

Building a Stronger UN for a Better World
The Secretary-General's Vision



"The challenges ahead are daunting. But the United Nations has proven, at various stages of its history, that it is capable of remaking itself to rise to new challenges. 2008 should be a watershed year for putting the UN on a new track by delivering results for people most in need, securing global goods, and strengthening the Organization through full accountability."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Dae-jung". The signature is written in a light blue or grey color, matching the background. It features a prominent, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

The Secretary-General seeks to achieve three principal objectives throughout his tenure.

He sees an Organization where:

First, we must deliver results for people most in need;

Second, we must secure global goods; and

Third, we must create a stronger UN through full accountability.



The UN has a long and proud history of establishing norms, principles, and providing the framework for international relations. It can and must continue to do so. But we have entered an era where the world is also increasingly turning to the UN to deliver a wide range of services in every corner of the globe.

At this point in history, the biggest challenge of the UN is to deliver concrete results for people most in need, by setting clear priorities and mobilizing financial, human and political resources.



Delivering results for a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world.

- The world is facing a development emergency. Almost one billion people live in poverty and go hungry every day.
- We must catalyze a renewed effort globally to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with particular attention to Africa.
 - » From the MDG High-level Event in September 2008 forward, we must find ways to re-energize implementation efforts and strengthen a truly global partnership for development.

Delivering results for a more secure world.

- The strengthening of DPKO and the creation of the Department for Field Support (DFS) mean that the UN is better equipped to respond to conflicts, but success also depends on political support and contributions by Member States.
- We have to strengthen our overall capacity for preventive diplomacy, and establish a more integrated and effective UN approach in supporting sustainable peace processes.
- Making the UN the hub of global Peacebuilding is a multi-year project. We must ensure that the UN can help countries avoid conflict relapses.

Delivering results for a more just world.

- 2008 marks the 60th anniversaries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention. We must continue to:
 - » Urgently bring human rights to all people of the world
 - » Integrate human rights in our work, with an enhanced field presence
 - » Ensure the Human Rights Council lives up to the high expectations of the international community
 - » Take concrete steps on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
 - » Promote the Rule of law

Delivering results for the most vulnerable people affected by conflicts and natural disasters around the world.

- Delivering relief more effectively, predictably and in an accountable manner is essential.
- Humanitarian response must be further improved working together with our partners outside the UN.
- We must reinforce our ability to assess needs, prioritize among them, and help raise the resources necessary to respond.
- We must ensure a fully responsive and resourced Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).





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Delivering as one at country, regional and global level.

- Delivering as one in every area of our work is essential to realize the UN's full potential. The more coherent the UN system is, the more results it can and will deliver.
- General Assembly action on system-wide coherence is required, including on a new gender architecture.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to lead the effort to address global threats that endanger every person everywhere in the world.

These challenges affect all Member States and their peoples, are contagious in nature, and cannot be solved without action by all.

As the only universal organization with a comprehensive mandate, the UN has a strong comparative advantage to catalyze collective action by all countries and build new multi-stakeholder alliances. No other forum provides the mechanisms to legitimately address these issues on a global scale as effectively.

Our message is clear: all countries will rise or fall together depending on the effectiveness of our common response.



More than any other challenge, climate change requires all of us to work together with a shared sense of urgency.

- We must push hard to conclude negotiations on a new comprehensive agreement in 2009, as the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Bali agreed in December 2007.
- The UN will:
 - » Help facilitate a successful negotiation among parties
 - » Help achieve progress on implementation of existing mandates and preparing for enhanced future implementation needs
 - » Spearhead a revolution in global consciousness and climate friendly behaviour
- The relationship between climate change and development is critical and must be factored into action in both arenas.

Global health is one of the greatest challenges of our time, but one we can address.

- The UN is playing a central role in addressing the threat of pandemics.
- Reducing maternal and child mortality, combating AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and diseases of the world's poor are prerequisite to achieve most of the MDGs.
- Building functioning and affordable health systems, including by addressing the crisis of the health workforce, is central to progress.
- We must work to ensure coherence of action among the UN system, national governments, the private sector and civil society.

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and is a threat to every nation and all people.

- The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in 2006, has to be implemented in full and without delay.
- Member States must work to implement the Strategy nationally, bilaterally and multi-laterally, including through their regional organizations.
- Collective action can be even stronger through ultimate agreement on a comprehensive convention against terrorism.

We must re-invigorate our collective response to disarmament and non-proliferation. This means:

- Addressing long-standing deadlocks in nuclear disarmament and strengthening of non-proliferation.
- Stepping up efforts to combat the scourge of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
- Following up on the 2005 decision of world leaders to promote biotechnology benefits to developing countries while mitigating the risks of misuse.



Accountability must be looked at as a fundamental organizing principle and operational guideline for the United Nations and its Member States. An organization in which all players are held accountable for upholding their responsibilities will be a significantly stronger one.

Accountability goes beyond answering to those who have delegated authority to us; it also means taking into account the interests of those affected by our actions, especially the poor and most vulnerable.

To achieve full accountability within the Secretariat requires:

- A modern, transparent, and result-driven Organization which integrates performance, integrity and compliance mechanisms.
- A highly professional, mobile and multi-tasking workforce.
- Greater career and growth opportunities.
- Better responsiveness and support to field colleagues.
- An effective system for the administration of justice.
- Better information and communication technologies.

To strengthen the Secretariat's accountability to Member States, we must:

- Work and deliver as one to meet our mandates.
- Hold ourselves accountable for our behaviour and results, including through evaluation and following up on lessons learned.
- Follow through on all aspects of our ethics programme, efforts to strengthen risk management, and the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

We need Member States to be accountable to the Organization and to each other through:

- Renewed and sustained Member State support – both political and financial – commensurate with the mandates the UN has been given.
- Enhanced responsibility for ensuring the safety of UN premises and UN personnel worldwide.
- Carrying out and consolidating the range of institutional reforms at the intergovernmental level – serious efforts are needed on the Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, and on consolidating changes to the ECOSOC.
- Advancing the discussion on Security Council reform.
- Following up on outcomes of UN conferences and summits, as well as resolutions of intergovernmental bodies.



Accountability to the general public by both the Secretariat and Member States must be improved through:

- Greater transparency and openness in decision-making.
- Involving civil society in the work of the Organization as partners and watchdogs.

A strong commitment to transparency is key to enhancing accountability at all levels and in its various forms.

- The Organization welcomes the scrutiny of its Member States and staff, as well as NGOs, the media and the general public.

