

Executive summary (Meeting Global Challenges through Better Governance: International Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation)

The world has always faced immense challenges. Food crises have repeatedly led, and still lead, to hunger and emigration. Disease has often ravaged the world's populations, from the Black Death in the 14th century to the "Spanish flu" pandemic that again killed millions in the early 20th century. Atmospheric pollution resulted in acid rain, which severely damaged forested areas and surface water, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) significantly weakened the planet's protective ozone layer.

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