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## SDGs for All Newsletter - July 2021 In Retrospect

### Global Progress on The Fight Against Tobacco Threatened

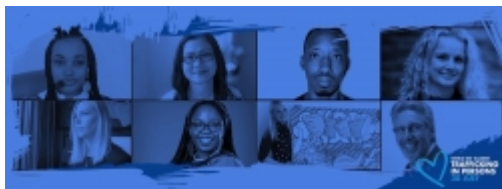


Viewpoint by Matthew L. Myers,  
President, [Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (IDN) — In 2020, 3.6 million kids in the United States used electronic cigarettes, including 1 in 5 high school students. A growing percentage of them did so frequently or daily, a sure sign of addiction. With 83% of youth e-cigarette users using flavored products, the evidence is clear that flavored e-cigarettes have driven this epidemic.

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### UN Chief Calls for Action As the Pandemic Leaves Millions Vulnerable

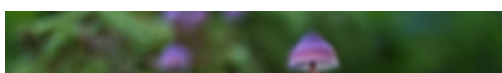


By Caroline Mwangi

NEW YORK (IDN) — The COVID pandemic has pushed no less than 124 million more people into extreme poverty. "Many millions" have been left vulnerable to the scourge. Half of victims in low-income countries are children, noted UN Secretary General António Guterres noted just ahead of the [World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#). adding that Most are trafficked for forced labour, added the UN Chief.

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### Bringing 'Humanity in Harmony with Nature' Vital Objective of A New Global Biodiversity Framework



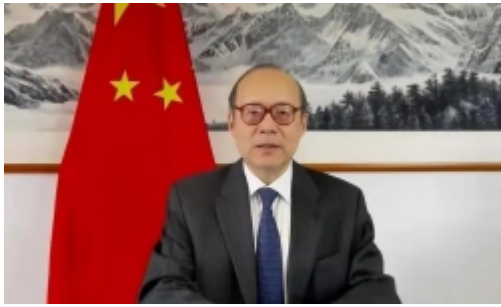
By J Nastranis



NEW YORK (IDN) — The Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has published the first official draft of a new global framework for biodiversity to guide actions to conserve and protect nature and its basic services to humans by 2030.

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## China's Development Rights Push Counters Western 'Hypocrisy' At UNHRC



By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY | GENEVA (IDN) — China came out with its guns blazing at the recently concluded 47th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) pointing out western hypocrisy on human rights, by particularly targeting Canada and

Australia. China was supported on this counterattack by over 60 developing country members of the UN body.

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## An International Court of Ethnic Disputes Is Necessary



Viewpoint by Jonathan Power\*

LUND, Sweden (IDN) — Just before he died at the end of the twentieth century, the great philosopher Isaiah Berlin said, "It was the worst century that Europe ever had. Worse, I suspect, even than the days of the Huns. And why? Because in our

modern age nationalism is not resurgent; it never died. Neither did racism. They are the most powerful movements in the world today cutting across many social systems".

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## Sub-Saharan African Migrants to Morocco at a Crossroads



Viewpoint by Max Berengaut\*

MARRAKECH (IDN) — Entering Morocco, Sub-Saharan African migrants find themselves at a crossroads. There is the promise of an economic future waiting for them in Europe, but the path to it is perilous. They require either an assurance of

asylum status or some familial relationship with a European in order to enter Europe without any problems. Unfortunately, many will have

enter Europe without any problems. Unfortunately, many will have neither, forcing them into dangerous and irregular means of entry into Europe, or at times leading them to stay in Morocco.

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## Despite Deepening Humanitarian Crisis, Afghanistan Faces Funding Shortfall

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By Radwan Jakeen

NEW YORK (IDN) — Nearly 18 million Afghans or half the population of the South Asian country require assistance. A third of the country is malnourished, while half of all children

under five are experiencing acute malnutrition.

In view of this critical situation, Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, has urged donors to step up support for the country. He said a \$1.3 billion appeal, launched earlier this year, is less than 40 per cent funded. The \$450 million received so far, half of which came from the United States, falls far short of what is needed.

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## Digitalization and Regional Cooperation Are Key to Combating COVID and Ensuring No One is Left Behind

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Viewpoint by Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Kanni Wignaraja, and Bambang Susantono

*Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Kanni Wignaraja is*

*the Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Bambang Susantono is the Vice-President of Asian Development Bank (ADB).*

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## Australia's Early Success In Controlling Covid Turns Sour

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By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY (IDN) — Along with Singapore and New Zealand, Australia was considered as one of the top three safest countries in the world for having successfully fought the spread of Covid-19 until about two months

ago. But, with a two weeks lockdown in Australia's largest city Sydney extended for another week, this early success has turned sour meanwhile.

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## Is Australia Sabotaging China's Vaccination Program in the South Pacific?



By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY (IDN)—China and Australia have started another battle, this time over the Covid-19 vaccination roll out in the South Pacific. In a lengthy article on July 2, China's 'Global Times' accused Australia of sabotaging China's Covid-19 vaccination assistance scheme in Papua New Guinea (PNG) by planting "consultants" to manipulate local epidemic policies targeting China, blocking the approval of Chinese vaccine's emergency use, and threatening senior government officials who were collaborating with China in the vaccine roll-out program.

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## The Realpolitik of Vaccine Nationalism and How it Impacts Countries like Nepal



Viewpoint by Kul Chandra Gautam\*

KATHMANDU (IDN) — As a previously unknown mystery disease caused by the novel coronavirus struck Planet Earth in the winter of 2019-20, public health officials and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended universal mask-wearing, physical distancing, lockdowns and travel restrictions, while awaiting the arrival of preventive vaccines and effective therapies.

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## Historic 'Visva-Bharati' University Adopts 'Communication from Within' Strategy to Fight the Pandemic



By Moumita Maji\*

SANTINIKETAN, India (IDN) — Different units of Visva-Bharati University have come together since the onset of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, in an attempt to fight the virus and ensure the safety of the community with minimum expenses but maximum courage. The home-grown strategy developed is unique with an emphasis on a scientific approach that enables maximum penetration within and outside the campus.

The endeavour which went into the Action Phase on May 18, is an ambitious project that engages most associated with the institution and is unlike anything that is being attempted elsewhere.

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