

UNITED NATIONS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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The UN organization sustain that is universally recognized as a platform for reliable collaboration and with an important role of preventive diplomacy in maintaining peace and security in the world. This approach announces the importance of a new era of multilateralism, where the countries of the earth are working together to solve global problems, the international system is working quickly to protect everyone in the event of an emergency. The paper aims to present the report “Our Common Agenda” which sets out the vision for the future of global cooperation.

Key words: UN , international relations, international agreements

Classification JEL: F50,F53, F59

1. INTRODUCTION

As the UN organization launches his projects in this decade of action - 10 years to make real progress and to fulfill the promise of a sustainable and fairer future by 2030 - there is an opportunity to reshape the world for the better, with multilateralism at the center of the process. In his speech to the General Assembly, Mr Guterres stressed that “Our Common Agenda”, is led by solidarity “the principle of working together, recognizing that we are linked to each other and that no community or country can solve its challenges alone”.(UN, 2021).

This approach announces a new era of multilateralism, where the countries of the earth are working together to solve global problems, the international system is working quickly to protect everyone in the event of an emergency, and the UN is universally recognized as a platform for reliable collaboration.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020 sparked a major internal discussion about the future of this world organization and a new direction that is moving away from the consensus regarding its activity as it was conceived, after of World War II.

These reflections culminated in the “Our Common Agenda”, a landmark report launched by the UN Secretary-General, which sets out its vision for the future of global cooperation. António Guterres presented this report at a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which described the precarious state of a world in enormous stress and threatened by “serious instability and climate chaos. From the climate crisis to our suicidal war against nature and the collapse of biodiversity, our global response is too weak, too late. Uncontrolled inequalities undermine social cohesion, creating fragilities that affect all of us. Technology is moving forward without safeguards to protect us from its unintended consequences,” the secretary-general said. (UN, 2021).

2.THE REPORT “OUR COMMON AGENDA”

The secretary general António Guterres described the extensive consultations that contributed to this report, a listening exercise that led the UN to conclude that stronger multilateralism is the way to deal with global crises.

In the report “Our Common Agenda”, two futures are presented: one of perpetual collapse and crisis and another where progress is made toward a greener and safer future. The scenario of the day describes a world in which the new coronavirus is

constantly changing as rich countries accumulate vaccines and health systems... In the future described in the report, our planet becomes uninhabitable because of rising temperatures and extreme weather events, and one million species are in danger of extinction. These changes are accompanied by the continuing erosion of human rights, the massive loss of jobs and incomes for most people on the planet, and by the growing protests and unrest, which are faced with violent repression. (Marien, 2021)

“Our Common Agenda”, also shows how we could go a different way, sharing vaccines with each other fairly and triggering a sustainable recovery in which the global economy is reorganized to be stronger, more resilient and more inclusive. By decarbonizing the economy, rising global temperatures could be limited, countries heavily affected by climate change would be supported, and ecosystems would be preserved for future generations, according to the report. The importance of protecting vulnerable groups is recognized in gender equality and does not leave anyone behind by promoting commitments that include strengthening social protection and promoting gender equality.

Ensuring a more sustainable global economy is identified as an objective, with support for the

poorest and a fairer international trade system.

Action against the climate receives a special mention of commitments to limit heating to 1,5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels with zero net carbon emissions by 2050, and with the cessation of subsidies for fossil fuels, a transformation of food systems and a set of measures to support the development of the countries concerned.

Taking into account the current health crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the report calls for a vaccination plan of USD 50 billion to double at least vaccine production, ensuring that it will reach at least 70% of the vaccine production required from 2022.

In order to achieve all these objectives, the UN Secretary-General recommends holding a future summit, which “would create a new global consensus on the issue of our future and how we can guarantee it”. The summit will address the perennial problems of peace and security, setting out a “new agenda for peace”, with more investments for peace-building, support for regional conflict prevention and risk reduction strategies for nuclear weapons and cyber war and a dialog to ensure that space is used peacefully and sustainably. (UN, 2021).

Respect for human rights should be discussed at the Summit of

the Future, as well as a Global Digital Pact, to ensure that new technologies do not violate human rights. Other avenues would include the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, as well as the management of future shocks and crises.

The summit, Mr Guterres said, should take into account today’s complex context for global governance; the aim of building more inclusive multilateralism and networking, navigating in this complex landscape and providing effective solutions.

In preparation for the UN Summit of the Future, the report proposes to hold biennial high-level meetings of Heads of State and Government, as well as between G7, G20, ECOSOC, Heads of International Financial institutions and the UN Secretary-General, deciding on an inclusive and resilient global economy. (UN, 2021).

The report also calls for better partnerships between governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society and for an emergency platform to better prepare for global crises, with improved global health security. One example is the creation of a Laboratory for the Future, working with partners such as governments, universities, civil society and the private sector, to publish regular reports on the mega trends and disaster risk on the Earth. In addition, measures on education,

vocational training and lifelong learning are proposed, including a 2022 Education transformation Summit to address the learning crisis. And extending the opportunities and hopes of 1,8 billion young people globally, as well as a World Social Summit to be held in 2025, which would coordinate international efforts to create peaceful and secure societies based on human rights and dignity for all.

These meetings would coordinate efforts to implement inclusive and sustainable institutions and policies, enabling countries to provide basic services and social protection to their citizens. One of these institutions is, of course, the UN itself, which the report says needs to be improved, with a more participatory and consultative approach, and that civil servants achieve gender equality by 2028, that the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Committee be re-established, and that a policy that puts people at the heart of the United Nations system, taking into account age, gender and diversity. (Beisheim, 2021)

Other proposals concern improving young people's participation in the political process and efforts to reduce their unemployment. The report recommends the appointment of a special envoy for future generations, to give weight to the

interests of those born this century and to a new UN Youth Office to strengthen engagement with young people throughout the work of the Organization.

In his speech to the General Assembly, Mr Guterres stressed that our common agenda is led by solidarity, "the principle of working together, recognizing that we are linked to each other and that no community or country can solve its challenges alone". The fact that the 75th anniversary came during a global health emergency highlights the importance of multilateral thinking: in 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic emerged, which came amid growing concern about the climate crisis, another urgent issue that does not respect national borders.

In early 2020, 1,5 million people participated in a global United Nations initiative, a one-year survey to listen to people's priorities and expectations about the impact of international cooperation on the future. They shared their hopes and fears, calling for the UN to be more transparent and inclusive, and identifying climate and environmental issues as the global long-term challenge.

"Our Common Agenda", builds on the conclusions of this initiative as well as on input from thought leaders, prominent groups, as well as graduates, diplomats and

other partners, providing suggestions and solutions, actions of ideas and imagining the next 25 years of the UN.

The report calls for reaffirmation of the fundamental values of the United Nations, while acknowledging that the foundations of the Organization must be reformed in order to better reflect today's world. The report also recognizes the urgent need for action: the climate crisis is an existential crisis for all human life and can only be resolved if the international community works effectively together beyond borders, to put an end to accelerated global warming and to adapt to the damage it has already caused.

3. THE LINKS BETWEEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND CONFLICTS

For his part, the president of the 76th General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid, said "over the decades, the United Nations has learned more about the link between socio-economic factors and conflict, noting that the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbates inequalities, climate crises lead to displacement and inefficient institutions steal hope for people. In addition, the absence of democratic participation, political freedoms and equality deprives entire populations of their human rights. Global security is the responsibility of the Security

Council and can be complemented by the efforts of the General Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in their effort to build more resilient and prosperous communities". (UN, 2022).

ECOSOC President, Collen V. Kelapile, recalled the organization's mandate is to promote economic and social progress in all peoples, to protect human rights and to supervise humanitarian and development systems, by establishing links to prevent conflicts. The continuing suffering in the Sahel region of Africa "because of the inability to appreciate the complex interaction of human survival in a very fragile and culturally diverse environment, it is an example. And extreme poverty in South Sudan has its roots in more than 50 years of conflict, while Haiti's vast challenges stem from historical and structural inequalities, government deficits and vulnerability to climate change".

However, despite the UN's interdependent mandates to deal with such crises, the interactions between them remained sporadic: "Today's complex challenges require more institutionalized collaboration," Kelapile said. (UN, 2022).

Speaking before the Security Council, the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Joan E. Donoghue, explored ways the ICJ can help prevent conflicts;

she said States can use the court as a means of resolving disputes to defuse resource tensions, land borders, sea borders or other sources of potential conflict. While the circumstances and requirements of each case vary, all the main bodies of the United Nations have the possibility, within the limits of their respective competences, to contribute to the implementation of the judgments of the Court and to contribute to the promotion of peace, security and justice. The court itself is ready to receive any request for advisory opinion that UN specialized bodies and agencies can formulate,” Joan E. Donoghue.

4. CONCLUSIONS

During a UN Security Council debate on the role of preventive diplomacy in maintaining peace and security in the world on 16 November 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said prevention is not only a political tool but also “a realistic path to peace .In front of the members of the Security Council, the UN chief regretted that prevention does not always receive the attention it deserves.

”Perhaps this is because it is difficult to measure the results of an avoided conflict. But prevention is absolutely essential for lasting peace. Prevention is also the reason for the existence of the United Nations. (Gehrmann, 2021). Because prevention is essential and conflict

is not inevitable and preventive diplomacy works,” he told the members of the Security Council. He remembered using his good offices - sometimes publicly, sometimes behind the scenes - to seek to defuse conflicts and promote peace.” “A central part of our prevention strategy is working with regional and sub-regional organizations,” he said, citing in particular the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union.

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