The Office for Outer Space Affairs

The Future of Global Space Governance: Proactive Multilateralism at the UN Level

Our Common Agenda
Report of the Secretary-General

- ✓ On the 75th anniversary of the UN, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and coming generations.

- ✓ The Secretary-General was requested to report back with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges.

- ✓ The result 'Our Common Agenda' was launched on 10 Sept 2021

- ✓ The report looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents the Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation and reinvigorating inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism.

- ✓ The Secretary-General presented his report to the General Assembly in September 2021 before the end of the 75th session of the General Assembly.

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Our Common Agenda
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LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

PROTECT OUR PLANET

PROMOTE PEACE & PREVENT CONFLICTS

ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL LAW & ENSURE JUSTICE

PLACE WOMEN & GIRLS AT THE CENTER

BUILD TRUST

IMPROVE DIGITAL COOPERATION

UPGRADE THE UNITED NATIONS

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

BOOST PARTNERSHIPS

LISTEN TO & WORK WITH YOUTH

BE PREPARED

Consultation process on the Common Agenda

In response to GA Resolution 75/1, in addition to involving the United Nations system as a whole, the SG embarked upon a process of reflection, consisting of four tracks engaging a broad array of stakeholders, including Member States, prominent thought leaders, young people and civil society.

- ✓ The consultation process built on the year-long anniversary global listening exercise, when over 1.5 million people from all 193 Member States took part in an online survey. Polling firms also conducted surveys in 70 countries.
- ✓ Engagement with Member States began with a letter to all permanent representatives and observers on 8 October 2020 laying out the process and inviting them to share their views. From December 2020 onwards several consultations, facilitate also by the UN Foundation, on the 12 themes began.
- ✓ Thought leaders, several high-level groups of experts as well as young thinkers and groups where invited to contribute ideas around the 12 themes
- ✓ Consultation with civil society, parliamentarians, think tanks, the private sector, subnational leaders and city networks, underrepresented groups and other non-government partners
- ✓ Every effort was made to ensure that the reflection process included a wide range of voices from all regions, including through an experimental digital consultation exercise overseen

KEY PROPOSALS ACROSS THE 12 COMMITMENTS

From the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

All proposed actions are in line with and designed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

PROPOSED KEY MOMENTS

HIGH-LEVEL TRACKS

- CLIMATE ACTION
- NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE
- GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT
- OUTER SPACE DIALOGUE
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLATFORM FOR COMPLEX CRISES
- HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BOARD
- DECLARATION ON FUTURE GENERATIONS

- TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT
- SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE
- WORLD SOCIAL SUMMIT

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1. Leave no one behind

- Renewed social contract anchored in human rights
- New era for universal social protection, including health care and basic income security, reaching the 4 billion unprotected
- Reinforce adequate housing, education and lifelong learning and decent work
- Digital inclusivity
- World Social Summit in 2025
- Identify complementary measures to GDP

2. Protect our planet

- Leaders meeting ahead of the global stocktaking in 2023
- Commit to the 1.5-degree Celsius goal and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner
- Declarations of climate emergency and right to a healthy environment
- Package of support to developing countries
- Measures for adaptation and resilience
- No new coal after 2021 and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies
- Account for the environment in economic models, carbon pricing mechanisms and credible commitments by financial actors
- Post-2020 biodiversity framework
- Transforming food systems for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
- Action by the General Assembly on territorial threats of climate change and to prevent, protect and resolve situations of environmental displacement

3. Promote peace and prevent conflicts

- New agenda for peace to:
  - Reduce strategic risks (nuclear weapons, cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons)
  - Strengthen international foresight
  - Reshape responses to all forms of violence
  - Invest in prevention and peacebuilding, including Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Commission
  - Support regional prevention
  - Put women and girls at the centre of security policy
  - Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, including through a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space

4. Abide by international law and ensure justice

- Human rights as a problem-solving measure, including by comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and promoting participation
- Application of human rights online and to frontier issues and new technologies
- Universal access to the Internet as a human right
- Human rights mechanisms on a more sustainable financial footing
- Legal identity for all, end to statelessness and protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
- New vision for the rule of law
- Global road map for the development and effective implementation of international law
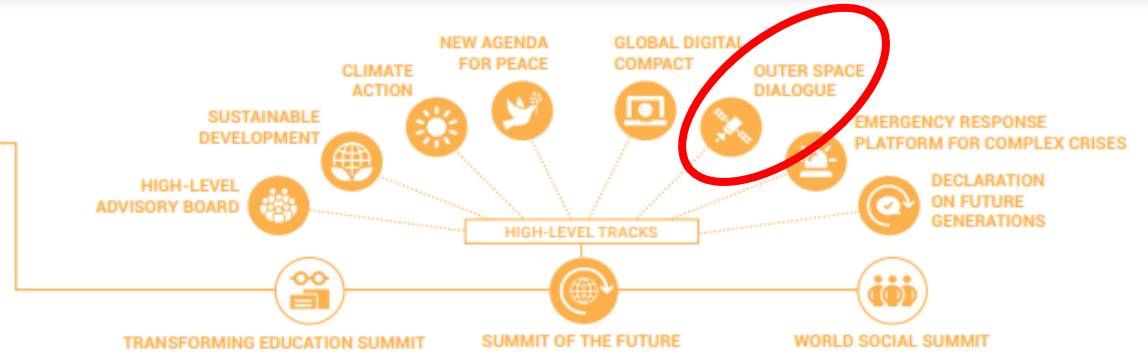
5. Place women and girls at the centre

- Repeal of gender-discriminatory laws
- Promote gender parity, including through quotas and special measures
- Facilitate women's economic inclusion, including investment in the care economy and support for women entrepreneurs
- Include voices of younger women
- Eradication of violence against women and girls, including through an emergency response plan

6. Build trust

- Global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information
- Improve people's experiences with public institutions and basic services
- Inclusive national listening and "envisioning the future" exercises
- Action to tackle corruption in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- Reformed international tax system
- Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows

7. Improve digital cooperation

- Global Digital Compact to:
  - Connect all people to the Internet, including all schools
  - Avoid Internet fragmentation
  - Protect data
  - Apply human rights online
  - Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content
  - Promote regulation of artificial intelligence
  - Digital commons as a global public good

8. Upgrade the United Nations

- High-level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods
- System-wide policy that puts people at the centre, taking into account age, gender and diversity
- More listening, participation and consultation (including digitally), building on the seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and Our Common Agenda
- Gender parity within the United Nations system by 2028
- Re-establish the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board
- "Quintet of change" for United Nations 2.0, including innovation, data, strategic foresight, results orientation and behavioural science

9. Ensure sustainable financing

- Biennial Summit between the Group of 20, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the heads of international financial institutions for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy including to:
  - Support a Sustainable Development Goal investment boost, including through a last-mile alliance to reach those furthest behind
  - Provide more flexible research and development incentives
  - Resolve weaknesses in the debt architecture
- Fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system, including a reinvigorated WTO
- New business models
- Improve the United Nations budget process

10. Boost partnerships

- Annual meetings between the United Nations and all heads of regional organizations
- Stronger engagement between the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional development banks
- More systematic engagement with parliaments, subnational authorities and the private sector
- Civil society focal points in all United Nations entities
- United Nations Office for Partnerships to consolidate access and inclusion, including accessibility online

11. Listen to and work with youth

Youth
- Remove barriers to political participation and measure progress through a "youth in politics" index
- United Nations Youth Office
- Transforming Education Summit in 2022
- Recovery barometer to track career paths and labour market outcomes for youth
- High-ambition coalition to promote green and digital-economy job creation

Future generations
- Summit of the Future in 2023
- Ensure long-term thinking, including through a United Nations Futures Lab
- Represent succeeding generations, including through a repurposed Trusteeship Council, a Declaration on Future Generations, and a United Nations Special Envoy for Future Generations
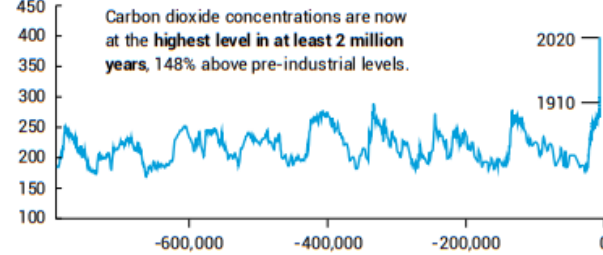
12. Be prepared

- Emergency Platform to be convened in response to complex global crises
- Strategic Foresight and Global Risk Report by the United Nations every five years
- On global public health:
  - Global vaccination plan
  - Empowered WHO
  - Stronger global health security and preparedness
  - Accelerate product development and access to health technologies in low- and middle-income countries
  - Universal health coverage and addressing determinants of health

PROJECTED DEGRADATION OF THE GLOBAL COMMONS

ATMOSPHERE

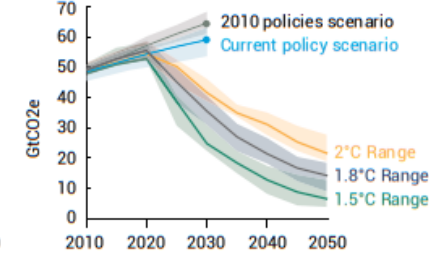### Trends in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration over 800,000 years

Mean carbon dioxide concentrations globally

ppm

Carbon dioxide concentrations are now at the **highest level in at least 2 million years**, 148% above pre-industrial levels.

2020

1910

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2020.

Projections for global GHG emissions under different scenarios

Note: Projections do not take into account commitments announced in early 2021.

GtCO2e

2010 policies scenario
Current policy scenario

2°C Range
1.8°C Range
1.5°C Range
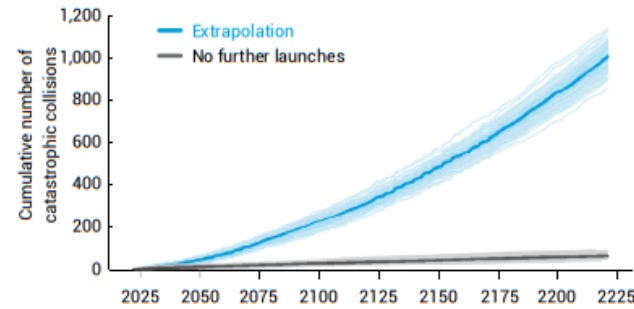
Source: UNEP, 2020.

OUTER SPACE

As the density of objects in orbit increases, so does the likelihood of collisions, where each collision will create further debris in a chain reaction **potentially rendering space unusable for generations.**

Lower orbit (2,000 km)

Outer space debris

Source: European Space Agency, 2021.

Cumulative number of catastrophic collisions

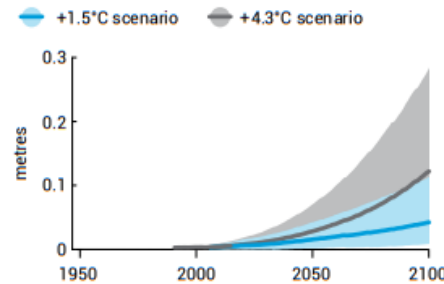Extrapolation
No further launches

ANTARCTICA

Antarctic ice sheet mass loss

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019.

as sea level equivalent, change relative to 1986–2005

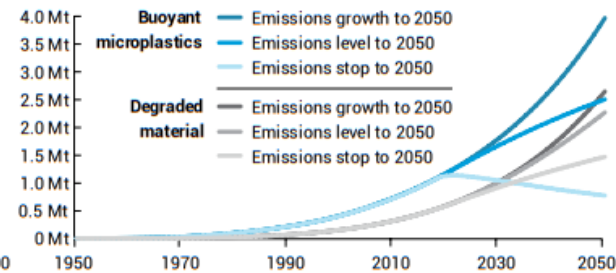+1.5°C scenario   +4.3°C scenario

metres

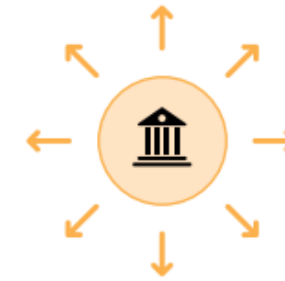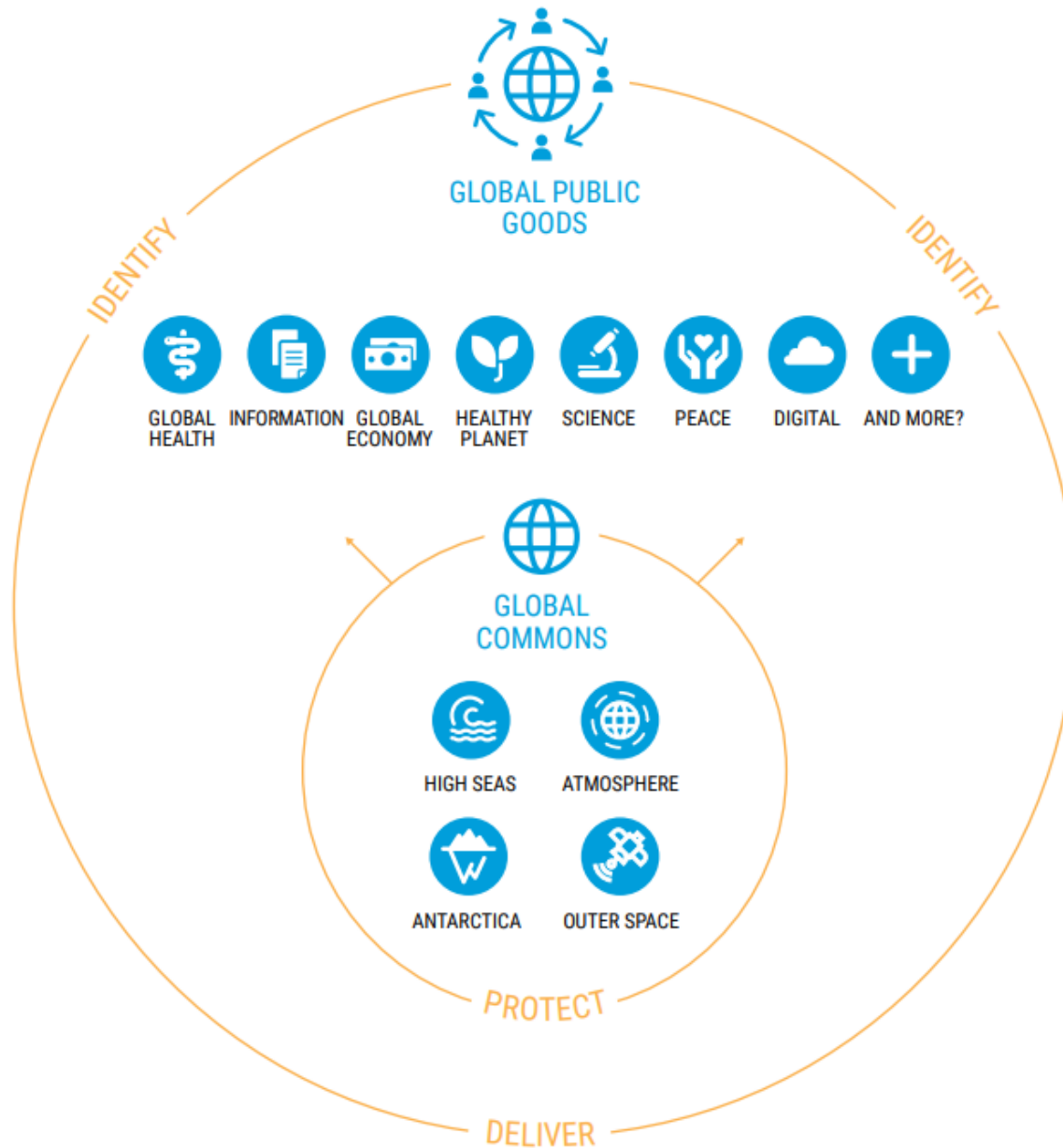## HIGH SEAS

Projected pollution of the sea

Source: Lebreton and others, 2019.

Even with an extremely ambitious scenario (no further emissions in the ocean by 2020), **the level of microplastics in the ocean could double by mid-century as already accumulated plastic waste slowly degrades into smaller pieces.**

Buoyant microplastics
Emissions growth to 2050
Emissions level to 2050
Emissions stop to 2050

Degraded material
Emissions growth to 2050
Emissions level to 2050
Emissions stop to 2050

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS AND THE GLOBAL COMMONS

DELIVER AND PROTECT

IDENTIFY

IDENTIFY

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS

| GLOBAL HEALTH | INFORMATION | GLOBAL ECONOMY | HEALTHY PLANET | SCIENCE | PEACE | DIGITAL | AND MORE? |

GLOBAL COMMONS

| HIGH SEAS | ATMOSPHERE |
| ANTARCTICA | OUTER SPACE |

PROTECT

DELIVER

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- **Protect** the global commons
- **Identify** and **deliver** global public goods

Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space

90. Outer space has traditionally been acknowledged **as a global common**, beyond the jurisdiction of any one State. The potential for its peaceful, secure and sustainable use would benefit all humanity today and into the future. Governance arrangements for outer space, including the **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,** were established in an era of exclusively State-based activity and provide only general guidance on managing traffic in outer space, the permanent settlement of celestial bodies and responsibilities for resource management. We are in an era of **renewed exploration and use of outer space,** with active programmes to return humans to the Moon and beyond and the planned launch of megaconstellations of thousands of new satellites. Space assets have transformed the way we live and outer space systems are vital for understanding and solving global problems, such as implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action. Many of these developments are driven by actors in the private sector. They also pose new risks to security, safety and sustainability. Increasing congestion and competition in outer space could imperil access and use by succeeding

Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space

91. Recently agreed **Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities** have shown that progress in governance is possible, but many gaps remain. A combination of binding and non-binding norms is needed, building on existing frameworks and drawing in the full range of actors now involved in space exploration and use. Immediate actions could include the development of a global regime to coordinate space traffic and the elaboration of new instruments to prevent weaponization of outer space. To that end, consideration could be given to a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space as part of a Summit of the Future (see para. 103 below) bringing together Governments and other leading space actors. The dialogue could seek high-level political agreement on the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, move towards a global regime to coordinate space traffic and agree on principles for the future governance of outer space activities.

Main outcomes envisioned

1. **A high-level political reference on the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space in the outcome document of the Summit of the Future incl. potential references** to: (1) negotiate an international instrument on the prevention of arms race in outer space; (2) elaborate principles and guidelines applicable to the active removal of space debris; (3) agree to common principles for the governance of outer space activities and to develop an international regime for space traffic coordination.

Key Constituents

I.   UN Member State driven process

II. Space industry stakeholders including major private and State-owned entities in the areas of satellite operators, launch service providers, satellite manufacturers, private space situational awareness service providers and industry associations.

III. Major academic institutions, civil society and non-governmental organizations that produce research and analysis on space sustainability and security should also be engaged as key constituents.

IV. ODA and OOSA are the UN co-leads for this track. UNIDIR could be engaged as a collaborating entity. UN-Space, the annual inter-agency meeting lead by UNOOSA, could also be a platform for sharing information with the UN system entities and will be approached and consulted as appropriate.

Consultation processes and events envisioned

1. The **sustainability aspects** will be primarily addressed through the Vienna environment

    a. COPUOS

    b. UNOOSA is currently planning a sequence of events to facilitate preparation of the outcome of the Summit of the Future document incl. but not limited to the following:

    -   an offer to co-host a conference focusing on Space Traffic Coordination and Global Governance in support of the "Summit of the Future" preparations in 2022;

    -   Austria committed to co-host the World Space Forum 2022 with a dedicated focus to contribute to the Outer Space Dialogue under the Common Agenda. UNOOSA continues to consider the contribution of Space to other high-level tracks – SDGs and Climate, Emergency Platform, Declaration on the Future Generations.

2. The **security aspects** will be primarily developed through the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior.

3. Resolution 76/55 mandates a further joint panel of the **First and Fourth Committee**, to be convened in October 2022 and to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability. The 2022 joint panel could be used as an opportunity to facilitate broad discussion among Member States on all aspects of the outcome of the Summit track on outer space. It will also be an opportunity to set expectations for the Summit.

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Status and next steps

- ✓ 5 GA cluster consultations on the Common Agenda

- ✓ Fireside discussions with MS on the Common Agenda with Mr. Peter Martinez, SWF discussing on outer Space

- ✓ Report of the PGA expected to be released soon

- ✓ OEWG First meeting this week

- ✓ COPUOS June

- ✓ Multistakeholder Events

- ✓ Alignment of process outcomes of both streams

- ✓ …

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