

# PRESS RELEASE

## 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

UN75: The Future We Want, The UN We Need

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN's worldwide consultation reveals a strong call for action on inequalities and climate change, as well as more solidarity

In January 2020, the United Nations launched the global consultation to mark its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Through surveys and dialogues, it asked people about their hopes and fears for the future ambitious effort to date to understand expectations of international cooperation and of the UN in particular. It is also the largest survey to date on priorities for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of 21 September 2020, over a million people from all countries and all walks of life had taken part. Their answers provide unique insights into what the public wants at this challenging time for the world. They are released today

the anniversary,

held under the banner: the future we want, the UN we need. Key findings include:

#### Priorities for action

Across regions, ages and social groups, respondents were broadly united in their priorities for the future.

Amid the current COVID-19 crisis, the immediate priority for most respondents is improved access to basic services healthcare, safe water, sanitation and education, followed by greater international solidarity and increased support to those hardest hit. This includes tackling inequalities and rebuilding a more inclusive economy.

Looking to the future, the overwhelming concerns are the climate crisis and the destruction of our natural environment. Other priorities include: ensuring greater respect for human rights, settling conflicts, tackling poverty and reducing corruption.

## Perceptions of the UN

Over 87% of respondents believe global cooperation is vital pandemic has made international cooperation more urgent.

Seventy-five years after its founding, six in 10 respondents believe the UN has made the world a better place. Looking to the future, 74% see the UN as "essential" in tackling the challenges.

However, respondents want the UN to change and innovate: to be more inclusive of the diversity of actors in the 21st century, and to become more transparent, accountable and effective.

Across this anniversary year, we have engaged in a global conversation. And the results are striking. People are thinking big they are also expressing an intense yearning for international cooperation and global solidarity. Now is the time to respond to these aspirations and realize these aims. In this 75th anniversary year, we face our own 1945 moment. We must meet that moment. We must show unity like never before to

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Full report and press kit: <a href="https://www.un.org/un75/presskit">https://www.un.org/un75/presskit</a>
 Join the conversation: <a href="https://www.un75.online">www.un75.online</a>

# Background

In January 2020, the UN Secretary-General launched the UN75 initiative, not as a celebration, but as the world's largest conversation about current global challenges, and the gap between the future we want and where we are headed if current trends continue.

The Secretary-General saw UN75 as an opportunity for the UN to listen to the people it serves and identify their priorities and suggestions for enhanced global cooperation. UN75 was initiated to better