**Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization**

**Maintenance of international peace and security**

**Context**

Peace and security are threatened by the evolving nature of conflict, shrinking civic space, mis- and disinformation, hate speech, unregulated cyberspace, the climate emergency and the rollback of women’s rights. We are also seeing the highest levels of geostrategic competition in decades. While these trends have been present for some time, the war in Ukraine has sharpened global divisions among Member States. This environment undermines the effectiveness of the global peace and security architecture and challenges our ability to prevent, manage and mitigate conflicts and assist with peacemaking. To chart a path forward, we need a renewed commitment to multilateralism and the Charter of the United Nations, as called for in the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and my report on Our Common Agenda. My proposed New Agenda for Peace outlines a vision for multilateral action for peace and security.

**Key objectives**

We support Member States through a range of international peace and security activities, grounded in the principles of the Charter and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Our political, peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts are aimed at preventing and managing conflicts, responding to political crises and addressing emerging threats. We also work to advance women’s and youth participation in political and peace processes and to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence, violations of children’s rights in armed conflict, sexual exploitation and abuse, and genocide and atrocity crimes more generally.

**Key outcomes**

*Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts*

As global peace and security deteriorate, we increased our efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and promote sustainable peace, including through 41 special political missions and offices and 12 peacekeeping operations. The special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General worked with conflict parties to achieve ceasefires and political settlements. In Yemen, a United Nations-brokered truce delivered tangible benefits to the Yemeni people and enabled the parties to discuss the de-escalation of hostilities. In Libya, we supported inclusive consultations with stakeholders on overcoming the protracted political impasse and holding national elections. In Lebanon, our peacekeeping mission supported stability, including through support to a regular tripartite forum. In Abyei, we assisted efforts to improve intercommunal relations. In Colombia, the United Nations mission expanded its peacebuilding support, as requested by the new Government, and accompanied the resumed peace talks between the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army). In the Central African Republic, we supported the government-led peace process that contributed to dialogue and the dissolution of armed groups.

In the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the United Nations not only stayed and delivered but also rapidly scaled up its response across the country and beyond, including its refugee response. In view of severe access constraints in areas in the east and south of Ukraine, we consistently advocated for access while respecting the country’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in accordance with international law. The United Nations also continued to work with all concerned to mitigate the global impacts of the crisis. To ease global impacts on food and fertilizers, we actively engaged in negotiating and facilitating implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which was signed by Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in July 2022. We also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federation to facilitate the transparent, unimpeded access to food and fertilizers, including the raw materials required to produce fertilizers. As the war continues unabated, the United Nations will maintain efforts towards preventing further escalation and promoting a just and sustainable peace, in line with the Charter, international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Our partnerships with regional organizations remained essential. Following the October 2021 coup in the Sudan, our joint efforts with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development resulted in a Sudanese-led political process. This process ultimately produced a political framework agreement and laid the groundwork for a political settlement. In South Sudan, we worked with regional and subregional organizations to advance the political process. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, we worked with the African Union and regional partners on implementing the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.

United Nations peacekeeping adapted to challenging environments through the Secretary-General’s Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Action for Peacekeeping Plus strategy. We responded to the increase in peacekeeper fatalities from malicious acts with improved training, equipment, medical trauma care and improvised explosive devices detection and by strengthening the defence of our bases in the field.

We increased efforts to address mis- and disinformation and hate speech through better monitoring, analysis, guidance and training and through proactive communication and advocacy. We also built new partnerships to scale up this work, including with Governments, regional organizations, civil society and social media companies. Our missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lebanon used social media to better explain their mandates. In the Central African Republic, we helped to train media organizations on the peace process and mis- and disinformation. In Libya, we assisted initiatives to counter mis- and disinformation and hate speech during elections and supported the participation of women therein. In the Horn of Africa region, we organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on hate speech and mis- and disinformation. In Kosovo,[[1]](#footnote-1) we worked to reduce divisive ethnic narratives with human rights education.

We also continued to support Member States and their populations in non-mission settings. In West Africa and the Sahel, we worked with regional partners to support political transitions in Burkina Faso and Guinea and to address transboundary threats, including violent extremism and the impacts of climate change on peace and security. In Papua New Guinea, we supported parties in advancing agreement on Bougainville’s future through the Bougainville peace process.

Our peacekeeping operations and special political missions continued to support their host countries in protecting civilians. To adapt to new challenges, our missions tested digital technologies for better situational awareness, analysis and early warning to help to prevent violence against civilians. In Mali, our expanded digital mapping tools helped us to improve the impact of our military and police patrols. In the Central African Republic, new apps allowed us to respond more proactively and robustly to alerts. In the Sudan, we supported the implementation of a broader national strategy to better protect civilians. We also stepped up our work to prevent harm to civilians from our own military and police in all missions.

*Women and peace and security*

Strengthening women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes and decision-making is a core priority for us. In the Sudan, we supported consultations with women-led groups and political leaders, which contributed to the inclusion of women's rights provisions in the political framework agreement. For the first time, 15 per cent of the signatories were women. In the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan, our missions worked to increase women's participation in local peace committees, regional peace processes and decision-making bodies.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we supported the integration of the women and peace and security agenda into the transition plan, which resulted in women's participation in the Nairobi peace process increasing to 40 per cent of 110 civil society organizations. Our work also contributed to temporary special measures in the electoral code to mobilize the nomination of women candidates. To improve women’s safety and security, we carried out conflict mapping, early warning and analysis and deployed mixed engagement teams and gender-responsive patrols.

We supported women's participation in peace and political processes in Iraq, Libya, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Our work helped to promote women’s representation in delegations, consultations with women's civil society organizations, and innovative inclusivity mechanisms. In Afghanistan, we assisted in-country efforts to facilitate engagement between Afghan women and de facto authorities.

Together with partners, we convened digital dialogues to engage women’s voices on peace and security, including in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Haiti, Lebanon and Libya, as well as in North-East Asia and in the Middle East and North Africa region.

The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund mobilized over $44 million to support 300 women’s rights organizations and partners from 32 countries. Our Elsie Initiative Fund continues to support uniformed women in peace operations. We also launched a new funding mechanism for women human rights defenders.

By February 2023, over 40 per cent of civilian heads and deputy heads of our missions were women. We also met and exceeded our targets for gender parity among uniformed personnel, except in military contingents, where women are still starkly underrepresented.

*Peacebuilding support*

In 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund approved a record $231 million to support peacebuilding projects in 37 countries. More than a third of these funds supported women’s and youth empowerment. Other priorities included regional, cross-border and transition support in over 30 conflict-affected and fragile settings. We partnered with regional organizations, including the League of Arab States, on the projects. Recognizing that peacebuilding remains underfunded, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to improve financing for peacebuilding in the future.

The Peacebuilding Commission broadened its geographical scope and inclusion. The Commission now supports 14 countries and regions, and for the first time, it discussed priorities in South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Central Asia. Nearly 30 civil society representatives attended Commission meetings – a new record.

*Electoral assistance*

We worked with Member States around the world to help to deliver credible and peaceful elections. Our technical assistance and preventive diplomacy not only supported election processes but also helped to address challenges concerning the acceptance of results, disinformation and hate speech, and women’s participation.

To foster youth participation in elections, we collaborated with United Nations agencies to create the first Arab Network for Youth in Elections. Together with regional organizations, we exchanged lessons learned, promoted South-South cooperation and built capacity. Our partners included the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

*Rule of law and security institutions*

Our support for police and rule of law institutions remained central to our peace and security work. Over 10,000 United Nations police officers in 19 missions helped to strengthen national policing capacities, including through greater use of data analytics, foresight and behavioural science for meaningful results.

We supported national justice institutions in prosecuting crimes against civilians. This resulted in the first convictions by the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic and an increase in high-profile cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan. We also supported national corrections institutions in reinforcing the security and rehabilitation of high-risk detainees.

Our revised standards for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups help to reduce risks. In the Central African Republic, we supported community violence reduction initiatives, which focused on the needs of at-risk youth. We also assisted national authorities with the safe storage and management of small arms and light weapons.

We assisted in national security sector reform, including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lesotho, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen. With our mine action services, including the removal of explosive ordnance, we made life safer for millions of people across 29 countries and territories.

*Security Council affairs*

We continued to assist the Security Council in carrying out its critical responsibilities. In 2022, we supported the Security Council in organizing 292 meetings and 127 consultations. These deliberations resulted in 54 resolutions and 7 presidential statements on international peace and security. We also supported Council committees and working groups, which met 125 times, both in person and virtually.

*Children and armed conflict, violence against children, conflict-related sexual violence and the prevention of genocide*

In 2022, children in conflict zones were affected by conflict escalation, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war, humanitarian crises, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence and denial of humanitarian access. Children with disabilities and those displaced were most vulnerable. We helped to verify at least XX violations against children by government and non-State forces, including terrorist groups. Together with many partners, our work contributed to the release of some XX children from armed forces and groups and to reintegration assistance.

We drew global attention to the impacts of violence that children face before, during and after conflict, including forced displacement, abduction, trafficking, detention and adoption. We worked with Member States to strengthen violence prevention and protection. We also raised awareness about children living in camps and detention facilities, which requires alternative solutions. We urged States to prevent recurring cycles of violence by repatriating, rehabilitating and reintegrating their nationals.

Over the past year, conflict, shrinking civic space and weakened rule of law also exposed civilians to more sexual violence. With our monitoring and reporting, we helped to verify approximately 3,000 cases of conflict-related sexual violence. In Ukraine, we signed a framework agreement with the Government to address conflict-related sexual violence and an implementation plan. In addition, we launched a new global framework for the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.

We monitored and raised the alarm over risks of atrocity crimes and supported atrocity prevention. Our efforts resulted in action plans promoting the roles of women and traditional leaders in preventing atrocities, and the role of sports in countering hate speech. We also supported five United Nations country teams in developing action plans on hate speech. For the first time ever, we brought people together to commemorate the International Day for Countering Hate Speech on 18 June 2022.

**Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance**

**Context**

The global humanitarian situation is dire. Critical challenges – protracted and new armed conflicts, the climate crisis and major disasters, record levels of displacement, hunger and the risk of famine, the continued effects of COVID-19, and the global economic slowdown – compound and cascade. These interconnected issues affect lives and livelihoods across the globe. At the same time, violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, including attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers, and health-care and education services, continue with impunity and have a disproportionate impact on women and children.

**Key objectives**

The United Nations works to ensure coordinated, coherent, effective and timely humanitarian responses to save lives and alleviate suffering in disasters, conflicts and other emergencies. We advocate for humanitarian principles, promote respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and mobilize resources to prepare for and respond to crises with partners. Early action and rapid response, including through anticipatory approaches, remain crucial to effective coordination. The United Nations also brings Governments, partners and communities together to reduce disaster risk and losses.

**Key outcomes**

In 2022, we coordinated humanitarian response plans for 216 million people across 69 countries to ensure that they receive life-saving assistance and protection. With generous support from donors, the United Nations and our partners mobilized $30 billion for these plans – a record, but still 40 per cent short of the $52 billion required. At the country level, our partners assisted 157 million people, or 79 per cent of the people originally targeted.

New and deteriorating crises, including in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Ukraine, were the main focus of our work in 2022. In Ukraine, the United Nations and partners delivered humanitarian assistance and protection to over 15 million people, including $1.2 billion in unprecedented cash assistance for nearly 6 million Ukrainians. In total, we helped to mobilize $5 billion for Ukraine and the region. We also helped to facilitate agreement on the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which cleared the passage of grain through the Black Sea. Together with the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation, this initiative reconnected a critical source of food and fertilizer supplies to world markets, easing pressure on global food security and ultimately helping millions of people.

The United Nations and partners continued to deliver support in Afghanistan. Over 27 million people, in particular women and girls, received humanitarian assistance and protection, including in previously inaccessible locations. In Pakistan, heavy rains and floods affected 33 million people, with 8 million people displaced. We supported the government-led disaster response with life-saving and livelihood assistance while preventing the outbreak of communicable diseases.

Hunger and food insecurity had reached record levels by the end of 2022. At least 260 million people across 58 countries and territories needed urgent food and nutrition assistance, including 37 million people at risk of starvation and 376,000 suffering from famine-like conditions.

Responding to historic drought and the risk of famine in the Horn of Africa, the United Nations and partners assisted 17 million people. In Yemen, the United Nations and partners reached over 10.5 million people every month with humanitarian support, including food for 15 million of the most vulnerable.

Our Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds remained indispensable. Disbursing $1.83 billion, they catalysed life-saving assistance, including in underfunded crises. Some $595 million of the funds facilitated early, scaled-up and sustained responses to food insecurity. In the Horn of Africa, $194 million unlocked critical cash and nutrition assistance, food, medical services, shelter and clean water. In Afghanistan, our funds allocated $289 million to meet dire humanitarian needs.

In 2022, we supported Member States and partners as they began consultations for the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. We also facilitated thematic global dialogues to explore the interconnected nature of risk. Meanwhile, we continued to mainstream disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action. We promoted the use of reliable risk data to better assist people who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These efforts enhanced the global understanding of risk drivers, vulnerability and exposure. Our joined-up analytics strengthened disaster risk plans, scenarios and financing decisions, including the United Nations humanitarian needs overviews and common country analysis.

**The SFO *Safer* tanker: preventing a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe**

The United Nations is coordinating a global operation to remove more than a million barrels of oil from the decaying SFO *Safer* tanker off the Red Sea coast of Yemen, which poses the threat of a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe. A major spill would devastate fishing communities on the country’s Red Sea coast, likely wipe out 200,000 livelihoods instantly, expose whole communities to life-threatening toxins and affect millions with polluted air. It would also result in the closure of the Hudaydah and Salif ports, which are essential to bringing food, fuel and life-saving supplies into Yemen, where 17 million people need food assistance.

**Drug control, crime prevention and countering terrorism**

**Context**

The compounding effects of climate change, COVID-19, political instability, war and displacement are exacerbating drug problems, organized crime, corruption and terrorism, especially in crisis settings and vulnerable areas. Links between illicit trade, financial flows and trafficking in all its forms are a growing concern, while terrorism continues to threaten international peace and security, particularly in conflict areas where terrorists exploit fragilities.

**Key objectives**

The United Nations supports Member States in tackling issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism. We assist in setting and implementing international standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice and help to ensure compliance with obligations in multilateral instruments on drugs, corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism***.***

**Key outcomes**

*Crime prevention and countering transnational organized crime*

In 2022, we continued to assist Member States on criminal justice. We helped to train 2,700 prison officers and criminal justice practitioners in 30 national prison services in the safe, secure and humane custody of prisoners based on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). We also provided guidance on how to correctly classify and better treat prisoners, as well as on the handling of special categories of prisoners.

To counter organized crime, we helped six Member States to develop their strategies and trained over 250 policymakers from 47 countries on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We assisted 29 countries in drafting or revising firearms legislation, 4 countries with legislation on trafficking in persons and 1 country with legislation on the smuggling of migrants.

On issues related to cybercrime, we organized five intergovernmental sessions and five multi-stakeholder consultations to negotiate a draft convention on cybercrime, which is expected to be presented to the General Assembly in September 2023. We also supported 60 countries in countering and preventing cybercrime. In six countries, we helped to establish digital forensic laboratories for cryptocurrencies. We also worked with Governments in Latin America in multi-stakeholder partnerships to educate over 56,000 young people on cybercrime in age-, gender- and disability-sensitive exhibitions in children’s museums.

To help to tackle illegal deforestation, our joint programme with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) assisted countries in detecting corruption and fraud in the forestry sector and disrupted five criminal organizations.

*Countering the world drug problem*

We continued to address the world drug problem. In Afghanistan, we established an information centre for impartial monitoring of drugs and crime and their impact on surrounding countries. We also helped to create more monitoring capacity.

To promote alternative livelihoods in communities that cultivate illicit crops, we supported the export of 300,000 tons of coffee to Europe with the fair trade certification, generating profitable and sustainable income for 2,000 households in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

We expanded the capacity of service providers in Egypt and Pakistan on opioid agonist therapy and trained over 1,100 police officers from Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam on how to strengthen the partnership between law enforcement, civil society and the health sector.

*Terrorism prevention*

Setting a critical milestone, we organized the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in New York. We brought together over 600 participants, including 100 victims of terrorism from 25 Member States, to foster stronger global solidarity in support of victims of terrorism. The Congress has provided a major advocacy platform for victim-centric approaches to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

**The first High-level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism**

Together with the Government of Spain, we organized in Málaga the first High-level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism for national, regional, international and civil society organizations. Over 430 participants discussed how to meaningfully engage civil society in counter-terrorism efforts and in promoting human rights and the rule of law.

Two new Member States joined the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact in 2022, making it the largest coordination mechanism in our Organization. Over 1,000 focal points from 136 Member States, 45 United Nations entities and 13 international and regional organizations now collaborate across our global digital platform to facilitate the work of the Compact.

We fostered partnerships in Africa. In Marrakech, Morocco, we brought together heads of counter-terrorism and security from West Africa in the first high-level event to discuss capacity-building and training. We also supported Member States in East Africa in their efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

The link between technology and terrorism remained a focus for us. We assisted Member States in leveraging new and emerging technologies for counter-terrorism and addressing the risks from their misuse.

We also addressed the risk of nuclear terrorism. We trained over 500 officials from 120 countries on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, with the help of new manuals, fictional training cases and a new e-learning course.

1. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)