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A Joint Media Project of  
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## SDGs for All Newsletter - June 2021 In Retrospect

### WHO Issues First Global Report in Artificial Intelligence in Health



By Jamshed Baruah

GENEVA (IDN) — Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds great promise for improving the delivery of healthcare and medicine worldwide, but only if ethics and human rights are put at the heart of its design, deployment, and use, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO's report, *Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health*, is the result of two years of consultations held by a panel of international experts appointed by WHO.

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### Education Is the Key to Unlock the Door to Freedom



By Professor Ellen Hernandez\*

*The article below explores the importance of education and literacy in the U.S. and Morocco in informing citizens of their rights.*

COLLINGSWOOD, USA (IDN) — On June 19, 2021, Americans officially recognized “Juneteenth” as a national holiday. Most Americans understand the holiday to be a celebration of the end of slavery brought about by the U.S. Constitution’s 13th Amendment.

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### Dreams Have Come True As the University of Central Asia Graduates its Inaugural Cohort



By Nisar Keshvani

SINGAPORE (IDN) — Imagine. The most remote of mountains. Two thousand metres above sea level. On the Silk Road, and 240 km away from China. In secondary cities with populations going up to 150,000.

Therein, majestically stands a fully-residential university, delivering a world-class education for the next generation of Central Asian learners—regardless of their financial position.

On June 19, [the University of Central Asia \(UCA\)](#) made history. Its inaugural cohort of 57 students will graduate in Computer Science; Communications and Media; Economics and Earth and Environmental Science. (P10) [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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## Decentralisation Vital to Achieving the UN's Global Goals

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Viewpoint by Yossef Ben-Meir

*The writer is a former Peace Corps Volunteer and president of the [High Atlas Foundation](#).*

MARRAKECH (IDN) — The United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) are aspirationally universal, addressing globally relevant

issues with earnest objectives. Despite the profound good that they represent, fundamental problems exist with the Goals. They lack prescriptiveness, even to the extent of not explicitly aligning with what we know is indelible to sustainability: local people's participation.

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## WHO Welcomes G7 Commitment to Donate Vaccines but Asks for "More" and "Faster"

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By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) — The leaders of seven industrial nations, constituting the Group of Seven (G7 Summit), have pledged in a landmark agreement to

share COVID-19 vaccine doses internationally, in support of global equitable access and to help end the acute phase of the pandemic. In doing so, they have built on the momentum of the *G20 Global Health Summit* hosted by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on May 21 and the [Gavi COVAX AMC Summit](#) hosted by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan on June 2.

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## No Bold Actions Yet to Stop the Flows of Dirty Money

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Viewpoint by Maíra Martini \*

NEW YORK (IDN) — Governments gathered for the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against corruption June 2-4, 2021. This could have been an opportunity for the more and the less advanced

economies to come to the table and discuss bold improvements to the current international anti-corruption framework and architecture. It fell short.

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## 'Maintaining A Sense of Hope' In A Time of Corona

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Viewpoint by Jonathan Power\*

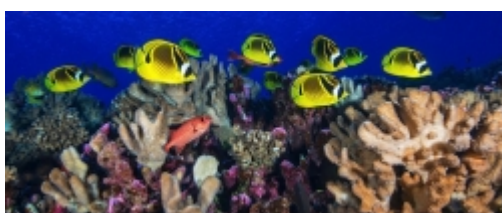
LUND, Sweden (IDN) — There's hardly a person alive who doesn't know that the Third World continents of Africa, Asia and Latin America are having a desperate struggle fighting the Coronavirus. At a time when the richer countries are winning the fight against

the virus many Third World countries—like Brazil, India and South Africa—are overwhelmed by it.

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## The Ocean Is Now in Need of Support

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By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) — "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods" was the theme for World Oceans Day 2021 as well as a declaration of intentions that launches

a decade of challenges to get the Sustainable Development Goal 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources", by 2030.

The importance of the theme of this year's World Oceans Day celebrated on June 8, is underlined by the fact that the ocean covers over 70% of the planet. It is our life source, supporting humanity's sustenance and that of every other organism on earth.

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## The Role of Academia and Universities in Fostering Awareness of SDGs

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Viewpoint by Dr Kakha Shengelia





The writer is the President of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) and President of Caucasus University (CU). The following is the text of Dr Kakha's Foreword to [Striving for People, Planet and Peace](#), 2021 Joint Media Project Report of the Non-Profit International Press Syndicate Group with

IDN as flagship agency in partnership with Soka Gakkai International in consultative status with ECOSOC.

TBILISI, Georgia (IDN) — It was in the year 2015 when the world convened and defined 17 concrete objectives to achieve till 2030 that would improve everyone's lot around the globe. Touching on every aspect of human existence, from social inequalities to the planet we live on.

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## Make People's Vaccine Top Priority to Fight a Mutating Virus



Viewpoint by Nicolas J. S. Davies\*

PORTLAND | USA (IDN) — A recent Yahoo News/YouGov poll found that worries about the COVID pandemic in the United States are at their [lowest](#)

[level](#) since it began. Only half of Americans are either "very worried" (15%) or "somewhat worried" (35%) about the virus, while the other half are "not very worried" (30%) or "not worried at all" (20%).

But the news from around the world makes it clear that this pandemic is far from over, and a [story from Vietnam](#) highlights the nature of the danger.

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