

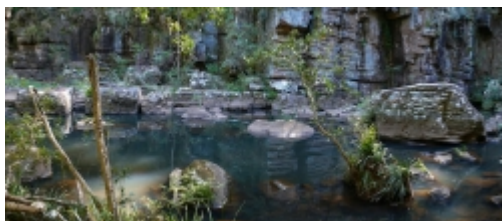
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## SDGs for All Newsletter - November 2020 In Retrospect

### Australia: Veteran Environmental Campaigners Gear Up for a New Battle



By Kalinga Seneviratne

*This article is the 45th in a series of joint productions of Lotus News Features and IDN-InDepthNews, flagship agency of the Non-profit [International Press Syndicate](#). [Click here](#) for previous reports.*

CHANNON (IDN) – In the late 1970s, they were breastfeeding youthful mothers seen on national television blocking the path of bulldozers sent in to fell timber forests in Terania Creek close by. Today they are grandmothers still living in this pristine rain forest area gearing up for possibly another epic battle, with the same passion, to stop the local council and developers building a dam here and flooding precious rainforests and sacred Aboriginal sites.

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### Morocco's Multiculturalism Fosters Sustainable Development



Viewpoint by Dr Yossef Ben-Meir

*The writer is President of the [High Atlas Foundation](#) in Marrakech, Morocco.*

MARRAKECH (IDN) – One ought not to doubt the Kingdom of Morocco's abiding sincerity in its commitment to the principles of multiculturalism and to the diverse identities that constitute this Islamic nation.

This embracing on the part of the government and the general public is a real, constant, and codified one, even synonymous with what it means today to be a Moroccan. However, the lived pluralistic experiences of the people must take new forms with every generation, and its translation into advancing development is now the nation's foresighted call.

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## A Global Summit Calls for Transition to the Bioeconomy

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By Rita Joshi

BERLIN (IDN) – Global environmental threats, the opportunities brought by new sciences, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic call for the transition to the bioeconomy, says the communiqué emerging from the [Global Bioeconomy Summit 2020](#) organised by the International

Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) composed of about forty high-level policy experts and drivers of the bioeconomy in all hemispheres. The transition is "more critical than ever before". (P23) [FRENCH](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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## COVID-19 and Lessons from Traditional Chinese Medicine

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Viewpoint by Jayasri Priyalal\*

SINGAPORE (IDN) – They are fighting an invisible enemy taking a warpath. Many countries grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic interpret the situation like a war. Frontline heroes are found in battlefield scenarios.

These heroes come from different professions, medical and healthcare workers being the binding force, the rest including, security, transport, postal logistic, financial service providers, and employees attached to retail industries etc. Aside from them, many unsung heroes are working in hospitals, morgues, in burial grounds and the health and sanitary service providers who provide an invaluable essential service to keep the communities together. (P22) [CHINESE](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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## COVID-19 Shatters Hopes for Industrial Advance in Africa

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**But the Next Decade Might Trigger the Change Needed**

Viewpoint by Jenny Larsen\*

VIENNA (IDN) – Industrial development in Africa has been sluggish for some decades.

Now, as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic kick in, hopes for better progress, at least in the short term, appear to be fading. But if countries grasp the right opportunities, the next decade can deliver the industrial change needed to meet the challenges ahead.

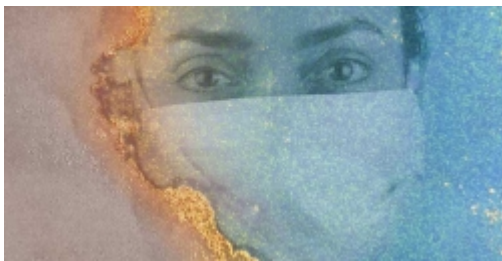
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## New Report Sparks Anxiety About COVID-19 Wrecking UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

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By Ramesh Jaura



BERLIN | GENEVA (IDN) – **UNCTAD** Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi has stressed the need to address the frailties of globalization that led to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its uneven economic impacts, gravely wounding the world economy with serious consequences

for everyone. He hopes that the situation would prove to be 'course-altering' and a catalyst for change. "We need to reshape global production networks and reset multilateral cooperation for the better," he says.

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## UNAI Celebrates 10th Anniversary Stressing Partnership with Universities Worldwide



By Caroline Mwangi

NEW YORK (IDN) – United Nations Academic Impact (**UNAI**), launched in 2010 as an initiative to align colleges and universities with the work of the United

Nations, celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 18. The program has more than 1500 members in 147 countries, all applying their academic inquiry, research and innovation to solving some of the world's greatest challenges while educating the next generation of global leaders.

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## Australia: Environmentalists' Market 40 Years on Going Strong



By Kalinga Seneviratne

CHANNON (IDN) – At the peak of the hippie movement in the West, in 1976, the traditional farming village here in this scenic setting was a battleground between loggers and environmentalists who had travelled from across Australia, to stop the clear-felling of the rainforest at Terania Creek close by. This was the first direct action

protest in Australia.

Many of the environmentalists decided to settle in the region, buying cheap agricultural land and setting up communities with a "back to the land" philosophy. [\(P21\) JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [TURKISH](#)

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## How I am Combating Human Trafficking in Malawi



By Maxwell Matewere

*A Malawian crime prevention expert with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**), Maxwell Matewere, has been active in the anti-human trafficking field for more than two decades. The following is being*

*republished from UN News*

LILONGWE (IDN) – I was a young, recent law graduate when I first experienced the horrors of human trafficking. It was in 1998. I was working for a human rights NGO and attending a workshop in South Africa. A taxi driver told me about two girls from my home country who worked in a bar in Johannesburg. He was very concerned about them.

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## Kilimanjaro Threatened by Fires Which Shaped It

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Viewpoint by Andreas Hemp\*

BAYREUTH (IDN) – In October 2020, firefighters in Tanzania had to tackle a number of [fires](#) on Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain and the largest free-standing mountain in the world. The mountain and surrounding forests fall into

Kilimanjaro National Park, named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987. Andreas Hemp provides a glimpse into the mountain's natural environment and the challenges it faces.

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## Shipwreck Off Senegalese Coast Prods UN to Call for Dismantling Trafficking and Smuggling Networks

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By Lisa Vives, Global Information Network

NEW YORK (IDN) – Migrants around the world are continuing their desperate flights for survival even though rescue efforts have slowed, and rich countries are building higher walls against the asylum seekers.

The deadliest shipwreck of the year occurred most recently off the coast of Senegal where at least 140 people drowned after a boat carrying around 200 migrants sank, according to the UN migration agency ([IOM](#)).

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## Corporations Morally Obligated to Protect Biodiversity

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By Santo D. Banerjee

NEW YORK (IDN) – A new report finds that consumers have an increasing awareness of the planet's biodiversity and want corporations to protect it. They feel that "companies have a moral obligation to ensure that they have a positive impact on people and biodiversity". However, more than 70 per cent suggested their trust is

higher when a brand's commitment to the ethical sourcing of biodiversity is independently verified. The report, commissioned by the [Union for Ethical BioTrade \(UEBT\)](#), released on November 11, is based on a survey. The data was published in the *2020 UEBT Biodiversity Barometer*, an ongoing set of research updated each year, that has covered more than a decade.

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## Breaking the Culture of Violence to Advance Peace and Security

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Viewpoint by P.I. Gomes\*

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago (IDN) – The Preamble to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) refers 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.”

These are all areas deserving of concerted attention, but the widespread and insidiously yet blatant impact of violence, as the negation of “peace”, might benefit from some reflections.

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## Reclaiming Public Development Banks to Finance a Sustainable & Equitable Recovery Post Covid-19

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Viewpoint by Thomas Marois and Maria Jose Romero \*

BRUSSELS (IDN) – Those who work in the world's public development banks will meet virtually on November 11-12 to discuss their response to the Covid-19 pandemic and their role in a more sustainable future.

This new summit, which they have called ‘[Finance in Common](#)’ (FiC), will also bring together the governments that own them and other key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society, think tanks and academia.

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## Pressing Need to Ensure Responsible African Digitalisation

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By Reinhard Jacobsen

BRUSSELS (IDN) – The profound importance of data is underlined by the fact that the United Nations is measuring progress towards the 17 ambitious [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) with the help of a global network working

together to ensure the new opportunities of the data revolution.

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## How Colonial Policy Is Impoverishing Indian Ocean Coastal Communities

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Viewpoint by Dr Darini Rajasingham-Senanayake



*The writer is an anthropologist affiliated with the International Center for Ethnic Studies in Colombo. Read also [A Hybrid Cold War Unfolding in The Indo-Pacific Beneath the Covid-19 Mask](#).*

COLOMBO (IDN) – Like the Chagossians who were forcibly displaced to Mauritius and Seychelles, Sri Lankan and other Indian Ocean Rim coastal communities tend to experience high rates of poverty, debt and socioeconomic hardship.

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