherwise, we risk focusing all your efforts on the built environment only to fracture the social cohesion and the social connectedness of certain groups.

The US right now has wildfires, tropical storms, coastal storms, tornadoes, and Derechos. To brief in a nutshell, those trends are going up in the US and across the world. These disasters will create more impact. The way that society has responded to these crises and how the responses are financed is continuing to change. In wealthier countries, there are a lot more insurance spreading the financial risk across the private sector to increasing access to the

recovery. There is less of this coverage in developing areas, lower and middle-income countries, where financial assistance could be more important with the impact being the proportion of gross domestic product.

The inequalities in disasters are not just a humanitarian issue. It is matter of who lives and who dies, of who recovers and who does not. Fostering these connections within a community, neighbors helping neighbors leads to less death and better. Mental health outcomes and connections with the government tend to speed up the recovery process.

With that, uncertainty is here to stay. All people are in a place of uncertainty. Nobody knows when the pandemic will end. We do not know what the effectiveness of a vaccine will be. Building adaptive systems are going to be more successful in the face of uncertainty than planning for one specific event or one specific scenario. As we are seeing with climate change, the past can provide hints at what we're going to see; but, it is not a good predictor of what is going to happen, particularly with the increase in extreme weather events. In fact, there's no single indicator of resilience. We need to pull together all of the various aspects of community and managing uncertainty and adapting to these situations.

PANELIST - Shiv Vikram Khemka, Vice-Chairman, SUN Group Global, Executive Chairman, The Global Education & Leadership Foundation – INDIA
Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19

Shiv Vikram Khemka is Vice-Chairman of SUN Group, with both operating and investment companies active in areas including Private Equity, Renewable Energy, Oil & Gas, High Technology, Gold Mining and Real Estate. Khemka has served on the Board of Overseers of The Wharton School for over a decade, and currently on the board of the Lauder Institute and the Centre for Advanced Studies of India at the University of Pennsylvania. Khemka also serves on the Yale University's President's Council on International Activities, the Asia Society Policy Institute's Global Council. He has also been a member of the President's Leadership Council at Brown University, the Advisory Board of the School of Oriental and African Studies, and the board of the Judge Institute at Cambridge University. Mr. Khemka was elected a "Global Leader for Tomorrow" (GLT) at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 1997. He was awarded the "Wharton India Alumni Award", the "Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award" by Tufts University, and the "Outstanding Contribution to Education Prize" by Wharton. Shiv Vikram Khemka talked about the impact of COVID-19 on the global workforce. He underlined that changing norms of the future job market by stressing that there is an urgent need for the young population to think

in an entrepreneurship mindset, encourage cooperation and work together not to waste resources globally. Khemka also draw attention to the fact that sports have an important role in the democratization of entrepreneurship for everyone to meaningfully participate in the social life, economy, and the job market.

The workforce, who has been working physically, is deeply affected by the new era of online engagement. On one hand, jobs have been lost and on the other hand, online engagement has created work opportunities for many people. It is estimated that most people, who are working remotely, make over 50 percent of the working population. Recent surveys showed that 70 percent of online workers are actually not complaining and believe their efficiency may be going up. There is 30 percent who are unhappy in terms of the working methodology. On the other side of the situation, many jobs have been lost and many more jobs could be lost depending on the duration of this recession. The toll on mental health on interpersonal relationships is increasing. There is an excessive burden on women in terms of dealing with the work from home.

In terms of education, which our foundation is very focused on, more than 1.2 billion young people are out of school. That is a huge number considering that people are now accessing e-learning. Education is booming. However, the reality is that only 59 percent of the world's

population has access to the internet. 41 percent still do not have access to the Internet.[23] It shows a huge division, a digital separation that again could have significant repercussions over the next few years. We should all be working on how to create enough jobs to deal with the trifecta of effects that are all coming together.

The coded impact on the economy is that people are losing jobs and going into the model of a gig economy with very little job stability and that loss of entry of jobs is also being exacerbated by technology. Technology is also coming in at the same time in which digitalization and artificial intelligence will creating and destroying many jobs at the same time.

It is going to be a challenge for the people, who lose their jobs, to learn and adapt new skill for the new economy that is being developed. Professionals will find it hard to retool and restructure their knowledge appropriately and

fast enough as the world population is growing. When we focus on the next generation, we need to create a billion more jobs. Governments are pumping significant capital into the economy to keep growth increasing and protect their economies in order to fund public construction projects and other projects.

The main question is whether these actions will have enough of an effect to counter the significant loss of jobs that we foresee on the planet. The estimate is a loss of about half a billion jobs worldwide. When the need for another

billion jobs is added to the already lost jobs, the challenge is overwhelming. The only way to deal with that gap created by the job losses is to encourage entrepreneurship globally to create new mindset amongst young people and elderly. We should be moving to an age of an entrepreneurial mindset, where everyone starts to think like an entrepreneur and encourage collaboration, cooperation and to work together not to waste resources globally. We should team up and think about how to implement the best practices in different parts of the world.

Rather than trying to create something on the basis of very little knowledge, we should share our existing experiences to create three million jobs a month for the next 30 years. That is a huge challenge. Borders being closed in many parts of the world stopping international trade. Although governments are valiantly trying to create economic growth through infusions of monetary support into the economy, we believe that the key is going to be entrepreneurial energy being unleashed entrepreneurs working together.

We are working with many other foundations to create the entrepreneurship sports generation. It is about bringing entrepreneurs together around the world and making entrepreneurship something that is not seen as an elitist province, but something that everyone can participate in the democratization of entrepreneurship. Sports is a very democratic architecture around the world that everyone feels they can watch, play, and be involved around the world whether it is football FIFA or the Olympics. We think entrepreneurship should be seen in the same light where everyone can play, be involved with that collaborative competitive spirit.

Everyone can actually try, restart and give some kind of a fillip to the economy globally to create more jobs, which I believe will be the major crisis for the next 5 to 10 years. We need to do our best to find a way out, not only to encourage global entrepreneurship and get government support behind, but also educate our young people to think with a new mindset for entrepreneurship in whatever they do. The age of stable jobs may be redefining itself.

23 https://www.statista.com/statistics/617136/digital-population-worldwide

Refugee Rights During the Pandemic

Basma Alawee came to the U.S. with her husband as a refugee in 2010, leaving behind her career as an engineer with the Ministry of Oil within the Government of Iraq. As a refugee and activist, her stories and activism have been featured in the media. Most recently, Alawee was nominated to be one of the Athena40 women in the world who are leading change and was the recipient of the 2019 OneJax Humanitarian Award. She was also elected the Florida delegate for the UNHCR Refugee Congress and is a board member of USAHello. Currently, she is the State Refugee Organizer with the Florida Immigrant Coalition. Basma Alawee discussed the challenges that COVID-19 posed for the refugees. Sharing the specific situations that make refugees vulnerable during this global health crisis, Alawee underlined that refugees have a higher risk of being exposed to COVID-19 due to the overcrowded housing underlying health conditions, lack of access to health care, and serving as the essential workers. Alawee also put a strong emphasis that when refugees are involved in the decision-making positions, they propose practical solutions to tackle the barriers that they face during the pandemic.

The Refugee Congress was founded in 2011 on the 60th anniversary of the Refugee Convention to convene and resettle refugees from all 50 states. Today, the Refugee Congress is the only national organization in the United States led by former refugees to advocate for refugees. Refugee Congress has members in all 50 states, and advocates with their elected officials for welcoming communities.

We Are All America, which is an organization that I am a Florida refugee organizer with Real America and the state of Florida, was founded in 2017 in response to the U.S. cutting its resettlement program to the lowest level ever during the worst international refugee crisis in modern history. We Are All America affirms our historical role as a refugee protection works to uphold and strengthen our nation's commitment to welcome and protect those seeking freedom, safety and refuge in the United States.

Today, there are nearly 80 million people forcibly displaced, more than one percent of the world population. 26 million of them are refugees. More than 4 million people are asylum seekers throughout the world. Nearly 46 million individuals are internally displaced. 90 percent of refugees live in developing and low-income countries with the fastest growing infection rates, which makes refugees more vulnerable.[24] There are a lot of shortages during the COVID-19; lack of medical supplies and therapeutic lack of accurate information about how to protect themselves. Vaccine nationalism may limit access for our communities which is often not included in country specific pandemic reopening plans. Refugees are impacted not just by COVID-19, but also by the fear that is increasing around the world. In response to the pandemic, it is estimated that 164 countries across the globe have limited or cut off access to asylum. In some cases, governments have clearly weaponized public health concerns to advance nativist political agenda, and the United States is a case in point.

Some examples of organizations who have been responding globally to the crisis of COVID-19, the World Health Organization, UNHCR and the UN Refugee Agency partnering to strengthen public health services to millions of forcibly displaced people. UNHCR launched a global 255 million appeal to lessen the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks within refugee communities, limited entry into and exit from refugee camps, and put efforts to allow refugee professionals within foreign nationals to serve as essential health workers.

The United States has resettled about three million refugees since 1980, since signing the Refugee Act from 1980 until 2016, the average number of yearly refugee arrivals to the US was 95,000. This year's cap was supposed to bring 18,000 refugees in 2020. But up to date, we have received 9,772 and of course part of it because of COVID-19.[25]

Starting from physical health, refugees have a higher risk of being exposed to COVID-19 due to the overcrowded housing underlying health conditions, lack of access to health care, and being essential workers. In the outbreak

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24 *https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/*
25 *ibid.*

of the COVID in meatpacking plants, many refugee employees, have been affected.

When they consider jobs and income, Refugees International founded that over 60 percent of employed refugees work in sectors highly impacted by the pandemic. Refugees have high rates of small business ownership which have been deeply affected. Going back to family reunification, there has been a decline in refugee admission which means that thousands of families in the US are still waiting to reunite

with their loved ones. Mental health of the refugees has also been traumatized due to quarantine.

The US government started responding to the challenges that refugees face with financial support, and different act such as the CARES ACT (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act), the state and local relief funds, eviction moratoriums and expanding testing availability. However, the government relief is not available to all families, due to the limited resources. Refugees also face barriers to access resources because of a language barrier and fear of accessing these resources. There are still challenges with testing, treatment, increased in xenophobia and anti-Asian racism.

Even though many organization and community members have been responding, refugees are also responding to all

of this crisis. We have many colleagues who have worked with us hand in hand around the country. Many projects have been implemented around the country that are led by former refugees, starting with partnering with local non-profits. We should not forget essential workers, and doctors volunteering at COVID-19 testing sites. Many refugees and immigrants serve as health care workers, teachers, service workers, farm workers and more.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that we are all interconnected and interdependent, we must use this time to come together, embrace our communities and work to build a better future. Refugee Congress stands ready and willing to strengthen our collaborations. "Let's work together to fight against discrimination and for justice" says one of our refugee Congress delegates.[26]

Refugees face unique vulnerabilities and challenges in public health crisis. Refugees are also assets during the public health crisis. They have a solution when refugees are allowed to practice their profession through improved routes to certification and license with their overseas credentials. Communities benefit from these skills. Expanding economic inclusion benefits everyone. Assistance to refugees enters the labor market and serves an essential worker role as doctors, nurses, caregivers, scientists, cleaners and many more.

Accessing to technology and digital resources can be a matter of life and death. Availability of services in more languages need to expand beyond the majority that are spoken. Refugees need assistance navigating the system to access available support and funding. Investing in former refugees and leadership and organizing on the ground for essential workers to produce inclusive policies and practices. Lastly, story sharing and the voices of refugees are important to lead a long-lasting change.

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26 *https://refugeecongress.org/statement-on-the-killing-of-george-floyd/*

PANELIST - Burak Haylamaz, Human Rights Solidarity – UK
COVID-19 and Right to Life in Prisons: Turkey Case

Burak Haylamaz graduated from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands with a degree in European Law. He also earned his Master's of Law from University College London. Haylamaz focuses his practice within the field of data protection and intermediary liability, fintech compliance as well as human rights law. His recent works in the field of human rights have been published by several respectful institutions, including Harvard Human Rights Journal and Warsaw University Law Review. The spread and subsequent impact of the virus is beyond walls. However, attention is drawn towards the walls with a specific focus on the reactions of Turkish authorities to the pandemic in prisons. After the announcement of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) immediately produced a set of principles for Member States to follow in their approach to people who are deprived of their liberty.[27] As one of the signatory countries of the Council's European Convention of Human Rights, Turkey is one of the addresses of these principles.

When we analyse the key recommendations, Member States are required;

- Improve the conditions of prisons to the level of international health and safety standards, i.e. all medical and hygienic needs of detainees and convicts;

- Ensure that prisoners have the access to medical care, medical equipment and medical staff at any time;

- Ensure that restrictive measures can only be taken if they are necessary and proportionate. (such as video communication in lieu of family visit).

- Eensure that the absolute nature of Article 3 ECHR (prohibition of torture and ill-treatment) is not violated. Hence, no limitation or excuse is acceptable if a taken measure lead to the infringement of the prohibition.

- MSs are required to use alternative means of deprivation, such as early release, probation, house arrest, if applicable.

The rationale behind these principles is clear: any inadequate level of health care and safety measures can rapidly lead to situations falling within the scope of the term "inhuman and degrading treatment. So, the question arises if the Turkish criminal legal system and authorities have achieved to implement these principles enshrined under the ECHR as a response to combat with the pandemic.

In early spring, the news of COVID-19 cases increasing in prisons spread through the relatives of detainees who expressed the severe situation on Twitter. However, the first official statement about the spread of the pandemic in prisons was made on April 14th, 2020. Accordingly, there were 17 confirmed cases and three deaths at the time. Another statement came on May 22nd, 2020 where it was reported that a total of 82 confirmed cases only in Silivri prison and one prisoner had died.[28] However, both opposition party representatives and human rights associations have raised an issue that the government has not been transparent about the number of COVID cases in and outside the prisons. The HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) produced a report by gathering data from the families and lawyers of prisoners. The report illustrates that the number of cases in prisons is much higher than the official statements and health and safety measures have not been taken properly.

The report underlined several problems:

- Wards and corridors are not cleaned regularly.

- Masks and gloves are not regularly distributed in prisons throughout the country.

- Most of the prisons are suffering from the overcrowded population that accelerates the spread of the virus.

- The food service in canteens were stopped, and the quality of the food sharply declined, which directly weaken the immune systems of prisoners; hence increase their chance of being affected by the virus.

27 https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/about-the-cpt
28 https://silencedturkey.org/tag/human-rights-watch

- When a prisoner files a complaint in regard to COVID, instead of accessing medical staff, authorities automatically give them a medicine called "PLAQUENIL", which is actually a medication used to combat malaria.

- Also, the state's website enables to check the recent medical situation of the prisoners. However, inmates' relatives and lawyers reported that the website is misleading as it states that inmates took medical support, which is just a temperature check carried out by guardians.

Without doubt, the report illustrates the fact that Turkey has been practicing a violation under Article 3 ECHR by failing to comply with its positive obligation to prevent inhuman and degrading treatment. On April 14th, 2020, the government enacted a highly contested amnesty law that enabled the release of around 90,000 convicts. It is a contested law because of several reasons:

1. It categorically excluded all political prisoners facing terrorism-related charges from its scope, which has been always interpreted broadly by the authorities. In other words, if the sick prisoner is a political prisoner charged with terrorism-related offences, then his/her release for medical reasons is next to impossible.

2. Secondly, it only applies to those whose sentences were finalised – Hence, the release does not include those whose trial proceedings are pending.

The amnesty law has been strongly criticized because of its unfair and discriminatory nature, which contradict with Article 2 and 14 of the ECHR. This categorical blanket exclusion prevented the release of about an additional 50,000 prisoners, including journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, activists and all other political prisoners arrested or convicted with terrorism-related charges . Can Dundar, a journalist in an exile, described the unfairness of the bill in the Washington Post by stating that "a bureaucrat who accepts bribes could be released, while the journalist who reports on the bribery would remain imprisoned."

On the other hand, the bill is problematic under Article 6 ECHR (fair trial provision) because detainees whose case at pending cannot benefit from the amnesty law and they cannot finalise their proceedings due to the closure of the judiciary. From February to the middle of June, Turkish

Courts had been suspended due to the pandemic and no trials were held. Although the courts have started to operate after mid-June, it is restricted due to health and safety reasons. So, there are a limited amount of trials for thousands of delayed proceedings. As a result of this backlog in the judiciary, detainees cannot benefit from the amnesty law and are continuously deprived from their liberty. In other words, detention, which is supposed to be a legal precaution, has turned into a punishment at the moment in Turkey.

Currently some of the detainees have been waiting for 2-3 years in prison for their indictments to be prepared or their trials to begin. Yet even during this pandemic, they were not released. According to the official rhetoric, they are kept imprisoned because "their statements could not be taken." In other words, even though they could be easily released on parole, they are still kept imprisoned.

In a nutshell, when we analyse the reactions of Turkish authorities to cope with the impact of COVID-19 on prisons, we can detect a couple of potential ECHR infringements:

- Under Article 3 ECHR, Turkish authorities may be found failing to take necessary measures to ensure the right to health of all prisoners.

- The enacted amnesty law immensely contradicts Article 2 in conjunction with Article 14 ECHR due to its discriminatory nature as a result of a blanket exclusion of political prisoners.

- Finally, the enacted amnesty law and the backlog in court proceedings deprive detainees' right to fair trial protected under Article 6 ECHR.

According to its commitments under international human rights law, Turkey is under a clear obligation to take necessary measures to ensure the right to health of all prisoners without discrimination. Under the current Law on the Execution of Sentences and Security Measures, prisoners are eligible for parole after they have served two thirds of their sentence. The draft law that is expected to be passed in Parliament within days reportedly makes prisoners eligible for parole after they have served half of their sentence. Under the new law, pregnant women and prisoners over 60 with documented health issues will be placed under house arrest. Individuals convicted of a small number of crimes, including on terrorism-related charges,

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29 https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/attacks-on-hrds-during-pandemic-report

will not be eligible for reduced sentences. The draft law does not apply to those held in pre-trial detention or whose conviction is under appeal.

In Turkey, anti-terrorism legislation is vague and widely abused in trumped up cases against journalists, opposition political activists, lawyers, human rights defenders and others expressing dissenting opinions. Thousands of people are behind bars for simply exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Now they are also faced with an unprecedented risk to their health. According to its commitments under international human rights law, Turkey is under a clear obligation to take necessary measures to ensure the right to health of all prisoners without discrimination.

Factual Example of the Consequences of Insufficient Measures: Turkish authorities refused to release Kurdish political prisoner Ms. Sabri Kaya. Mr. Kaya had two open-heart surgeries and over a dozen heart attacks in the past. Most recently, he had a heart attack and cerebral haemorrhage on 25 March 2020. He was hospitalized three times, each time treated under the intensive case, and then sent back to prison. Mr. Kaya was finally released on May 22nd. He died only a couple of hours later.

The three key words for this incident would be testing, releasing and isolating. Testing is the strongest emphasis put forth by the World Health Organization since the beginning of the Pandemic. Releasing refers to those who are there for minor offences or like conversion of fines, they should be released. Lastly isolating; releasing the prisoners who are in for minor offences and those who are there for serious crimes who can be under security measures, they must be isolated so that they are not affected by the virus.

There exists a positive obligation on a state action to protect or enforce a right, at common law and under Articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR, to protect all prisoners from death or serious harm (Keenan v United Kingdom (2001) 33 EHRR 38 at [111]). This duty arises because of the inherent vulnerability of detainees and has even more exacting requirements in relation to those who are "especially vulnerable by reason of their physical or mental condition" (Rabone v Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust [2012] 2 AC 72 at [22]), meaning that human rights obligations may be stronger in cases of prisoners who have underlying health conditions.

The Turkish government's positive proposal to reduce overcrowded prisons is undermined by the blanket exclusion of thousands of inmates convicted on terrorism charges, including those at risk of death from the virus and those who should not be in prison in the first place.

Declaration & Resolutions

PANEL 1 RESOLUTIONS

Panel Session 1 reflected on 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, especially a review of how the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted.

Resolution 1.1 The UNGA Conference 2020 adopted the resolution that recognizes Gender Perspectives and Women's Leadership in Policy Making, Good Governance, and Accountability to include women. But it adds that women on their own may not achieve much, as has been observed the last twenty-five years, since Beijing 1995.

We, the participants of the UNGA Conference 2020, declare that gaps found in developing an inclusive policy should be filled, where both genders (men, women, boys, and girls) learn from the start the importance of women's enabling process to support their contribution to sustained household incomes and state economy.

Resolution 1.2 states that the public and the private sectors should recognize both genders' inclusivity nature, especially when it comes to jobs, loans, opportunities for women, girls, and the broader process of transforming social and economic development in any country.

We, the Conference participants, declare that the public and the private sectors should recognize both genders' inclusivity nature, especially when it comes to jobs, loans, opportunities for women, girls, as part of the broader process of transforming social and economic development in any country.

Resolution 1.3 acknowledged the slow gender-responsive implementation of the Global Goals 2030. The UN Women's findings recognize the progress in the last twenty-five years, where the percent of professional and higher-level staff who are women has gone up from 32.6 percent in 1995 to 44.2 percent in 2020.

We, the Conference participants, declare that the number of women parliamentarians worldwide should be improved from the current 25 percent to 50 percent in the next twenty-five years. We affirm the need to have a gender-balanced parliament, in government cabinet appointments and in the private sector, and other institutions where this balance has not matured while keeping in mind deep-seated cultural impediments found in different societies.

Resolution 1.4 acknowledges the advancement in technology to enable women to become effective economic owners.

We, the conference participants, declare that more should be done to increase women's access to technical resources, encourage more women to be social entrepreneurs, and contribute to the economy through remunerative work rather than the domestic house economy they are known for.

Resolution 1.5 acknowledged that advancements in technology had given rise to the trendline of cyber violence and online hate crimes against women.

We, the conference participants, declare that there should be a stop to this growing global harassment of women and children cutting across national borders, cultures, and races. We agree with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession, by the UN General Assembly resolution 55/25 of November 15, 2000.

PANEL 2 RESOLUTIONS

Panel Session 2 focused on the review of five years of actions in implementing SDG #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. SDG #16 is an intersectional enabler for the implementation of the Global Agenda 2030.

Resolution 2.1 Despite the vital role of SDG 16, there are many global threats against establishing peaceful and just institutions, including shrinking space of the civil society,

severe human rights violations, particularly against women, immigrants, and people of color, increasing conflicts, and violence.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that all nations, states, governments, civil society groups, take SDG 16 seriously as part of the broader policy development.*

Resolution 2.2 Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Agenda 2030 declared the objective to leave no one behind; therefore, all stakeholders should advance the SDG #16 as part of the human rights agenda as an essential element of policy development.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that the Member States, national human rights organizations, and civil society are called upon to prioritize the integration of human rights to create peaceful, just, and strong institutions.*

Resolution 2.3 recognizes the decline of Democratic Values and the Rise of Autocracies Globally by calling on promoting democratic values expressed in SDG #16.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that the unchecked brutality of autocratic regimes and the ethical decay of democratic powers globally requires an international intervention to make those countries less hostile, and demand for democratic values from all to combat autocracies globally.*

Resolution 2.4 addresses human rights abuses against journalists and news reporters worldwide and the importance of information technology freedom.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that there should be a call to link good governance with the right to access information, transparency, and accountability, especially in countries where totalitarian regimes are known to suffocate justice.*

PANEL 3 RESOLUTIONS

Panel Session 3 discussed the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on SDG #3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG #17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Resolution 3.1 COVID-19 is a health crisis but also a Human Rights issue. The pandemic highlights deep economic and social inequalities and inadequate health and social protection systems that require urgent attention as part of the public health response.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that there should be harmonized responses to economic downturn and inequalities, especially in weak economies, rather than just looking for a cure.*

Resolution 3.2 highlights that the right to health care services should also match all children's right to education globally. The pandemic has brought about a crisis management process, which creates an imbalance in how society assists elderly citizens, immigrants, and other individuals in need, but less focus on children's right to access quality education in schools.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that we need a review process on how the pandemic is contained and how education is delivered while creating a balance on how society assists elderly citizens, immigrants, and other individuals in need.*

Resolution 3.3 reflects on the COVID-19 and Right to Life in Prisons.

> *We, the Conference participants, declare that governments should take urgent action in addressing the full range of infection risks faced by prisoners deprived of their liberty by creating more space, reducing overcrowding, allowing more access to health services, and the right to life during the pandemic.*

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

In 2018, **women** only held **27 per cent** of managerial **positions worldwide**

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Today, **20 million** people are **refugees,** over **41 million** people have been **internally displaced,** and at least **4 million people** are **stateless**

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strong international **cooperation** is needed now **more than ever to ensure** that **countries have** the means **to achieve** the SDGs