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SDGs for All - February 2020 In Retrospect

Published by the [International Press Syndicate Group](#)
in cooperation with the [Global Cooperation Council](#)

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can also be found on our news website [IDN-InDepthNews](#).

Mauritanian Anti-Slavery and Iranian Women Rights Activist Presented Awards



By Jamshed Baruah

GENEVA (IDN) – Biram Dah Abeid, a descendant of former slaves who has been called "the Nelson Mandela of Mauritania", and [Shaparak Shajarizadeh](#), a prominent Iranian women's rights activist have been

honoured for their courage to fight gross violations of human rights

Abeid, founder of the Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA), has mobilized tens of thousands of Mauritians to protest slavery and the government's failure to apply anti-slavery laws. (P31) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TAGALOG](#) | [THAI](#)

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Experts Concerned About the State of Children



By Jaya Ramachadran

GENEVA (IDN) —A landmark report focuses on the health and future of children and adolescents worldwide who are under immediate threat from ecological degradation, climate change and exploitative marketing practices that push heavily processed fast food, sugary drinks, alcohol and tobacco at children.

The report by a Commission of over 40 child and adolescent health experts from around the world finds that "children stand on the precipice of a climate crisis" and "no single country is adequately protecting children's health, their environment and their futures". (P30) [INDONESIAN](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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Protecting Indigenous Cultures for Saving Global Biodiversity



Viewpoint by Krystyna Swiderska*

COVENTRY (IDN) – Species are being lost at about a **thousand times** the natural rate of extinction. This is faster than at any other period in human history. Ecosystems – the vital systems on which all life depends – are being degraded across the globe.

This crisis of biodiversity loss is finally receiving some attention. But its connection to another loss – that of indigenous cultures – is rarely mentioned. From animals to insects and plants, biodiversity loss cannot be effectively addressed without tackling the rapid disappearance of indigenous cultures. The two are inextricably linked.

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Slavery Not a Crime in Almost Half of the World's Countries



Viewpoint by Katarina Schwarz and Jean Allain, with Andrea Nicholson*

NOTTINGHAM (IDN) – “Slavery is illegal everywhere.” So said the **New York Times**, repeated at the **World Economic Forum**, and used as a mantra of **advocacy** for over 40 years. The truth of this statement has been taken for granted for decades. Yet our **new research** reveals that almost half of all

countries in the world have yet to actually make it a crime to enslave another human being.

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Towards Nuclear Disarmament with Monitoring and Verification



By Radwan Jakeem

NEW YORK (IDN) – With the international community persistently striving for a world free of nuclear weapons, verification systems and methods are crucial to understanding the complex challenges of accurately monitoring and verifying future nuclear disarmament activities which will

likely subject countries to more intrusive verification than ever before.

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Buddhist Leader Calls for Nuclear Weapons Free Security



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | TOKYO (IDN) – An eminent Buddhist philosopher and nuclear disarmament advocate has tabled four critical initiatives to "contribute to the creation of a sustainable global society where all can live with dignity and a sense



of security". The initiatives cover four major areas: building support for the [Treaty on the](#)

[Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#); multilateral negotiations for nuclear disarmament; climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR); and education for children in crisis. [JAPANESE](#) |

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Kazakh Roadmap for LLDCs as 2020-2021 Chair



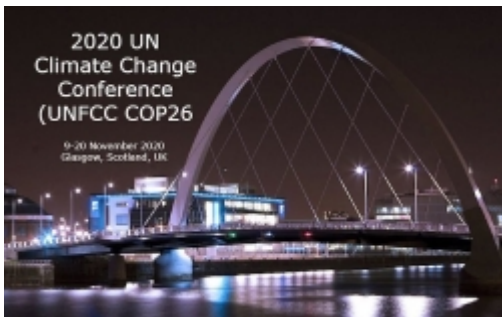
By Ambassador Kairat Umarov

Kazakhstan assumed the chairmanship of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) on 8 January for the period 2020-2021. The following are extensive excerpts from the statement of LLDC Chair Ambassador Kairat Umarov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to

the United Nations in New York, at the First 2020 Meeting of the LLDCs at the Ambassadorial level.

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COP26 Will Be the Litmus Test of The Paris Agreement



2020 UN
Climate Change
Conference
(UNFCCC COP26)
9-20 November 2020
Glasgow, Scotland, UK

COP25 Ignored Demands for Climate Justice

Viewpoint by Mary Church*

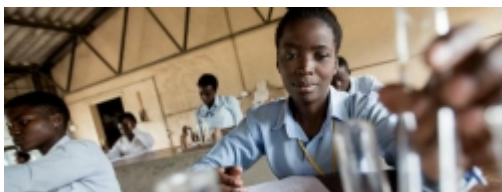
EDINBURGH (IDN) – The outcomes of the longest ever meeting in the history of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – the [COP25](#)

negotiations in Madrid – have failed to reflect the urgency of the crisis or any grasp of the real solutions to the climate emergency.

Rather, governments around the world continued to ignore both the undeniable science and the rising tide of peoples’ movements demanding radical action on climate.

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Strengthening Women & Girls Participation in Ocean Science



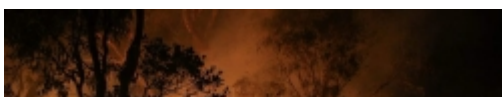
Viewpoint by Michael W. Lodge

The writer is Secretary-General of the [International Seabed Authority \(ISA\)](#), an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea and the [1994 Agreement](#) relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. ISA headquarters are in Kingston, Jamaica.

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Australia’s Exceptional Vulnerability to Climate Change



Viewpoint by Andrew Walter*

MELBOURNE (IDN) -- The bushfires now



ravaging Australia's flora, fauna and rural communities on an unprecedented scale underline the **country's exceptional vulnerability** to global heating and its strong interest in global climate change mitigation and adaptation. Decarbonisation should be

taken as an economic opportunity and it could elevate Australia's leading role in Asia for years to come.

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Accelerating Actions Towards Zero Female Genital Mutilation



By Caroline Mwangi

NEW YORK (IDN) – While significant progress in eliminating the practice has been made in the last 30 years, approximately 200 million girls and women alive today have had their genitals mutilated. This can lead to long-term physical, psychological and social

consequences, warns a joint statement by UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

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The UN at 75 Moving From a Talking Shop to a Listening Post



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | NEW YORK (IDN) – Bob Dylan in "Blowin' in the Wind", one of the 'Greatest Songs of All Time', poses a series of rhetorical questions about peace, war, and freedom. The refrain "The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind" has been

described as "impenetrably ambiguous: either the answer is so obvious it is right in your face, or the answer is as intangible as the wind".

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Climate Change Means Lifestyle Change



Viewpoint by John Scales Avery *

COPENHAGEN (IDN) – I would like to announce the publication of a book, which deals with the world's failure to adequately address the existential danger of catastrophic climate change. The book consists mainly of book chapters and articles that I have previously published, although a considerable amount of new

material has been added. It can be freely downloaded and circulated from the following link: <http://eacpe.org/app/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Climate-Change-Means-Lifestyle-Change-John-Scales-Avery.pdf>

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More Offers Needed to Resettle Refugees Around the World



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – A continuing shortage of offers of sanctuary from governments across the world is a vital impediment to the resettlement of refugees. Nearly 1.4 million refugees are estimated to be in urgent need of resettlement worldwide, but only 63,696 or 4.5 per cent were relocated through the UN refugee agency ([UNHCR](#)) in 2019.

Though the number of refugees resettled in 2019 increased modestly by 14 per cent compared to the previous year, when 55,680 people were relocated, [the agency maintains](#) that “a tremendous gap remains between resettlement needs and the places made available”.

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UN Avails of Famed Literature Festival to Achieve Global Goals



By Devinder Kumar

JAPIPUR (IDN) – As part of a [Decade of Action](#) for accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world’s biggest challenges — ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the finance gap – the United Nations availed of a new tool end of January: the world’s largest literature festival in India’s eminent ‘pink city’ of Jaipur, the capital of the scenic, almost magical Indian state of Rajasthan. It is known as the Pink City due to the colour of the stone used for many of its glorious palaces and historic monuments. (P29) [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#)

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African Union Campaigning to Achieve Peace and End Conflict



By Zipporah Musau, [Africa Renewal](#)

NEW YORK (IDN) – Realising a conflict-free Africa is the dream of every African. In this edition, we highlight the current hotspots; the root causes of conflicts; the various efforts in search of peaceful co-existence and development and the African Union’s quest for silencing the guns by 2020.

In 2013 African Union (AU) member state representatives gathered at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the Organisation of African Unity was established in 1963, to celebrate the body’s 50th anniversary.

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Published by
The [International Press Syndicate](#) Group

as part of a [media project](#) with Soka Gakkai International
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