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SDGs for All

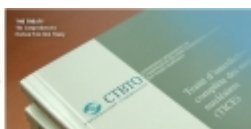
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SDGs for All - January 2020 In Retrospect

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Sri Lanka Committed to Non-Proliferation and Disarmament



By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA | COLOMBO (IDN) – In an exceptional move, Germany has granted funds to Sri Lanka's Forum on Disarmament and Development (FDD) for the translation of the texts of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT) to the island state's official languages Sinhala and Tamil. NPT and CTBT texts were until now available only in official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Sri Lanka has signed and ratified the NPT; it has signed the CTBT but not yet ratified the Treaty.

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Emergency World Bank Meeting on Tanzania Focuses on Women's Rights



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) –The World Bank's executive board cancelled expected action on a \$500 million loan to Tanzania where teenage girls can be expelled from school because they are pregnant.

The Bank had been under pressure from rights activists and held a last-minute emergency meeting on January 27 with Tanzanian and international human rights organizations.

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Global Learning Crisis Stands in the Way of SDGs



By Kwame Buist

NEW YORK (IDN) – “Without education, we cannot achieve any of the **SDGs**,” UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed warned a meeting held at United Nations headquarters to mark

International Day of Education.

And yet, with 2030 – the year set by the United Nations for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – looming on the horizon, the world is lagging behind, prompting the UN Secretary-General to issue a global call for a **Decade of Action** to accelerate their implementation.

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A Renowned Russian University Celebrates 60th Anniversary



Viewpoint by Somar Wijayadasa*

MOSCOW (IDN) – If education is the ultimate gift one can give a child, then, the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia has given that gift to more than 150,000 deserving young men and women from many countries around the world – who otherwise would never have had the opportunity to receive higher education —

especially in a foreign country.

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Climate and Nuclear Weapons Are the Focus of Buddhist Leader's Peace Proposals



By Taro Ichikawa

TOKYO (IDN) – Climate action and nuclear weapons abolition, with a focus on the individual lives and suffering often hidden behind macroeconomic indices, is the main theme of the 38th annual peace proposal by **Daisaku Ikeda**, president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Buddhist

network.

Titled 'Toward Our Shared Future: Constructing an Era of Human Solidarity', the proposals were released on January 26 marking the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Soka Gakkai and the 45th anniversary of the founding of SGI.

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Australia Battling Devastation Wrought by Worst Ever Bushfires



By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY (IDN) – Australia's worst summer in living memory has burnt over 18 million hectares. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) **estimates** that more than 5,900 buildings including over 2,800



homes have been destroyed as of mid-January. In addition to a death toll of 33 people so far, about one billion animals, and many more bats and insects, are likely to die in total over the coming weeks and months as a result of lost habitat and food sources, says UNEP.

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Trade Wars Threaten Food Security to the Detriment of the Poor



Viewpoint by Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, [UNCTAD Secretary-General](#)

GENEVA (IDN) – International trade has proven to be a critical mechanism for growth and development. It helps build stronger value chains, mitigate conflict and provides access to higher quality and quantities of goods and services.

It has also provided consumers with access to a more diversified and nutritious food basket. However, for trade to improve food security to the greatest number of people across the globe, greater international cooperation is necessary.

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Broad-based Deterioration of World Economy Threatening Sustainable Development



By Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI | BANGKOK (IDN) – Prolonged trade disputes and wide-ranging policy uncertainties have catapulted the world economy into a significant and broad-based deterioration in 2019. This threatens to hamper efforts to reduce poverty, create decent jobs, broaden access to affordable and clean energy, and achieve many other

[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

According to the United Nations [World Economic Situation and Prospects \(WESP\) 2020](#) report, gross product growth slipped to 2.3 per cent in 2019—the lowest rate since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009.

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Tanzania Passes Law on HIV Self-Test to Tame the Deadly Virus



By Kizito Makoye

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (IDN) – Perched on a plastic chair at his shop in the bustling Sinza suburb in Dar es Salaam, Abdul* is anxiously looking at a small kit containing liquid and a stick.

“I want to know my HIV status,” says Abdul while glancing at his watch.

A moment ago, the 28-year-old trader briskly swiped a plastic swab across his upper gum to draw some fluid and slotted it into the kit for testing. After a few minutes, one or two lines would be displayed to confirm the test’s results. (P28)

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Berlin Conference on Libya Sparks Expectations of an End to Protracted Conflict



By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN (IDN) – A tiny glimmer of hope has emerged for Libya which has been torn by fighting between rival armed factions since the ouster of late ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Participants in a high-level ‘Berlin

Conference on Libya’, hosted by German Chancellor Angela Merkel on January 19, gave the go-ahead for the comprehensive ‘Berlin Process’ to put an end to the conflict and bring lasting peace to the oil-rich North African country trapped in clashing interests of Russia and Turkey – and other countries.

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New Research Pleads for Recognizing Contribution of African Migrants To Sustainable Development



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (IDN) – A [new set of European Commissioners](#) has taken office in Brussels. The main migration focus of the previous cabinet of Commissioners was halting migration – which led to deals with third countries on stopping and returning refugees and migrants. People evacuated from Libya, for example, are brought to

Niger and Rwanda, where they are processed before those successfully registered as refugees are taken to Europe – often after long processes filled with uncertainty.

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Urgent Health Challenges Facing the World



By Sean Buchanan

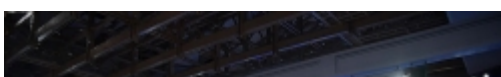
GENEVA (IDN) – A list of urgent, global health challenges released by the World Health Organisation ([WHO](#)) at the beginning of 2020 reflects deep concern that leaders are failing to invest sufficient resources in

core health priorities and systems. This, says the Geneva-based UN agency, is putting lives, livelihoods and economies in jeopardy.

Recommending that countries spend one percent of their gross domestic product on primary health care, to give more people access to the quality essential services they need, close to where they live, WHO has identified a series of priorities for the decade, covering a wide range of issues affecting people across the planet. (P27) [ARABIC](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Putin Promises Incentives to Boost Russia’s Population



By Kester Kenn Klomegah

MOSCOW (IDN) – “We need to address



MOSCOW (IDN) – we need to address large-scale social, economic and technological tasks facing the country more quickly and, without delay. Our society is clearly calling for change. People want development,” President Vladimir Putin said in his wide-ranging address on January 15

to the Federal Assembly at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall, a few metres away from the Kremlin.

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Australia Burns Furiously but Still Remains an Attractive Destination to Sri Lankans



By Dr Palitha Kohona

The writer is former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and former Foreign Secretary.

COLOMBO (IDN) – Summer temperatures continue to establish new records. The capital clocks up an unprecedented 44 degrees Celsius, a more familiar figure in

Middle Eastern cities. Bush fires have continued to burn for months, destroying hundreds of thousands of acres of forest and farmland (an area bigger than Scotland has been consumed by the fires so far) and thousands of houses.

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The World’s Poorest Need Bold Actions by the Better Off



By Jamshed Baruah

GENEVA (IDN) – As the United Nations launches an ambitious global effort to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) by 2030, the fate of the world’s 47 most impoverished nations – [the Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)](#) – has

assumed added importance. [UNCTAD](#), an organization of the UN, is therefore urging them to use external aid to structurally transform their economies. Donors, it adds, should align their support with the national development plans of the poorest nations.

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An Ambitious Global Effort to Deliver The 2030 Promise



By J Nastranis

Note: We are a member of the SDG Media Compact. This article is based on UN SDG Media Compact Editorial – 2020 Special Edition.

NEW YORK (IDN) – With just ten years to go, an ambitious global effort is being

kicked off to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) by 2030, which constitute the world’s blueprint for fair globalization by mobilizing all governments, civil society and business to help achieve the [Global Goals](#)

governments, civil society and businesses to help achieve the Global Goals.

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UN Concerned About Haiti 10 Years Since Disastrous Earthquake



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – Hundreds of thousands of Haitians lost their lives, including 102 UN personnel, and millions were gravely affected by the devastating earthquake that struck the Caribbean nation ten years ago

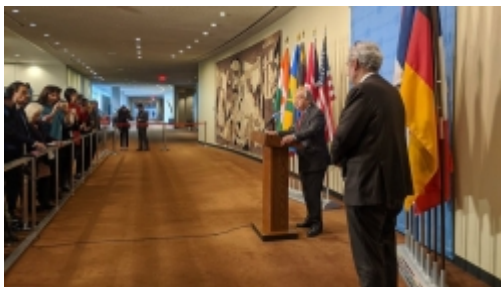
on January 12.

The incident ranks among the top 10 deadliest earthquakes in human history, according to a recent [OCHA report](#). Nevertheless, \$126 million [humanitarian plan](#) for Haiti, launched in February, was only 32 per cent funded. (P26)

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Guterres Calls For De-escalating 'Dangerous' Geopolitical Tensions



Iran Ambassador Meets With UNESCO Chief Amid Trump Threats

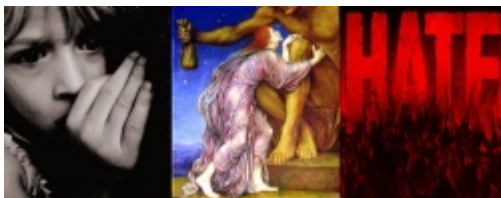
By Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | NEW YORK | PARIS (IDN) – “Stop escalation. Exercise maximum restraint. Re-start dialogue. Renew international cooperation.” This is the four-

point message of UN Secretary-General [António Guterres](#) spelling out what needs to happen now, in capitals across the world, to de-escalate geopolitical tensions, which [he described](#) as being “at their highest level this century” as the new decade dawns. [RUSSIAN](#)

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Fear, Greed and Hate as We Enter the 2020s



Viewpoint by Roberto Savio*

ROME (IDN) – In a world in which the institutions that govern us are rapidly losing their moral compass, it is difficult not to realise that in 2020 we are now entering –

or have already entered – a new low point in the history of humankind.

Today, for example, we face an unprecedented existential threat brought about by the climate crisis. According to scientists, we have until 2030 to stop climate change, after which the writing is on the wall for the planet. Yet, we have just had a world conference in Madrid on climate change, which ended in nothing. (P25)

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Kenya and Uganda Partner With the UN to Achieve SDGs



By Siddharth Chatterjee and Rosa Malango



UN Resident Coordinators in Kenya and Uganda, [Siddharth Chatterjee](#) and [Rosa Malango](#) respectively report in a blog how the two East African neighbours have kick-started a Decade of Action to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) by partnering with the UN to address

challenges that transcend country borders. The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) is the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at the country level. In this first of occasional series, [UN News](#) is inviting RCs to blog on issues important to the United Nations and the country where they serve. UN News carried this blog on 1 January 2020.

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33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA
Europaplatz 2, 8th Floor, 10557 Berlin, GERMANY
Ichimura bldg. 4F, 3-2 Kanda Ogawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 101-0052

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