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SDGs for All Newsletter - December 2020 In Retrospect

The Rich-Poor Gulf Widens 5 Years After Adoption of Sustainable Development Goals



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – 2020 will be remembered as a year in which a contagious virus shut down the world, widened the gulf between the rich and the poor, triggered a spike in poverty

for the first time in decades, and pushed back the United Nations efforts to create more equitable societies jeopardising the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) universally agreed in September 2015.

By early December, the United Nations [was warning](#) that a record 235 million people would require humanitarian assistance in 2021, comprising an increase of some 40 per cent on 2020 which is almost entirely a consequence of the pandemic. (P26) [INDONESIAN](#) | [TAGALOG](#) | [THAI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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The Culture of Peace: For a Safer, Saner and Sustainable World



By Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

The author is a former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN, former Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United Nations, and founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of

Peace (GMCoP). The following are extensive excerpts from his virtual special lecture at the [International Studies Institute at University of La Verne](#), California on 19 November 2020. "The objective of the culture of peace," he said, "is the empowerment of people, as has been underscored time and again by the global leaders for peace and

underscored time and again by the global leader for peace and Buddhist philosopher Daisaku Ikeda."

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Portugal: Mainstreaming Food Systems in The Presidency of The European Council



Viewpoint by Paulo Caruso Dias de Lima

The writer is a Liaison Officer at the FAO Brussels Office.

BRUSSELS (IDN) – As announced two weeks ago, the Portuguese Presidency of the European Council, in the first half of next year, is set to position its priorities to promote a fair, green and digital recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19. This is in keeping with regional and global trends towards transforming the ways in which we produce and consume food. - [PORTUGUESE](#)

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India's Farmers Fight for Their Rights and Existence



Viewpoint by Sonali Kolhatkar*

LOS ANGELES (IDN) – India's farmers are revolting against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in a mass movement that has drawn international attention. The world's largest democracy is witnessing a collective groundswell of protest as hundreds of thousands of farmers, largely from the states of Punjab and Haryana, have laid siege to the outskirts of the capital of New Delhi, determined to occupy the edges of the city until Modi reverses unpopular new laws that they say are anti-farmer.

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Breaking the Culture of Violence to Advance SDG 16 On Peace & Security



Viewpoint by P. I. Gomes*

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago (IDN) – In the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reference is made to what is called the 5P's of *People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership*. They capture with such lucid precision what is referred to as "all areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet."

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'If We Are Serious About Peace, We Must Take Women Seriously'



By Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury in New York

The following is the full text of the address by Ambassador Chowdhury at the Knesset of Israel on November 17, 2020, at 14:30 Israel Standard Time. He is former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United

Nations and initiator of the precursor decision leading to the UNSCR 1325 as the President of the UN Security Council in March 2000 at the Special Meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality of the Israeli Knesset marking the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 with focus on the challenges, progress made, and way forward in its implementation.

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Supporting Small Island Developing States to Build Back Better in the face of COVID-19



Viewpoint by Angélica Maria Jácome Daza

The writer is FAO Director, Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

BRUSSELS (IDN) – The possible food crisis that could be triggered by the effects of COVID-19 differs significantly from traditional food crises brought on by conflict or natural disasters. In contrast to the food crisis of 2007 and 2008, the current challenge is about ensuring food access, not food availability.

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African Women Stress the Need for a Horn of Africa Peace Initiative



By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (IDN) – [The Norwegian Nobel Committee](#) awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his

decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea." The prize was also meant to recognise all the stakeholders working for peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia and in the East and Northeast African regions.

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Pacific SIDS Champion Oceans and Blue Economy Preparing for COP 26



Viewpoint by P.I. Gomes*

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago (IDN) – On December 10, 2020, marking five years since the adoption of the landmark [Paris Agreement](#) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Heads of Government and Leaders of the [Pacific](#)

[Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#) deemed it fit to convene a High-Level Roundtable on Urgent Climate Change Action in Tuvalu.

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Climate Action: UN Insists on Developed Countries Meeting 100 Billion Dollar Annual Pledge



By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – A new report by independent experts has proposed urgent actions to meet the pledge by developed countries to mobilize at least US\$100 billion a year to support developing countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The study

released by the United Nations on December 11 accentuates that "COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the context for international climate finance".

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The Southern Ocean an Ocean Like No Other



By Ceridwen Fraser, Christina Hulbe, Craig Stevens and Huw Griffiths*

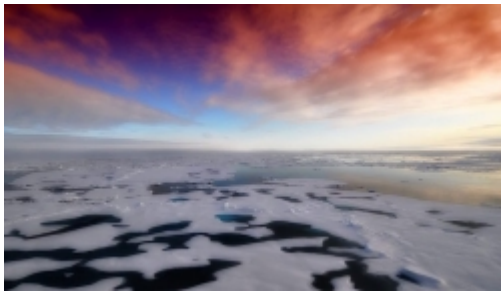
In the run-up to the [COP26](#) climate change conference scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, [The Conversation](#) has prepared a five-part series entitled [Oceans 21](#) examining the history and future of the world's oceans. This is the fifth article in the series which looks into the Southern

Ocean's ecological richness and significance for global climate. Click here for [the previous article](#).

DUNEDIN | AUCKLAND | CAMBRIDGE (IDN) – In 2018, a map named after an oceanographer went viral.

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Effects of Global Warming Dramatic in the Arctic



By Jørgen Berge, Carlos Duarte, Dorte Krause-Jensen, Karen Filbee-Dexter, Kimberly Howland and Philippe Archambault*

In the run-up to the [COP26](#) climate change conference scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland,

The Conversation has prepared a five-part series entitled [Oceans 21](#) examining the history and future of the world's oceans. This is the fourth article in the series which looks at the Arctic where warming is two to three times faster than any other place on Earth. [Click here for the previous article.](#)

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Disrupting the Atlantic's Ecosystem Can Have Far-Reaching Effects



By Suzanne OConnell and Pascal Le Floc'h*

In the run-up to the [COP26](#) climate change conference scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, [The Conversation](#) has prepared a five-part series entitled [Oceans 21](#)

examining the history and future of the world's oceans. This is the third article in the series which looks at the Atlantic Ocean, the driving force behind ocean circulation. [Click here for the previous article.](#)

MIDDLETOWN, Connecticut | BREST (IDN) – “Did the Atlantic close and then reopen?” That was the question posed in a 1966 [paper](#) by Canadian geophysicist [J. Tuzo Wilson](#).

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Pacific Ocean's Delicate Ecology Under Threat



By Jodie L Rummer, Bridie JM Allan, Charitha Pattiaratchi, Ian A Bouyoucos, Irfan Yulianto and Mirjam van der Mheen*

In the run-up to the [COP26](#) climate change conference scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, [The Conversation](#) has prepared a five-part series entitled [Oceans 21](#)

examining the history and future of the world's oceans. This is the second article in the series which looks at the Pacific Ocean, an ocean so vast that it may seem invincible. [Click here](#) for the first article on the series.

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The Rich Historical Archive That Is the Indian Ocean



By Isabel Hofmeyr and Charne Lavery*

In the run-up to the [COP26](#) climate change conference scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, [The Conversation](#) has prepared a five-part series entitled [Oceans 21](#)

examining the history and future of the world's oceans. This is the first article in the series which looks into ancient Indian Ocean trade networks.

JOHANNESBURG | PRETORIA (IDN) – On many beaches around the Indian Ocean, keen observers may spot bits of broken pottery. Washed smooth by the ocean, these shards are in all likelihood hundreds of years old, from centres of ceramic production like the Middle Eastern [Abbasid Caliphate](#) and the Chinese [Ming dynasty](#).

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Transforming Tea Trade with Taste and Impact in Tanzania



By Kizito Makoye

DAR ES SALAAM (IDN) – Nothing quite compares the taste of Ginger Mint Fusion tea whose aromatic steam mistily wafts off when served in a cup. As any customer at Salt restaurant in Dar es Salaam will attest, the tasty beverage is probably the best money can buy.

Perched at the posh Oyster Bay neighbourhood with lush vegetation – the restaurant, which boasts a tacky décor and grandiose French Style architecture – is a magnet for tea-lovers. (P25) [FRENCH](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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The Forgotten HIV/AIDS Pandemic



Viewpoint by Somar Wijayadasa*

NEW YORK (IDN) – Since the first identification of HIV/AIDS in the United States of America (USA), in 1981, approximately 76 million people have been infected with HIV, and nearly 35 million people have died of AIDS — the highest global death toll of all time — and also one

of the world's most politicized, feared and controversial diseases in the history of modern medicine.

However, this year, the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) has thus far infected over 65 million and killed over 1.5 million people around the world. (P24) [GERMAN](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [RUSSIAN](#) (the Russian educational website Ethnosphera)

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