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United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The United Nations Office for Partnerships is the United Nations gateway for the co-creation of partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Working globally, regionally and nationally, the Office connects, convenes and co-creates opportunities to accelerate solutions for people and the planet. It is guided by the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, 2019 ([A/74/73-E/2019/14](#)).

In accordance with General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, the Secretary-General informs the Assembly of the activities and impact of the Office every year. The present report describes the priorities, engagements and initiatives of the Office in 2021. Specifically, it covers the following areas: the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates, the Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub, the Climate Action Team, the United Nations Democracy Fund and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP).

To enact transformative change and propel advocacy and engagement for the Goals, the Office leverages expertise and networks across the United Nations and beyond.

Key coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and Goal activation and mobilization success stories of the Office in 2021 included: the second annual Sustainable Development Goals Moment of the decade of action for the Goals, which created heightened awareness of the United Nations by generating over 50 million online video views through the engagement of the music group BTS, amplifying and reinforcing the continued relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; enhancement of United Nations media outreach and capabilities by creating the Sustainable Development Goals Studio, which provided a modern platform to enable

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interactive online engagements with formats similar to television programming; the Sustainable Development Goals action zone, a three-day virtual platform engaging global audiences during the high-level segment of the General Assembly; and support for the United Nations research road map for the COVID-19 recovery, designed to address the complex health, humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic while boosting speedy recovery efforts and encouraging targeted research for data-driven responses focused in particular on the needs of those left behind.

In 2021, the United Nations Democracy Fund continued its work to protect and promote civic platforms amid increasing measures to shrink or close that space around the world, exacerbated by the pandemic. The Fund's projects, already designed to adapt to addressing crises, were therefore able to quickly respond to the pandemic and recovery by disbursing \$9.2 million to 34 projects in the fifteenth round of funding. The projects included strengthening leadership skills in civil society, increasing the participation of women and young people and supporting media programmes that raise the voices of civil society.

UNFIP works with the Office ecosystem to enable and develop the instruments necessary for partnership-building and cooperates with the United Nations Foundation on innovative cross-sector projects implemented by the United Nations system globally. As at 31 December 2021, the Foundation had approved grants of approximately \$11.9 million from the United Nations to UNFIP for projects implemented by partners.

I. Introduction

A. Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals to transform the world

1. The Sustainable Development Goals are a guide to building a brighter future for everyone. At the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the need for action to tackle poverty, empower women and girls and address the climate emergency.

2. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the rising climate, health and global food crises, have emphasized the necessity of partnerships. Response and recovery efforts have forged new collaborations and improved existing relationships, showcasing the power and reach of partnerships for the Goals.

3. In response to the pandemic, there was unique global collaboration that contributed to developing life-saving vaccines and treatments in record time. A concerted effort is still required to ensure inclusive and sustained recovery from the pandemic, with partnerships playing an enabling and catalytic role. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the pandemic disrupted vaccination programmes for numerous other diseases throughout the world, producing a "perfect storm" that now endangers the lives of millions of children. The United Nations Office for Partnerships worked with the United Nations Foundation to mitigate the damage through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) portfolio of global health projects.

4. The 2030 Agenda is a road map for a world that everyone wants. The Goals are the best hope for people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. The Office remains committed to co-creating solutions to achieve them.

B. United Nations Office for Partnerships

5. The Office serves as the global gateway to catalyse and co-create collaborations that accelerate solutions to achieve the Goals. It mobilizes stakeholders and engages the public and private sectors, civil society, academic institutions and philanthropic and other entities in the work of the United Nations system.

6. To keep the promise of leaving no one behind and fulfil its mandate, the Office leverages expertise and networks through its initiatives, which include:

(a) Advocacy, engagement and mobilization for the Goals: the Office engages global actors with the United Nations in support of the Goals through the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates, the Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub and the Climate Action Team;

(b) United Nations Democracy Fund, which supports projects that empower civil society and strengthen democracy;

(c) UNFIP, which is the primary interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system in support of projects implemented globally by United Nations entities.

7. To enact transformative change, the Office collaborates closely with key drivers within the United Nations partnerships ecosystem, such as the Department of Global Communications, the Development Coordination Office and the United Nations Global Compact.

II. Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

A. Year in review

8. The combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the violence and instability created by global conflicts emphasizes the need for rapid mobilization of structural reform. These crises have stymied years of development progress, making it particularly difficult and urgent to uphold the promise of the Goals. Multilateral cooperation, therefore, is essential. In 2021, the Office continued to provide value to the United Nations system as a global gateway to co-create and enable collaborations at the global, regional, national and local levels in order to keep the promise of the Goals. With the Goals as the guiding framework, the Office channelled expertise and resources towards inclusive and sustainable recovery. It worked with the United Nations Global Compact and the Development Coordination Office to expand collaboration within the United Nations partnerships network to promote peer exchange and to highlight outstanding partnerships for the 2030 Agenda, in particular advocacy, engagement around identified country-level needs and ways to address them effectively.

9. Recognizing the important role that civil society plays in helping the United Nations to achieve its mandates, as highlighted by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, the Office worked closely with the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on developing the necessary space within the United Nations to ensure that the informed engagement of civil society actors is both achieved and sustained at the global, regional and country levels.

B. Report on the United Nations research road map for the COVID-19 recovery

10. In March 2022, the Wellcome Trust issued a monitoring report showing that \$804 million had been invested in almost 4,000 research projects relevant to the Secretary-General’s call to action in the report on the United Nations research road map for the COVID-19 recovery, issued in November 2020 in conjunction with 38 research funding agencies worldwide and led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Issues covered included social protection and basic services, macroeconomic policies, economic response and recovery and multilateral collaboration.

11. The report on the research road map is aimed at leveraging the power of science for better socioeconomic recovery. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research and other research funding partners agreed to support two new research initiatives: a \$20 million investment in the “Women Rise for All” initiative to promote the health and economic empowerment of women for a fair recovery from the pandemic; and a \$24 million investment in the New Frontiers in Research Fund in response to its call in 2022 for research for the post-pandemic recovery.

12. The report, facilitated by the Office, demonstrates how science and global collaboration help in recovering from the pandemic while concurrently focusing on the needs of those left behind (see table 1).

Table 1
Report on the United Nations research road map for the COVID-19 recovery

Key partner organizations	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Location	Global
Amount	\$804 million
Description	The initiative provides a framework for leveraging the power of science in support of a better socioeconomic recovery and a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future
Key outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 250 experts were consulted globally • 25 research priorities and key scientific strategies were identified to support the recovery • Actions that researchers, research funding agencies, Governments, civil society organizations and United Nations entities could take were identified • Investments were made in 3,979 research projects

C. Women Rise for All

13. Since its launch in April 2020, the “Women Rise for All” initiative has been connecting, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, a growing network of women leaders from all sectors across the globe in recognition of the exemplary leadership that has been successful in the COVID-19 response and recovery.

14. On 16 March 2021, the Office convened a leadership dialogue entitled “Financing a future for women” under the initiative. The Deputy Secretary-General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, along with other speakers, explored how the involvement of women in the economy had brought positive development outcomes for everyone. The event was part of the “Target Gender Equality Live” virtual event hosted by the United Nations Global Compact.

D. COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund

15. The COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund was established by WHO in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation to respond to a unique global crisis. It became one of the largest financial contributors to the WHO response to the pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, the Foundation played a pivotal leadership role by mobilizing private contributions for the Fund. As at 31 December 2021, \$256.9 million had been mobilized, of which \$203.6 was channelled through the Foundation to United Nations entities and partners in accordance with the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

16. In 2021, the Foundation concluded its role in the Fund. Given the unprecedented nature and urgency of the pandemic, all contributions to the Fund were channelled directly by the Foundation to recipients rather than through UNFIP, and reported on

regularly to UNFIP. UNFIP agreed, on an exceptional basis, to allow funds to flow directly from the Foundation to WHO and its designated partners, which included UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

III. Advocacy, engagement and mobilization for the Sustainable Development Goals

A. Sustainable Development Goals Advocates

17. Since 2018, the Office has hosted the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates, a group of 17 influential people appointed by the Secretary-General who champion the 2030 Agenda. The Advocates have wide-reaching platforms, including a combined following of nearly 7 million people on Twitter and more than 6 million on Instagram. They are dedicated to driving awareness and accelerating action for the Goals. There are also 11 Advocates Emeritus.

18. The day-to-day operations of the group, including engagement with United Nations system counterparts, are facilitated by the Office, which restructured the group's work strategies in 2021 to generate more action- and result-oriented advocacy. The Office communicates closely with the group to keep the Advocates informed of United Nations leadership priorities and messages, and vice versa.

19. The Office facilitated the engagement of Advocates through various platforms and supported new initiatives, including the following:

(a) Graça Machel and Valentina Muñoz Rabanal led the dialogue on intergenerational cooperation in achieving the Goals at the 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Moment. Their conversation served as an inspiration for cross-generational collaboration and activism across the globe;

(b) Jeffrey Sachs closed the 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Moment with thoughts on necessary future actions in a conversation with the Deputy Secretary-General. The dialogue emphasized the urgency of scaling up the solutions and funding that have proven successful and aimed to contribute to accelerating action in the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals. This engagement resulted in the design of a finance facility for the Goals to inform the Secretary-General's proposals on financing for development;

(c) The Office supported Muhammad Sanusi II in launching his Sustainable Development Goals challenge, which supports teachers seeking to transform education systems in sub-Saharan Africa through community innovation.

20. The Advocates meet annually with the Secretary-General to discuss his strategic vision. The 2021 meeting was focused on inequalities aggravated by the pandemic, the global crisis in education, youth empowerment and the state of multilateralism.

21. In September 2021, the Secretary-General appointed four new Advocates: Kailash Satyarthi, Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, Brad Smith and the music group Blackpink. In addition, Marta Vieira da Silva, Alaa Murabit, Jack Ma, Nadia Murad and Paul Polman agreed to stay engaged as emeritus members.

22. In March 2022, the Secretary-General appointed the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, and the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, as Co-Chairs. The President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, agreed to stay engaged as Co-Chairs of the Advocates Emeritus group to continue their advocacy for the Goals (see tables 2 and 3).

Table 2
Current Sustainable Development Goal Advocates

<i>Advocate</i>	<i>Title</i>
Mia Mottley	Prime Minister of Barbados (Co-Chair)
Justin Trudeau	Prime Minister of Canada (Co-Chair)
Queen Mathilde of the Belgians	President of Child Focus and UNICEF Belgium
Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar	Founder of the Education Above All Foundation
Muhammad Sanusi II	Emir of Kano and Chair of the Kano State Investment Advisory Committee
Kailash Satyarthi	Founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan and recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize
Hindou Ibrahim	Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change and founder of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad
Graça Machel	Founder of the Graça Machel Trust
Brad Smith	President of Microsoft
Jeffrey Sachs	Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Edward Ndopu	Humanitarian and activist
Valentina Muñoz Rabanal	Influencer, activist and programmer
Blackpink	Republic of Korea girls' music group and advocates for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Dia Mirza	Actress and producer
Richard Curtis	Screenwriter, producer and film director
Forest Whitaker	Actor, producer, and founder and Director of the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative

Table 3
Sustainable Development Goals Advocates Emeritus

<i>Advocate Emeritus</i>	<i>Title</i>
Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo	President of Ghana
Erna Solberg	Former Prime Minister of Norway
Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden	Founder of Crown Princess Victoria's Fund
Leymah Gbowee	Founder of the Gbowee Peace Foundation and recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize
Muhammed Yunus	Founder of Grameen Bank and recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize
Nadia Murad	Co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Goodwill Ambassador
Alaa Murabit	Medical doctor, recipient of the Meritorious Service Cross of Canada and United Nations High-level Commissioner on Health Employment and Economic Growth
Dho Young-Shim	Chair of the Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty Foundation of the World Tourism Organization
Paul Polman	Co-founder and Chair of IMAGINE, Honorary Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce and The B Team and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Global Compact
Jack Ma	Founder and Executive Chair of the Alibaba Group and founder of the Jack Ma Foundation
Lionel Messi	Footballer and 2010 UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
Marta Vieira da Silva	Footballer and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Goodwill Ambassador
Shakira Mebarak	Singer, songwriter, philanthropist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

B. Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub

23. The Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub leads a coordinated, consultative and collaborative multi-stakeholder platform chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General to ensure effective alignment on initiatives and narratives and to carry out advocacy activities for the decade of action.

24. In 2021, the Hub continued to bring together a diverse group of organizations, allowing for a more comprehensive overview of Goal-related activities and building

deeper support for their implementation. This was achieved by meetings focusing on strategic coordination of communications, advocacy and related tools. The Hub continued to shape the Goal narrative by providing key messages, briefing documents and recommendations on the partnership agenda, advocacy and the Goals to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

25. In 2021, as a core partner of the Global Goals Week coalition, the Hub provided strategic guidance and supported mobilization efforts to add coherence and momentum to the events during the high-level week of the General Assembly. The Hub also supported the Sustainable Development Goals Global Festival of Action in 2021, which was attended virtually by 24,500 people.

26. In March 2020, in an open brief to the creative community guided by the Hub, a search was launched for content to promote WHO-approved messaging in health areas, in particular: personal hygiene, physical distancing and understanding of symptoms. Following an enhanced strategy, the Hub mobilized the global creative community. Through crowdsourcing, it gathered approximately 17,000 pieces of content from more than 140 countries in more than 20 languages. As the COVID-19-related messaging remained relevant throughout 2021, the Hub maintained the open brief content platform and promoted it globally.

C. Climate action mobilization

27. 2021 was a pivotal year for climate action, and the Climate Action Team provided vital support at key moments on the global stage and mobilized key partners to amplify the Secretary-General's highest-priority calls to action.

28. Notably high-impact moments included the launch of the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in August 2021. The Secretary-General's characterization of the report as "code red for humanity" led to significant high-level media coverage of the global and social discourse in many languages, which was amplified by stakeholders around the world, including Heads of State and Government, non-governmental organizations and youth activists.

29. The Team also played a pivotal role in the inaugural term of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, which brought powerful youth perspectives to high-impact global stages such as the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Glasgow in November 2021. The youth movement broadly, with the Group playing a leading role, was a key factor in the plethora of net zero commitments at the Conference.

30. The Team provided an opportunity at the Conference for marginalized voices to be heard through the Sustainable Development Goals Studio dialogue series.

D. General Assembly high-level segment engagements

31. In September 2021, the Office collaborated with the Government of the Republic of Korea and the music group BTS to create a special music video for the song "Permission to Dance" at United Nations Headquarters. The video registered more than 54 million views and introduced new audiences to the United Nations and the commitments for the Goals.

32. Together with the Government of the Netherlands, the Office built the Sustainable Development Goals Studio as a modern platform to enable interactive online conferences, with formats similar to television programming. The Sustainable Development Goals Moment, with more than 6 million viewers, was the first

programme hosted by the Studio, on 20 September 2021. The Studio continues to provide original programming, such as the “SDG Roundtable” series, and remains a key platform for United Nations leadership.

33. Another key activation moment for the Goals in September 2021 was the launch of “Keeping the Promise”, a campaign to accelerate engagement and action for the Goals. The campaign was conceptualized and launched by the Office in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications. As of December 2021, almost 120,000 people across the globe had announced their promises for the Goals.

34. The Hub convened the Sustainable Development Goals action zone during the high-level week of the General Assembly in 2021, following the success of the 2019 inaugural and 2020 virtual gatherings, to provide a space for deeper conversations and showcase critical areas that accelerate action on the Goals. The fully virtual three-day event in 2021 complemented the Sustainable Development Goals Moment. It created a more transparent, open and inclusive space for multi-stakeholder engagement and global audience participation. The action zone is aimed at bringing people to the United Nations, and vice versa.

35. In 2021, the action zone focused on the key issues of poverty, inequality, gender and climate, as well as the natural improvement of global health at large. It also placed participant engagement at its heart. The virtual platform offered new dimensions for online participation through live polling (see table 4).

Table 4

Sustainable Development Goals action zone in numbers, 2021

33 sessions:	82 speakers:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 conversations • 8 plenaries • 7 lightning talks • 6 creative performances • 3 panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67 per cent women • 68 per cent from the global South • 42 per cent under 35 years of age
42,000 views from 150 countries, a 61 per cent year-on-year increase	Social media engagement:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • @SDGActionZone posts on various channels reached 147,500 followers • #SDGActionZone2021 was tweeted 621 times during the live event • The promotional film was viewed by 16,000 people across all platforms • The Sustainable Development Goals action zone newsletter reached over 200,000 people in more than 30 countries

IV. United Nations Democracy Fund

36. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a general trust fund and officially launched in April 2006. The grant-

making body has been defined as a fund for civil society organizations. Its projects are aimed at strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and encouraging the participation of all groups in democratic processes.

37. The majority of project funds are allocated to local civil society organizations in countries that are in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting civil society organizations on the ground, the Fund plays a distinct role in complementing the more traditional work of the United Nations in strengthening democratic governance globally.

38. The Fund works at the forefront of protecting and promoting civic space amid increasing measures to shrink or close such space globally. As the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in further constraints on civic spaces, support for the Fund remains more important than ever.

39. As democratic participation increases online, the Fund focuses on the following areas:

- (a) Developing media literacy and digital safety;
- (b) Fighting misinformation;
- (c) Disinformation and hate speech, which have mushroomed in the crisis;
- (d) Training journalists remotely to report in depth on the impact of the crisis;
- (e) Fact-checked coverage while maintaining safety on the front lines;
- (f) Empowering women against gender-based violence, which has surged amid lockdowns, quarantines and social and economic pressures;
- (g) Addressing the challenges of inequality and weak service delivery worsened by the crisis, with a specific focus on the needs and rights of women, young people, minorities and other marginalized populations.

A. Fifteenth round of funding

40. In the fifteenth round of funding, the Fund received 1,622 project proposals to be funded in 2021, reflecting the continued high demand for support (see table 5). In particular, the Fund welcomed proposals that address challenges to civic space and democracy as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

41. The proposals originated from organizations in 110 countries, the vast majority of which were local civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, Arab States, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, 34 projects were funded in 2021 at a cost of \$ 9.2 million (see table 5).

B. Governance

42. The Fund's governing mechanism, its Advisory Board, continued to play an active leadership role throughout 2021. It provided policy guidance for the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines and considered and recommended funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General. The Board is composed of Member States that made the largest cumulative financial contributions to the Fund over the previous three years, a set of Member States reflecting geographical diversity, international civil society organizations and individuals serving in their personal capacity.

43. United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the field provided crucial input for the project selection process and support with monitoring and implementation. The Fund continued to build deeper relationships with these practitioners, utilizing United Nations system reforms. The Fund's Programme Consultative Group was also invited to provide input for the project selection process, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women.

C. Sixteenth round of funding

44. The Advisory Board approved the sixteenth round of funding in October 2021. The Fund welcomed proposals in all of its eight thematic areas: empowerment of women, youth engagement, rule of law and human rights, strengthening civil society interaction with government, media and freedom of information, electoral processes, community activism and tools for knowledge.

45. The sixteenth call for project proposals was open from 4 November to 12 December 2021. The Fund received 2,121 proposals, the vast majority of which came from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Arab States and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the Fund's annual timetable, the applications were assessed by February 2022. The Board recommended a shortlist in April, and the Fund advised the Permanent Missions of Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The shortlist was then submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Short-listed applicants were asked to submit draft project documents by the middle of 2022 to be negotiated with the Fund. The first tranches of project funding are to be disbursed from September 2022.

D. Democracy in action

46. Throughout 2021, the United Nations Democracy Fund worked closely with its network of civil society organizations to address and counteract the COVID-19 crisis. Some of the key projects are presented below.

1. Enhancing civic participation of youth in Iraq

47. The project works to strengthen youth participation in democratic processes, building a network of young activists to develop skills in leadership, negotiation and communication. Young people use media tools to communicate their stories and experiences and engage with local authorities and other civil society actors to advance democracy and human rights. The project is focused on 16 targeted districts in three governorates – Anbar, Ninawa and Salah al-Din – struggling to rebuild following a period of occupation by Da'esh. The project has created a hub for young people and civil society, youth leaders have designed their own peacebuilding initiatives in two adjacent governorates based on lessons learned from the project, and young team leaders have volunteered for election monitoring in their areas. The participation of young people is all the more important amid the COVID-19 pandemic since it is more crucial than ever to ensure that responses to the crisis uphold their rights and are inclusive of their needs.

2. Promoting the voice and participation of women in Sierra Leone

48. The project works to strengthen the participation of women in areas in which cultural patriarchal barriers have previously limited their involvement. The project engages women in decision-making and access to services in the two newly created rural districts of Falaba and Karene, two former rural chiefdoms that recently attained full district status. The project works through training and facilitation, raising the profile of women's rights, amplifying their voices and working with local government stakeholders to create entry points for them to become an integral part of the governance process. The participation of women is even more important amid the pandemic since it is essential to address the massive impact of the crisis on women, ensuring that responses uphold their rights and are inclusive of their needs. This includes the need to address the surge in domestic violence amid lockdowns, quarantines and economic and social pressures.

3. Defending domestic workers' rights in Mexico

49. The project works to ensure access to social security for 2.2 million domestic workers who had previously been denied labour rights. It builds on current legal reforms in Mexico following the Government's pilot programme in 2019 to register domestic workers in the country's mandatory social security system, giving them access to social security and health-care benefits. The project works through training, collective organization, campaigning, and building a network of alliances with strategic actors in 25 municipalities to ensure that domestic workers are enrolled. It also offers guidance on the rights of domestic workers who face insecure employment during the pandemic or need better information on COVID-19 precautions.

4. Promoting COVID-19 hygiene practices in Armenia

50. The project works to contribute to sustainable management strategies for natural water resources in the Ararat Valley. Activities are focused on empowering women's groups to conceive and oversee sustainable strategies for using community water and sanitation resources. Pilot projects identify community-based participatory approaches to decision-making involving women to improve access to and management of water resources. In response to the pandemic, the project has incorporated COVID-19 into its public awareness communications and has expanded its scope to additional communities, delivering hygiene kits, printing education materials and organizing online and in-person interactive sessions. This work contributes to national efforts to address the pandemic in vulnerable provinces.

5. Strengthening media freedom and access to quality information in Mongolia

51. The project works to strengthen the capacity of local media and civil society to ensure media freedom and quality journalism amid the challenges of the digital era. It trains primarily female journalists in data analysis, fact-checking and verification, digital research and the safety and security of journalists, as well as civil society organizations in understanding the current media landscape and developing storytelling and production skills. The project is highly relevant in the context of the pandemic, in which the fight against disinformation and for freedom of information, media and online safety is crucial.

Table 5
United Nations Democracy Fund in numbers, 2021 (fifteenth round of funding)

1,622 project proposals from 110 countries

34 funded projects

Origin of project proposals:

- Arab States (35 per cent)
- Africa (23 per cent)
- Asia and the Pacific (18 per cent)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (15 per cent)
- Europe (9 per cent)

Projects funded in the following key thematic areas:

- Strengthening civil society interaction with government (23 per cent)
- Empowerment of women (19 per cent)
- Youth engagement (19 per cent)
- Rule of law and human rights (17 per cent)
- Media and freedom of information (11 per cent)
- Electoral processes (7 per cent)
- Tools for knowledge (2 per cent)
- Community activism (2 per cent)

V. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

52. For more than two decades, UNFIP has worked in close collaboration with the United Nations Foundation on hundreds of innovative, cross-sector partnerships implemented by the United Nations system across the globe. The role of UNFIP is to serve as a trust fund that manages extrabudgetary donor contributions supporting projects, campaigns, fiduciary grant-making and grant management activities of the United Nations system. As the primary interface, it also ensures strong coordination, communication flow and strategic alignment between the United Nations and the Foundation on new alliances, collaborative initiatives and the mobilization of key constituencies. In doing so, it works to keep the promises of the decade of action and of an inclusive COVID-19 recovery to leave no one behind.

53. The work of UNFIP is overseen by its Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and provides the Secretary-General with advice on the relationship between the United Nations and the Foundation.

A. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and United Nations Foundation

54. To pursue its objectives, the United Nations Foundation draws on a set of core capabilities, including providing a trusted space for dialogue, using communications and public engagement to reach new audiences, incubating public-private initiatives to advance the Goals and solve challenges at scale and mobilizing financial resources for the United Nations and its priorities.

55. The Foundation is governed by an independent international Board of Directors. The relationship between the United Nations and the Foundation is, in turn, governed by Relationship Agreements established successively in 1998, 2007 and 2014. The principal day-to-day governing mechanisms between the United Nations and the Foundation are the UNFIP Advisory Board and the Joint Coordination Committee, both of which meet at least twice per year (see table 6).

Table 6
Timeline of the relationship between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation

<i>2 February 1998</i>	<i>1 March 1998</i>	<i>18 April 2007</i>	<i>23 October 2014</i>
Ted Turner establishes the United Nations Foundation as a public charity to channel \$1 billion to the United Nations	The Secretary-General establishes UNFIP as an autonomous trust fund pursuant to the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation	The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation is renewed	The Relationship Agreement is renewed for another 10 years and amended to establish the Joint Coordination Committee

B. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships project grants funded by the United Nations Foundation in 2021

56. In 2021, the United Nations Foundation disbursed \$11.9 million in funding through UNFIP for various United Nations initiatives. Global health projects were most prominent and received the majority of funding, totalling \$7.6 million. The information below provides details on the Foundation's grants to the United Nations system through UNFIP, both in 2021 and cumulatively since 1998 (see table 7). While the level of annual funding from the Foundation has plateaued since 2018, the Foundation has strengthened its indirect support for United Nations initiatives and causes.

Table 7
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in numbers

<i>Period</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
2021	\$11.9 million	A total of 22 projects on global health (\$7.6 million), United Nations initiatives (\$1.8 million), United Nations fiduciaries (\$1.4 million) and women and girls (\$1.2 million)
1998–2020	\$1.5 billion	A total of 684 projects, 128 participating countries and 48 United Nations implementing partners

57. The following section is organized by programmatic area and provides details of key grants from the Foundation that were disbursed by UNFIP in 2021.

1. Global health

58. In its work to advance global health priorities, the Foundation works in close collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and other United Nations entities. Tables 8 to 10 highlight global health projects funded by the Foundation through UNFIP in 2021.

Table 8
Measles and rubella

Implementing partners	UNICEF and WHO
Location	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Namibia, Romania, Serbia and South Africa
Amount	\$4.8 million (\$1.6 million to WHO and \$3.2 million to UNICEF)
Description	The objective is to strengthen routine immunization and improve vaccination coverage
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite COVID-19 challenges, some progress on implementation of the measles and rubella strategic framework for 2021–2030 has been achieved • Enhanced immunization systems have been established, with stronger integration within primary health care to reach underserved populations

Table 9
Poliomyelitis

Implementing partner	UNICEF
Location	Syrian Arab Republic, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire
Amount	\$1.6 million
Description	The project was aimed at enabling the procurement of bivalent oral polio vaccines and increase the polio vaccination rate
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement and education of local political and religious leaders have resulted in a reduced number of unreached children • The increased presence on digital platforms has contributed to improved community awareness and engagement

Table 10
Malaria

Implementing partners	UNICEF and UNHCR
Location	South Sudan, Niger and Madagascar
Amount	\$700,000 (200,000 with UNICEF and UNHCR to Niger and \$500,000 with UNHCR to South Sudan)
Description	Nothing But Nets is a global grass-roots campaign that raises awareness and resources and advocates increased investment in malarial interventions. The initiative enables the continuation of malaria management while ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to comprehensive prevention and treatment services
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaled up epidemic surveillance and disease prevention activities in South Sudan • Distribution of mosquito nets and other malaria prevention methods to recipients has been advanced in the Niger

2. Women, girls and population

59. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation has prioritized the dignity and rights of girls and women, providing targeted support to a range of United Nations partners through grantmaking, convening, building partnerships and strengthening communications and advocacy capacity. Its grantmaking work through UNFIP in 2021 is summarized in tables 11 and 12.

Table 11
Action for adolescent girls: empowering the girls left furthest behind

Implementing partner	United Nations Population Fund
Location	Guatemala and India
Amount	\$175,000
Description	The overall goal was to empower marginalized adolescent girls, uphold their rights by helping them to be safe and delay the age of marriage and childbearing
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better protection of rural indigenous girls and adolescents aged 8–19 in Guatemala by building their social, health and economic assets and capabilities as a core strategy for keeping girls in school • Enhanced interventions in India with adolescent girls in schools and community settings

Table 12
Addressing barriers to the participation of girls in education

Implementing partner	UNHCR
Location	Ethiopia
Amount	\$200,000
Description	Through the refugee education strategy, the project promoted the equitable and sustainable inclusion of refugees in the national education system
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of and support for girls' education with childcare centres • Creation of mentorship programmes • Provision of capacity training for teachers • Establishment of sports and recreation programmes

3. Capacity development and impact of the pandemic and humanitarian emergencies

60. The United Nations Foundation provides catalytic and capacity-building support for United Nations leadership initiatives that have a transformative impact (see tables 13–15).

Table 13
Recovery and reduction of the impact of the pandemic on local economies

Implementing partner	UNDP
Location	Mexico
Amount	\$621,500
Description	The project was aimed at enabling early recovery from and reduction of the impact of the pandemic in local economies by enabling water access and sanitation, food security and strengthening of the resilience of local livelihoods
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery strategies were established that promote resilient development at the community level • Strategies for food security, water access and strong social issues were implemented and economic reactivation strategies were applied for the least income-generating livelihoods

Table 14
Strengthening and building resilience in indigenous communities

Implementing partner	UNDP
Location	Mexico
Amount	\$418,500
Description	The project's objectives were to build resilience in indigenous communities affected by Tropical Storm Cristobal through local investment mechanisms and improve community governance
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds were allocated through community resilience mechanisms • Learning experiences for resilience were systematized and disseminated among stakeholders for additional support, alongside finance to accelerate recovery efforts

Table 15
Implementation of the Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation

Implementing partner	Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
Location	Global
Amount	\$668,205
Description	The project objective was to implement the Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation by establishing a multi-stakeholder digital inclusion coalition and system-wide guidance on human rights due diligence and conducting impact assessments of new technologies, especially artificial intelligence
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation was enabled with Member States to outline common elements of global understanding on digital trust and security • Models were developed to accelerate smaller-scale Internet providers and a range of digital public goods to encourage universal connectivity

C. Fiduciary agreements

61. The United Nations Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable entity in the United States of America. Many United Nations entities have requested assistance from the Foundation to serve as a fiduciary or fiscal agent to receive and disburse contributions from United States corporations and private individuals in support of their campaigns and programmes.

62. In 2021, the Foundation provided, through UNFIP, \$2,291,017 in funding to United Nations system entities through fiduciary channels (see table 16).

Table 16
Fiduciary agreements

<i>Fiduciary</i>	<i>Funds (United States dollars)</i>
UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office: mobilizing voluntary contributions for the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	532 544
UNOPS: support for the Stop TB Partnership	525 419
UNICEF: strengthening routine systems to respond to malaria outbreaks in Madagascar	399 600
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: mobilizing voluntary contributions for country-based pooled funds	235 057
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat: catalysing climate action and enhanced engagement by non-party stakeholders	207 776
UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office: mobilizing voluntary contributions for the Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan humanitarian funds	184 629
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Central Emergency Response Fund	126 503
UNODC: United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children	42 007
UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office: COVID-19 response and recovery multi-partner trust fund	37 482

VI. Conclusion

63. With only eight years remaining of the decade of action for the Goals, the time for action is now. As the world continues to face many overlapping challenges, including the triple planetary crises of climate disruption, biodiversity loss and pollution, it is apparent that the Goals remain the best global blueprint for ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and peaceful future.

64. Following up on the Secretary-General's report entitled "Our Common Agenda", the Office, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, continued to foster inclusive and innovative multi-stakeholder spaces for collaboration. The key advocacy and partnership initiatives that it spearheaded included the Sustainable Development Goals Moment, the Sustainable Development Goals Studio and the Sustainable Development Goals action zone during the high-level segment of the General Assembly. The United Nations research road map for the COVID-19 recovery, the "Women Rise for All" initiative and "Keeping the Promise" are examples of other significant projects and campaigns enabled by the Office.

65. The United Nations Democracy Fund has proven to be an innovative and effective initiative that successfully complements the work of the United Nations system, in particular with civil society organizations working on the ground. The pandemic further underlines the relevance of the Fund's support for civil society in response to increasing measures to shrink or close civic space in countries around the world.

66. As the primary interface between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP ensures strategic alignment and coordination between the two actors. In 2021, in collaboration with the Foundation, UNFIP advanced the work of

the United Nations on inclusive and resilient recovery from the pandemic, with the Goals as the guiding framework.

67. Through the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates, the Sustainable Development Goals Strategy Hub, the Climate Action Team, UNFIP and the United Nations Democracy Fund, the Office has delivered innovative, creative and large-scale initiatives and projects to supercharge action to meet the Goals by 2030 and enable an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

68. The Office has initiated an extensive assessment of its operations. The overall goal is to ensure that all of its workstreams cohesively accelerate innovative and inclusive multilateral collaboration. Looking ahead, the Office will continue to drive high-value collaboration to promote global solidarity and find new ways to work to deliver results for people and the planet.

Annex I

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund by donor, October 2005 to December 2021

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution received</i>
Algeria	100 000
Argentina	30 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Canada	846 380
Chile	398 417
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czechia	281 485
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	31 839 707
Hungary	75 000
India	32 412 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	15 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Malta	11 347
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	105 000
Panama	41 559
Peru	116 603
Poland	1 237 963
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 489 317
Romania	472 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovakia	92 147

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution received</i>
Slovenia	127 924
Spain	5 043 311
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	33 562 031
Türkiye	310 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	683 653
United States of America	76 076 000
Other	127 230
Total	224 076 328

Annex II

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund, 2021

The Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund offers the Secretary-General policy guidance for the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines, considers proposals for funding and recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General. It is composed of those Member States that have made the seven largest cumulative financial contributions to the Fund over the previous three years; six Member States reflecting geographical diversity; two international civil society organizations; and three individuals serving in a personal capacity.

The composition of the Advisory Board for 2020–2021 was as follows:

Member States that have made the largest cumulative financial contributions to the Fund over the previous three years

United States of America
Sweden
Germany
Canada
Poland
India
Republic of Korea

Member States appointed by the Secretary-General to reflect diverse geographical representation

Chile
Greece
Maldives
Morocco
Nepal
Senegal

Non-governmental organizations

CIVICUS
Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network

Individuals

Chair, Advisory Board: Aracelly Santana (Ecuador), former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Nepal and former Deputy Director of the Electoral Assistance Division (retired)

Irene Braam (Netherlands), Executive Director, Bertelsmann Foundation, North America, and First Vice President and Board Director, Bertelsmann Stiftung Board, Germany

Mahmood Mamdani (Uganda), professor of Government, Anthropology, Political Science and African Studies, Columbia University, Chancellor, Kampala International University, and Director, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Uganda

Annex III**Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, 2021****Chair**

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General

Member States

In the capacity of the President of the Economic and Social Council:

Munir Akram (until 22 July 2021)

Collen Vixen Kelapile (from 23 July 2021)

In the capacity of the Chair of the Second Committee, General Assembly:

Amrit Bahadur Rai (until 13 September 2021)

Vanessa Frazier (from 14 September 2021)

United Nations

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance

Annemarie Hou, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships (ex officio)

Civil society

Penny Abeywardena, New York City Commissioner for International Affairs

Yassine Fall, economist

Luis A. Ubiñas, President of the Board of Trustees, Pan American Development Foundation
