

## Forum: Special Conference on Post Pandemic World

### Issue: Social Policy to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery Post COVID-19 Pandemic

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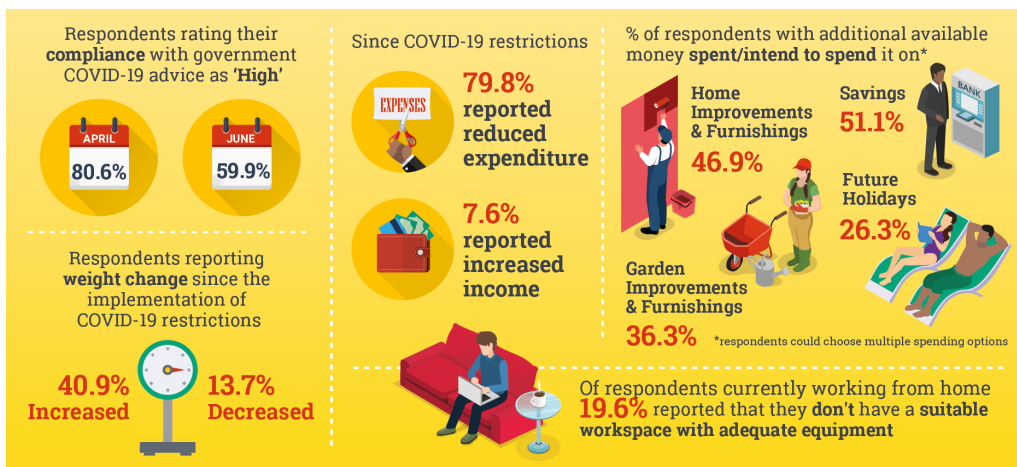
Position: President

## INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on our society and on the entire earth. The pandemic pointed out and worsened vulnerabilities, fragilities, and inequalities in our communities leading to severe and possible permanent damage to society. The impact was noticed in many sectors of life, for instance social, economic, jobs, education, tourism, health, human rights, and many more additional aspects of everyday life as we knew it. In a span of two years and four exhausting COVID-19 waves, every individual was affected, and the only logical thing now is to deal with the aftermath. Different sectors have different ways of approach and different priorities, and thus, difficulties might arise to generalize ideas and solutions. Member States will have to build back communities effectively, while still being sustainable and inclusive. In order for this global rebuild to be truly effective, one cannot fall back into old-fashioned methods, such as using fossil fuels, but must invest in new and sustainable opportunities to recover our society to its greatest potential. Cooperation and understanding must be prioritized in order to reach the ultimate goal.



### Social Impact of COVID-19 June 2020 A Snapshot of Experiences and Expectations in a Pandemic



*Figure 1: Social Impact of COVID-19 Survey June 2020: A Snapshot of Experiences and Expectations in a Pandemic<sup>1</sup>*

## DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

### Sustainable

As defined by Collins dictionary “you use sustainable to describe the use of natural resources when this use is kept at a steady level that is not likely to damage the environment”<sup>2</sup>.

### Inclusivity

Inclusivity defines an act or policy, which provides all people, without exception, with equal opportunities and resources, without discriminating against race, sexual orientation, gender, class, or disability.

### Vaccine equity

Vaccine equity describes the importance of access to vaccines for all, without acknowledgment of nation, state, individual life, or any sort of discrimination. The opposite of this is portrayed as “vaccine nationalism/ protectionism”.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to worn garments, such as helmets, goggles, or masks, which serve protectively for the user. Specifically in this Study Guide, Personal Protective Equipment makes reference to medical PPE, such as surgical/ N95/ FFP2 facemasks, face shields, and gloves.

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<sup>1</sup> "Social Impact of COVID-19 Survey June 2020: A Snapshot of Experiences and Expectations in a Pandemic." CSO - Central Statistics Office, 24 June 2020, [www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-sic19eep/socialimpactofcovid-19surveyjune2020asnapshotofexperiencesandexpectationsinapandemic/](http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-sic19eep/socialimpactofcovid-19surveyjune2020asnapshotofexperiencesandexpectationsinapandemic/).

<sup>2</sup> "Sustainable Definition and Meaning." Collins English Dictionary, [www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/sustainable](http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/sustainable).

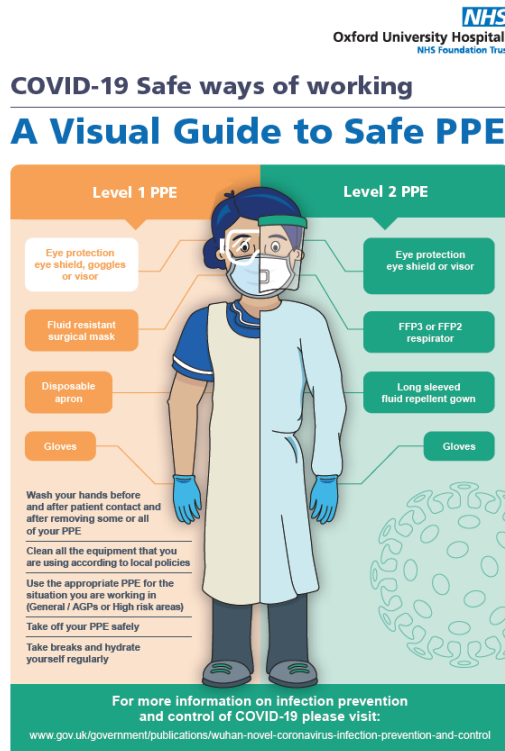


Figure 2: COVID-19 Safe ways of working; A Visual Guide to Safe PPE<sup>3</sup>

## Bankruptcy

The Economic Times defines bankruptcy as “When an organisation is unable to honour its financial obligations or make payment to its creditors, it files for bankruptcy. A petition is filed in the court for the same where all the outstanding debts of the company are measured and paid out if not in full from the company’s assets.”<sup>4</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<sup>3</sup> "Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) — OxStAR." Welcome — OxStAR, [www.oxstar.ox.ac.uk/covid-19/personal-protective-equipment-ppe?8d2b9c42-14f6-11ed-8874-0a7c7f644e38](http://www.oxstar.ox.ac.uk/covid-19/personal-protective-equipment-ppe?8d2b9c42-14f6-11ed-8874-0a7c7f644e38).

<sup>4</sup> "What is Bankruptcy? Definition of Bankruptcy, Bankruptcy Meaning." The Economic Times, [www.economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/bankruptcy](http://www.economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/bankruptcy).

## The impact of the pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic leads to a dramatic loss of human lives, the impact this has cannot be ignored. An existential threat has presented itself to millions of enterprises, affecting the economies of a majority of the countries worldwide. The following section of the study guide will present the significant impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our society as a whole. All of these sectors heavily rely on one another in order to achieve an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

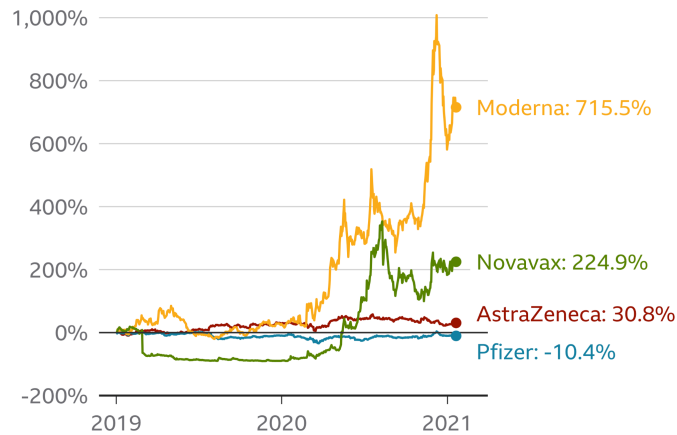
### Economic

By dangerously affecting nearly every country in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has left its mark on their economies as well. Tourism, travel, hospitality, and retail have been massively economically affected by the pandemic. When lockdowns were placed, millions of companies who relied on in-person interactions were devastatingly influenced with little hope for survival. Online retail however thrived under these conditions, totaling an international revenue of \$3,9 trillion in 2020 alone. Travelling was almost wholly restricted for nearly 2 years, damaging airline companies and the hospitality sector. The hospitality sector in particular suffered billions of dollars of damage and loss in 2020, as after experiencing several variants of COVID-19 often tightened travel restrictions in many countries. For instance, research has shown that all of the top travel destinations showed a lack of reservations. Analysts believe that global tourism and travel will not go back to pre-pandemic amounts until approximately 2025. Furthermore, significant changes in the stock market were noticed, which led to banks searching for effective ways to return to a more stable economy.

With substantial proof, the only sector to have economically benefited from the COVID-19 pandemic were pharmaceutical companies. Governments were investing millions upon millions in order to develop an effective COVID-19 vaccine and be able to get their hands on it as quickly as possible. The most well-known companies Moderna, Novavax, AstraZeneca, and Pfizer have seen significant rises, but also just as significant falls, in their share prices.

## The rise of pharmaceutical companies

Percentage change in share value



Source: Bloomberg, 24 January 2021, 00:01 GMT

BBC

Figure 3: The rise of pharmaceutical companies

## Social

The COVID-19 pandemic is working against societies at its core. People who were already living in vulnerable situations have been particularly affected. This includes amongst others, communities such as older persons, persons with disabilities, adolescents, and indigenous peoples. Homeless people were severely affected, after not being able to shelter themselves, to begin with, they had to deal with lockdown after lockdown, with no access to food or protection and increased exposure to the coronavirus. Migrants, refugees, and displaced persons were also particularly affected, by not being forced to stay in their countries due to health concerns and the lack of support, help, and solidarity from others. The increased xenophobia determined during the COVID-19 pandemic also played a big role in the inequalities that a lot of these people experienced. As long as effective and appropriate policies are not implemented, inequalities, discrimination, and social exclusion will continue to worsen and deepen into society's roots. Protection and prevention from any further inequalities play a great role in the discussion of these necessary policies.

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, placed great emphasis at the launch of a COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan on 23 March 2020 on the following: “We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable – millions upon millions of people who are least able to protect themselves. This is a matter of basic human solidarity. It is also crucial for combating the virus. This is the moment to step up for the vulnerable.”

## Environmental

Drastic changes were seen in the world's environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. A consequence that was noticed early in lockdowns was a significant improvement in air quality. This was the case due to the lack of vehicles travelling during the months of lockdown. This was immediately noted as one of the rare benefits of the COVID-19 pandemic, which swiftly was proven wrong as the improvement was only short-term and returned back to its damaged state after lockdowns were lifted. Lockdowns had several temporary positive impacts on the environment, such as greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, but did not last long enough to not be considered short-term. Single-use plastic products and packaging had a higher amount of sales and usage internationally, as restaurants opted to provide customers with single-use plastic cutlery or other single-use plastic packaging, as a result of entertaining deliveries in order to maintain their income. A rise in biomedical waste was reported during the pandemic, as hospitals had higher visiting rates.

When discussing the environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, one must also take into consideration sustainability and what part it plays. In order to protect human health, it is of primary focus to evolve into a sustainable society. There will never be a better time to do that than now. We stand before a vital opportunity to completely change our way of life and fully commit to a sustainable lifestyle. As long as our society chooses not to learn from our past and our mistakes, no progress can be made toward a sustainable and fair future.

## The consequences

Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic can be identified in many sectors of everyday life. Therefore, most people from every corner of the world were affected in one way or another. As previously mentioned, due to the fact that these sectors were impacted differently, different means will have to be used to implement effective solutions. Priorities will need to be set with thought-out ideas for every occasion and issue. Nevertheless, the importance of each sector is not to be acknowledged, as they are all equally important and pressing to solve. In the following part of the study guide, the most affected and most significant sectors will be presented and analysed.

## Employment

One of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic was the labour market. The pandemic initiated one of the most threatening employment predicaments since the Great Depression. In order for future generations to have a more trustworthy and resilient labour market, reconstruction must be executed. In the United States alone, over 33 million workers had applied for unemployment insurance since March 2020 in a span of 2 months (until May 2020). Within the first months of the pandemic, the rates of the number of hours individuals worked were 10 times fewer, compared to the first months of the 2007/ 2008 global financial crisis. In 2020 alone, Member States of the OECD had accumulated a total of 10% unemployment, and employment recovery was not anticipated till after 2021. Salaries, working hours, and job safety were massively compromised during the pandemic. Through research, it was proven that this rapid loss of job opportunities affected a greater amount of women than men.

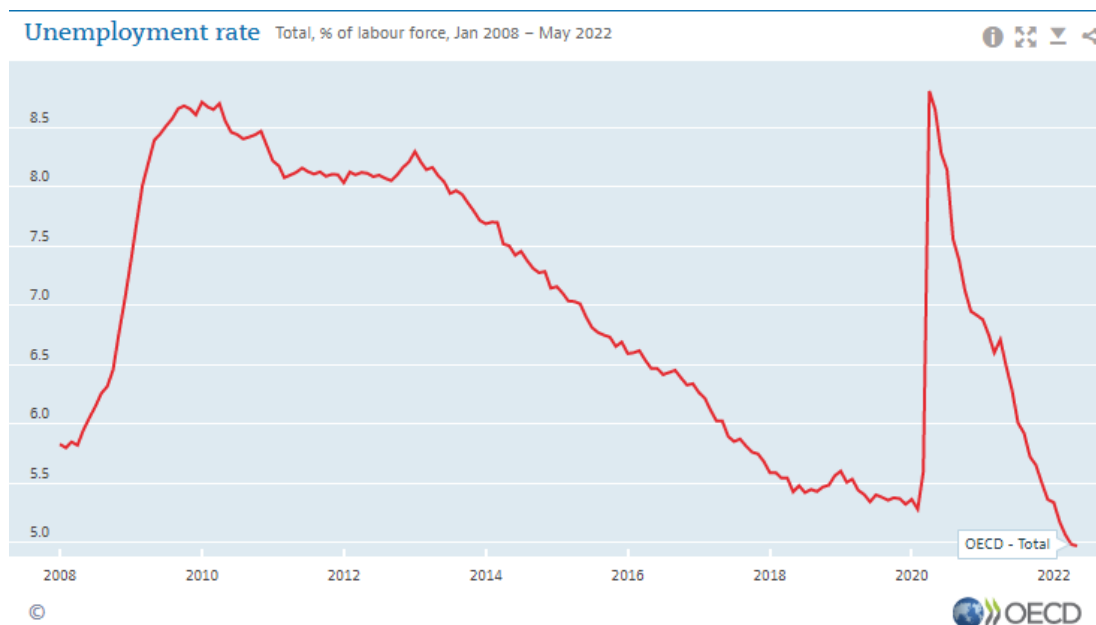


Figure 4: Unemployment rate, Total, % of labour force, Jan 2008 – May 2022<sup>5</sup>

“Essential” workers, meaning workers considered to be providing essential services, had experienced the COVID-19 pandemic differently. Essential workers were exposed regularly to the danger of infection and at the same time were not provided with the needed and required correct health protections. Subsequently, essential workers were exposed to the coronavirus much more. On the opposite side of the spectrum, any employees that were not considered “essential”, were fired or had a very limited amount of work, and thus were deprived of their regular salary. Short-term and temporary jobs were completely discontinued for the entirety of

<sup>5</sup> "OECD Employment Outlook 2020 | Facing the Jobs Crisis." OECD, [www.oecd.org/employment-outlook/2020/](http://www.oecd.org/employment-outlook/2020/).

the pandemic. The labour market became so limited, that people already struggling to find a job had it even worse, with extremely minimal chances. This is one example of pre-existing societal issues that were highlighted by the pandemic. A reduction in demand for labour also played a big part in the loss of millions worldwide.

## Education

When it comes to education and learning during the pandemic, most, if not all, governments and schools turned to remote or online learning. Young children and adolescents had to get accustomed to learning, studying, and reading for hours on end from a computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile device. In total, an estimated nearly 150 million children missed over half of the in-person education between the years 2020 and 2021. Consequently, a total of 2 trillion hours of in-person learning were lost internationally. With 188 countries implementing countrywide school shutdowns, more than 1,6 million children and adolescents were impacted. Still, the worst consequence of the pandemic's effect on the education system was the number of children unable to access any kind of education during that time. In 2020 alone, at least 463 million children had no access to remote learning during the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic pointed out a deep-rooted and problematic flaw in our society; the education system. Schools in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), with already weakened education systems, were particularly affected. The inability to fund an adequate teaching alternative during the pandemic can have severe consequences for future generations. Several consequences of these changes were higher rates of dropouts and even more dangerous actions, such as child marriage and child labor, which could lead to early termination of children's education. Less dangerous but quite threatening results was the lack of ability to effectively learn during the pandemic, leading to an inability to concentrate and rejecting learning overall. Teachers with a lack of skills concerning technology worsened the situation further, by making lessons difficult to follow, not interactive, or pressuring students too much or not enough in order to meet expectations.

## At least 463 million children worldwide were unable to access remote learning during COVID-19 school closures in 2020



Percentage and number of students potentially reached and not reached† by digital and broadcast remote learning policies, by region (pre-primary to upper secondary)

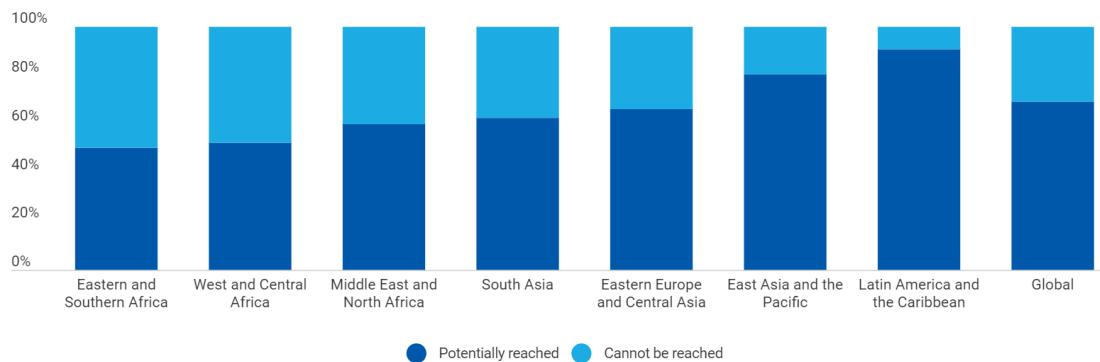


Figure 5: Percentage and number of students potentially reached and not reached by digital and broadcast remote learning policies, by region (pre-primary to upper secondary)<sup>6</sup>

### Security

Several security risks and threats were highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the most notable being any human rights violations and trust towards one's own government. In these cases, the general feeling of security may seem absent, especially in times when we are unprepared and faced with unknown issues. The government's decisions during the pandemic were later reflected by whether or not the citizens trusted their governments with such serious matters. Decisions such as lockdowns and mask mandates were often met with backlash or support for one reason or another. Nevertheless, whether the government's decisions were correct or not, the question of whether they were trustworthy or not always remained. Concerning human rights and violations thereof, many problems arose during the pandemic. In order to work towards an inclusive and sustainable recovery, respect must be shown towards all human rights, including economic, social, civil, and political rights. The pandemic was strengthened with the help of preexisting injustices, specifically poverty, inequity, discrimination, and other human rights infringements. In particular minority groups and migrants were the ones most affected by human rights violations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>6</sup> Milan. "COVID-19 and Children." UNICEF DATA, 3 June 2022, [www.data.unicef.org/covid-19-and-children/#education](http://www.data.unicef.org/covid-19-and-children/#education).

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### Germany

The COVID-19 pandemic completely polarised German citizens. Towards the beginning of the pandemic the German residents did not have any trouble following regulations, but after some getting used to and a greater assessment of whether or not Government official statistics about the coronavirus were real, certain individuals came to disagree even with the existence of COVID-19. A great number of citizens expressed critique and disbelief towards the officially released coronavirus case numbers. Society split when solidarity was needed most. The German government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is dedicated to creating and implementing policies in order to promote social justice, economic growth, sustainability, human health, raising awareness, green digitalization, and an environmentally friendly food supply system. In order to achieve their wanted goal, the government also focuses on the environmental impact of their actions and the equality aspect of it all. In future cases, the feeling of disbelief and spread of conspiracy theories amongst communities must be avoided, in order to achieve true equality.

### Iraq

On top of facing years of conflict, political turmoil, and civil unrest Iraq was also faced with a public health emergency of international concern, namely COVID-19. Vulnerable communities and people were affected the most, revealing and deepening economic and social susceptibilities. Studies in Iraq have shown that consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic include an increase of inequalities, especially affecting vulnerable and marginalised communities, such as women and adolescents. Therefore, a more outstanding number of citizens have fallen below the national poverty line. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have developed a report, namely “Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 in Iraq: key findings”<sup>7</sup>, which supports making fragility and vulnerability the most critical priority in successfully creating a recovery response and strategy for Iraq. The UNDP elaborates on six main points in Iraq’s overall fragility; economic, societal, environmental, political, security and vulnerable groups. This report has as an ultimate goal to recommend policies, in all the aforementioned sectors, in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive approaches and strategies against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>7</sup> "Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 in Iraq: Key Findings." ReliefWeb, [www.reliefweb.int/report/iraq/sustainable-recovery-covid-19-iraq-key-findings](http://www.reliefweb.int/report/iraq/sustainable-recovery-covid-19-iraq-key-findings).

### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>8</sup>**

The primary principle of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is to promote sustainable development and advocate for the global environment. In order to achieve their goals, such as raising awareness and advocating for effective environmental measures, they use campaigns, particularly World Environment Day.

### **United Nations Environmental Programme Financial Initiative (UNEP FI)**

The UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)<sup>9</sup> response to COVID-19 focuses greatly on sustainability. In order to effectively assist in recovering from the pandemic, their aid entails supporting their coalition of banks from over 60 countries to share actions and solutions, in order to help with any economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the necessary sustainable side of their response, the involved coalition of banks must perform under their commitments to the Principles of Responsible Banking. Therefore, this coalition acts in accordance with the environmental and social needs of society in order to achieve a sustainable recovery.

### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

The World Health Organization is a global agency that promotes and is dedicated to better health and well-being, protection from health emergencies, access to medicines, and safety. They achieve their goals through means such as universal health coverage, science-based policies and programs, and by clearly intercommunicating between countries for better communication. Donations and funding are important to achieving the goals the WHO has set in order to ensure any action can be successfully and effectively sought through.

In recent times, the WHO has played a big role in combating the spread of the coronavirus and vaccine equity. They provide the public with crucial information such as advice for travelling or vaccines, reports, and thorough research about anything concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>8</sup> UNEP - UN Environment Programme, [www.unep.org/](http://www.unep.org/).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Environment – Finance Initiative – Partnership Between United Nations Environment and Global Financial Sector to Promote Sustainable Finance, [www.unepfi.org/](http://www.unepfi.org/).

## World Research Institute (WRI)<sup>10</sup>

The World Research Institute is an international organisation with expert staff on subjects such as research, policies, data analysis, political dynamics, economics, and many more. Their goal is to “develop practical solutions that improve people’s lives and ensure nature can thrive”. Most notably, the WRI has many programs which focus on seven significant concerns, which combine the environment and human development, namely cities, climate, energy, food, forests, the ocean, and water. With their thorough research, cooperation with important companies, and partnership with worldwide leaders and partners, their work is successful.

The WRI can contribute noteworthy aid with further research, expert insights, webinars, and many more in order to successfully assist policymakers and other leaders to rebuild our communities so that economies grow, jobs are created, climate change is kept under control and public health is improved.

## TIMELINE OF EVENT

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
November 2019	First known case and outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic are located in Wuhan, China.
11 March 2020	The World Health Organization (WHO) declares the coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic.
20 April 2020	Resolution (A/RES/74/274) is adopted by the General Assembly.
June 2020	First “United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives,

<sup>10</sup> World Resources Institute | Making Big Ideas Happen, 30 June 2022, [www.wri.org/](http://www.wri.org/).

	Protecting Societies, Recovering Better” <sup>11</sup> is launched.
September 2020	Second “United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better” <sup>12</sup> is launched.
11 September 2020	Resolutions (A/RES/74/306) and (A/RES/74/307) are adopted by the General Assembly.
2021	The 2021 update to the “United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better” <sup>13</sup> is launched.
3-4 February 2022	Event with the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” held by the UN ECOSOC Coordination Segment.

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

<sup>11</sup> "United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better." Welcome to the United Nations, June 2020, [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/07/un\\_comprehensive\\_response\\_to\\_covid-19\\_june\\_2020.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/07/un_comprehensive_response_to_covid-19_june_2020.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> "United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better." Welcome to the United Nations, Sept. 2020, [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/10/un-comprehensive-response-to-covid-19.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2020/10/un-comprehensive-response-to-covid-19.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> "United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better." Welcome to the United Nations, 2021, [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/12/un-comprehensive-response-covid-19-2021.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/12/un-comprehensive-response-covid-19-2021.pdf).

### **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/74/274)<sup>14</sup>**

This resolution, named “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, was adopted by the General Assembly on 20 April 2020, in the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. The role of the United Nations plays a big role in this resolution, noting how it is their fundamental role to promote and guarantee international access to any medical necessities and to coordinate the global response to prevent and manage the spread of the pandemic.

### **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/74/306)<sup>15</sup>**

Resolution (A/RES/74/306) of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly was titled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” and adopted on 11 September 2020. This resolution's main focus lies on international cooperation and commitment, protection of citizens, a more evolved restoration of our society, and a full recovery from any impact caused by the pandemic.

### **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/74/307)<sup>16</sup>**

The General Assembly adopted this resolution labelled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19” on 11 September 2020, in the seventy-fourth session of the GA. This shorter resolution has the same goals as the aforementioned, but focuses more on the importance of the international health threat that COVID-19 is, and therefore mentions issues such as the funding of specific organisations, and the lack of cooperation in public health systems, and better preparation for any future pandemics.

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<sup>14</sup> "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 April 2020; International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19." ODS, 20 Apr. 2020, [www.documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/101/42/PDF/N2010142.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/101/42/PDF/N2010142.pdf?OpenElement).

<sup>15</sup> "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 September 2020; Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic." ODS, 11 Sept. 2020, [www.documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/236/00/PDF/N2023600.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/236/00/PDF/N2023600.pdf?OpenElement).

<sup>16</sup> "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 September 2020; United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19." ODS, 11 Sept. 2020, [www.documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/236/13/PDF/N2023613.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/236/13/PDF/N2023613.pdf?OpenElement).

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>17</sup>

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 goals that are to be achieved by all nations in an international alliance. These goals include the complete termination of poverty, the improvement of health and education, the diminishing of gender inequality, and the stimulation of economic development. All 17 goals are to be reached all while tackling climate change and striving to protect and preserve our environment. The most significant goals associated with the topic of this study guide are the following:

### Goal 4<sup>18</sup>

The 4th goal of the SDGs is to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, which directly examines the issues which were presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and have led to a global learning crisis. With nearly 150 million children having missed over half of the in-person education between the years 2020 and 2021, rooted inequities in education have severely worsened during that period.

### Goal 5<sup>19</sup>

Goal 5 of the SDGs attempts to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. In order to fully achieve inclusive recovery one cannot forget gender equality in every sector of society. Many reports have shown that the COVID-19 pandemic had more intense and severe consequences on women, especially single mothers.

### Goal 10<sup>20</sup>

Goal 10’s focus lies on “Reducing inequality within and among countries”, which plays a big role in reaching an entirely inclusive recovery from the pandemic. For the first time in a generation inter-country income inequality has risen by 1,2%, after countries were faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 was a peak in total deaths of migrants in a

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<sup>17</sup> Home | Sustainable Development, [www.sdgs.un.org/](http://www.sdgs.un.org/).

<sup>18</sup> "Goal 4 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sustainable Development, [www.sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4](http://www.sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4).

<sup>19</sup> "Goal 5 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sustainable Development, [www.sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5](http://www.sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5).

<sup>20</sup> "Goal 10 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sustainable Development, [www.sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10](http://www.sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10).

year, reaching almost 6000 deaths, the deadliest year for migrants since the migrant crisis in 2016-2017.

### Goal 11<sup>21</sup>

Goal number 11 endeavours to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, in order for modern societies even after being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to bounce back and develop in an inclusive, safe and sustainable manner.

### United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Coordination Segment<sup>22</sup>

This inaugural event was held on the 3-4 of February 2022 with the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” brought together Member States in order to reflect on how policies can reverse the negative consequences of the pandemic and discuss action for a resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The main priorities of the Coordination Segment discussed at the event were noted as the following: “equitable global access to vaccines; basic universal health coverage; universal social protection; new food systems that reduce poverty and hunger; reversing deforestation, biodiversity loss and pollution; sustainable and inclusive growth paths; women’s empowerment; transparent and accountable institutions; an inclusive digital transformation; and a stronger focus on the most vulnerable”<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> "Goal 11 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sustainable Development, [www.sdg.un.org/goals/goal11](http://www.sdg.un.org/goals/goal11).

<sup>22</sup> "Building Back Better from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) While Advancing the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." UN Web TV, [www.media.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1i8ck66hv](http://www.media.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1i8ck66hv).

<sup>23</sup> "UN to Scale Up Efforts for Global Goals and a Resilient COVID-19 Recovery at Inaugural Event." United Nations Sustainable Development, 2 Feb. 2022, [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2022/02/un-to-scale-up-efforts-for-global-goals-and-a-resilient-covid-19-recovery-at-inaugural-event/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2022/02/un-to-scale-up-efforts-for-global-goals-and-a-resilient-covid-19-recovery-at-inaugural-event/).

## **UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery; Leveraging the Power of Science for a More Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Future<sup>24</sup>**

Composed in November of 2020, this Research Roadmap provides a detailed framework, which presents 25 research priorities, 5 priorities for each pillar of the UN's socio-economic recovery framework, and key scientific strategies. In order to put together an inclusive and sustainable recovery, this Research Roadmap makes use of the power of science. Moreover, this Roadmap emphasises the importance of socio-economic recovery, which can be accomplished in a sustainable, progressive, and inclusive method.

## **United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19; Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better<sup>25</sup>**

This document was launched by UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the update of its two similar predecessors from June 2020 and September 2020, sets four main goals, which are to “deliver a global response that leaves no-one behind, reduce our vulnerability to future pandemics, build resilience to future shocks - above all climate change, and overcome the severe and systemic inequalities exposed by the pandemic” and promotes three pillars of procedure, namely “delivery of a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response, adoption of policies that address the devastating socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crisis, and a recovery process that builds back better”.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **Aforementioned roadmap, responses, resolutions, and documents**

Documents mentioned in the above section have been a major factor in creating important developments toward an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Important research, policy briefs, legislation, and resolutions were discussed thoroughly, adopted, and implemented by the Member States in order to ensure a complete, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic. Having played significant roles throughout the

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<sup>24</sup> "UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery; Leveraging the Power of Science for a More Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Future." un.org, [www.un.org/en/pdfs/UNCOVID19ResearchRoadmap.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/pdfs/UNCOVID19ResearchRoadmap.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> "United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better." Welcome to the United Nations, 2021, [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/12/un-comprehensive-response-covid-19-2021.pdf](http://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/12/un-comprehensive-response-covid-19-2021.pdf).

pandemic, meaning from 2020 until 2022, it is of utmost importance to see these documents as successful previous and future solutions. These documents have been explicitly created in order for all Member States, without exclusion, to make use of the given information and implement necessary solutions in sustainable and inclusive means. Therefore, international cooperation plays a significant role in achieving the wanted goal, which is to develop and promote an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

In the following part of the guide, you will be presented with a number of potential solutions for the matter at hand. You are encouraged to research these, elaborate upon them in a matter that agrees with your country's or organisation's policies, and turn that into a resolution.

### **Focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

There is a considerable amount of significance that lies on the sustainability of creating and promoting a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is true, not only due to the importance of the SDGs alone, but also because of building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. Already existing Sustainable Development Goals, such as the ones mentioned in the section "Relevant UN Resolutions, Treaties and Events", tackle issues which were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, thus also providing solutions for pre-existing issues, which were worsened or made more noticeable by the pandemic. Focusing on effectively implementing said SDGs does not only ensure successfully achieving the goals, but also guarantees a sustainable recovery for all.

### **Prevention of future pandemics**

In order to be able to prepare for any future pandemics and be fully prepared for the consequences that they will carry, a prevention system must be put together. With the aid of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Member States will have to come to an international legal agreement and work cooperatively in order to create conventions, framework agreements, and treaties. The main focus of these must lie in building resilience to pandemics, subsidising prevention, detection, and responses to epidemics with the potential of evolving into a pandemic, and guaranteeing equal access to measures against pandemics, such as vaccines, medicine, and personal protective equipment (PPE). To successfully create such a prevention

system, lessons that were learned during the COVID-19 pandemic must now be tackled differently, more effectively, and used in order to build back better for any future reference.

### Research and studies

This solution ties in with the solution mentioned above. Further and more thorough research and studies must be made in order to have more conclusive, comprehensive, and detailed information and statistics on how to tackle pandemics. In order to achieve this, Member States can cooperate with bodies, such as the World Research Institute (WRI), in order to collect the needed information to complete and publish studies. It is also important to note the significance of public access to these studies, in order to achieve a truly inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional and relevant Non-Governmental Organisations with specialised analysts would be most beneficial in this case.

### Supporting the labour market

As the labour market is a sector which after two years is still massively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of utmost importance to create international inclusive and sustainable policies on building back the labour market and all of the consequences it faced economically. The loss of jobs must encourage employers to hire employees, who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. In order for our economy to avoid consequential economic outcomes, such as mass bankruptcies and layoffs, commitment is needed so that any short-term costs, which may be high, are fulfilled regardless. Nevertheless, in order to decrease short-term costs a priority must be set on supporting the most vulnerable sectors and most aggressively affected.

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