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SDGs for All - December 2019 In Retrospect

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UN Chief Regards Youth As the 'Greatest Source' Of Hope



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – With “uncertainty and insecurity all around”, Secretary-General António Guterres has described young people as “the greatest source of hope”. In welcoming the New Year, he said: “The

United Nations stands with you and belongs to you”.

According to the UN chief, the current situation is characterized by: Persistent inequality and rising hatred. A warring world and a warming planet. Climate change is not only a long-term problem but a clear and present danger, he said. “We cannot afford to be the generation that fiddled while the planet burned.”

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Youth to The Front for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his [Agenda for Disarmament](#) on May 24, 2018 underlined the need to establish a platform for youth

engagement. This would include “a cadre of youth from around the world,” who will work assiduously to promote disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control in their communities.

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UN Warns of Growing Inequality Triggering New Great Divergence



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – In the run-up to 2020, the UN has warned that despite remarkable



progress on laying a solid foundation for human development, Thailand, like many other countries, is facing challenges in tackling inequality. This is also a theme on which the [2019 Human Development Report \(HDR\)](#) from the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) focuses. (P24) [FRENCH](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT](#)
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UN Working Group Condemns Racial Discrimination of Ecuadorians of African Descent



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) – Independent experts of a UN Working Group are “deeply concerned about the human rights situation of people of African descent” in Ecuador. After an official visit, a follow-up of a similar mission

in 2009, the experts said, despite the progressive provisions of the Constitution, recognition of the collective rights of people of African descent and several other positive measures, “there has not yet been effective implementation and enforcement of laws and policy to protect the rights of people of African descent”.

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International Criminal Court to Launch Probe into Alleged War Crimes in Palestine



By Robert Johnson

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (IDN) – The International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has announced plans to open a formal investigation into alleged war crimes in Palestine, subsequent

to a “thorough, independent and objective assessment”. At the same time, she said that she has asked the Court for a further ruling over territorial jurisdiction.

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Historic Meeting Wraps Up With Pledges to Boost Opportunities for Refugees



By Tim Gaynor and Matthew Mpoke Bigg, UNHCR

GENEVA (IDN) – A historic meeting in Geneva wrapped up on December 18 with wide-ranging and substantial commitments to help millions of refugees and the

communities they live in worldwide, including important pledges of new long-term support for their inclusion.

“I want to salute the efforts pledged by many countries — both donors and by host countries — and by business leaders, civil society and refugees themselves, to redouble efforts in support of refugee inclusion, self-reliance and solutions,” UN High Commissioner Filippo Grandi told the closing session at the first-ever Global Refugee Forum.

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Five Tech Giants Linked To ‘Cruel and Brutal Use of Children’ In Congo Mines



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Do kids work in coal mines?

In 1910, an estimated 2 million American children under the age of 15 were working in factories and mines for low wages and long shifts. Photographs by Lewis Hine of

New York revealed the depraved exploitation of children, some as young as 8 years of age, in fields and in mines. Child labor was finally outlawed in 1938.

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79-Nation ACP & the EU Call for Implementing the Paris Accord



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS | MADRID (IDN) – The 79-nation African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union,

which together make up more than half of the signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change, have called for increased ambition at global level to close the gap between the commitments made so far and what would be necessary to meet the long-term global temperature goal of the Agreement.

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African Negotiators Criticize ‘Limited Progress’ at COP25



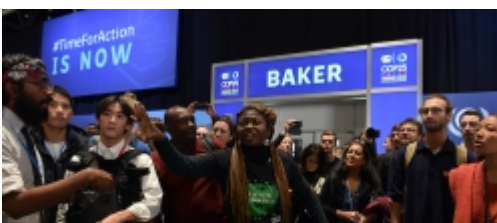
By Fabíola Ortiz

MADRID (IDN) – As the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 moved toward an end, the African Group of Negotiators criticized the “very limited progress” of the climate talks and said “no deal is better than bad deal”.

“We are very very very worried about the balance of the outcome. We are concerned that what we are seeing now is regressing on implementing all the commitments we have under the Paris Agreement,” announced Ambassador Mohamed Nasr, Head of Environmental Affairs at Egypt’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs who led the African Group of Negotiators (AGN).

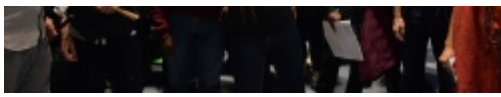
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Youth Call for Human Rights to Be at The Core of Climate Talks



By Fabíola Ortiz

MADRID (IDN) – The youth and human rights activists have been emphasizing since the start of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) on December 2 the pressing need of placing people in the

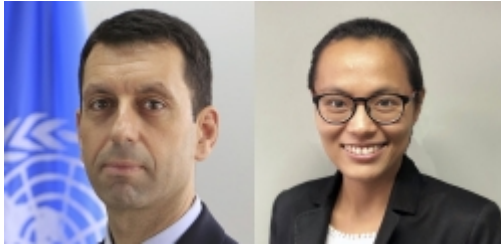


pressing need of placing people in the centre of climate action. Spearheaded by the social movement ‘Fridays for Future’

initiated by the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, the youth been calling for social participation in the decision-making process and the re-shaping of national climate commitments to align with youth’s aspirations.

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Urgent Need for Accelerating SDG Progress in Asia-Pacific



Viewpoint by Kaveh Zahedi* and Van Nguyen**

BANGKOK (IDN) – “The 2030 Agenda is coming to life”, declared the Secretary-General at the opening of the [first SDG Summit](#) [September 24-25], a quadrennial event for the follow up and review of the

[2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). As leaders from Asia-Pacific took the floor, they highlighted country progress of SDG implementation and reaffirmed commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Statements reflected different approaches across the region. Yet all converged on one priority: *accelerated actions and transformative pathways*.

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Climate Activists at COP25 Denounce Inaction by World Leaders



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK | MADRID (IDN) – As the 25th United Nations climate conference COP25 moved into its second week, environmental activists from around the world denounced the influence of corporate power plainly visible at the Madrid summit and took to the

streets in a massive climate protest led by indigenous leaders and youth.

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Chilean Women Fight for Genuine Gender Equality



By Pía Figueroa

The writer is Co-Director of [Pressenza](#), humanist, author of several monographs and books. This feature [appeared](#) first in [www.pressenza.com](#).

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (IDN) – The hashtag #lastesisenior was broadcast on Twitter December 6. It had not been communicated before by social networks. It quickly became a trending topic in Chile. And this came as a surprise, though everything had been organized with a lot of discretion.

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South-South Cooperation Offers Solutions to Urgent Climate Challenges



Viewpoint by Jorge Chediek

The author is Director of the [United Nations](#)



The author is Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation.

NEW YORK (IDN) – Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. At stake are recent gains in the fights against poverty, hunger and disease, and the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the global South.

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UN Calls for \$32 Billion to Battle Humanitarian Crises in 2020



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) – As 2019 comes to a close, the United Nations has warned that climatic shocks, large infectious disease outbreaks and intensifying, protracted conflicts will constrain nearly 168 million – or one person in 45 on the planet – to seek humanitarian assistance and protection next year in crises spanning more than 50 countries. Also, millions of children across the globe will need life-saving support.

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Africa Forum Urges Investors to Support Inclusive Development



By Bernhard Schell

CAIRO (IDN) – “I stand here on behalf of the United Nations system and reaffirm our strong commitment to the member states and the people of Africa,” Secretary-General António Guterres **told** the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU), adding: “I strongly believe Africa is one of the greatest forces for good in our world.”

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Strategic Talks Reinforce UNIDO Partnership with Germany



By Jutta Wolf

BERLIN (IDN) – Germany and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**) have agreed to strengthen their partnership towards the realisation of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). During high-level strategic talks in Berlin, hosted by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** (BMZ) on November 26-27, Germany and UNIDO underlined the importance of each other as partners.

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