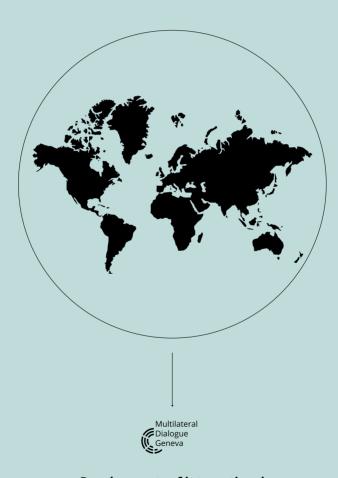
# Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2019/2020





Developments of international Geneva in maps

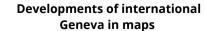
<b>®</b>	8	Global Health	The Corona pandemic has brought Geneva to the fore as the world's central location for global health – and not least as the headquarters of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Chapter 1 will provide you with an overview of a few important initiatives taken by the WHO in the fight against the pandemic.
<b>(II)</b>	16	Humanitarian Aid	Geneva is considered the capital of humanitarian aid. Even prior to the Corona pandemic, 2020 was predicted to be the year of the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. What steps have been taken by the UN organisations in order to mitigate the humanitarian impact of the COVID-19 outbreak? Learn more about this in Chapter 2.
Q	22	Global Trade	The World Trade Organisation (WTO) deals with the regulation of trade and economic relations, the elimination of barriers to trade and conflict resolution. Since December 2019 it has been in the grip of a serious crisis, while also playing an important role in fighting the Corona pandemic. More in Chapter 3.
S-	34	Digitalisation	Chapter 4 describes the complex ecosystem underpinning multilateral and non-state organisations that deal with digital matters in Geneva. What's more, emphasis will be placed on the most important topics in connection with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the global digital divide and investments in digital technologies.
ΔĪŽ	42	Human Rights	The promotion and protection of human rights is one of the main objectives of the United Nations. Geneva plays a critical role here as the seat for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council. Key developments and decisions from recent years can be found in Chapter 5.
<u>(A)</u>	70	Flight and Migration	With the seat of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), flight and migration constitute one of the main issues in international Geneva. Chapter 6 provides insights into important trends and developments in flight, while also highlighting the most important donors in a global comparison.
<b>2</b> %	86	Alliance for Multilateralism	In light of an increasingly conflict-ridden global political climate, repeated efforts have been made by individual country coalitions to support rules-based global cooperation over recent years. Such an initiative is the Alliance for Multilateralism, more about this in Chapter 7.

# Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2019/2020



Olaf Wientzek Sarah Ultes







#### **Foreword**

Underestimated importance of Geneva

Key developments Geneva and the over 45 international organisations located here do not always receive the attention they deserve. Many current developments in international politics and multilateralism are reflected in «international Geneva», with future global trends often being foreseen here at an early stage.

The «Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2019/2020» aims to illustrate some of these trends in the areas of global health, human rights, trade, digitalisation, humanitarian aid as well as flight and migration using maps, with each one referring to the work of Geneva-based organisations, and thus to contribute towards clarifying often complex issues. For instance, there will be a portrayal of voting behaviour among member states, their willingness to provide political or financial support to multilateral committees or initiatives, but also key findings from reports presented in Geneva-based organisations. Some maps, in turn, illustrate the key findings of detailed reports from Geneva-based organisations which merit greater attention.

Due in no small part to the myriad of organisations located in Geneva, this type of study can only highlight the situation to a limited extent. Not to mention the fact that it is impossible to cover the entire spectrum of developments in Geneva-based committees. The selection of processes and organisations presented here is certainly debatable. Having said that, we hope that the «Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2019/2020» can help make some important trends in multilateral cooperation more visible.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

Dr Olaf Wientzek, Director and Sarah Ultes, Research Associate Multilateral Dialogue Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Geneva When attempting to portray a few general developments in the multilateral order and particularly the work of Geneva-based organisations over the past 2 years, four broad trends can be identified:

- 1. An increasing (geo)politicisation of multilateral organisations in Geneva, not least due to the growing rivalry between China and the US. Some of the Genevan committees have increasingly become a stage for growing geopolitical tensions. One example was the repeated mistrust voiced by the US Administration towards the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as their blocking of the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement function. However, the fact remains that even under the Trump Administration, the US continued to be a key player in many Geneva-based organisations despite their withdrawal from some forums and their blocking of others (see for example the financial support for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)).
- 2. The doubt sometimes cast by the Trump Administration on multilateral forums has been accompanied by increasingly brash behaviour on the part of authoritarian states, especially China. This is reflected in the greater financial and personnel commitment in many – albeit not all – Geneva-based organisations. That growing self-confidence is also becoming more obvious in the area of human rights. Here, authoritarian states have made repeated attempts to not only stifle undesirable resolutions, but also to actively change the human rights narrative for their own ends.
- 3. Across the board, multilateral organisations have been hijacked by the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications. Some observers refer to a polypandemic, and quite rightly emphasise that the pandemic has more openly exposed fundamental weaknesses in many policy areas: whether that be weaknesses inherent in national health systems, deficits in

- human rights or social protection. If nothing else, the pandemic-induced transfer of communication and trade to the virtual world has once again more clearly revealed a «digital divide» between different countries.
- 4. In spite of many worrying developments and the oftenobserved trends towards protectionism and national navelgazing during the pandemic, the past 2 years have also borne witness to rays of hope. For example, groups of member states in various organisations have launched initiatives to resolve blockings or to create bridging mechanisms. The «Alliance for Multilateralism» as launched by France and Germany in 2019, can also be seen as an attempt to provide fresh impetus for multilateral cooperation in various policy areas. Equally encouraging is that there are evidently still countries not only advocating a rules-based, but also a values-based multilateralism, and denouncing human rights violations - be it through resolutions in the Human Rights Council or through public statements. Finally, this Atlas also illustrates a few examples of global solidarity, whether it be in the humanitarian sphere, or through broad support for the COVAX facility, whose aim is to enable global access to vaccines against COVID-19 as of 2021. Yet, both these initiatives, too, show that willingness to raise political and financial capital for multilateral solutions and global goods was unequally distributed throughout the community of states, and limited on the whole.

Rays of hope

The extent to which a Biden Administration sympathetic towards international Geneva will lead to a sustained reversal of trends that have been emerging for many years, remains to be seen. If we turn our gaze towards the next few years, besides existing challenges surrounding the medium- to longterm repercussions of the pandemic, digital policy issues will also continue to gain in importance across all Geneva-based organisations.

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#### **Global Health**



WHO as a platform for dialogue

With political actors such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva represents the unofficial «capital» of global health. It was precisely the WHO that became a particular focus of public attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. Significant shifts in its programme priorities between 2019 and 2020 illustrate the major impact that the pandemic has had on the WHO's programme of work.

One of its plethora of roles in combating the pandemic is as a platform for its member states: representatives of all members states meet once a year as part of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the supreme body of the WHO. Here, political goals and strategies are formulated, which are then implemented by the Secretariat, the WHO headquarters. During the virtual WHA held in 2020, priority was given to developments and measures for fighting COVID-19. This saw 139 countries supporting a ground-breaking resolution, one which highlights the WHO's leadership role in the crisis and identifies vaccines and treatments as global public goods (map 10). Emphasis is placed on the need for an inclusive, cross-sector cooperation between state and private actors, to prevent anyone from being left behind, as well as sharing knowledge gained about COVID-19. Hence, this resolution initiated by the EU primarily sends an important political signal towards global solidarity. In the end, the US distanced themselves from the resolution because its wording regarding sexual and reproductive rights, and the global development of vaccines was too far-reaching. They did not block its adoption, however.

Besides its numerous other functions, the WHO's role as coordinator was also crucial during the pandemic. One example was its leadership role in the ACT Accelerator. This initiative creates a framework of cross-sector cooperation for governments, health organisations, scientists, and companies, with the aim of accelerating the worldwide development and disWHO as coordinator

COVAX Facility

Multilateral hope

tribution of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests, to bring about an end to the acute phase of the pandemic by late 2021. It was launched in April 2020 by the WHO with the support of the European Commission, among others.

One of the three pillars of the ACT Accelerator is the COVAX Facility, in place since June 2020, whose participating countries are presented in map 12. COVAX is jointly run by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the WHO, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). The objective is to organise the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines on a global scale, so as to vaccinate as many people as possible worldwide. 2 billion doses are thus to be distributed by the close of 2021. That would mean that at least 20% of populations across all countries can be vaccinated including those working in the health sector and risk groups, in particular, 188 countries are participating in total: lower-income states which benefit from funding, and high-income ones that finance themselves, but also benefit from guaranteed access. It is worth noting that the US and Russia were the only G20 members (as of December 2020) not to participate until early 2021. Having said that, joining the COVAX Initiative is still possible at a later point in time. On 14 January, the US announced its return to the WHO and also its participation in the COVAX Initiative. The participation of the US is highly significant for financing this key instrument for global solidarity. The vacuum left behind by the US in the WHO in 2020 had to be both politically and financially offset by other actors. Above all, Germany and the EU attempted to fill the gap left here.

Despite all those nations which go it alone as observed during the crisis, both maps show at least two rays of hope for the global community's willingness for solidarity and multilateral solutions.

### WHA Resolution 2020 for the Fight Against COVID-19 SUPPORTERS

In May 2020, the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted a resolution on the fight against COVID-19. Introduced under the leadership of the EU and supported by 139 member states, it was adopted without a vote. It calls for fair access to vaccines and the fight against misinformation.



#### **COVAX Facility**

#### **PARTICIPATING STATES**

**Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).** කු 12 **Global Health** 7 higher-income states that intend to participate Germany (including EU countries) joined the COAX facility partcipating via the EU and is part of states **G20** the Team Europe. Russia is the only member of the G20 that has not participated as yet. Turkey and South Africa intend to participate, while India and Indonesia, also G20 members, are to receive vaccines via the COVAX facility. 89 higher-income states that have concluded an agreement The US participates in the COVAX Initiative and is joining the WHO again. These changes were made possible with the inauguration of Joe Biden as President of the United States on 14/01/2021. St. Kitts & Nevis access to vaccines 92 low-income states to which the COVAX Facility provides access to v 8 additional economies also participated who are not **UN Member States (including** Taiwan). COVAX stands for COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access and aims to ensure equal and fair access to COVID-19 vaccines around the world. as of 14 January 2021

The COVAX Facility aims to speed up the development and production of COVID-19 vaccines and ensure fair access around the world. It is open to participation of further states. COVAX is led

by the WHO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for

WHO WHO 10 biggest contributors (organisations and countries) 5 most important programmes 3.1% 3% European Programme Various Polio eradication: 26.5% Commission budget 2018 - 2019 3.2% Increase access to essential health **World Bank** and nutrition services: 12.1% 3.6% Vaccine-Preventable Rotary 15.2% Diseases: 8.9% international US Establish effective coordination 4.8% 65% and cooperation support: 6.1% OCHA of the WHO budget Prevent and control is funded by the 10.8% following contributors. outbreaks: 6% Bill and Melinda **Gates Foundation** 5.5% Germany Acute health emergencies: 45.9% 2021 Improved access to quality 7.9% essential health services: 13.6% 8.1% Gavi. the United Polio eradication: 13.5% Vaccine Alliance Kingdom **Epidemics and pandemics** prevention: 4.4% Programme budget Proven prevention strategies for priority 2020 - 2021 pandemic-/epidemic-prone diseases: 3.5% 2.5% 2.4% OCHA Various 2.8% 11.8% **World Bank** Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance **Record level of pledges** Bill and Melinda 3% **Gates Foundation** Pledged contributions for 2021 - 2025 in contributions that will help COVID-19 vaccinate further 300 children in **Solidarity Funds** the poorest countries worldwide against diseases such as measles, 15% 6.3% polio, and diphtheria by the end Foundations. 61.3% of 2025. Gavi. the organisations and of the WHO budget Vaccine Alliance 11.8% companies is funded by the Germany (1.8 billion USD) following contributors. 6.7% United Kingdom 85% of which: 14% Total **Donor governments Bill and Melinda Gates** 6.8% 12.2 billion and the European Foundation (1.7 billion USD) European 7.3% Commission (10.4 USD Commission billion USD) US

#### **Humanitarian Aid**



Geneva, world capital of humanitarian aid

> General Jevelonmen

International Geneva is of great importance especially in the area of humanitarian aid. Several international as well as non-governmental organisations have their headquarters here, most notably the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), or the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In 2019, the city celebrated its 70th anniversary of signing the Geneva Conventions, which, with their additional protocols, continue to remain a milestone in international humanitarian law. They are intended to guarantee the protection of civilians and civilian institutions in armed conflicts but are themselves increasingly coming under fire.

Owing to the increase in scope and duration of humanitarian crises, complex conflicts and natural catastrophes, global humanitarian needs have dramatically increased in recent years. Even prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was predicted to be the year of the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. With the pandemic having also hit many regions that were already in an extremely precarious situation, in March 2020, several UN organisations combined forces and presented the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for combating COVID-19 in the most vulnerable low- and middle-income countries (map 18).

In a matter of months, financial needs had to be increased from 2 billion to 6.7 billion USD and finally to 9.5 billion USD. A further nine countries joined, bringing the plan to a total of 63 countries. Extreme poverty is now on the rise again for the first time since 1990 mainly due to measures for containing the virus. Within only a few months, we observed the sharpest decline in per capita income since 1870. What's more, acute food insecurity has almost doubled within the space of one year. The number of children under 5 years of age with severe malnourishment alone is estimated to increase by 15 to 25%. Women were hit particularly hard: around 70% are employed in the informal sector and have hardly any access to social secu-

From COVID-19 to polypandemic

rity. Depending on the country, a dramatic increase in genderbased violence by 60 to 70% has also been recorded. A number of organisations are thus warning against «hunger pandemics», social unrest, conflicts, and a rise in a variety of illnesses. In short, development gains achieved over several decades are soon likely to be at stake. That is why the situation urgently needs to be considered at the security policy level, according to the heads of several authorities. The latter pointed towards an exponential increase in costs if repercussions emanating from the pandemic were not mitigated soon. Yet only around 40% of the required funds had arrived by December 2020. The Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 has been transferred to the OCHA's Global Humanitarian Overview 2021. This revealed a new record high: within only one year, the number of those in need rose by 40% to a total of 235 million. The situation in Yemen is proving to be particularly dramatic, where 24.3 million people and thus approx. 80% of the population depends on life-saving aid. But the situation in Ethiopia, the DR Congo, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Syria also continues to be tense.

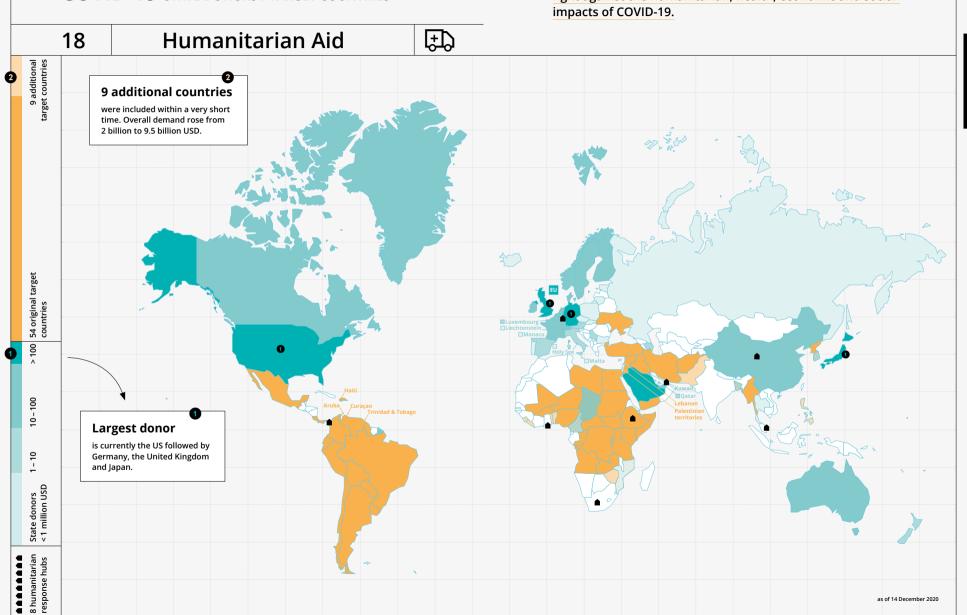
For that reason, UN Secretary-General Guterres called for a global «humanitarian ceasefire» already at the outset of the pandemic. Besides the conflicting parties themselves, he appealed above all to influential external actors to substantiate his call with robust diplomatic efforts and to validate it in this way. However, many parties failed to heed his call for many months. Even though 180 states, regional partners, non-state, and religious actors had endorsed it by mid-2020, fighting actually intensified in many conflict regions.

The international community has thus far failed to provide a decisive response to the worst humanitarian crisis in half a century.

Humanitarian ceasefire

### Global Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19 STATE DONORS / TARGET COUNTRIES

In March 2020, various UN organisations launched a Global Humanitarian Response Plan that supports 63 countries in the fight against the humanitarian, health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19.



#### Global Humanitarian 10 of the largest state donors Response Plan COVID-19 64.7% > 100 million USD as of: 12.2020 State Contributors donors US 24.5% US DF 11.5% 424 904 240 is with 904 million 15.7% GB 6.5% USD currently the JP 5.2% 194 Intergovernmental 89 largest donor. DK 2.4% organisations Received CA 1.7% donations SA 1.7% 63 3.6% 3.7 billion AE 1.5% 54 Private orgs KW 1.1% 39 3.7 billion USD Foundations USD CH 1.0% 38 million USD Donations received 2.4% **UN-organisations** 39% 12.4% 1.2% Additional NGOs 11 trillion USD ◀ Overall demand are estimated to constitute the 9.5 billion domestic stimulus packages for 90 billion USD USD COVID-19 of the G20 and the OECD **Grant recipients** 10% 76% countries combined. in other words, 0.8% would suffice **UN-organisations** to protect 10% of the world's poorest people from the worst impacts of 0.4% 5.8 billion USD the virus. Red Cross / Red Crescent not covered Movement 61% Global Humanitarian 0.3% Distributed Ceasefire Private organisations 30 March funds **Foundations** 29 March support from 3.7 billion Support from 53 UN member states Pope Francis including 24 European 0.03% USD 20.8% 2020 Governments NGOs 11 March 23 March 0.02% WHO characterized urgent appeal by UN 2.3% COVID-19 as Secretary-General for an Intergovernmental Further organisations a pandemic immediate global ceasefire 111 Days 1 lulv Resolution of UN Security Council 2532 (2020) **Since 1990** Only 111 days after the WHO 2 July first increase in global poverty and decline characterized COVID-19 as a 180 UN member states in global human development. pandemic, and only 3 months support the appeal, and 20 after the appeal made by the armed groups and over 800 UN Secretary-General. civil society organisations approx. 40% 2021 of the world's Women 58'000 population 22 September People By late 2020, are hit particularly hard, around 70% **UN Secretary-General** Since the adoption of 16 unilateral, are employed in the informal sector, has no opportunity to Guterres repeated call Resolution 2532, 58,000 6 bi/multilateral with hardly any access to social wash their hands with for a global ceasefire people had been killed in ceasefires and security or safety nets. soap and water at home. conflict regions by late 2020. 20 updates

#### **Global Trade**



Blocked dispute resolution

Provisional Appellate Bod 2019 and 2020 were difficult years for the World Trade Organisation (WTO), but they did also provide some rays of hope. Since December 2019, the WTO's dispute resolution function one of its founding pillars - has been undermined, with the US having blocked the appointment of new members to the Appellate Body for many years. Washington was increasingly dissatisfied with some of the body's decisions, as well as with how it exercised its mandate. The blocking also serves the US as a lever for reinforcing their calls to drastically reform the WTO. Many WTO rules are considered obsolete and, for example, inadequate for finding a response to China's state-capitalist practices. Even for those member states (all members can be found in map 24) who share the criticism of the US, blocking the Appellate Body was a step too far. The reason for this is that the WTO's two-tiered dispute resolution system is considered a key instrument in preventing the escalation of trade conflicts. Accordingly, in 2019, like-minded WTO members (such as the EU and Norway) considered creating a provisional interim solution.

Contrary to many sceptical predictions, the EU and 18 additional WTO members successfully agreed upon an interim appeal arbitration procedure on 30 April 2020. Participating states (map 26) also include those that are often involved in trade disputes. This solution represents more than just diplomatic symbolism, even though the baptism of fire when dealing with specific dispute cases will not occur until 2021. Having said that, the absence of the US shows that it can only be a temporary measure. Comprehensive rounds of negotiation at the WTO are currently unrealistic, and even discussions on sectoral agreements (e.g. fishing subsidies) have proven to be extremely difficult in 2020.

Negotiations

COVID-19 pandemic

Challenges

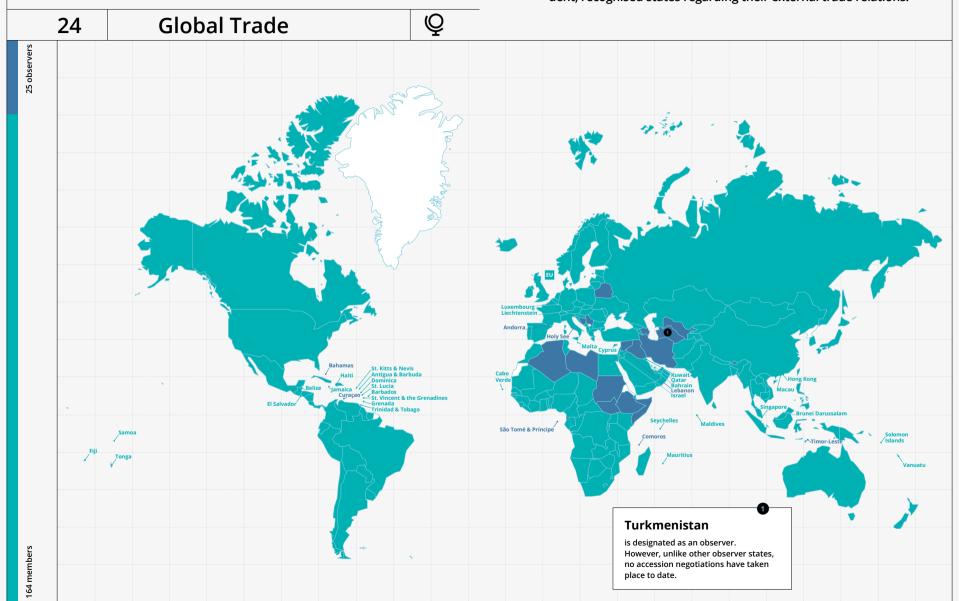
At the same time, the WTO serves as a platform for its members to move forward in certain areas being part of different «coalitions of the willing». One example is the «joint statement» on e-commerce, to which 86 countries (as of: November 2020) have now signed up (map 28). The goal is to agree on common rules for this area of increasing importance. It is worth noting that the US and the EU as well as China are on board with this initiative. The biggest sceptics constitute India and South Africa as well as most African countries. However, a few countries on the African continent have recently joined the initiative, too. Discussions on common rules in this pioneering field have slowly limped along, but have advanced a bit more quickly in 2021.

The WTO also played a crucial role during the COVID- 19 pandemic, such as by detecting what are often hidden protectionist measures on the part of its member states. Simultaneously, it also served as a central platform for members' initiatives to counter the spiral of protectionism that threatened, especially at the pandemic's outset. One such initiative was the announcement of a group of countries to not unduly thwart food supply chains through protectionist measures (map 30).

Since May 2020, the WTO has been hijacked by a discussion on who will succeed the resigned Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo. There was still no solution at the close of the year since the Trump Administration had refused to support the Nigerian female candidate Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Finally, in February 2021, the Biden Administration paved the way for the first woman and first WTO Director-General from the African continent. She is now confronted with a number of challenges. Whether the new leadership will also give rise to a new dynamic in the WTO, will become apparent, among other things, at the WTO's Twelfth Ministerial Conference scheduled for December 2021.

### World Trade Organisation MEMBERS

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva sets rules for global trade. It has 164 members and 25 observers, who also wish to become members. Members do not necessarily have to be independent, recognised states regarding their external trade relations.



# Interim solution for WTO dispute resolution Participating STATES

In April 2020, 19 WTO members (including the EU) agreed to a multi-party interim appeal arrangement (MPIA). It is founded on existing WTO rules, and is only intended to apply until the Appellate Body is operational again. This step has already been announced in January.



### Initiative on E-Commerce wto MEMBERS

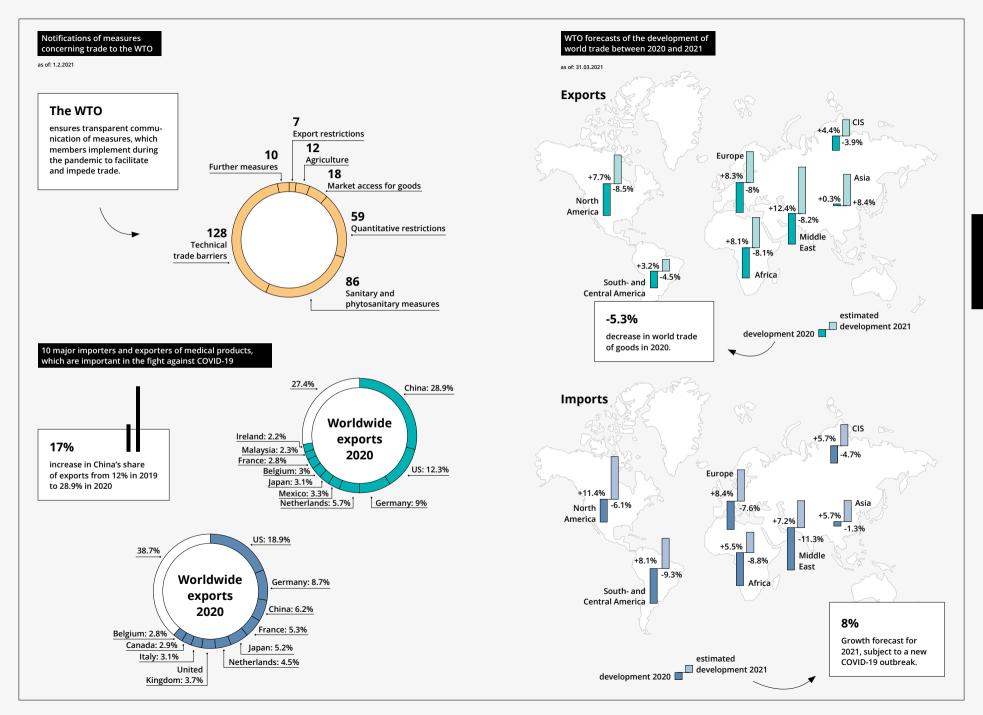
In 2020, 76 WTO members declared their willingness to strengthen e-commerce, which is increasing worldwide. Since then, 10 further countries have joined the initiative. Despite the growing importance of e-commerce, there have not yet been any specific WTO rules in this area.



# Preservation of open and predictable food supply chains SUPPORTERS

At the initiative of Canada, in April 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis, 1/3 of WTO members signed an agreement to waive export restrictions on food products.





The importance of Geneva as a central location for discussions on the digital policy is often overlooked. However, the topic is present on the agenda of all organisations based here.

The development of common rules for e-commerce, which is reflected in the WTO plurilateral initiative supported by 86 countries, represents a project of major importance to economic and trade policy (map 28).

Geneva is also home to several UN organisations, where technical and political aspects of digital technologies are discussed. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has three main areas of responsibility: managing the global radio spectrum, connecting the global population to communication networks, and developing ICT standards. The highly active presence of actors from China in the ITU, both in the management, as the organisation is led by Houlin Zhao since 2015, as well as in the technical working groups, is worth noting. Recently, stakeholders from China have been leading a campaign to develop standards for new digital technologies (for example on facial recognition or internet protocols, the so-called «new IP»), which could have an important impact not only on European companies, but also on broader human rights.

Germany is one of 48 countries represented on the ITU governing body – the ITU Council (map 36), and one of the largest donors for the ITU budget after Japan and the US. EU Member States finance approx. 27% of ITU's budget.

Another key player in international Geneva is the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), which discusses the relationship between international intellectual property protection and digital technologies (especially artificial intelligence). From the perspective of the World Health Organisation (WHO), possibilities for digitalisation in the health sector could play a critical role on the way to achieving Goal 3 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (ensuring a healthy life for all people of all ages). Digitalisation also has an important impact on the future of work, which falls within the mandate of in the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Moreover, a network of non-governmental organisations with a focus on digital issues is progressively developing in international Geneva, such as Geneva Internet Platform, ICANN, or the Internet Society.

The private sector, is less represented (except for US corporations such as Microsoft or Facebook). Still, experts from the private sector regularly participate in working groups of standardisation organisations located in Geneva such as the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Worth noting is the fact that Facebook has chosen Geneva as the headquarters of its project for developing global digital payment system. The Libra Association was founded in Geneva in 2019 and has now been renamed as the Diem Association.

The importance of modern digital infrastructure becomes especially visible during the pandemic. However, ITU data demonstrates, that there continues to be a major digital divide across the world (see dashboard 40/41). This is interesting to compare with the Global Innovation Index published by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) together with INSEAD and Cornell, which shows the level of investments in innovative technologies worldwide (map 38).

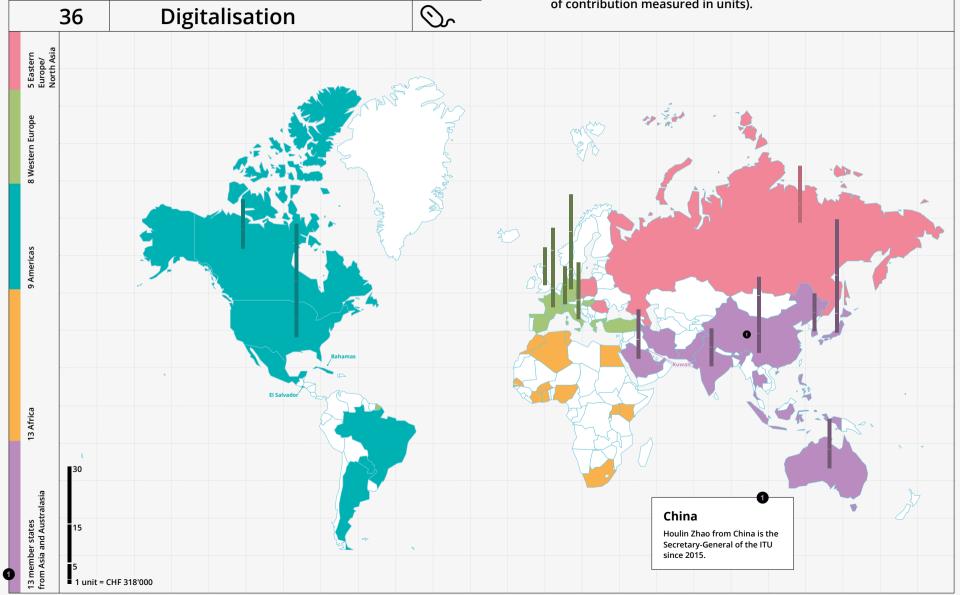
Non-governmental organisations and private sector

Digital divide

#### ITU Council from 2019 to 2022

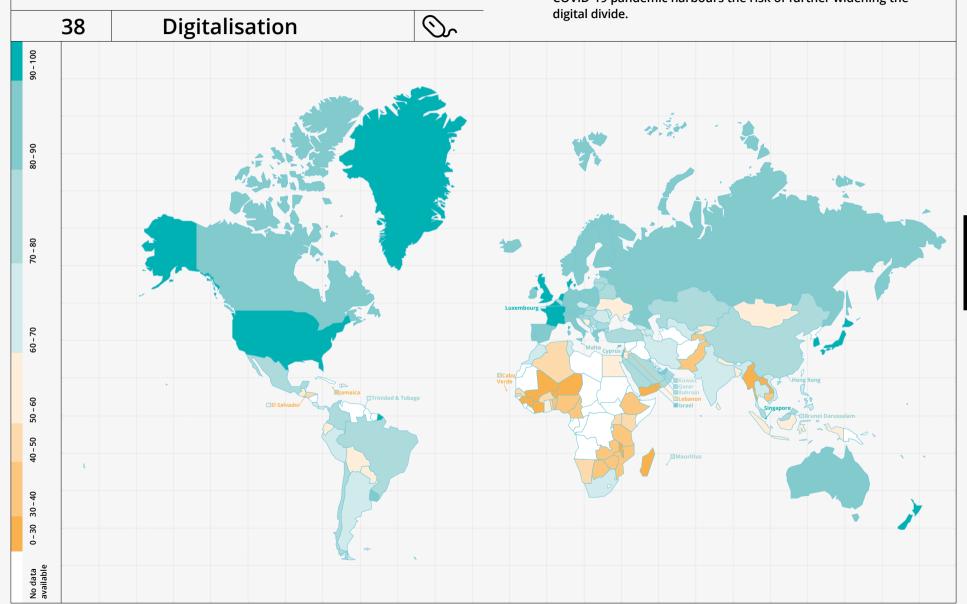
COMPOSITION

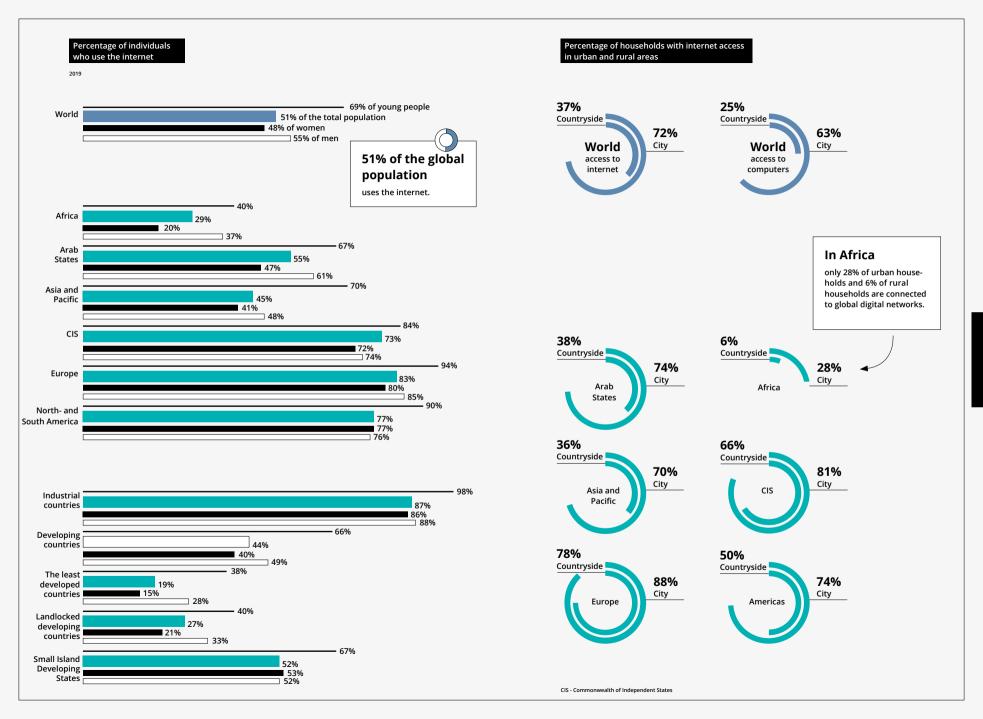
The Council is the governing body of the ITU. It is composed of 48 member states, who are elected every 4 years at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. The 14 largest financial contributors to the ITU budget are also indicated on the map (the bars show the level of contribution measured in units).



### Global Innovation Index. Who will finance innovation?

The Global Innovation Index illustrates the level of investment in innovative technologies in various states and assigns a value from 0 to 100 (lowest to highest possible level of investment). The COVID-19 pandemic harbours the risk of further widening the digital divide.





Geneva is one of the most important locations worldwide in the area of human rights. In addition to the headquarters of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Human Rights Council as an intergovernmental body is the main focus of attention.

Its 47 members are directly elected by the UN General Assembly for a period of 3 years with the objective of ensuring the worldwide protection, promotion, and advancement of human rights. The regional principle underpinning the UN is decisive for its composition. The Council consists of 13 states from Africa and Asia Pacific in each case, 8 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 6 from Eastern Europe and 7 from Western Europe and other states. The regional groups are crucial when it comes to nominating their candidates, but often do not allow for a selection. Accordingly, states with a dubious human rights record are also members of the Council. What has been the composition of the Human Rights Council in 2020 and 2021? Which states were able to win a seat, and which were denied the necessary majority (maps 44 and 46)? With the return of the US to the Human Rights Council, in 2021, all permanent members of the UN Security Council will be represented again for the first time after a long absence. For October 2021, the US also announced their decision to run for full membership in the Council again.

The withdrawal of the US in 2018 had left a vacuum in recent years, making the Human Rights Council the setting for a tug of war over the future direction of international human rights law. Autocratic states in particular have thrown their weight around far more often than was the case even a few years ago. This is reflected, among other things, in China's persistent attempts to reinterpret human rights and undermine existing standards, for instance through the successful introduction of resolutions on «mutually beneficial cooperation» in the fields of human rights (maps 56 and 58). A look at the voting behaviour on contentious resolutions in the Human

Rights Council in 2019, in which China and the EU states usually voted differently, shows which countries were more in line with the Western understanding or that of Beijing (maps 48 and 50). A comparison of the voting behaviour of Council members with that of Germany, which was elected to the body for 2020 until 2022, paints a similar picture (maps 52 and 54).

An exemplary selection of individual votes enables an even clearer view: which countries voted against the appointment or extension of independent commissions for examining human rights violations in Yemen and Venezuela (maps 60 and 62)? Which levelled criticism against the human rights situation in Belarus in the context of the presidential election 2020 (map 64)? Despite the range of resolutions, some individual states, above all Saudi Arabia, Egypt, or China were able to successfully resist public criticism. Hence, the situation in Hong Kong and the situation of the Uyghur people in Xinjiang have so far only been addressed by statements signed by various countries as opposed to resolutions (map 66).

In the wake of the pandemic, we have witnessed increased attacks on human rights, for example through the misuse of emergency powers or the intimidation of people who sought to cooperate with the UN in the field of human rights (map 68). The UN Special Rapporteurs, also referred to as the «eyes and ears» of the Human Rights Council, were outdoing each other when it came to issuing warnings and recommendations. UN High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet compared the pandemic with a heat-seeking device that exposes, and is fuelled by, systemic failures to uphold human rights. Accordingly, human rights based approaches are crucial for the end of and subsequent recovery from the pandemic.

Individual votes

COVID-19 as a central challenge

#### **UN Human Rights Council 2020** In October 2019, the UN General Assembly elected 14 new members from 5 regional groups for 3 years to the 47-member strong UN Human Rights Council. One of a few controversial issues is the inclu-COMPOSITION sion of Venezuela, with China, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Cuba having withdrawn. The Netherlands and Germany have been included. $\bar{\nabla} \bar{L} \bar{V}$ **Human Rights** 44 Number of votes Non-elected candidates were Iraq, the Republic of Moldova and Costa Rica. There was no competition among candidates foreseen in the Group of African States and the Group of Western European and other States, a so-called «clean slate». **Newly elected** members of the 5 regional groups: - Namibia, Sudan, Mauretania, Libya - Indonesia, South Korea, Marshall Islands - Armenia, Poland - Venezuela - Germany, Netherlands Re-elected Venezuela faced competition from Costa Rica approx. 1 month prior to the election, which announced New its candidacy as a direct challenge (against Venezuela), but nar-Withdrawn rowly failed to win a seat.

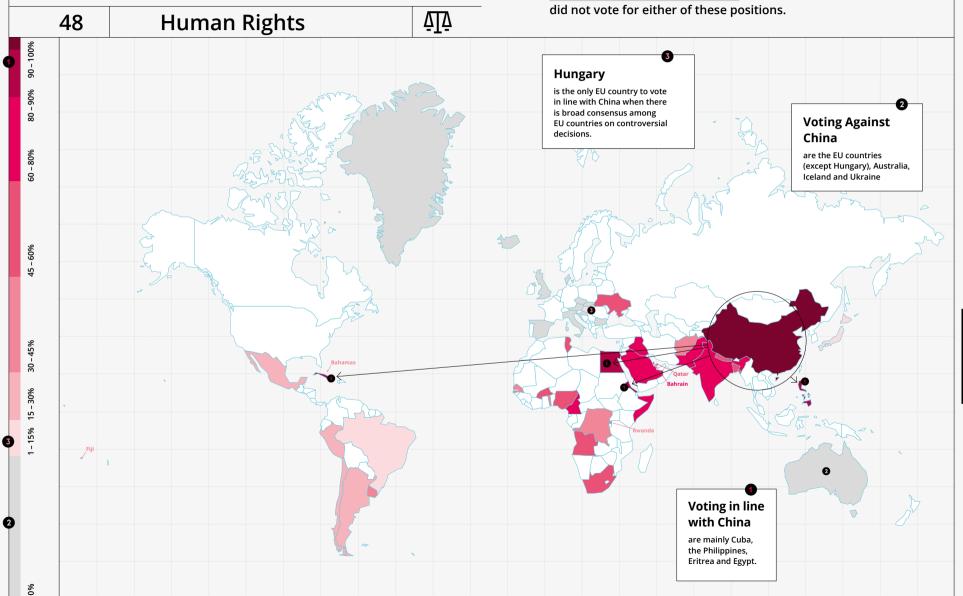
#### **UN Human Rights Council 2021** In October 2020, 15 new members were elected to the UN Human Rights Council for a period of 3 years. Only the Asia Pacific regional group had a selection: China obtained the lowest ever level of COMPOSITION support and Saudi Arabia did not make it into the Council. However, Russia and Cuba are represented again. $\bar{\nabla} \bar{L} \bar{V}$ **Human Rights** 46 Number of votes Group of Eastern European States China obtained 41 less votes than was even the case in 2016, the fewest since the Council's **Newly elected** founding as well as the fewest among the newly elected members of the 5 regional groups: members for 2021. - Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Gabon - Uzbekistan, China - Ukraine, Russian Federation - Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba - France, United Kingdom Re-elected Saudi Arabia Withdrawn did not make it into the Council with only 90 votes in the Asia Pacific regional group.

### Voting Behaviour in line with China

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 2019** 

In 2019, 82 resolutions were adopted, 35 of which by vote.

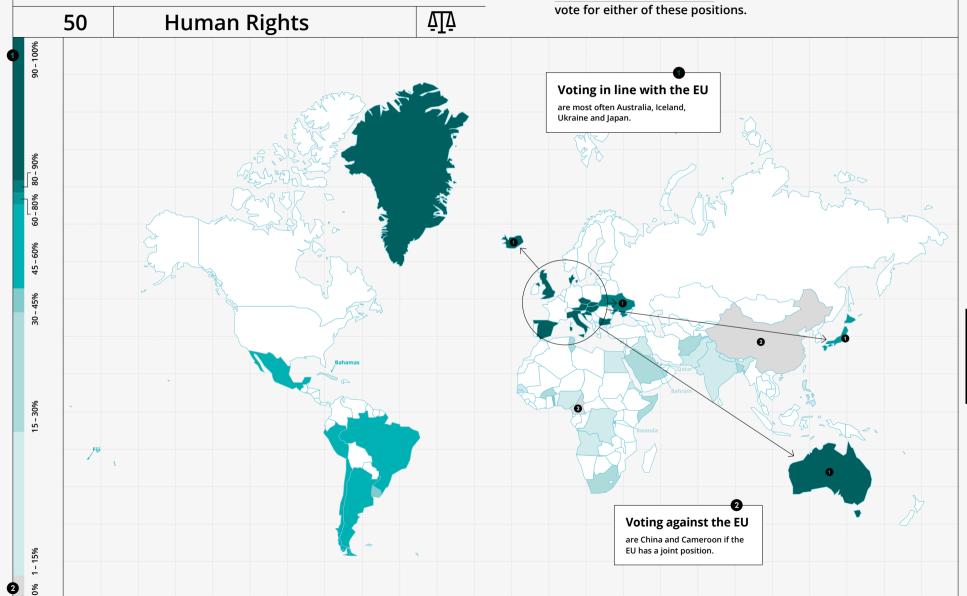
Especially Cuba, the Philippines, Eritrea and Egypt voted in line with China; whereas the EU countries (except Hungary), Australia, Iceland and Ukraine never did so. A few African countries often did not vote for either of these positions.



### Voting Behaviour in line with the EU

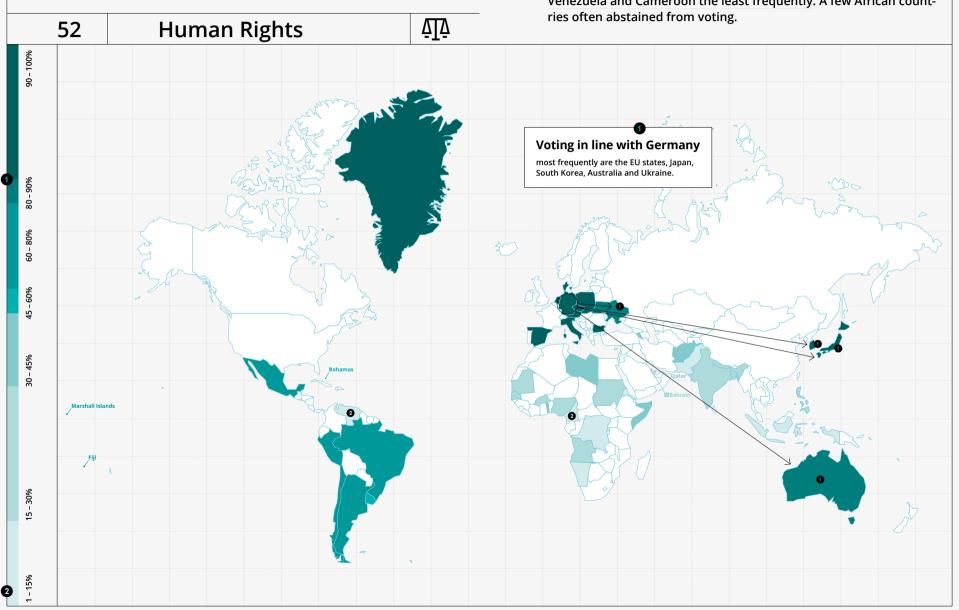
**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 2019** 

In 2019, 82 resolutions were adopted, 35 of which by vote. <u>Besides</u> the EU Member States, especially Australia, Iceland, Ukraine, Japan, and a few Latin American countries voted in line with the EU. China and Cameroon never did so. A few African countries often did not vote for either of these positions.



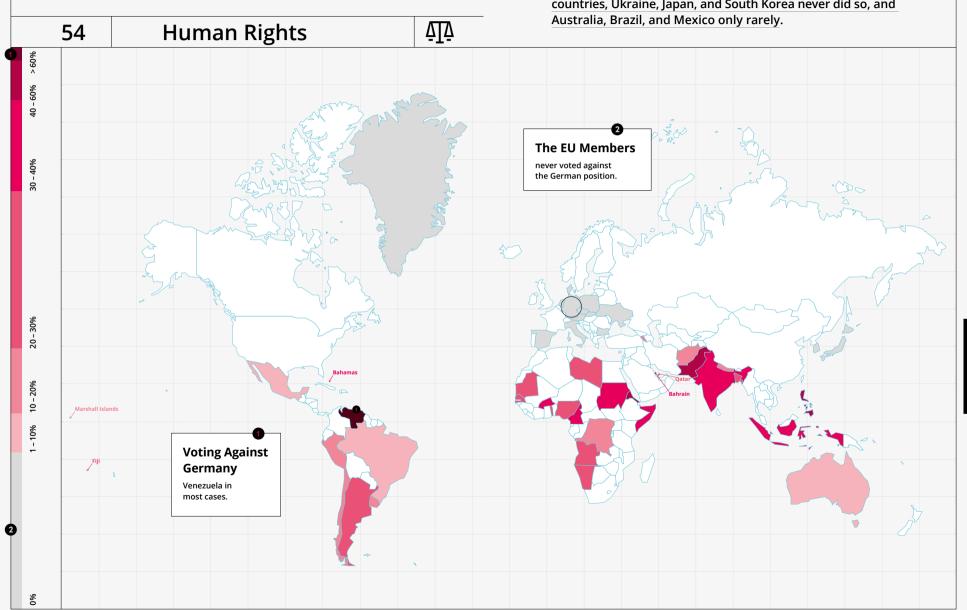


In 2020, 97 resolutions were adopted, 31 of which by vote. 19 of which were accepted in favor of Germany. The EU states, Japan and South Korea most frequently voted in line with Germany; and Venezuela and Cameroon the least frequently. A few African countries often abstained from voting.



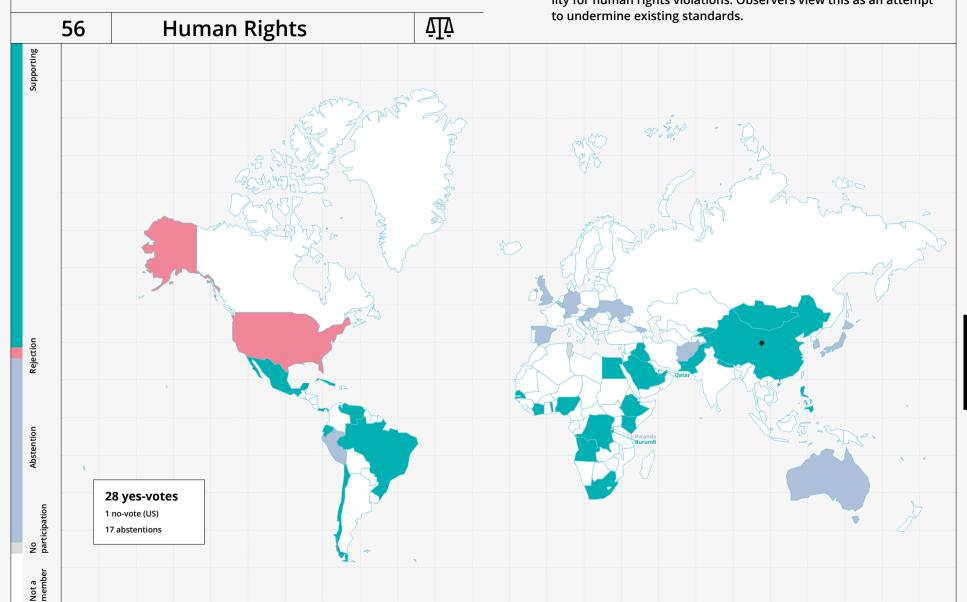


In 2020, 97 resolutions were adopted, 31 of which by vote. In 12 cases, Germany was outvoted. Venezuela, Eritrea, the Philippines and Pakistan voted against Germany particularly often; the EU countries, Ukraine, Japan, and South Korea never did so, and Australia, Brazil, and Mexico only rarely.



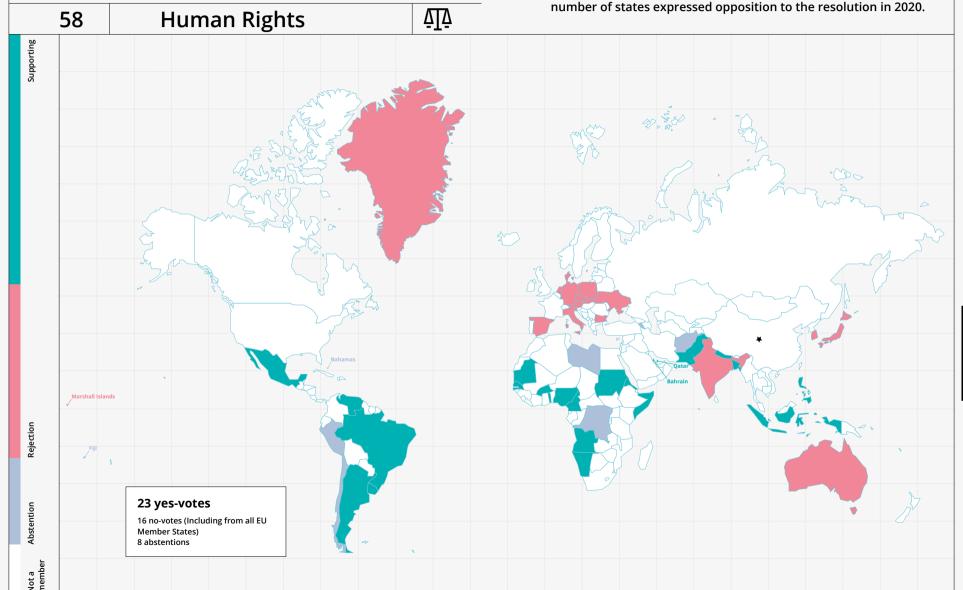
# Resolution of China on the Role of Human Rights VOTE 2018

At the 37th Council China tabled its own resolution on «mutually beneficial cooperation». It seeks to promote human rights through voluntary exchange between states in lieu of through accountability for human rights violations. Observers view this as an attempt to undermine existing standards.

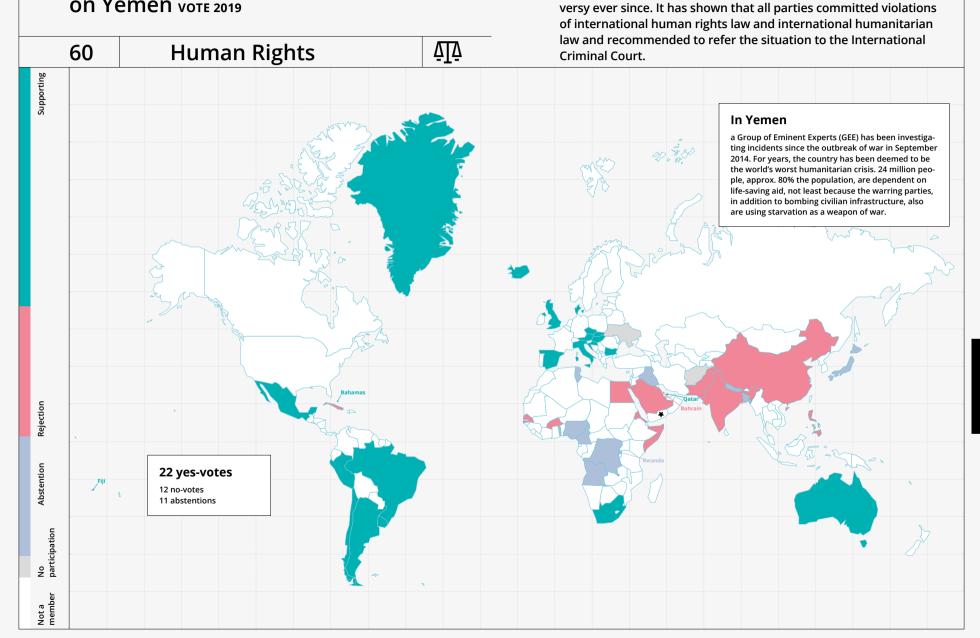


# Resolution of China on the Role of Human Rights VOTE 2020

At the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council, China once again introduced their own resolution on «mutually beneficial cooperation». Observers see this as the next step towards further undermining existing human rights standards. Yet unlike in 2018, a number of states expressed opposition to the resolution in 2020.



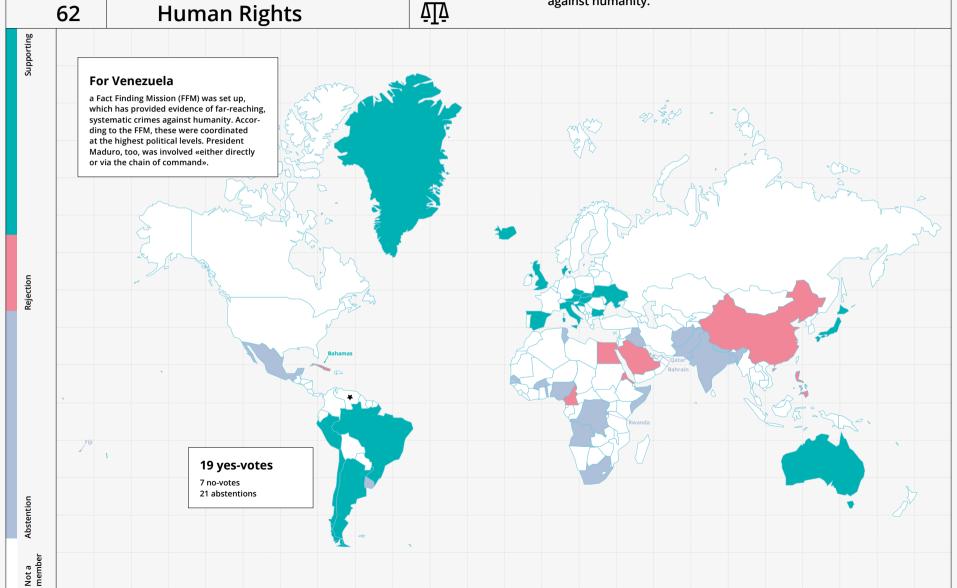
### Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen VOTE 2019



Although the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen was unanimously agreed in 2017, its mandate extension has been subject to contro-

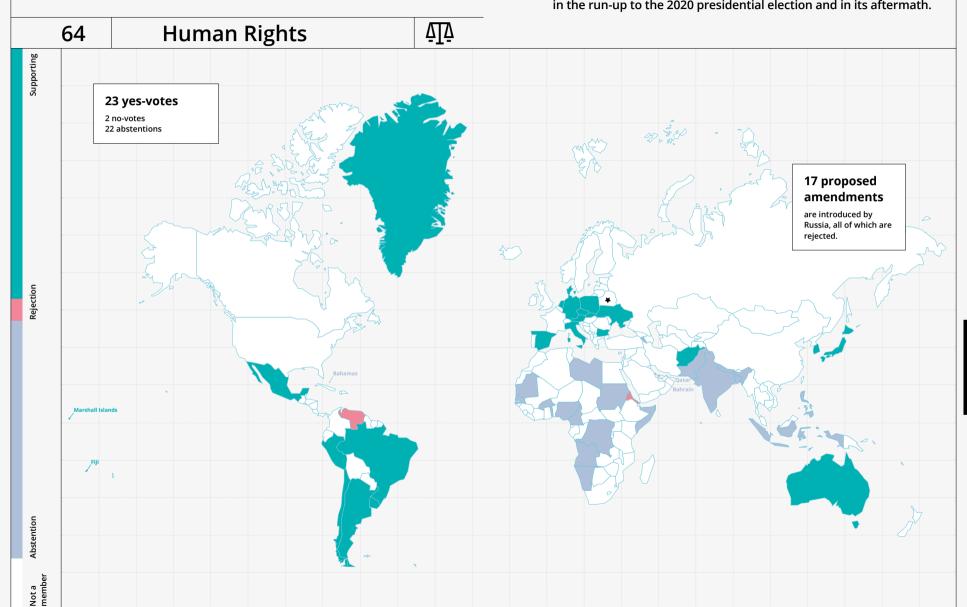
### Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela VOTE 2019

At the 42nd session in 2019, an independent international Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) was established for investigating serious human rights violations in Venezuela since 2014. In its first report dated September 2020, the FFM already shed light on crimes against humanity.



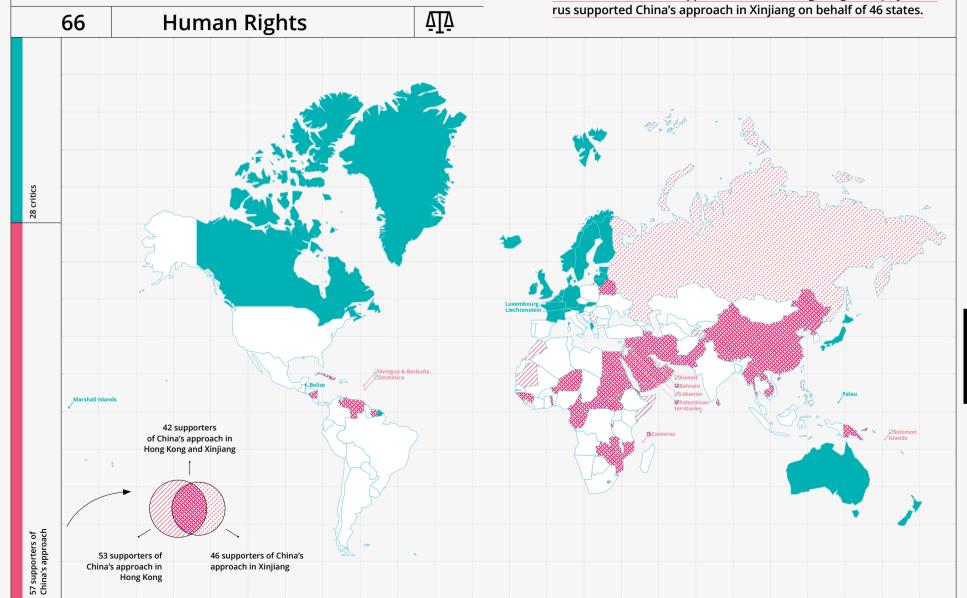
# Human Rights Situation in Belarus Following Presidential Elections VOTE 2020

Following an urgent debate at the 45th session, including opposition leader Tsikhanouskaya, Germany on behalf of the EU introduced a resolution on the human rights situation in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath.



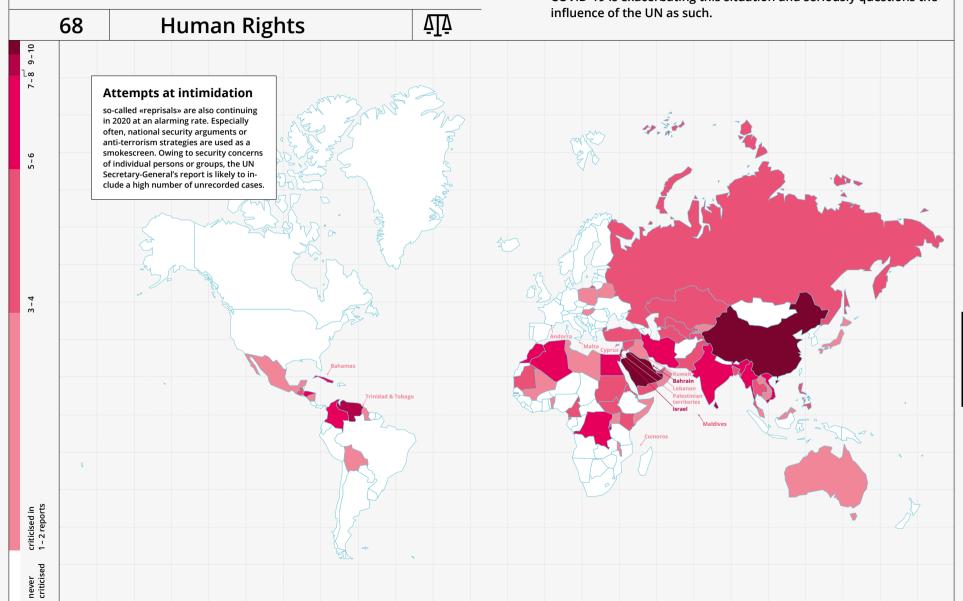
### China's Policy in Xinjiang and Hong Kong CRITICS AND SUPPORTERS

In 2020, the United Kingdom levelled criticism on behalf of 27 additional states against China's approach in Xinjiang and Hong Kong at the 44th Council. At the same time, Cuba launched a statement on behalf of 53 states in support of China in Hong Kong. On 1 July, Belarus supported China's approach in Xinjiang on behalf of 46 states.



# Reprisals for Cooperation with the UN in the field of Human Rights

The map illustrates states that are mentioned in the UN Secretary-General's 2009 – 2020 annual report for having actively intimidated individuals or groups for cooperating with the UN on human rights. COVID-19 is exacerbating this situation and seriously questions the influence of the UN as such.



## Flight and Migration



Flight and migration are central issues in international Geneva with the headquarters of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as well as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and several nongovernmental organisations active in this policy area being located here.

Once a year, the UNHCR announces the world's most important trends and flight developments. Key messages of the reports of the past 2 years are summarised in maps 72 and 74. Which states were the main financial contributors, and what were the primary host countries and countries of origin? In both years, a dramatic increase in people fleeing their homes can be observed: with this number having almost doubled since 2010. For instance, in 2019, 79.5 million people, more than 1% of the world's population, were dispaced, and at least 40% of them were children. According to the UNHCR, this is the greatest displacement crisis ever documented. It is also striking that 2/3 of all displaced people came from only 5 countries. This is mainly due to wars and conflicts that have raged on for many years. However, the repercussions emanating from climate change and acute food insecurity are increasingly among the most important causes of flight. At 73%, most people find refuge in a country neighbouring their country of origin, which is why the global burden is distributed very unequally. Merely 10 countries received over half of all the world's refugees in 2019, with the least developed countries being hit hardest.

Despite the major challenges posed by these developments, and correspondingly higher funding requirements, even in 2019, the UNHCR once again did not receive the necessary financial support to overcome them. Which states were the main supporters of the UN Refugee Agency (map 76), and how much funding did the relatively wealthier countries contribute per capita to its work (map 78)?

Situation in Europe

Refugee protection worldwide

Repercussions of COVID-19

How can we assess the situation in Europe and Germany in light of these trends? In absolute figures, the EU is significantly but not disproportionately affected. With the number of refugees admitted per 1000 inhabitants, map 80 adds a further perspective: Germany hosts most refugees in the EU in absolute numbers. However, a different picture presents itself considered in relation to its population size.

With the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), in 2018, the international community attempted to make rules on burden and responsibility sharing in refugee matters more binding, to intensify cooperation between states and to strengthen refugee protection. The pact builds on international refugee law, particularly on the Geneva Refugee Convention, but is not legally binding. Map 82 provides an insight into the vote on the pact.

The vulnerability of refugees and migrants became particularly visible in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have often found themselves a target, for instance through border closures in most countries across the world without exemptions relating to asylum seekers. They were confronted with higher risks of infection or a lack of access to healthcare, social security, and basic services. Possibilities for resettlement were temporarily suspended, and they found themselves victims of hate and xenophobia in large swathes of the world.

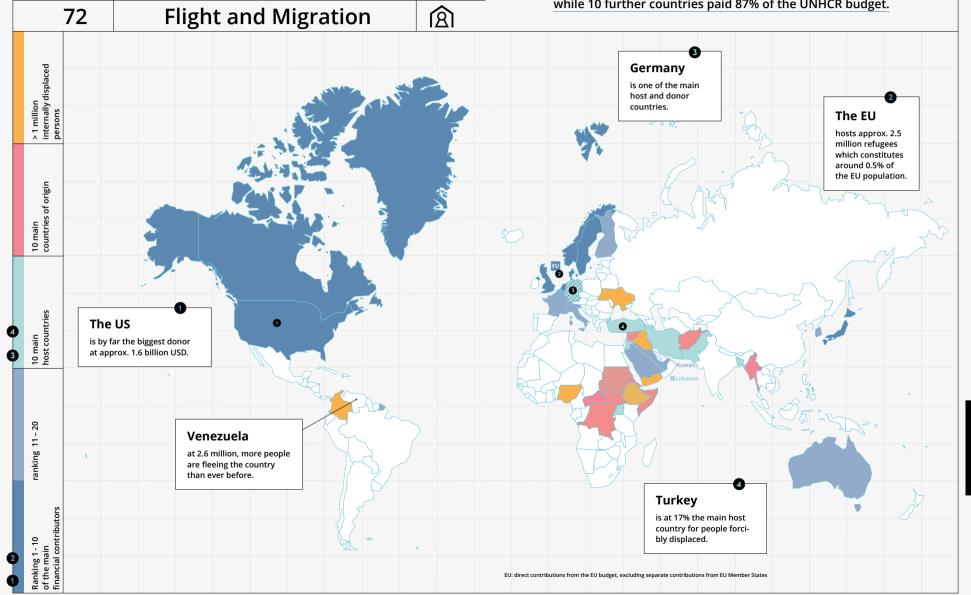
Trends and developments

## Forced Displacement 2018

**HOST COUNTRIES AND COUTRIES OF ORIGIN** 

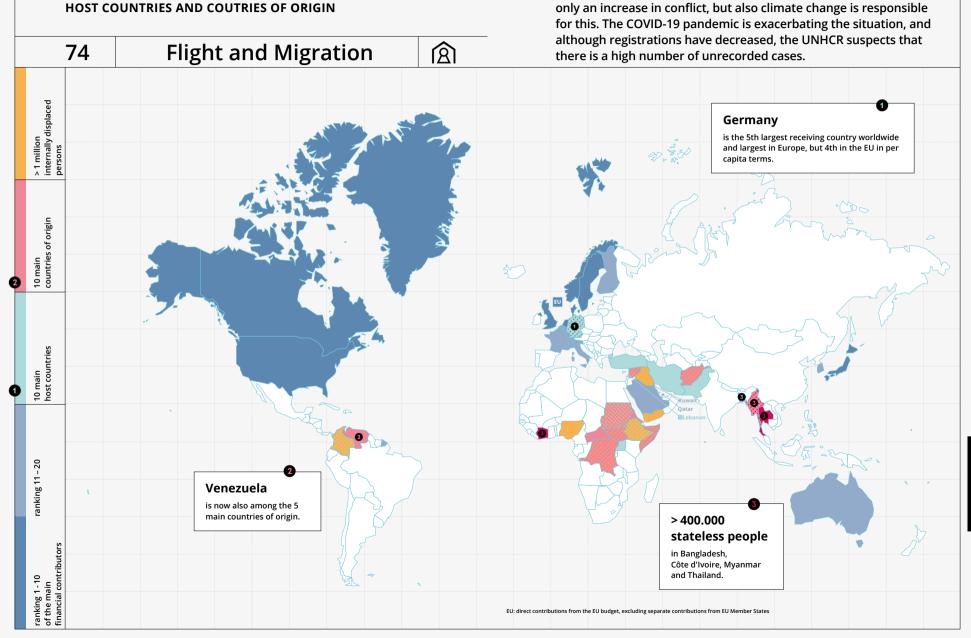
Globally, 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced in 2018.

Approx. 80% found refuge in their region. 2/3 came from only 5 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia (in this order). Only ten countries admitted 63% of the displaced while 10 further countries paid 87% of the UNHCR budget.



## Forced Displacement 2019

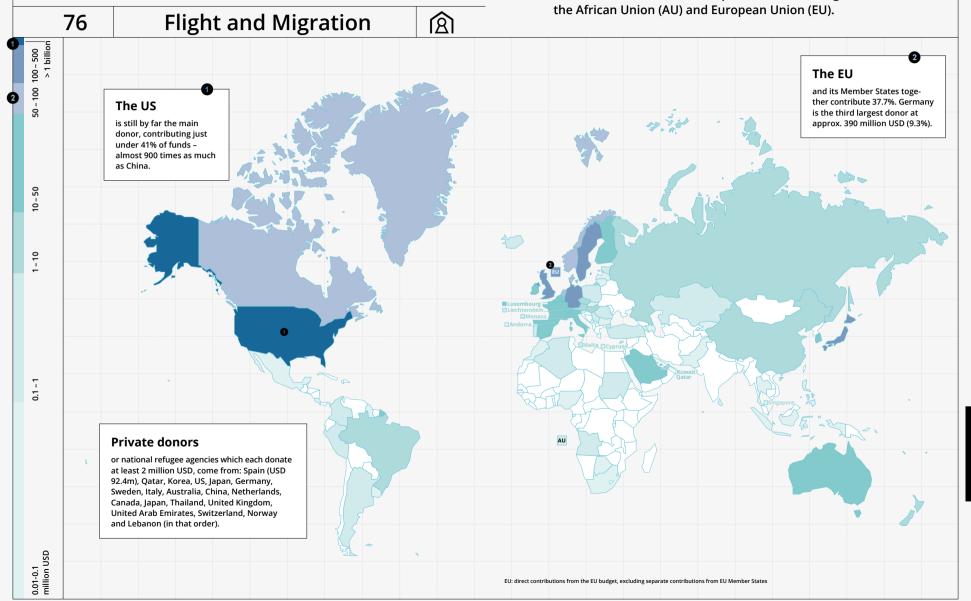
HOST COUNTRIES AND COUTRIES OF ORIGIN



In late 2019, 79.5 million people, more than 1% of the world's population, were forcibly displaced, almost twice as many as in 2010. Not

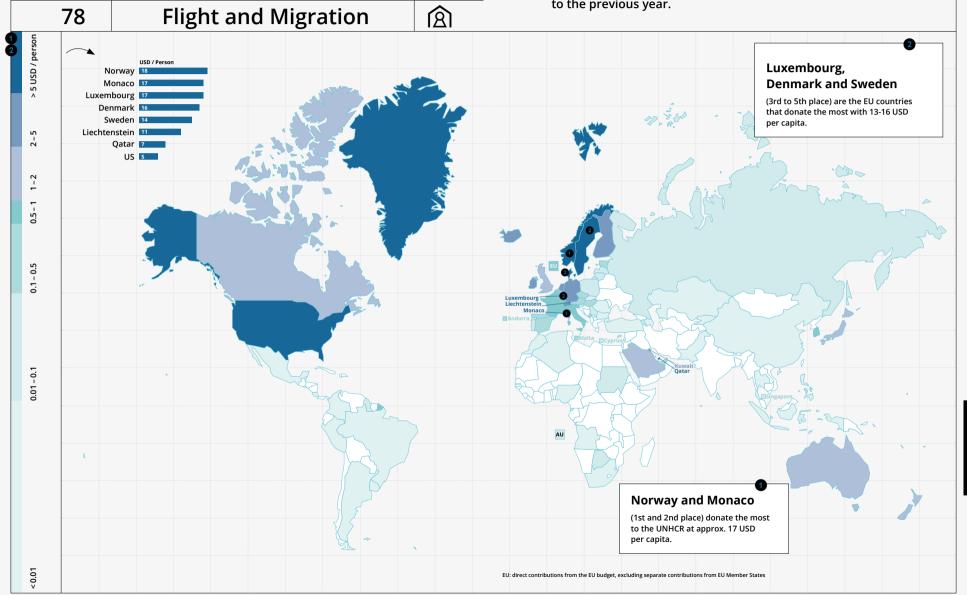
# Financial Contributions for the UN Refugee Agency 2019 in USD

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) received grants amounting to 4.8 billion USD in 2019, which covered only 56% of the total budget. Only 9% of the funds were at the UNHCR's free disposal, as they were not earmarked. The map demonstrates all grants from states, the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU).



# Per Capita Contributions for the UN Refugee Agency 2019 in USD

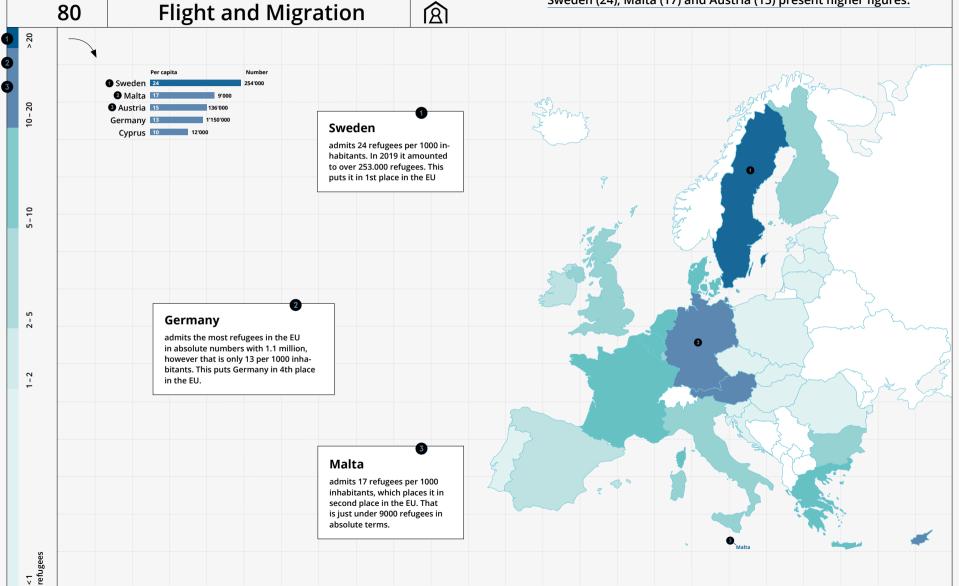
The map illustrates the per capita contributions to the UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) entire budget in 2019. 87% of funds came from governments or the EU, 10% from private donors. The significant funding gap widened again to 44% in 2019 compared to the previous year.



## **UNHCR Refugees**

PER 1000 INHABITANTS IN THE EU 2019

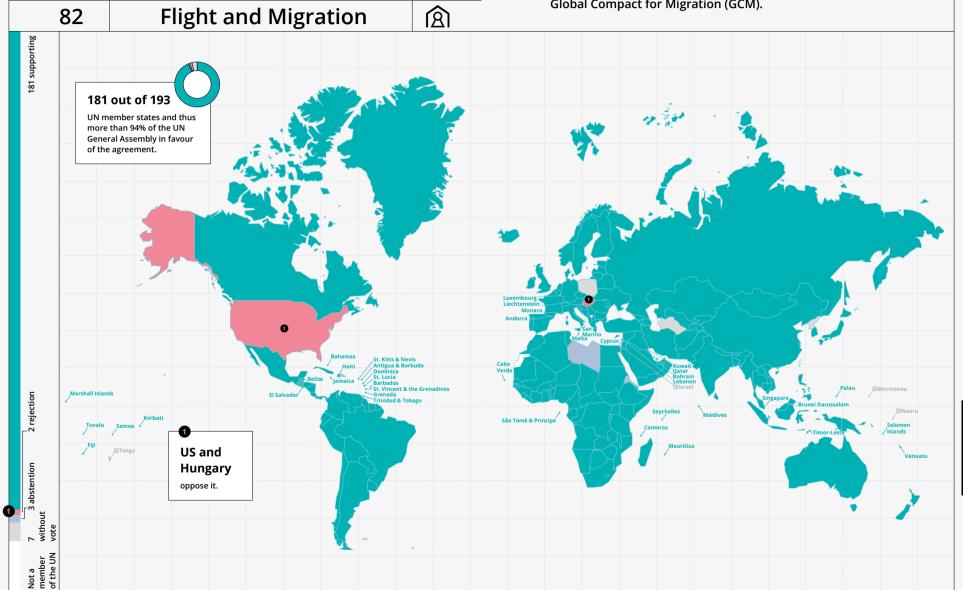
2.7 million UNHCR refugees, corresponding to some 0.5% of the EU population, lived in the EU in 2019. In absolute figures, Germany admitted most people, but a different picture presents itself if we calculate the number of refugees per 1000 inhabitants. Then Sweden (24), Malta (17) and Austria (15) present higher figures.

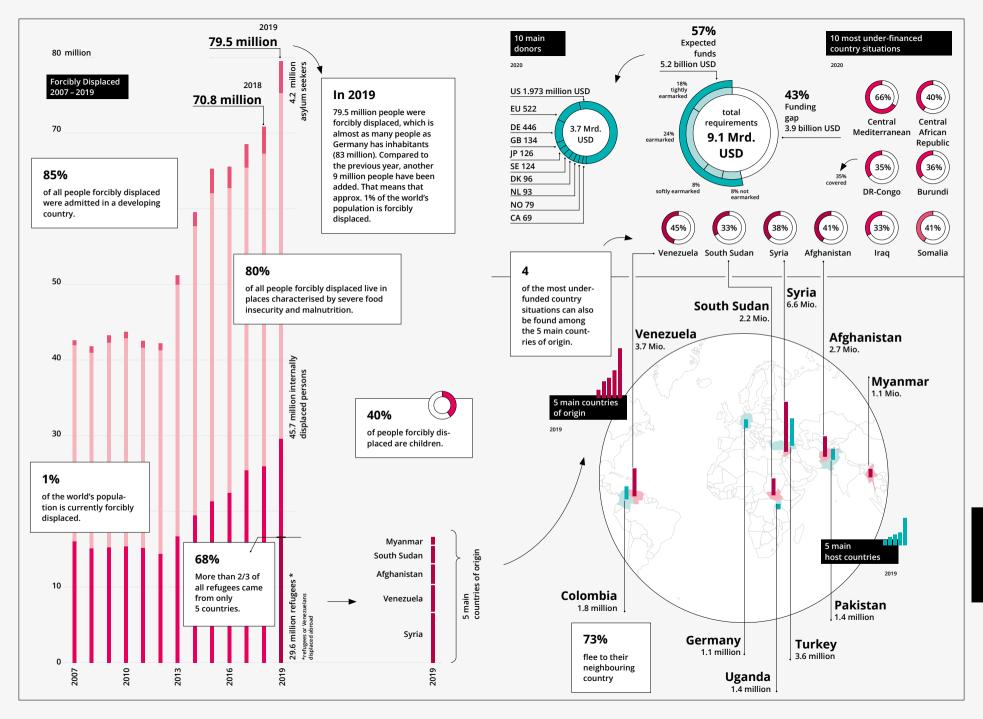


# **Global Compact on Refugees**

**VOTING RESULT 2018** 

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) is a legally non-binding agreement seeking to improve international responsiveness to major refugee movements and exploring opportunities for equitable responsibility-sharing. It should not be confused with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).





The Alliance for Multilateralism launched on the initiative of Germany and France in April 2019, is an informal, flexible network of states advocating a rules-based multilateral order. The Alliance intends to bring together like-minded countries with the capacity to act. Here, the goal is to defend fundamental values and standards underpinning the multilateral world order, promote reforms of international organisations, and provide an impetus for specific initiatives. The first map (map 88) demonstrates those countries that participated in the initiative at the inaugural meeting on the fringes of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2019. Further meetings have taken place since then. In principle, the Alliance is a flexible initiative, whose participants vary from session to session. The obligation to participate is therefore (still) rather low. The Alliance has so far pursued 6 specific initiatives, always with the participation of France and Germany, in various policy areas:

- 1. «Humanitarian Call for Action», aiming to strengthen international humanitarian law, such as through best practices or supporting humanitarian organisations with their work (map 90).
- 2. «Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace»: this initiative intends to create internationally binding rules for behaviour on the internet and draws on existing processes for promoting stability and peace in cyberspace (map 92).
- 3. The «International Partnership on Information and Democracy» opposes the undermining of democracy through the manipulative use of fake news, and advocates freedom of opinion and the press as well as the protection of journalists (map 94).

- 4. The «Climate and Security Initiative» emphasises the importance of the relationship between climate and security and calls for regular monitoring by the UN (map 96).
- 5. The «Gender at the Centre Initiative» aims to enable more girls in Sub-Saharan Africa to access good education (map 98).
- 6. «11 Principles on Lethal Autonomous Weapons» is an initiative championing the ban on lethal autonomous weapon systems. The 11 principles developed with France in the framework of the UN Weapons Convention, provide states with specific guidelines for dealing with killer robots (map 100).

The first meetings on some of these initiatives have already taken place. However, at this very early stage of the Alliance, there is no telling what specific projects or commitments these will ultimately result in. Some of these projects (such as the Paris Call) were already launched prior to 2019, and also include member states that did not participate in the Alliance's inaugural meeting in 2019.

In addition, during the COVID-19 crisis, the Alliance made efforts to encourage international organisations in their fight against the pandemic. Thus, the Alliance launched an appeal on 16 April 2020, which was publicly supported by the World Health Organisation (map 102). In light of harsh criticism that the WHO saw itself confronted with, the appeal represented an important political signal. A high-profile «One Health» expert panel was launched on the fringes of the Paris Peace Forum in November 2020, which, in cooperation with the 4 UN agencies - WHO, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), provides information on the connection between human, animal, and environmental health and should thus make us better prepared for future health crises.

Although members of the Alliance (including France, Germany, and Chile) have made proposals on the urgent issue of reforming international organisations, the Alliance has yet to formulate a common approach.

Outlook

# Alliance for Multilateralism

**PARTICIPANTS LAUNCH EVENT 2019** 

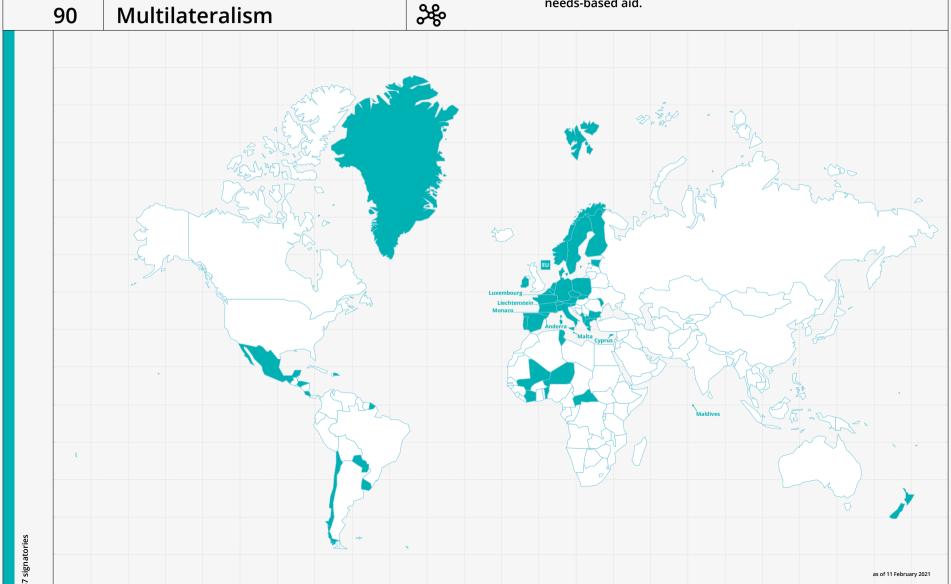
The «Alliance for Multilateralism», launched in 2019, is a flexible network of dedicated states and institutions that are working on preserving and developing the rules-based international order in various policy fields.



## **Humanitarian Call for Action**

**SIGNATORIES** 

One of the Alliance's initiatives is the «Humanitarian Call for Action». It aims to propose specific measures to strengthen international humanitarian law on a global scale. This way, it can show states how to support humanitarian organisations by providing needs-based aid.



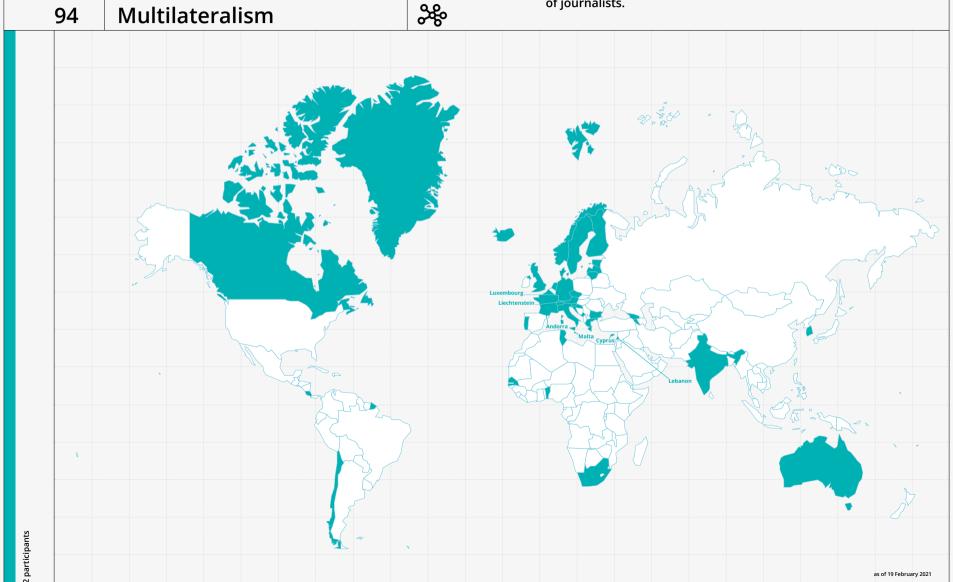
# Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace SIGNATORIES

The «Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace» is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to promote stability and responsible behaviour in cyberspace. The call was launched in November 2018 in Paris, and has been co-signed by governments, the private sector, and civil society representatives.



# International Partnership on Information and Democracy Participants

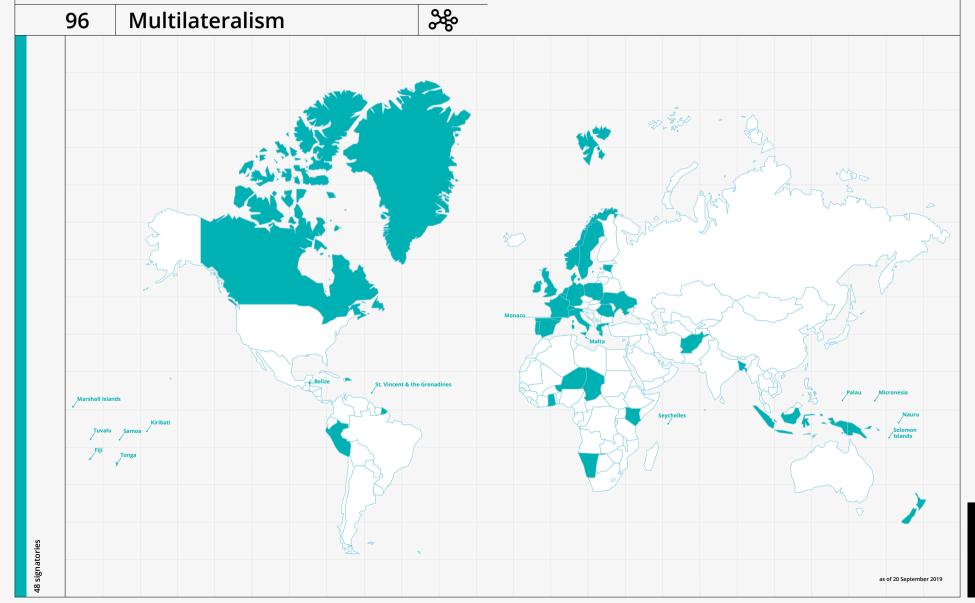
The «International Partnership on Information and Democracy» initiative is opposed to the undermining of democracy through manipulative fake news. The signatory states undertake to promote freedom of opinion and the press as well as the protection of journalists.



# **Climate and Security Initiative**

**SIGNATORIES** 

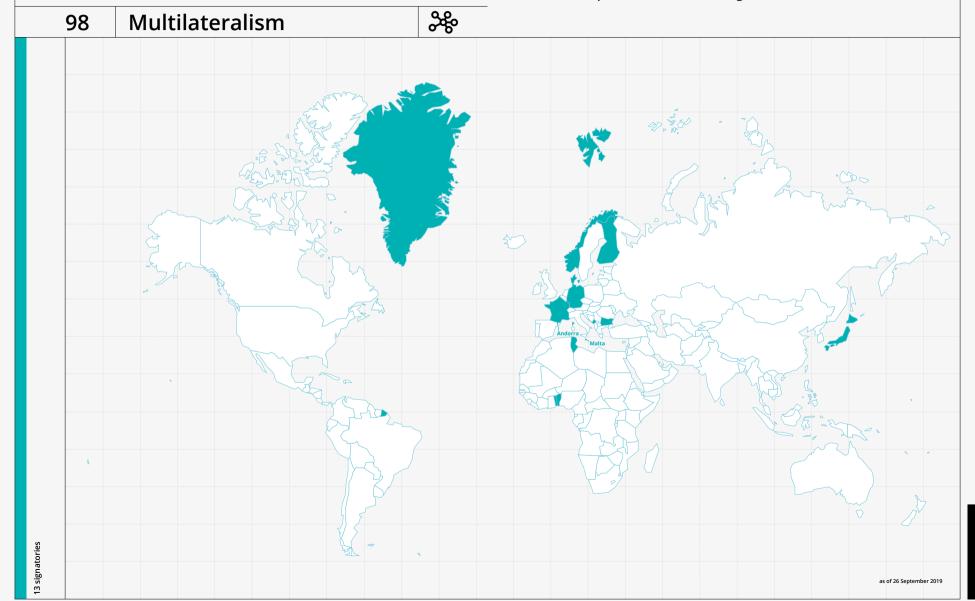
The «Climate and Security Initiative» is one of 6 initiatives adopted by the Alliance. Dialogue on climate change as a new challenge to foreign and security policy is to be promoted in the United Nations. The signatories call for regular review by the UN.



## Gender at the Centre Initiative

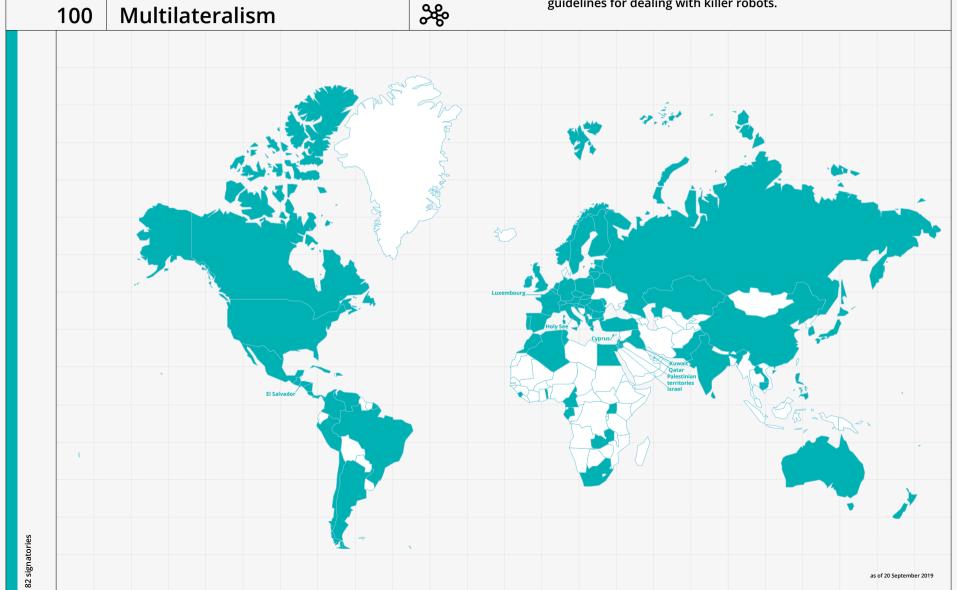
**SIGNATORIES** 

The goal of the «Gender at the Centre Initiative» for gender equality in education is to strengthen women's rights, since women's rights are human rights. In doing so, girls in Sub-Saharan Africa will be provided with access to good education.



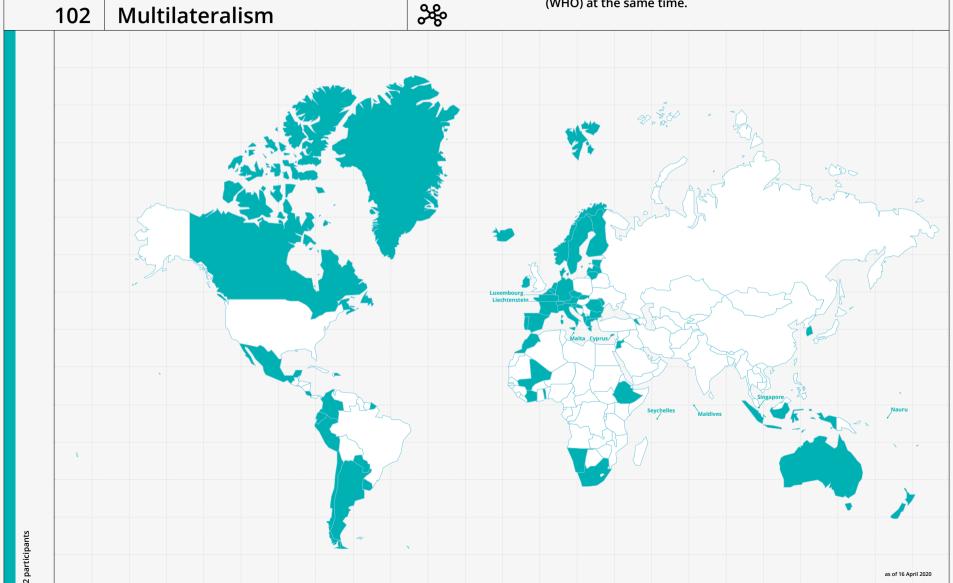
# 11 Principles on Lethal Autonomous Weapons SIGNATORIES

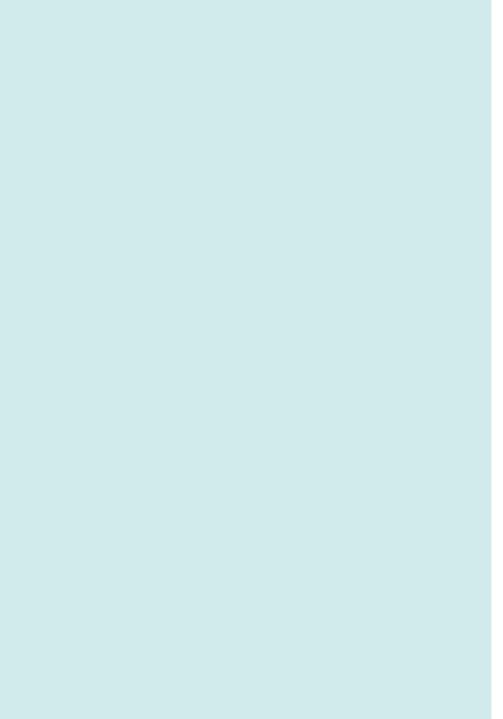
The future of new weapons systems requires international guidelines. Within the framework of the UN Weapons Convention, Germany joined forces with France to draw up the «11 Principles on Lethal Autonomous Weapons» (LAWS), which provide specific guidelines for dealing with killer robots.



# Cooperation in the Fight Against COVID-19 PARTICIPANTS OF THE APPEAL

On 16 April 2020, the «Alliance for Multilateralism», jointly initiated by Germany and France, made an appeal for closer global cooperation and solidarity in the fight against COVID-19, which explicitly supported the work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the same time.





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# Paris Call for trust and security in cyberspace (2020) - The supporters, URL: https://pariscall.international/en/supporters, retrieved: 12/03/2021

# **Imprint**

Publisher

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V. Multilateral Dialogue Geneva European and international cooperation

Editing and organisation

Dr. Olaf Wientzek, Sarah Ultes

Cooperation

Meike Lenzner, Katarzyna Gorgol-Mäder, Diana Peters, Maewa Dutuit-Sauter

Graphic concept, design of maps, and infographics Emphase GmbH Lausanne/Bern

Printing

**CRIC Print, Marly** 

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 Non-Member State of UN
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Despite being home to the United Nations second headquarters, the public often overlooks the importance of Geneva. The «Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2019/2020» argues that this is unfounded, since the work of the over 45 international organisations as well as over 750 non-governmental organisations located here gives shape to a multilateral diplomacy such that scarcely exists anywhere else across the world. On the basis of key policy areas in Geneva such as global health, humanitarian aid, global trade, digitalisation, human rights or flight and migration, the atlas highlights the central importance of international Geneva for global developments and multilateralism.

