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SDGs for All Newsletter - January 2021 In Retrospect

UN Chief Explains How to Make 2021 A Year of Transformation



By Radwan Jakeem

NEW YORK (IDN) – United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has told the UN's 193 Member States that in the wake of an "*annus horribilis*" of death, disaster and despair, 2021 must be a year of transformation. "We need to move from death to health; from disaster to reconstruction; from despair to hope; from business as usual to transformation."

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Mixed Feelings in Kenya's Pumwani Slums as Schools Open



By Francis Kinyua*

NAIROBI (IDN) – After being closed for nine months, schools in Kenya reopened to start a new term and resume the school year that was disrupted in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the morning of January 4, the streets were swarmed with elated children wearing colourful uniforms marching to their schools. (P29) [GERMAN](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [THAI](#)

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COVID-19 Decimating Ranks of Zimbabwe's Government



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – The coronavirus is reaping a "grim harvest" in Zimbabwe.

Those were the words of President Emmerson Mnangagwa acknowledging the deadly reach of the virus in the nation's highest ranks of government.

Zimbabwe's transport and foreign ministers both succumbed to the coronavirus less than two days of each other. Four ministers have died so far, with several more reportedly fighting for their lives in hospital.

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Overcoming Vaccine Inequities and Enabling Small States' Post-Covid19 Recovery



Viewpoint by P. I. Gomes*

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago (IDN) – The “catastrophic moral failure” into which the world is seen as heading, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), Director-General, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, can readily be understood as having its

ideological basis in the callous principle of “profits before people for optimum shareholder-value”. (P28) [ARABIC](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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Transformation of Agri-Food Systems Crucial for FAO in 2021



By Ronald Joshua

ROME (IDN) – Director-General QU Dongyu of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has declared 2021 a key year to move forward the transformation of agri-food systems, marked by big events, particularly the UN Food Systems Summit in New York, the Pre-Summit in Rome, and FAO's Youth World Food Forum.

Summit in Rome, and FAO's Youth World Food Forum.

The Forum will be dedicated to the future of agri-food systems, bringing together major youth groups, top influencers, companies, startups, academic institutions, civil society organizations, governments, media, the general public to drive awareness, engagement, and resources.

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People's Movement Launched in South Africa To Defeat Covid-19



By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – A call to action endorsed by over 500 organizations

and individuals in South Africa is aiming to unite millions of the nation's citizens in order to acquire 40 to 80 million doses of vaccine to defeat the coronavirus pandemic.

"The pandemic is wreaking havoc," organizers proclaimed in a recent letter published in the Mail&Guardian. "Vaccinating a significant part of the population is the only way to defeat the pandemic."

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One Planet Summit on Biodiversity Pledges Action Commitments



By Jaya Ramachandran

PARIS (IDN) – The global health crisis of the COVID 19 came as a dramatic reminder of the importance of Nature for our daily lives and economies: biodiversity is our life insurance. Yet, the damage to ecosystems is unprecedented and will have major consequences on our lifestyles in the decades to come.

According to knowledgeable sources, reversing this trend is a major challenge for the coming decade. This global challenge requires concerted action at all levels (international, national, local) and by all actors (governments, international organizations, businesses, associations, citizens, etc.).

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A New UN Report Calls for Living in Balance with The Planet



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) – As the UN Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly pointed out, humanity is faced with a "defining moment", a warning that is highlighted in the 30th-anniversary edition of the Human Development Report (HDR), *The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene*. Though humankind has achieved incredible progress, we have taken the Earth for granted, destabilizing the very systems upon which we rely for survival. (P27) [ARABIC](#) | [INDONESIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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