# Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2021/2022





Developments of international Geneva in maps

8	14	Ukraine	Chapter 1 illustrates the reactions of the international community in some of the multilateral organisations on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.
ŽΪŽ	30	Human Rights	With human rights constituting one of the three founding pillars of the UN, chapter 2 illustrates key votes and initiatives during two highly tense years in the UN Human Rights Council.
+	88	Humanitarian Aid	Chapter 3 highlights the tremendous pressure faced by the humanitarian sector over the past two years with skyrocketing needs and the funding gap increasing even further.
(A)	98	Flight and Migration	With an estimated 103m people forcibly displaced worldwide by mid-2022, flight and migration continues to be one of the major global challenges. More in chapter 4.
Q	116	Global Trade	The World Trade Organization stands for rules-based trade, the elimination of trade barriers and conflict resolution. Some plurilateral agreements offer alternatives to break stalemates.
0	136	Digital Affairs	Among the complex ecosystem of digital governance, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is an oft-overlooked institution addressing issues from standards to digital divides.
<u></u>	156	Global Health	Addressing deficits in pandemic preparedness and response has been a major focus of recent global health debates. Other health threats remain a big concern. More in chapter 7.
<b>(3)</b>	178	Labour	A new fundamental principle has been adopted at the International Labour Conference. At the same time, differences in social protection coverage worldwide remain. More in chapter 8.
Ø	188	Peace and Security	Geneva as the 'city of peace' is, e.g. hosting the only remaining multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament issues whose work has been further complicated over the past two years.

## Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2021/2022



Olaf Wientzek Sarah Ultes Cedric Amon



Developments of international Geneva in maps

Foreword

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During the past two years, the international organisations based in Geneva have played an important role in addressing global challenges. At the same time, they were strongly affected by larger trends in international relations and new conflicts. While multilateral Geneva has received more attention, it often remains a 'blackbox' for policy makers and observers outside international Geneva.

The first 'Concise Atlas of International Geneva' – published in April 2021 – attempted to facilitate the understanding of some key developments of multilateral Geneva during 2019 and 2020. The strong interest in this first edition convinced us to compile an updated and more expansive second atlas, covering developments of 2021 and 2022.

The 'Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2021/2022' illustrates some key trends of international Geneva in the areas of human rights, humanitarian aid, flight and migration, trade, digital affairs, global health, labour as well as peace and security. A special chapter is dedicated to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The atlas highlights voting patterns, key findings of reports, and the political or financial support for multilateral initiatives.

Given the multitude of organisations, it cannot possibly cover the full spectrum of multilateral Geneva, but merely highlight some selected trends. Still, we hope that it can shed some light on the dynamics and developments of the past two years.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

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Multilateral Dialogue
Konrad Adenauer Foundation Geneva

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Recipients of COVAX vaccine donation deliveries per capita 2021

Recipients of COVAX vaccine donation deliveries per capita 2022

Participants in the Universal Health and Preparedness Review pilot

### List of Abbreviations

8

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BWC	Biological Weapons Convention
CAR	Central African Republic
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CEPI	Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
CHF	Swiss Franc
CIS	The Commonwealth of Independent States
COVAX	COVID-19 Global Vaccine Access
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
СТВТ	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
cwc	Chemical Weapons Convention
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EPO	European Patent Office
FCS	Fragile or Conflict-Affected States
FMCT	Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons
FOC	Freedom Online Coalition
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
GEE	Group of Eminent Experts
GGE	Group of Governmental Experts
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTs	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
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IHR	International Health Regulations
ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organization
INB	Intergovernmental Negotiating Body
ЮМ	International Organization for Migration
LAWS	Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LMG	Like-Minded Group
LMICs	Low- and Middle-income Countries
IP	Intellectual Property
JSI	Joint Statement Initiative
JST	Joint Statement
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MC11	11th WTO Ministerial Conference
MC12	12th WTO Ministerial Conference
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MPIA	Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPT	Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty
ОСНА	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
P5	Permanent Member of the UN Security Council
PAROS	Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space
PHEIC	Public Health Emergency of International Concern
PoA	Programme of Action
R&D	Research and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SOGI	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

### 10 List of Abbreviations

TRIPS Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

UAE United Arab Emirates

UDHR Universal Declaration of Human rights
UHPR Universal Health and Preparedness Review

UK United Kingdom
UN United Nations

UNAIDS The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNCTAD UN Conference on Trade and Development

UNGA UN General Assembly

UNHCR UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHRC UN Human Rights Council

UNICEF UN Children's Fund

US United States

USD United States Dollar

WHA World Health Assembly

WHO World Health Organization

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization

WMO World Meteorological Organization

WTSA World Telecommunication and Standardization Assembly

WTO World Trade Organization

At a time when global challenges require strong, well-funded and well-functioning international organisations, multilateral Geneva was hit by a massive shock, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. In various multilateral fora, member states had to respond to a blatant violation of international law by a permanent member of the UN Security Council. At the same time, the Russian invasion of Ukraine further exacerbated the already worrying humanitarian situation worldwide. Even before the war, prolonged conflicts, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have increased humanitarian needs to unprecedented levels. Geneva-based organisations focusing on flight and migration have witnessed major challenges, with the number of people forcibly displaced worldwide exceeding the 100m benchmark for the very first time. Countries that were already in difficult economic, security or humanitarian situations have borne the brunt of these developments. While funding dedicated to addressing these challenges has increased over the past years, it has not been able to meet the soaring demands. As this atlas illustrates on several occasions, crisis response has been shouldered by a small group of core donors in many cases. Funding shortages or the lack of sustainable funding has also affected other organisations in the human rights and in the global health domain.

Authoritarian states' attempts to challenge undesirable resolutions in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and to establish a narrative that emphasises an uncritical statecentred approach to human rights have continued – pursued most actively, but not solely, by China. While the authoritarian camp achieved some notable successes, the Human Rights Council managed to address several worsening and urgent human rights situations during the past two years.

Despite many worrying developments and a lack of consensus on many issues among member states, multilateral fora in Geneva were not completely paralysed. Members managed to achieve several important breakthroughs, be it in the area of work, trade, global health or even on mitigating the Russian invasion's disastrous consequences on food security worldwide. During 2019 and 2020, the lack of consensus and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, paralysed several organisations. Many of these, however, have made a strong case for their importance and relevance in 2021 and 2022. The change of the US administration at the beginning of 2021 had a positive impact on the work of several organisations. The EU has continued to be a crucial supporter of rules- and values-based multilateralism. Yet, the atlas demonstrates that impulses for multilateral solutions were supported by or even originated in numerous other states from all continents, too. Still, many signs point to the preference for plurilateral solutions or coalitions of the willing - most notably in the area of trade - in order to overcome paralysis and bottlenecks in the future.

2021 and 2022 have also highlighted some of the big challenges for the future: developing the basis to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response, addressing neglected health threats, tackling tendencies towards protectionism, climate change, overcoming the standstill in disarmament efforts, bridging the digital divide and the development of technical standards for artificial intelligence (AI). While member states more or less agree that these are urgent challenges, they disagree on how they should be met and who should be included in the process.

The past two years have shown that despite their short-comings, multilateral organisations in Geneva continue to be relevant. At the same time, the disagreements about values and rules of multilateral cooperation will most likely continue.

Russia's renewed invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has often been described as a 'shock' to the multilateral system as a whole, and thus also to the Geneva-based organisations in particular. The invasion itself, its immediate and long-term repercussions but also the reaction to it, have affected virtually the entire Geneva ecosystem in several ways.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has been regularly addressed in different fora. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York repeatedly condemned the invasion: on 2 March 2022, a large majority adopted the Uniting for Peace Resolution (pp. 18-19). Another prominent example was its condemnation of the annexation of Ukrainian territories by Russia (pp. 26-27). These resolutions have resonated strongly in other multilateral organisations in Geneva, and set the tone for further actions: statements and even walkouts have been coordinated, e.g. at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the World Telecommunication and Standardization Assembly (WTSA), the World Health Assembly (WHA) or the International Labour Organization (ILO) in order to protest against the Russian violations of international law.

Besides forceful statements in various fora, concrete steps have equally been taken: in a historical vote on 7 April 2022 at the UNGA, Russia's rights to membership in the Geneva-based UNHRC were suspended (pp. 20-21) – the first time that such step was taken since 2011. On 24 March, the Governing Body of the ILO decided to suspend technical cooperation assistance to Russia and asked the ILO to explore options to relocate its regional Moscow office (pp. 24-25). When examining the voting patterns several observations can be made:

- a) When it comes to broad condemnation of the acts of aggression, a large majority of UN members rallied in support of Ukraine, only few voted against, while a considerable number of states abstained.
- b) As soon as more concrete steps were on the table, such as a referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate allegations of war crimes (pp. 22-23), the suspension of the rights of membership in the Human Rights Council, or the reduction of technical assistance, the number of supporting countries while still forming a majority significantly decreased.
- c) The core support for Ukraine and the strongest condemnation of Russia's actions has come from a group of 40 to 45 countries, among them all EU countries in most cases.

The core of Russia's remaining supporters is mostly composed of hardline autocratic states. Other countries have avoided positioning themselves either due to their fear of repercussions, or their fundamental unwillingness to openly criticise other states in public.

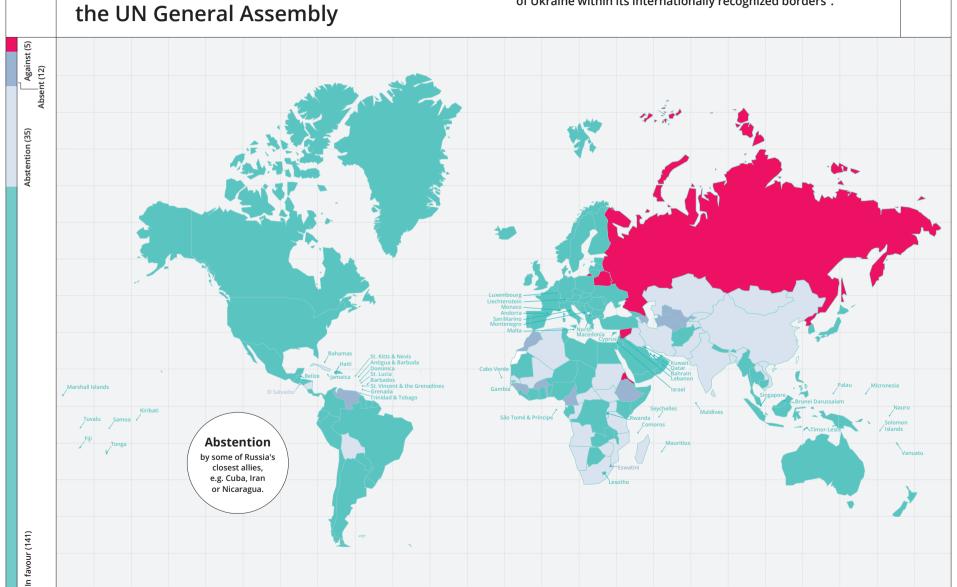
Although Russia has not been completely isolated in multilateral Geneva, this chapter demonstrates that the international community managed to take unprecedented steps to address the Russian aggression against Ukraine in all fora. Russia's reputation and influence in many organisations has suffered massively as maps in the following chapters will equally show. Many countries, e.g. from Sub-Saharan-Africa have expressed concerns about the mid- and long-term consequences of the war, particularly on food security. Addressing these worries and addressing similar situations in other parts of the world with the same determination will be decisive for the EU's and its allies' ability to rally a majority of countries who oppose Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Concerns about long-term impact

Support for Russia from hardline autocracies

## Uniting for Peace Resolution at

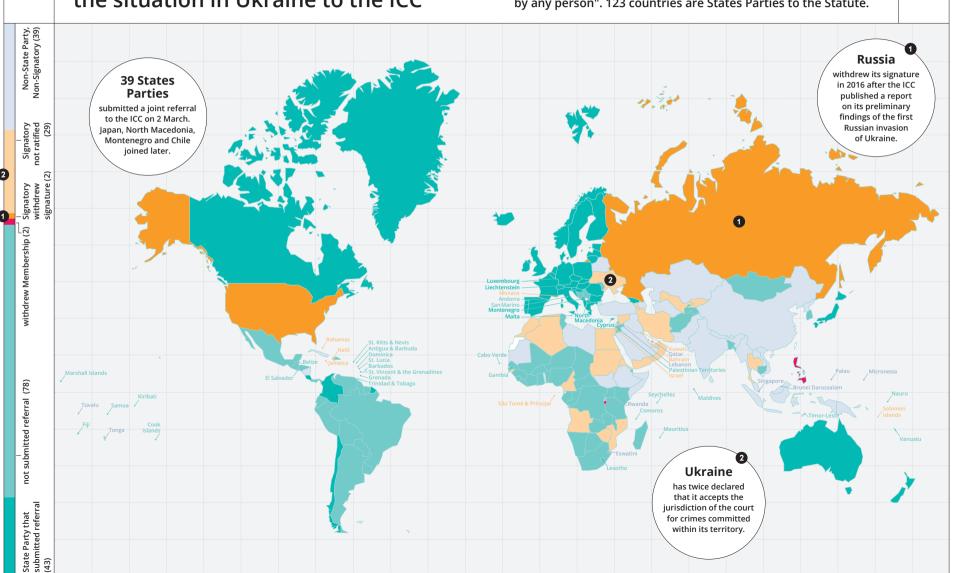
In a rare special emergency session on 2 March, the UN General Assembly denounced Russia's military invasion of Ukraine and called upon Russia to "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders".



### Ukraine

## States Parties that referred the situation in Ukraine to the ICC

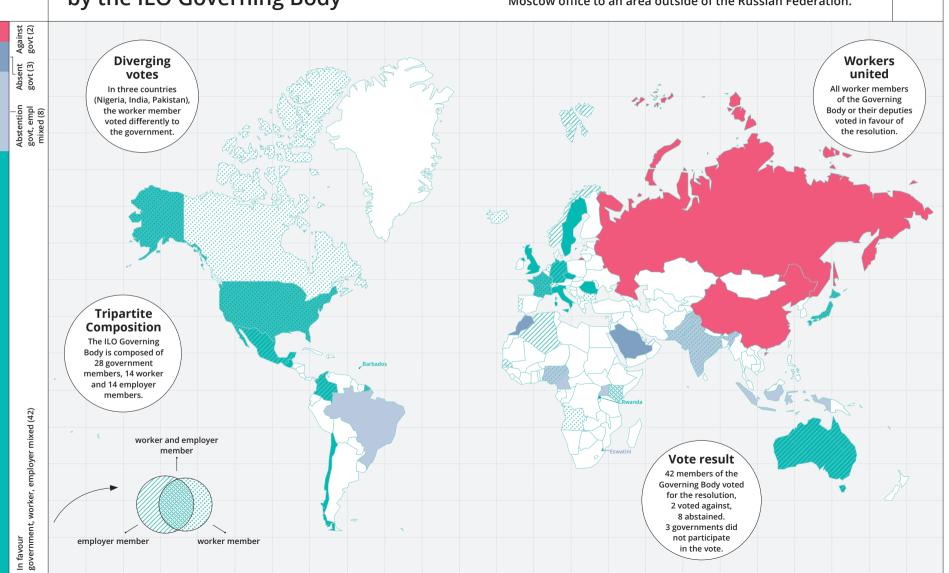
Since 1 March 2022, 43 States Parties to the Rome Statute have submitted referrals to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate "any past and present allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide committed on any part of the territory of Ukraine by any person". 123 countries are States Parties to the Statute.



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## Condemnation of Russian aggression by the ILO Governing Body

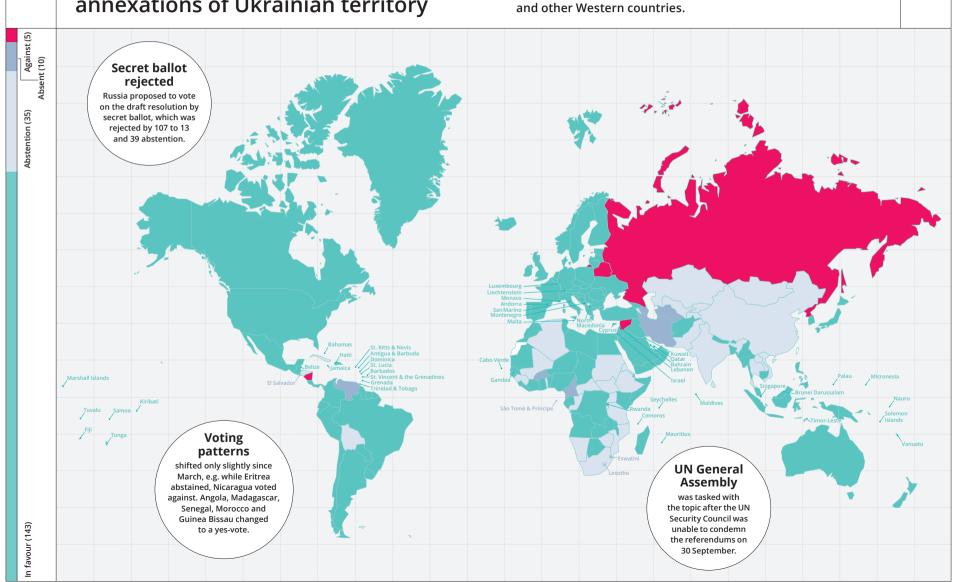
On 24 March 2022, the ILO Governing Body passed a resolution describing the Russian aggression against Ukraine as incompatible with the principles governing ILO Membership. It decided to temporarily suspend technical cooperation assistance and asked the ILO to explore options to relocate its Moscow office to an area outside of the Russian Federation.



### Ukraine

## Countries condemning Russian annexations of Ukrainian territory

On 12 October, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution with 143 in favour, 5 against and 35 abstentions which condemns the "illegal so-called referendums" and demands that Russia reverse the annexations. The draft resolution was presented by the European Union, Ukraine and other Western countries.



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Ukraine

## Countries asking for remedy and

On 14 November, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution with 94 to 14 and 73 abstentions which recognises that Russia must be held accountable for violations of international law in or against Ukraine, the need to establish an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury and the creation of an international register of damage to serve as a record.



Human Rights and Geneva Human rights constitute one of the three founding pillars of the United Nations (UN) along with development as well as peace and security as laid out by the UN Charter. The three principal human rights institutions are all headquartered in Geneva: the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Treaty Bodies as well as the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The OHCHR is the leading entity for the promotion and protection of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Following the Chilean Michelle Bachelet, the Austrian international lawyer and former Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Office of the UN Secretary-General, Volker Türk took up his role as High Commissioner in October 2022. His top priorities include: reclaiming the universality and indivisibility of the human rights regime by capitalising on the UDHR during its 75th anniversary in 2023. Moreover, he wants to develop frontier areas of human rights in the 21st century, such as artificial intelligence (AI) or privacy on the internet. The OHCHR, however, is considered to be "chronically underfunded", making it heavily dependent on voluntary contributions (see dashboard; pp. 84-85).

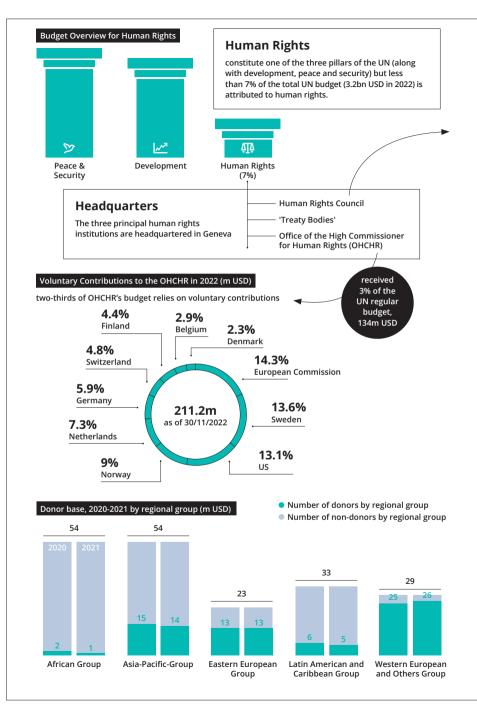
The UN Human Rights Council as an intergovernmental body, has witnessed two turbulent years that have corroborated the trend towards increasingly controversial debates (pp. 40-47). Some countries – often led by China – continued their attempts to redefine human rights and to undermine the system's ability to hold governments accountable for serious human rights violations (pp. 48-49). At the same time, the Council has – despite its shortcomings – been able to deliver on important topics, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, when other UN bodies were unable to do so or blocked.

With the re-election of the US to the Council, all permanent members of the UN Security Council (P5) were full members in

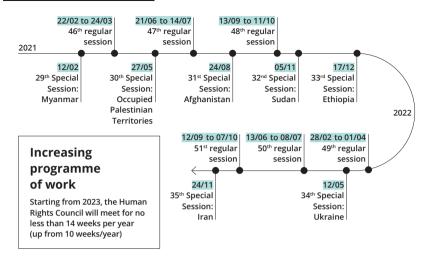
Trends and developments in the UN Human Rights Council

early-2022. Following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, however. Russia became the second country in the Council's history, after Libya in 2011, whose rights of membership were suspended by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 7 April (pp. 20-21). It is also the first P5 for which a Special Rapporteur has been established to monitor its domestic situation (pp. 62-63). Besides the war against Ukraine (more on Ukraine in the respective chapter on p. 14), the situation in Xinjiang has been an omnipresent topic. It was repeatedly addressed by Joint Statements (ISTs) (pp. 50-55). Following the publication of OHCHR's long-awaited report in August 2022, a minimalistic draft decision was brought forward, but rejected by a small margin (pp. 56-57). This was just the second time in the Council's history, following the discontinuation of the Group of Eminent Expert (GEE) on Yemen (pp. 58-59), that a text was rejected. Other prominent country situations included Afghanistan, Belarus or Iran (pp. 64-65, 68-71). In 2021 alone, the Council has met for an unprecedented five special sessions on country situations that required the Council's urgent attention. In 2022, Ukraine and Iran were addressed with a special session, the latter having been requested by Germany and Iceland (see dashboard; pp. 70-71). Aside from country situations, a number of important thematic issues have been addressed, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, sexual orientation and gender identity (pp. 76-77) or climate change on which a new right on a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was established, and a new Special Rapporteur was mandated (pp. 74-75).

In 2023, the Czech ambassador Václav Bálek will navigate the Council through an increasing programme of work and no less controversial debates. With the highest social media presence in the entire UN system in 2022, the Council is still considered by most a crucial forum to advance the protection of human rights worldwide.



### Regular and Special Sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, 2021-2022



#### Special Procedures: increase of country and thematic mandates

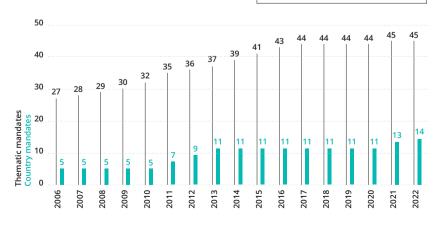
#### **Special Procedures**

are independent human rights experts which are unpaid and elected for three-year mandates that can be extended for another three years. As of October 2022, there were 45 thematic (e.g. pp. 76-77) and 14 country mandates (e.g. pp. 64-65).



## Investigative Mechanisms

are also increasingly being used, to mostly investigate alleged violations in specific countries. Contrary to the Special Procedures, Investigative Mechanisms consist of a group of experts. They are also independent and unpaid (pp. 16-17 or pp. 70-71).



### **Human Rights**

## Frequency of membership in the UN Human Rights Council, 2006-2023

While some states have already served many terms in the Council, others, especially least developed countries (LDCs) or small island developing states (SIDs), have to actively seek support. An initiative to encourage their participation is the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund that has been in operation since 2014.



## Voting behaviour in line with Germany in 2021

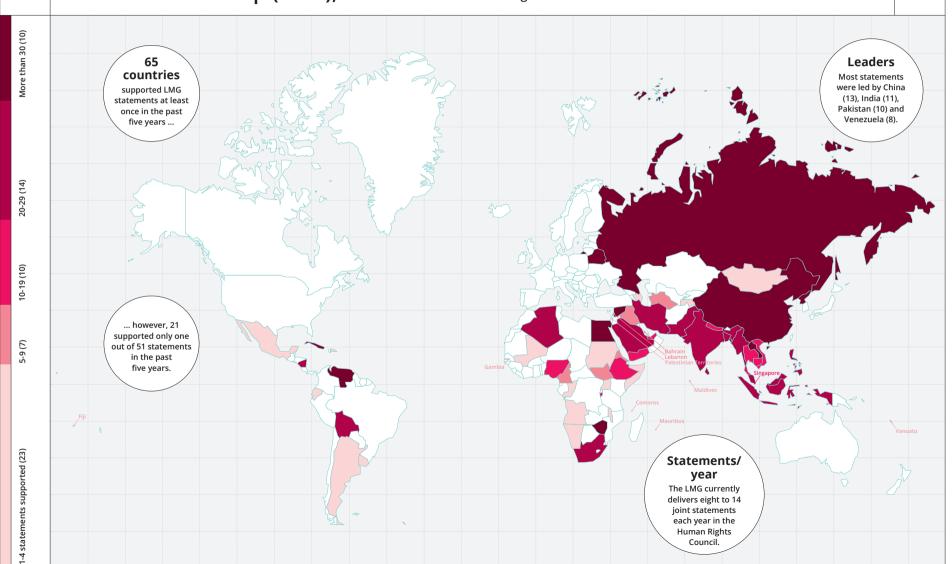
In 2021, 80 resolutions were adopted by the UN Human Rights Council of which 38 were put to a vote due to a lack of consensus. Twenty-five of them (66%) were in line with Germany's preference. Besides the EU Member States, the UK, South Korea and Ukraine mostly voted in line with Germany; China, Cameroon, Eritrea, Russia, India or Venezuela most rarely did so.



### **Human Rights**

## Support for statements of the Like-Minded Group (LMG), 2018-2022

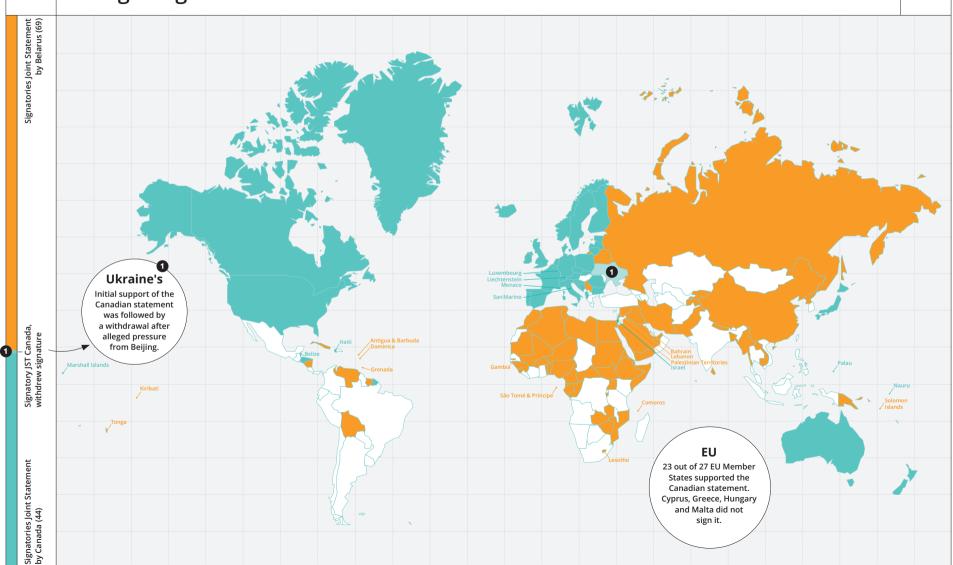
The 'Like-Minded Group' (LMG) is a brand used by an indeterminate group of countries. It advocates "constructive dialogue" in human rights debates, e.g. avoiding criticism of other states for human rights violations and "naming and shaming". This map shows the support for 51 joint statements of the LMG in the Human Rights Council.



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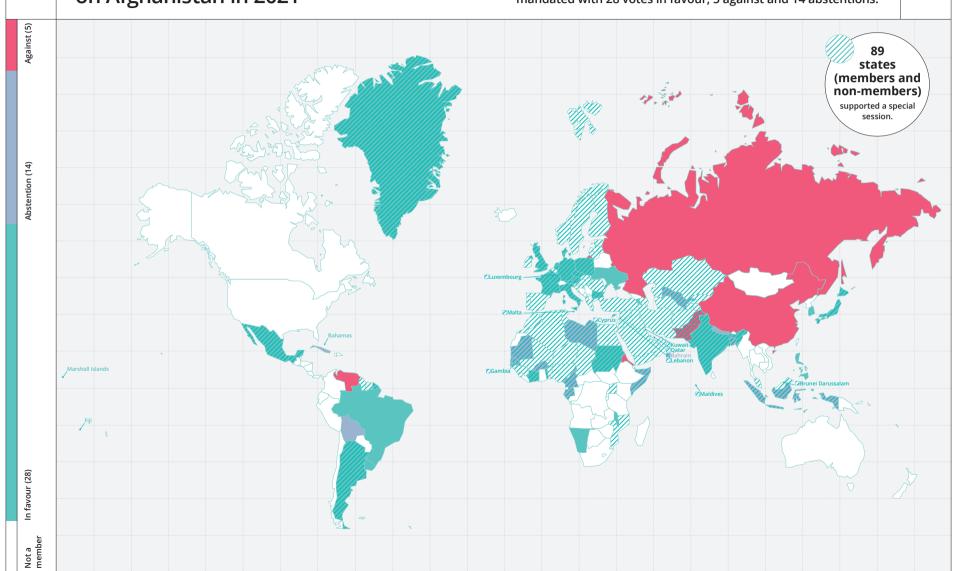
### China's policy in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet 2021

At the 47th session, Canada on behalf of 43 further states, voiced concern about the human rights situation in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet and urged China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers and the High Commissioner. Belarus supported China on behalf of 68 other states.



## Vote on Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan in 2021

After the Taliban took over Kabul, the UN Human Rights Council convened a special session on 24 August. Afghanistan had campaigned for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry, which did not materialise. A few weeks later, at the 48th regular session, a new Special Rapporteur was mandated with 28 votes in favour, 5 against and 14 abstentions.



Vote on new human right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment In a historic move on 28 July 2022, the UN General Assembly recognised a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a new human right. The resolution was adopted with 161 to 0 and 8 abstentions. It follows the Human Rights Council which established the right as well as a Special Rapporteur on climate change during its 48th session in September 2021.



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# Joint Statement on the role of the family in 2022

During the 50th session of the Human Rights Council, Côte d'Ivoire delivered a Joint Statement on behalf of 97 states on the important role of the family, which is as "the natural and fundamental group unit of society (...) entitled to protection by society and the State". In UN human rights law, not the family itself, but every member of the family has rights.

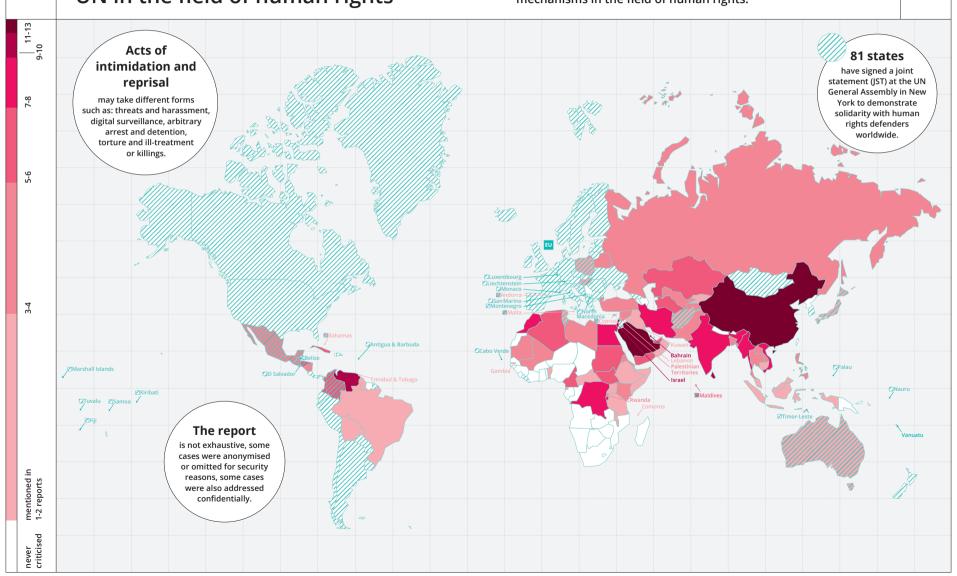


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#### **Human Rights**

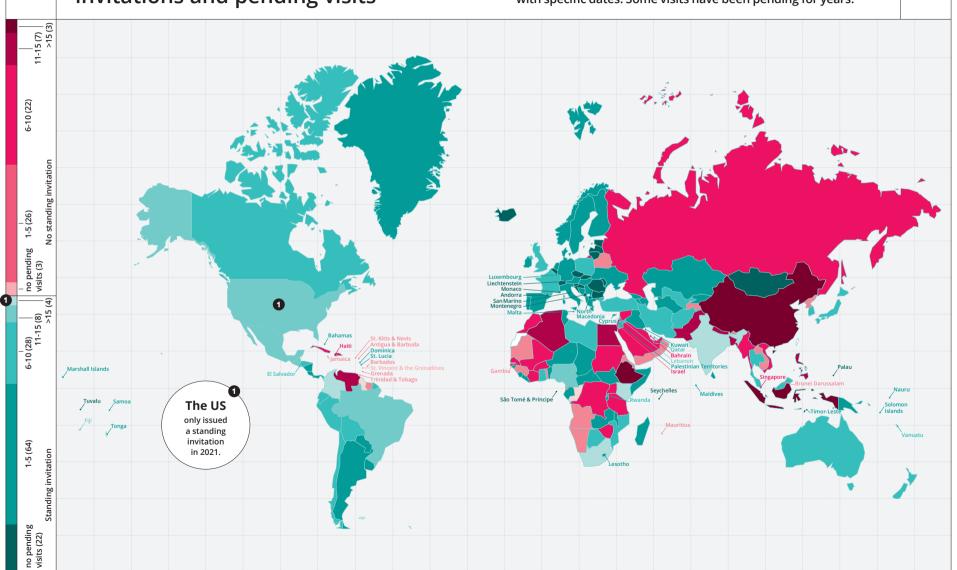
# Reprisals for cooperation with the UN in the field of human rights

The map depicts states that are mentioned in the UN Secretary-General's annual reports between 2009-2022 for being responsible for acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals and groups seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.



# Special Procedures: standing invitations and pending visits

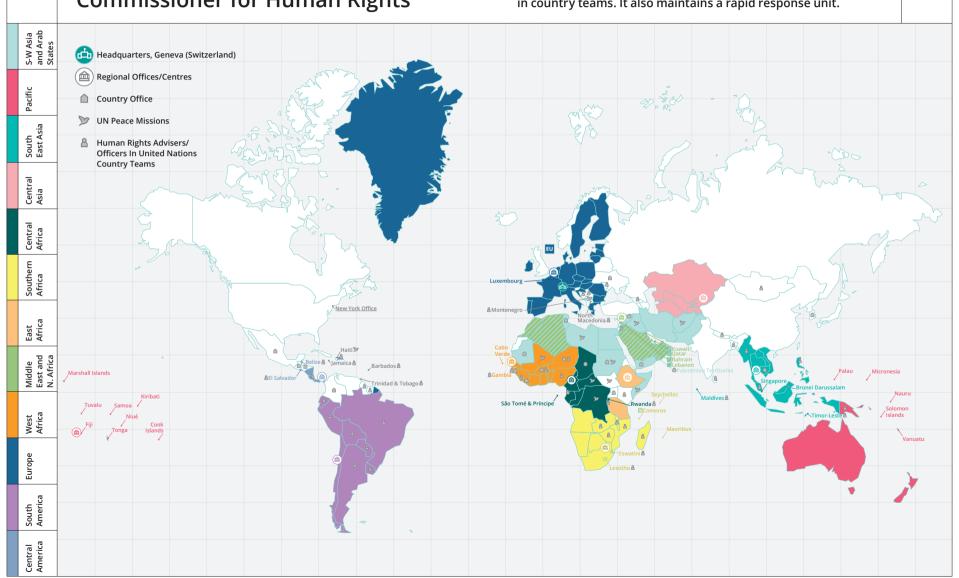
Special Procedures such as Special Rapporteurs or Working Groups conduct country visits to investigate first-hand a country's human rights situation. Most countries have issued standing invitations. However, visits are often pending, meaning that they have not yet reached the stage of mutual agreement with specific dates. Some visits have been pending for years.



#### **Human Rights**

### Presence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is the lead entity of the UN for the protection and promotion of human rights. Besides its headquarters in Geneva and its New York office, it has 96 field presences: twelve regional- and 19 country offices, eleven components in peace missions, and 54 advisers in country teams. It also maintains a rapid response unit.



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Geneva is considered the world's humanitarian capital since it hosts some of the most important actors in the sector, ranging from the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to the second headquarters of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Geneva is also home to a vibrant landscape of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), think tanks and academic institutions in the area.

Over the past two years, the pressure on the humanitarian sector has increased tremendously. Some humanitarians even consider it the hardest time they have ever faced. This is mainly due to interconnected challenges such as prolonged conflicts and protracted crises, the climate emergency (pp. 96-97), the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary and secondary effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine with soaring food and energy prices, as well as economic shocks. In addition, the respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) is under renewed attack, even from a member of the UN Security Council. This means that needs are reaching new record levels year after year: in 2023, 339m people in 69 countries will be in need of assistance; which is one in every 23 people worldwide, 4% of the world population, or the third most populous country after China and India. Over the past twelve months alone, the sector has witnessed an increase of 65m people in need. What is more, at least 222m in 53 countries will face acute food insecurity and 45m are at risk of starvation (see dashboard).

Consequently, the costs of responding to these needs are increasing: by 25% compared to early-2022 or by 461% over the past ten years. A record 51.5bn USD is needed in 2023. While funding has steadily increased, it has not kept up with the exploding requirements. This is also due to the fact that the donor base remained comparatively small: the top three

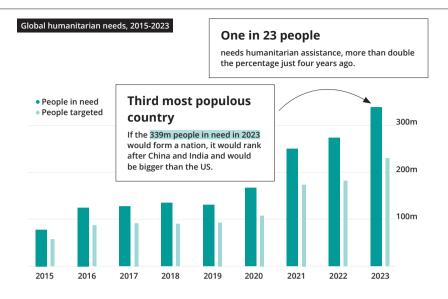
Glimmer of hope

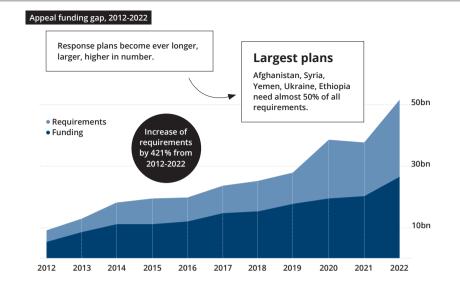
donors alone - the US, Germany and the European Commission (EC) - gave 63% in 2022, while the top ten countries accounted for 82% (pp. 92-93). An increased focus on a few crises, most importantly on Ukraine or shrinking aid budgets due to the slowdown of the world economy are added to this. Hence, in 2022, only half of the requirements were covered. This affected some of the biggest humanitarian crises, such as Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen or Ethiopia as well as some underreported situations in the Sahel region, Central America or the Horn of Africa (pp. 94-95).

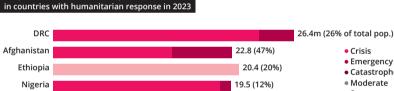
In this context, the 'Black Sea Grain Initiative' of July 2022, which allows for commercial food exports from three key Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea, was considered a glimmer of hope. It was negotiated with the help of OCHA, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other UN agencies and mediation actors from Geneva. Martin Griffiths, who took over the role as the UN's Humanitarian Relief Coordinator and head of OCHA from Mark Lowcock in May 2021, even called it "probably the most important" achievement of his term. As of February 2022, the initiative has exported more than 21m tonnes of various agricultural products. In total, about half of the exports go to low- and middle-income countries, with UNchartered vessels often delivering humanitarian food aid.

Reboot of the system

The overall picture, however, remains bleak. Peter Maurer, who served as president of the ICRC for the past ten years and was succeeded by Mirjana Spoljaric Egger in October 2022, drew a gloomy conclusion: not a single conflict had been settled during his term in office, "band-aid solutions" were no longer sufficient to solve systemic crises; the traditional humanitarian system itself was at an end. In calling for a change in mind-set and approach, Maurer is not alone among those denouncing the system as no longer being fit for purpose to meet the challenges of our time.







13.2 (24.5%)

**Conflict** 

& Insecurity

Main driver for 139m people

than 70% of those people

in 24 countries in 2021. More

experiencing hunger lived in

areas with war and violence.

12 (55%)

11.6 (24%)

9.3 (21.23%)

6.6 (54%)

7.3 (54%)

8.61 (43%)

6.7 (41%)

4.7 (48%)

4.6 (26%)

4.4 (29%)

4.4 (18%)

19 (60%)

People in acute food insecurity (> 3m)

Yemen

Syria

Sudan

Ukraine

South Sudan

Colombia

Pakistan<sup>3</sup>

Guatemala

Burkina Faso

Kenya<sup>3</sup>

Somalia

Haiti

Myanmar



Emergency Catastrophe

Moderate

Severe People in need

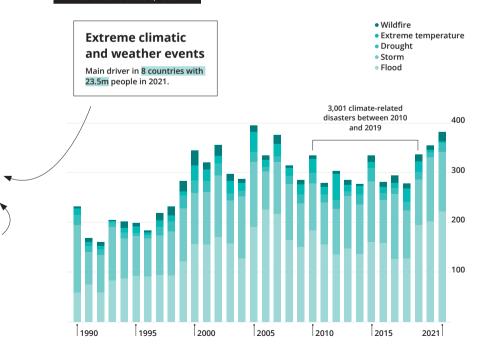
#### Historic global food crisis

Approx. 222m people in 53 countries were expected to face acute food insecurity by end-2022. Starvation is considered a real risk for 45m people in 37 countries in 2023.

#### Economic shocks

Main driver for 30.2m people in 21 countries in 2021.

#### Climate related disasters, 1990-2021



<sup>\*</sup>Countries who do not have an humanitarian response plan (HRP) but a different country-specific response plan, e.g. Flash Appeal. Data from different periods in 2022



#### **Humanitarian Aid**

## Donor countries and humanitarian aid contributions worldwide in 2022

In 2022, around 33.44bn USD of humanitarian aid were channelled through UN agencies, funds, NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The top-three donors alone provided 63%: US (14bn, 43%), Germany (4bn, 12%) and European Commission (2.6bn, 7.8%). The UK, Sweden, Japan, Canada, Norway, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland followed (in this order).

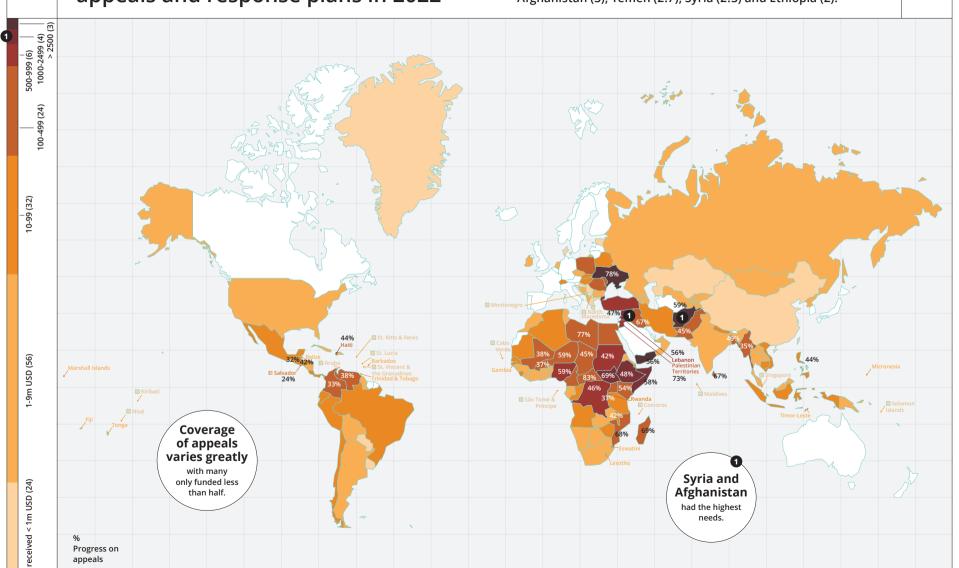




#### **Humanitarian Aid**

# Recipient countries, progress on appeals and response plans in 2022

During 2022 alone, the total financial requirements of the Global Humanitarian Overview rose from 41bn USD to 51bn USD. While the overall contributions increased, only 50% of the amount needed was covered. Half of the funding went to five humanitarian crises alone: Ukraine (3.7bn USD), Afghanistan (3), Yemen (2.7), Syria (2.3) and Ethiopia (2).

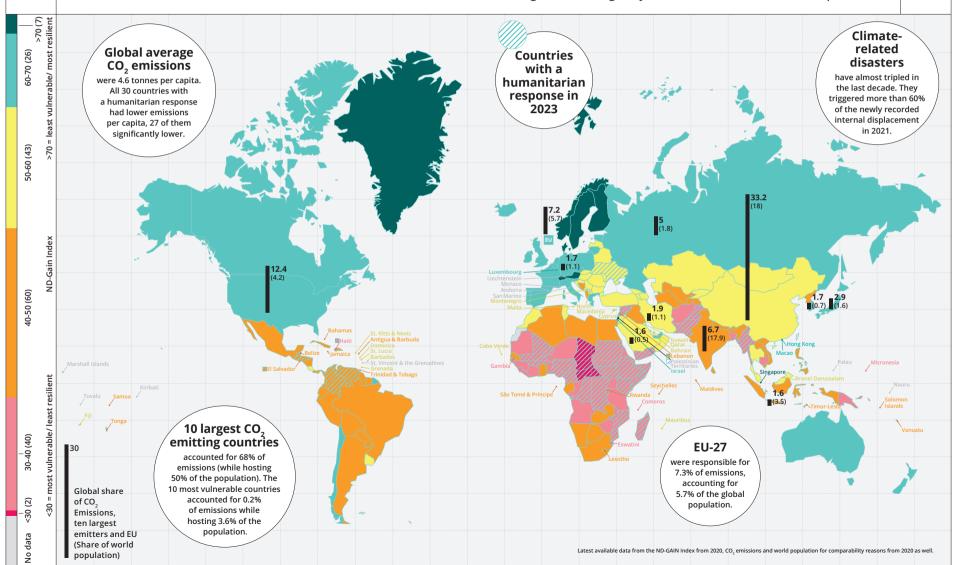




#### **Humanitarian Aid**

### Climate change and humanitarian crises worldwide

The climate crisis has also become a humanitarian crisis. Among the 15 countries most vulnerable to climate change and least ready to improve resilience, ten have an internationally led humanitarian response according to the Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 and the ND-Gain Index. Despite contributing least to global warming, they are the most vulnerable to its impacts.



Staggering increase of people forcibly displaced

#### Flight and Migration

The world's humanitarian capital is also home to the headquarters of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), several think tanks, NGOs and institutes are active in the field.

Over the past two years, forced displacement has remained one of the major global challenges with figures more than doubling over the past ten years as the numbers from reports of the UNHCR demonstrate: While 42.5m people were forcibly displaced in 2011, this figure had risen to 89.3m by 2021, more than 1% of the world population. Earlier than most expected - by mid-2022, the 100m threshold was exceeded: 103m people were forced to flee their homes, largely due to the war in Ukraine (see dashboard). As in the previous years, the vast majority of refugees (73% in 2020 and 72% in 2021) stayed within their own region, with 83% being hosted by low- and middle-income countries (pp. 102-103). The sharp increase in funding needs was again not met with the necessary resources, only 56% was funded in 2021 and 2022 with only a few donors (among them particularly the US, the EU and its Member States) providing the vast majority (pp. 106-109).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, border closures constituted one of the main challenges: more than 160 countries kept their borders closed in 2020, and 99 did not provide any exceptions to those seeking protection. Despite fewer refugees and asylum seekers having arrived at their destination in every region of the world, figures kept rising. Although 35% more asylum applications were submitted in 2021, numbers were still far below pre-pandemic levels. Forcibly displaced and stateless people have been among the hardest hit groups of societies throughout the pandemic, not least due to the increased food and economic insecurity, and challenges to access health and protection services. Also resettlement, which

is considered one of the three durable solutions along with return and local integration, was at an all-time low in 2020: only 34,400 refugees were admitted for resettlement in 2020 compared to a need of 1.4m. Canada, the US and Australia admitted the most. While the figures rose slightly in 2021, it still constitutes only around 4% (pp. 104-105) of the actual need.

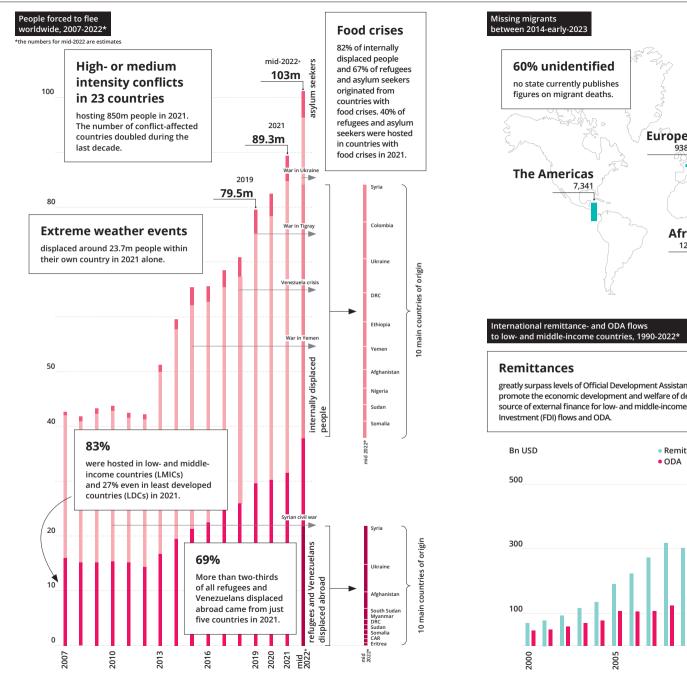
With the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, one third of Ukrainians became displaced by mid-2022, causing one of the largest displacement crises since World War II, and the fastest growing worldwide. By early-2023, 8m people had fled Ukraine, 4.8m registered for temporary protection in the EU and 5.3m people were internally displaced (IDPs) within Ukraine. Next to the primary consequences of the war, its secondary effects hit countries hosting refugees or large numbers of IDPs especially hard. Food insecurity, rising inflation and high energy prices were already devastating for many prior to the war, especially in the Sahel region and the Middle East. As early as 2021, 82% of IDPs and 67% of refugees and asylum seekers came from countries with food crises, and 40% of refugees and asylum seekers were hosted in a food-insecure country. The war further accelerates current trends.

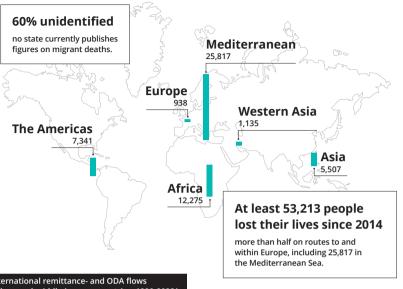
Over recent years, wars and protracted conflicts remained the main driver of forced displacement, along with the impact of climate change and the pandemic, government crises, massive human rights violations and ever-deepening inequalities. Filippo Grandi, who was re-elected in 2022 to serve as High Commissioner for Refugees until end-2025, commented on the extraordinary response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis as a glimmer of hope, from which much can be learned. He insists, however, that sufficient political will to find political solutions to long-standing conflicts remains the most important step.

The war in Ukraine and its consequences

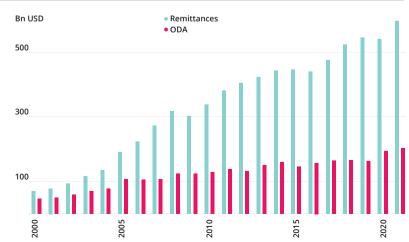
Complex web of causes and way forward

mpact of the COVID-19 pandemic



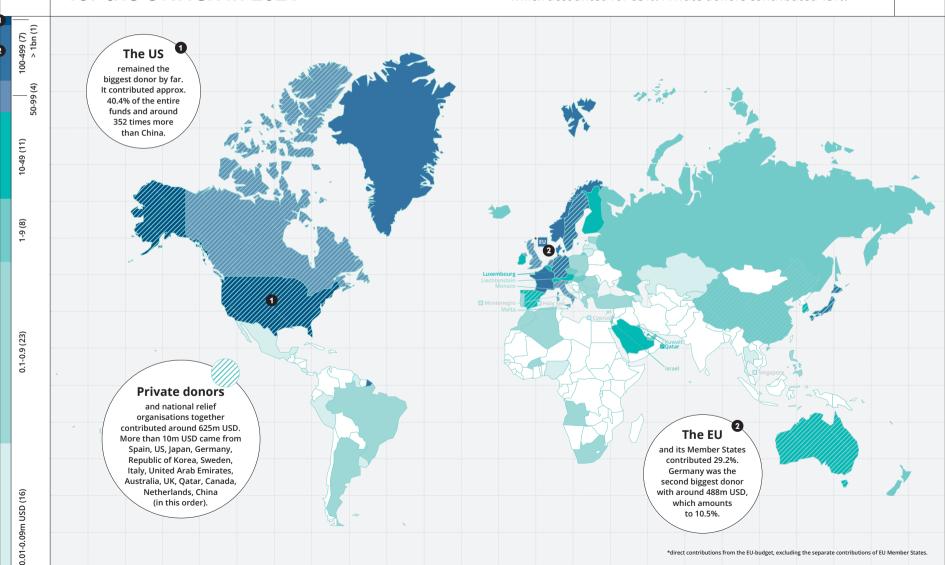


greatly surpass levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) since the mid-1990s which are designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Since 2015, they constitute the main source of external finance for low- and middle-income (LMICs) (excluding China), exceeding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows and ODA.



## Financial contributions for the UNHCR in 2021

5.1bn USD, which only covered 56% of the total budget.
Only around 11% of the overall contributions were unearmarked and allowed for a free allocation. The map shows all contributions by governments and the European Union which accounted for 83%. Private donors contributed 13%.

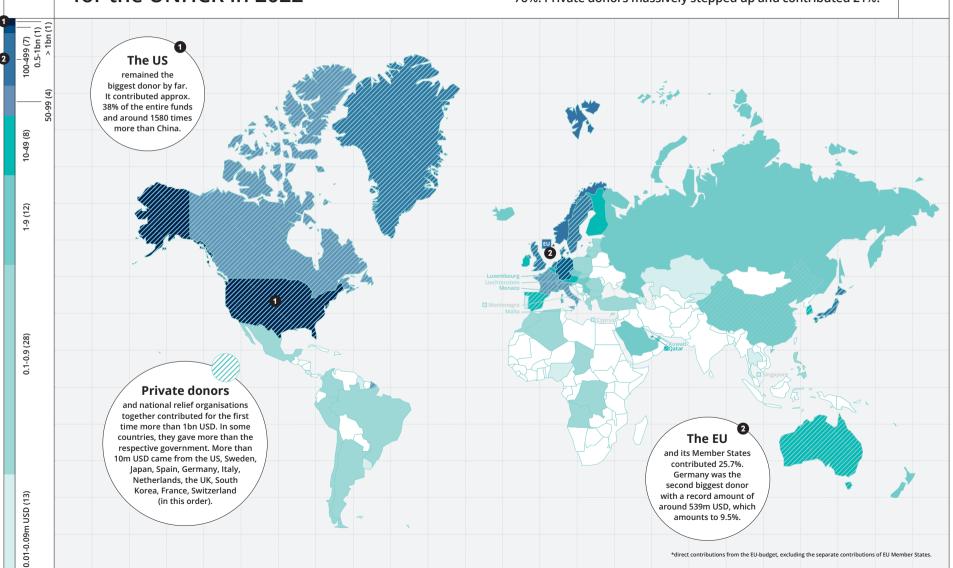




#### Flight and Migration

### Financial contributions for the UNHCR in 2022

In 2022, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) received a total of 5.9bn USD, which only covered 56% of the total budget. Merely 6% of the overall contributions were unearmarked, thus allowing for a free allocation. The map shows all contributions by governments and the European Union which accounted for 76%. Private donors massively stepped up and contributed 21%.



## Countries sending international remittances in 2021

In 2021, international remittances as financial or in-kind transfers by migrants to families or communities in their countries of origin strongly increased by 10.2% and reached 781bn USD. High-income countries are almost always the main source of remittances. For decades, the US has consistently been the top remittance-sending country.

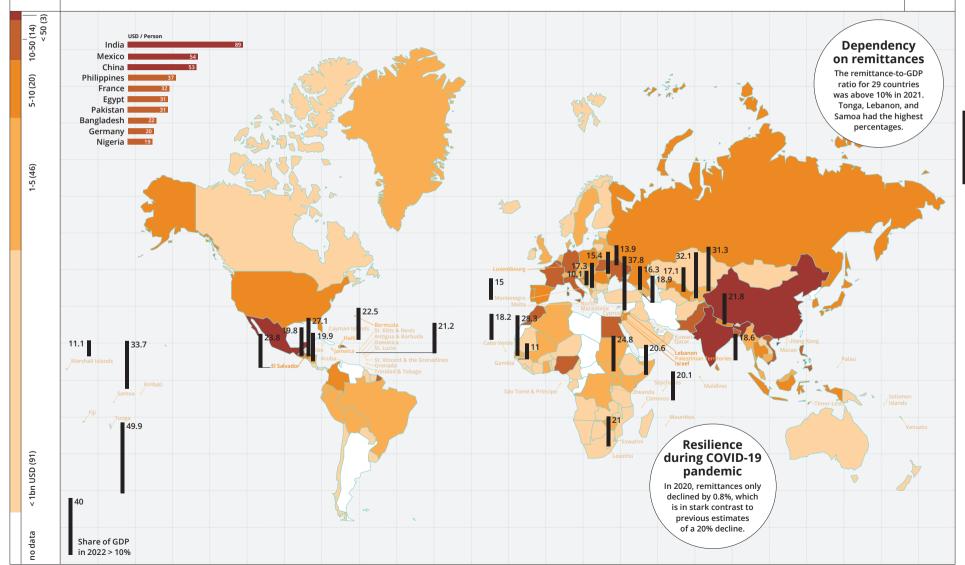


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### Flight and Migration

## Countries receiving international remittances in 2021

In 2021, international remittances strongly increased by 10.2% and reached 781bn USD, the highest growth since 2010. Due to unrecorded flows, the real figures are likely to be higher. Over 2022-23, the flows are expected to narrow to single-digit gains again. Since the mid-1990s, international remittances have greatly surpassed the volume of Official Development Assistance.



#### **Global Trade**

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Trade in times of crisis

Pandemic response

Sustainable trade

Amid rising geopolitical and geoeconomic tensions, observers were quick to downplay the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in today's crisis-ridden world. However, as the only multilateral and rules-based trade institution, the WTO is the guardian of key agreements ('trade rules') regulating the global trade in goods, services and intellectual property.

The WTO played an important role during the COVID-19 pandemic by helping to identify veiled protectionist measures of members and monitoring the distribution of medical products. The organisation was yet again at the fore of pandemic response after COVID-19 vaccines became available. Over 60 countries called for the temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regarding COVID-19 health products (so-called 'TRIPS Waiver'), pp. 126-127. This proposal was strongly opposed by - among others - the EU, the UK, Switzerland and Japan given its lasting repercussions on the IP ecosystem. The disclosure of scientific breakthroughs, only made possible by years of research and significant investments, would damage the trust and incentives needed to support these types of innovations. A compromise was announced during the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) as part of the 'Geneva Package'. The adopted waiver only applies to ingredients required for the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, and does not include therapeutics or diagnostics. Negotiations to include the latter are still ongoing.

The adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is another milestone of MC12. With it, members adopted a treaty to curb harmful subsidies and overfishing on the high seas following more than two decades of negotiations. Additionally, the agreement tackles an important sustainability issue, a topic that is becoming increasingly relevant for the WTO considering the role of trade in the fight against climate change.

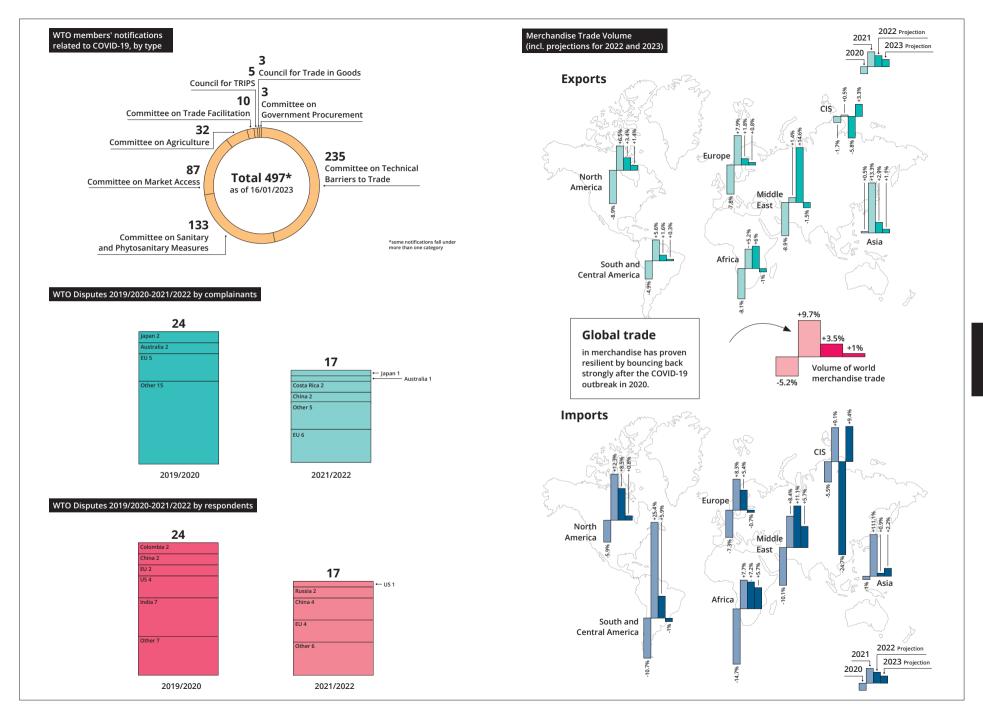
Despite these successes, key functions of the WTO are still in need of reform. Some of the most pressing issues include the inadequate rules regarding state-capitalist practices, which are distorting rules-based trade, and the restoration of the WTO Dispute Settlement system.

One of the WTO's founding pillars - the dispute resolution function - has been undermined due to the US' blockade of the appointment of new members to the Appellate Body. As a result, appeals of decisions of the Dispute Settlement Body cannot be processed and continue to be pending. The blockade is a result of Washington's dissatisfaction with some of the body's decisions, and with how it exercised its mandate, as well as a way to underline its request for fundamental WTO reforms. In light of the inoperative Appellate Body, 47 WTO Members set up the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Agreement (MPIA) in 2020 as a temporary second instance to appeal decisions of the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO (pp. 132-133). The MPIA is open to all WTO Members, and only intended to remain operational until the Appellate Body is restored. As of January 2023, two MPIA disputes had already been finalised and three more cases had been finalised without MPIA appeal, withdrawn or settled.

As the WTO is operating in an increasingly contested environment, several of its members are trying to move forward on specific issue areas as part of 'coalitions of the willing'. While some trade experts argue that up to 18 plurilateral agreements have been adopted so far (incl. during the GATT), five plurilateral negotiations were launched during the previous Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in 2017 (pp. 130-131). Out of the 164 WTO Members only 14 states are not signatory to at least one of the 2017 plurilaterals, with India and South Africa being among the most outspoken opponents of plurilateral negotiations.

Provisional solution for blocked dispute resolution

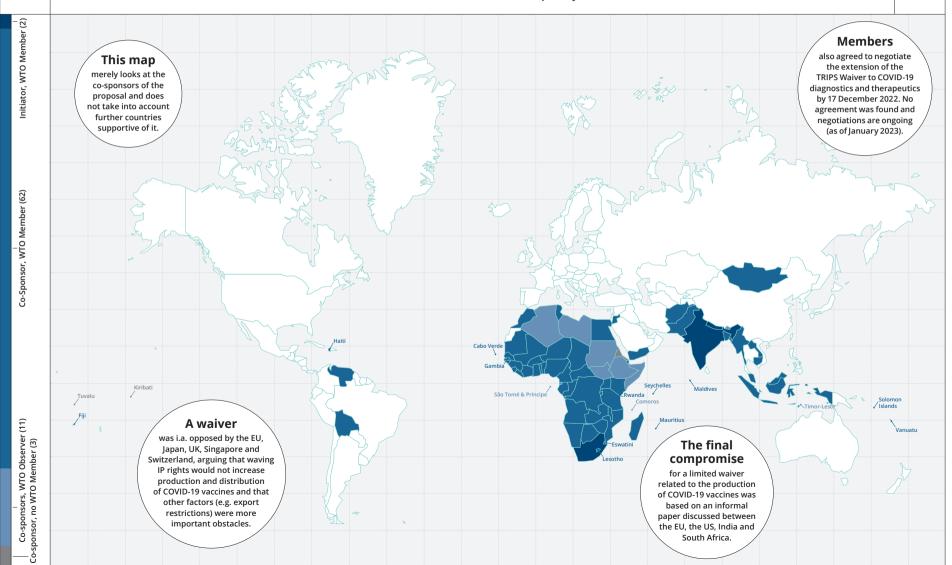
Coalitions of the willing



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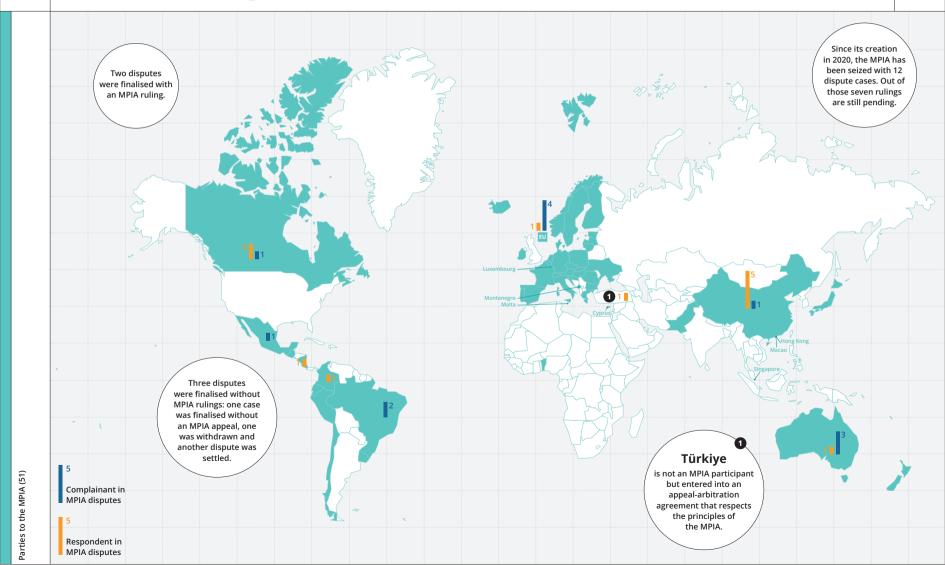
## Co-sponsors of the proposal for a TRIPS-Waiver for COVID-19 vaccines

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 60 WTO Members and Observers circulated a proposal to suspend intellectual property (IP) rights ('TRIPS-Waiver') to "diversify global production of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics" in 2021. At the 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022, members agreed to a temporary and limited waiver related to the COVID-19 vaccines.



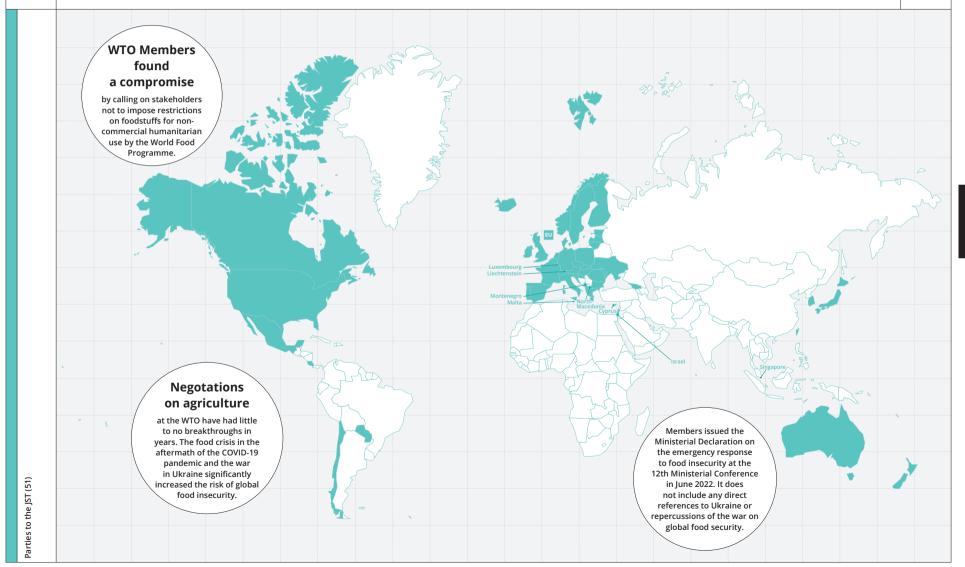
# The Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA)

In April 2020, 47 WTO Members created the Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) as a second instance for the resolution of WTO disputes while the WTO Appellate Body is not functioning. As of March 2023, 52 members are part of the MPIA. It is open to any WTO Member.



# Open and predictable trade in agricultural and food products

As a response to Russia's war of aggression and the ensuing global food crisis, the UK introduced a joint statement to the WTO on behalf of the 51 members shown in this map on 6 May 2022. It expresses solidarity with the people of Ukraine and calls on members to keep food and agricultural markets open, especially to mitigate impacts on food security worldwide.



Geneva continues to be a place of great importance for digital policies and technological advancements. The city is currently hosting negotiations ranging from the regulation of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), the development of technical standards for artificial intelligence (AI), to a potential (plurilateral?) agreement on e-commerce (pp. 128-129). In short, digital topics transcend the silos of international institutions given that almost all fields are affected by digital transformations.

Among the many international organisations, Geneva is home to the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services: the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). This specialised UN agency – well known for the annual publication of its Global Innovation Index (pp. 154-155) – shapes international IP rules and policies, provides IP-related services (e.g. patents and trademarks), and can act as dispute settlement agency on IP issues. The protection of these inventions and ideas is fundamental for the advancement of innovation and new technologies.

Geneva also hosts the UN specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which oversees the allocation of radio spectrum and satellite orbits; develops international ICT standards; and coordinates efforts to bridge the digital divide(s). Due to the decisive position of states in the organisation, it is often criticised by advocates of the multistakeholder-model of Internet Governance. The latter are concerned that states like China and Russia are trying to alter the decentralised architecture of the global internet (e.g. NewIP) and legitimise potentially harmful technologies (e.g. facial recognition standards). Such reconfigurations could have serious implications for the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and human rights online.

There are two additional international standardisation organisations headquartered in Geneva alongside the ITU: the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The withdrawal of many European and Western companies and national resources from these international standardisation bodies over the past decade is reflected in the comparatively low number of leadership positions in (ITU) study groups, where new standards are developed (pp. 146-147).

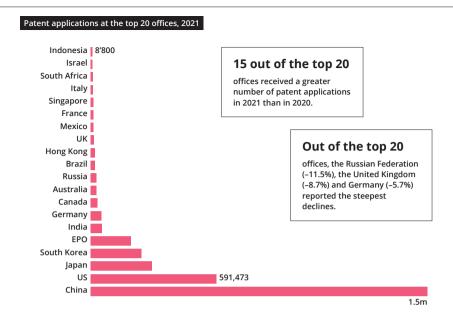
The increase of ITU's budget by 3.9m USD per year and the significant pledges amounting to 29.74bn USD for its Partner-2Connect Digital Coalition "to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally", underline the commitment of contributors to bridging the digital divide(s) (pp. 142-143).

However, there is still no consensus over norms for the behaviour of states online, as highlighted by the difficult negotiations for the adoption of the Programme of Action (PoA) to advance responsible state behaviour in the use of ICTs in the context of international security (pp. 148-149). Although adopted by the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York, many consultations and background discussions were held in Geneva. Some negotiating parties were divided over the question of multistakeholder participation, and thus did not support the resolution. The new body will be established in 2025/2026 following the second mandate of the UN Open-Ended Working Group (UN OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (2021-2025).

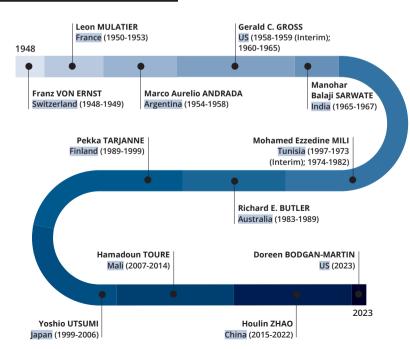
The recent geopolitical tensions have again triggered concerns about internet fragmentation and so-called 'splinternets'. Therefore, a number of actors and states are doubling down on their efforts to promote an open, free and interconnected internet (pp. 152-153).

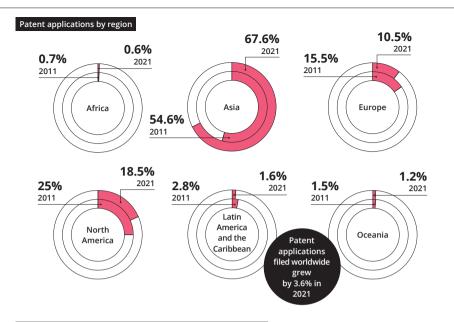
(New) norms for the digital sphere

Digital divide(s)

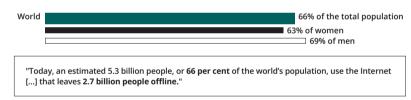


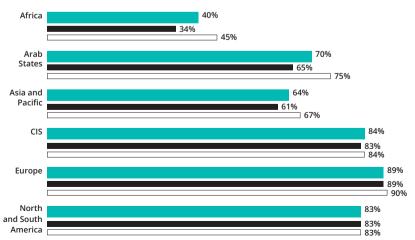
#### Timeline of ITU Secretary-Generals since 1948





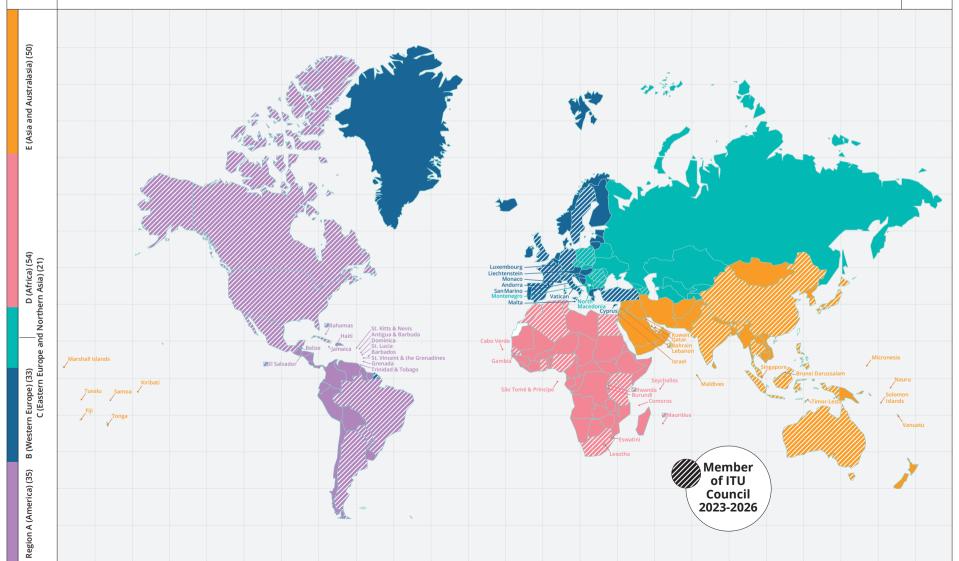
#### Percentage of internet users and the gender digital divide, 2022





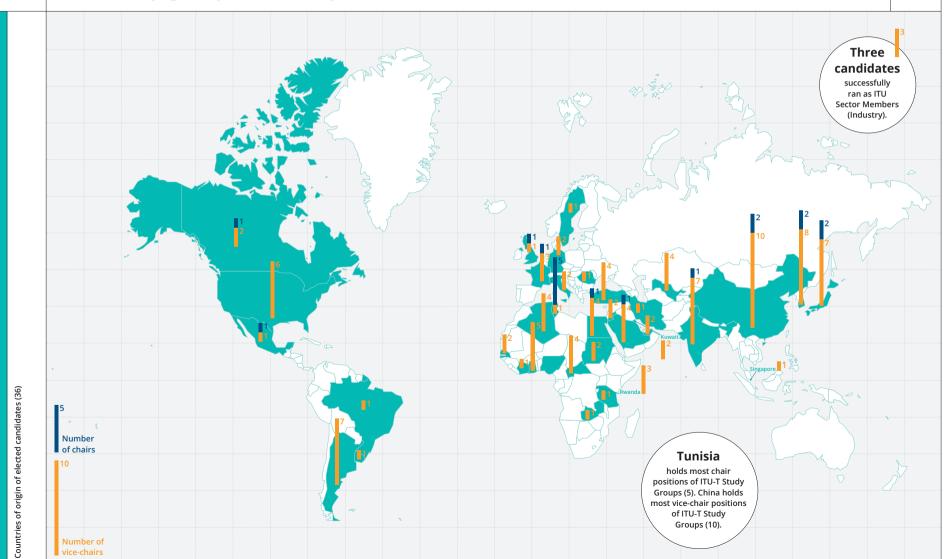
# ITU Members according to regional groups and Council Membership

The 193 UN Member States are also part of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). They are grouped according to five regions. The ITU Council is the highest governing body of the ITU. It is composed of 48 member states who are elected every four years at the Plenipotentiary Conference.



# Countries of origin of ITU study group leadership

At the last ITU World Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) in March 2022, a total of 133 candidates were elected to leadership positions of ITU-T Study Groups. The groups are usually composed of a representative from each of ITU's regional groups (pp. 140-141). Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russian candidacies for ITU-T leadership positions were discarded.

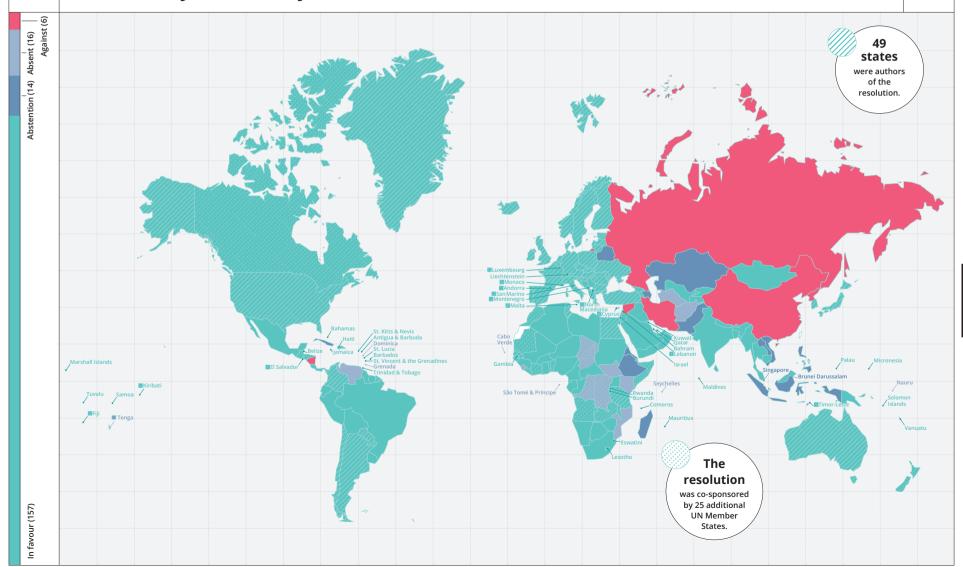




## **Digital Affairs**

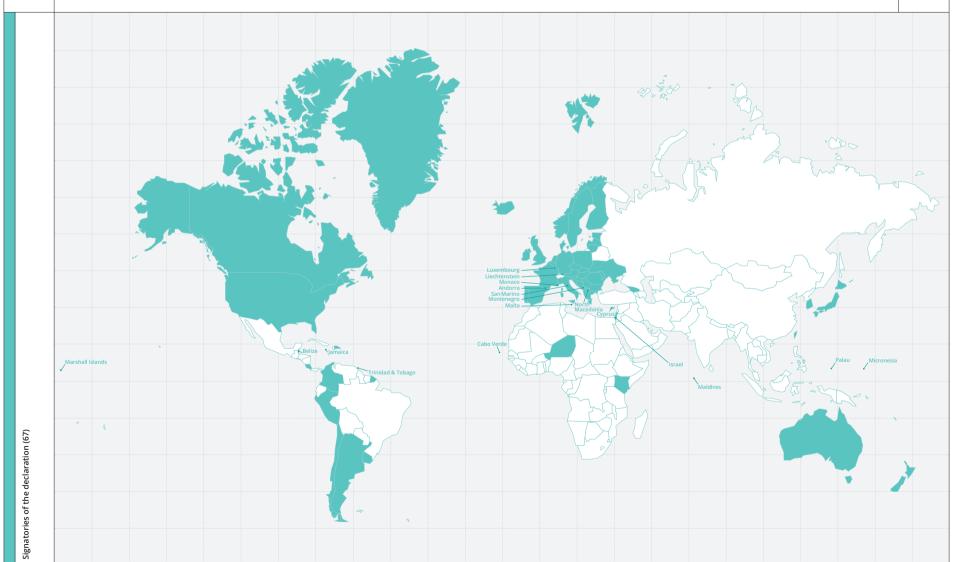
# Adoption of the Programme of Action (PoA) on cybersecurity

The First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution for the creation of the Programme of Action to advance responsible state behaviour on 3 November 2022. It will be established as a permanent, inclusive and action-oriented mechanism after the second mandate of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) 2021-2025.



# Declaration for the Future of the Internet

The Declaration for the Future of the Internet sets out principles for a trusted internet based on core democratic principles, fundamental freedoms and human rights. It envisions an internet that is free, open, global, interoperable and secure. The declaration was initially sponsored by 61 countries; as of 6 January 2023 it had been signed by a total of 67 countries.



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The fight against the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be one of the key topics in Geneva's global health ecosystem. While immediate crisis response remained a main focus during much of 2021, the question on how to improve pandemic preparedness and response in the future became increasingly important.

During 2021, Geneva witnessed heated discussions about how best to ensure a more equitable distribution of vaccines. The debate about the added value of a possible waiver of intellectual property (IP) rights was particularly controversial. While the decision about the so-called 'TRIPS Waiver' is a matter for the World Trade Organization (WTO) (pp. 126-127), the debate was held in numerous other fora. A new instrument to fight the strong vaccine nationalism in many countries and support a more equitable vaccine distribution was the COVAX mechanism, directed by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a delivery partner. Despite its often criticised flaws, COVAX can be seen as an example of international solidarity. The maps on pages 162-165, however, show that in 2021 when the demand was highest, the mechanism was not sufficiently endowed to adequately meet the needs in large swathes of the developing world. It is also remarkable that the mechanism was almost exclusively funded by the EU, the US and major Western countries.

Since 2021, and most prominently at the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2021, several high-level panel reports have strongly argued in favour of fundamental reform in order to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response in the future. One recommendation, the profound reform of WHO financing and an increase of assessed contributions was addressed at the 75th WHA in May 2022, also thanks to the leadership of Germany which headed the working group on sustainable finance. Another step was the creation of the Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR), a member-state driven intergovernmental mechanism to strengthen national capacities for pandemic preparedness.

IHR amendments and pandemic accord

Long-term challenge: Antimicrobial resistance

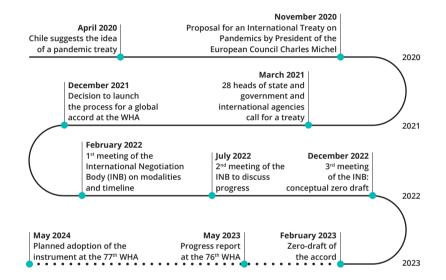
Furthermore, two historic processes were launched: First, member states agreed to elaborate amendments to the international health regulations (IHR), a legally binding framework dating from 2005 which defines countries' rights and obligations when handling public health events and emergencies with the potential to cross borders. By the end of 2022, 16 countries had already submitted concrete proposals for amendments (pp. 172-173). Second, after controversial debates about its scope and legal nature, WHO Member States initiated a process to negotiate a WHO convention, agreement, or other instrument on pandemic prevention (referred to by some as a 'Pandemic Treaty'), pp. 170-171. The conclusion of both processes - the amendment of the IHR and the pandemic accord - is envisaged for the 77th WHA in May 2024. Despite the strong focus on COVID-19, other key global health challenges remain urgent, be it the level of new HIV infections, or the global spread of the so-called 'silent pandemic' of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), see dashboard.

Finally, some health topics have become increasingly controversial; one example are discussions about sexual and reproductive health, exemplified by the Geneva consensus declaration (pp. 174-175) which has been very critical of abortion. A second example was the debate during the 75th WHA in May 2022, when the adoption of the new global strategy on HIV, Hepatitis B and sexually transmitted infections could not be passed by consensus, but had to be put to a vote due to a lack of consensus about wording related to terms used in the strategy on sexual health.

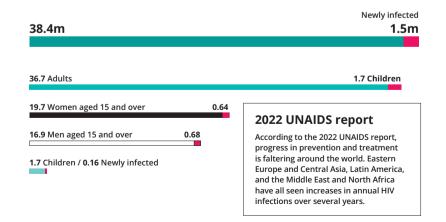
## Developments in global health

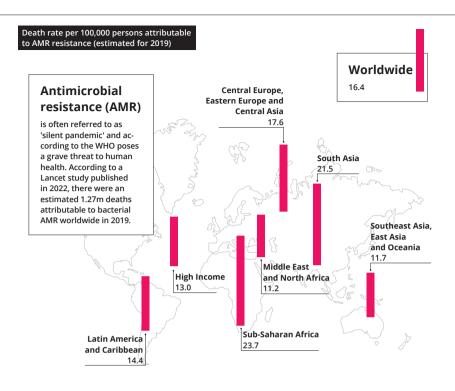
Pandemic accord

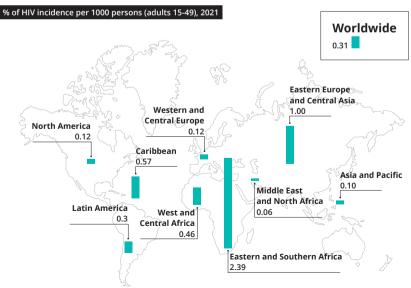
One of the key developments has been the launch of discussions about the negotiation of an International Treaty on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, by some referred to as a 'Pandemic Treaty'. The idea first appeared in spring 2020, the goal is to adopt such an instrument at the World Health Assembly in May 2024.



Adults and children living with HIV worldwide in millions, 2021







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# Recipients of COVAX vaccine donation deliveries per capita 2021

The COVAX initiative obtains and distributes vaccines primarily to the eligible 92 low- and middle-income economies. Between the first international delivery to Ghana in February 2021 and September 2021, it rolled out over 313m doses of COVID-19 vaccines. It had to postpone its 2bn dose target to the first quarter of 2022.

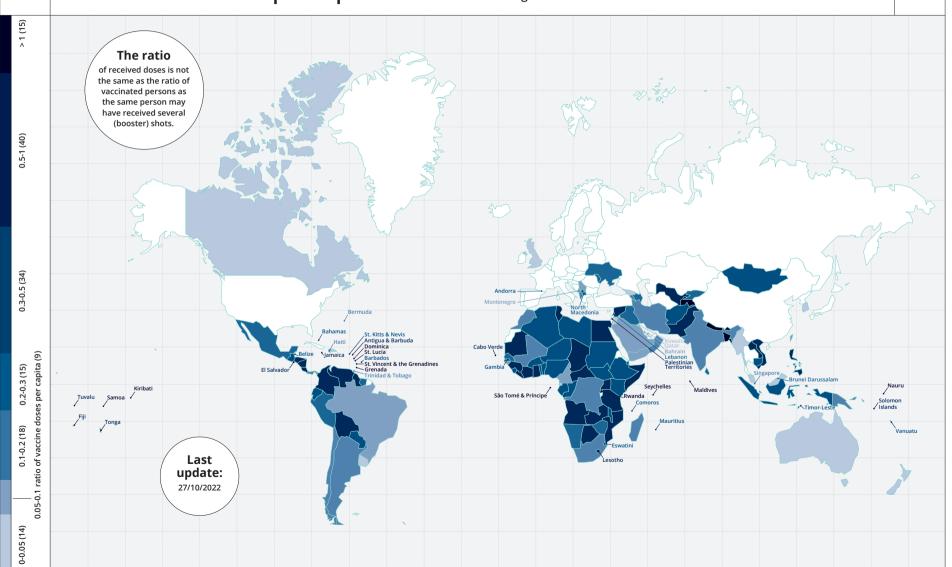




## **Global Health**

# Recipients of COVAX vaccine donation deliveries per capita 2022

As of October 2022, the COVAX initiative has delivered over 1.8bn doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 146 economies since its first delivery in February 2021. Although it has not met its 2bn target by end-2022, the average coverage per capita has increased tremendously in comparison to 2021. Also, some high-income countries have received doses.



# WHO decision to revise the International Health Regulations

At the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board in January 2022, WHO Member States agreed to initiate a revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR) which date from 2005 through potential amendments. This was launched by the US and supported by over 40 states. The US had previously submitted proposals to amend IHR provisions.



# Countries in favour of negotiating a WHO pandemic accord

The 2nd special session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in late 2021, decided by consensus to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) in charge of drafting and negotiating a WHO convention, agreement or other instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. This map shows the countries that proposed this decision.



In favour (61)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the first and oldest specialised agency and also the only tripartite organisation of the UN: its Governing Body is thus composed of member state representatives, workers and employers (pp. 182-183). The presence of the social partners has proven to be a particularly important asset during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to address the heavy impact on employment - with some notable differences among regions. At the end of 2022, only in the Americas the number of working hours reached pre-crisis levels (see dashboard).

Labour

The existence of viable social security systems has been all the more important. As data from the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2020 to 2022 shows, however, the degree of the population covered by at least one social security benefit continues to vary strongly from one country to the next. Progress in the overall coverage has been rather slow (pp. 186-187).

In several ways, 2022 has been a very important year for the ILO: on 25 March 2022, for the first time in its history, the Governing Body elected a Director General from Africa (see dashboard), Gilbert Houngbo, then President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and former Togolese Prime Minister. Houngbo took up his five-year term in October during which issues relating to informal employment will be one of his priorities. Another landmark development was the adoption of a 'Safe and Healthy Work Environment' as a fifth fundamental principle of the ILO at the 110th International Labour Conference (ILC) in May/June 2022. All ILO Member States commit to respecting and promoting these fundamental principles, regardless of whether they have ratified the related conventions. In the case of the new fundamental principle on a safe and healthy work environment, the corresponding conventions are C155 (Occupational Safety and Health) and C187 (Promotional Framework for Safety and Health at Work). In the run-up to the ILC. the classification of Convention 155 was considered to be controversial by some ILO Governing Body Members since it is considered far-reaching and potentially difficult to implement for some countries. As of 2022, many countries still have to ratify either one or both conventions (pp. 184-185).

The ILO also had to deal with several political issues: The discussions about forced labour in Xinjiang (see also pp. 50-57 in the human rights chapter) played an important role in 2022 when the Standards Application Committee raised concerns about serious violations of ILO standards, in this case linked to China's lack of compliance with Convention 111 ('Discrimination in Employment and Occupation'). Belarus equally faced strong criticism, i.e. for imprisoning a deputy member (worker) of the ILO Governing Body.

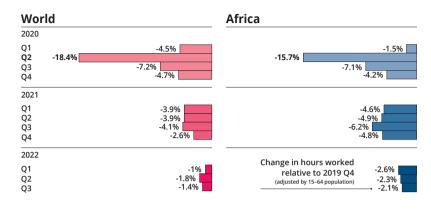
Last but not least, the ILO has in various ways supported Ukraine and the neighbouring Republic of Moldova, providing information and food packages to internally displaced and Ukrainian refugees (see dashboard).

Concerns about Xinjiang

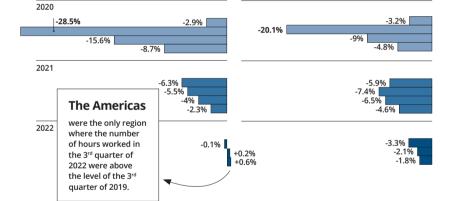
First Director General from Africa

New fundamental principle

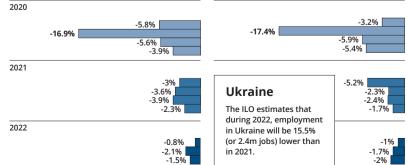
#### The impact of COVID-19 and other crises on employment



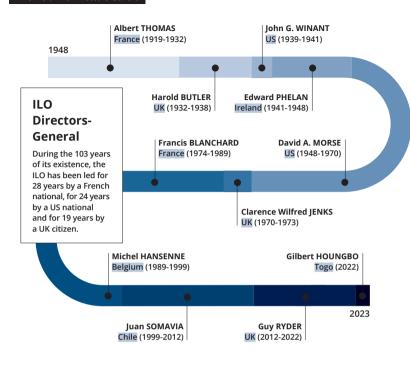
### Americas Arab States



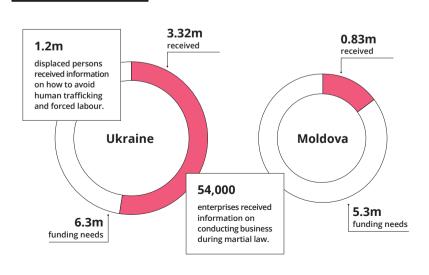
### Asia and the Pacific Europe and Central Asia



#### Timeline of ILO Directors-General



#### ILO's response to Ukraine, in USD



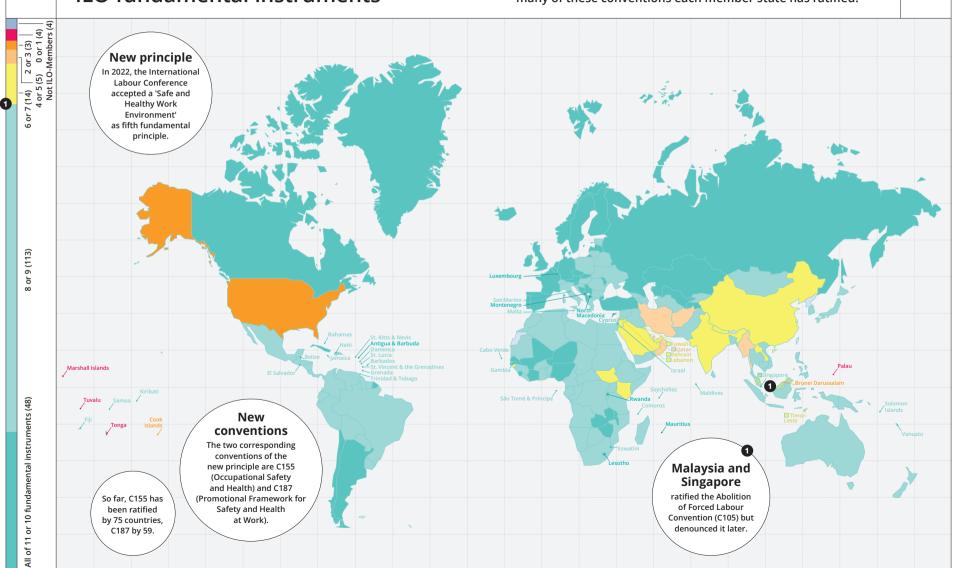
## Composition of the Governing Body of the ILO, 2021-2024

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office is the executive body of the ILO. It takes decisions on policy, the agenda of the yearly International Labour Conference, adopts the draft programme and budget of the organisation, and elects the Director-General.



# Ratification of ILO fundamental instruments

The five ILO fundamental principles are reflected in eleven ILO conventions or instruments. The adoption of a new fundamental principle means that all ILO Member States commit to respecting and promoting it, regardless of whether they have ratified relating conventions. This map shows how many of these conventions each member state has ratified.



# Social protection coverage according to the ILO, 2020-2022

The World Social Protection Report 2020-2022 of the ILO indicates the percentage of the population covered by at least one social protection cash benefit (excl. health) in 2020, e.g. the ratio of the population receiving cash benefits under at least one of the social protection functions or actively contributing to at least one social security scheme.



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Geneva is often referred to as the 'city of peace'; a description which the city earned through its longstanding international tradition as a host of peace negotiations and institutions such as the Red Cross or the European headquarter of the UN. Besides that, Geneva is home to a longstanding and vibrant community of NGOs and institutes active in the area of peace and mediation, security and disarmament.

Most importantly, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) which has 65 members, including the five NPT-designated nuclear weapon states and annually changing observer states (pp. 190-191), meets in Geneva three times a year. Hence, several countries retain an ambassador explicitly responsible for the CD. It is formally independent of the UN and has, together with its predecessor, the Committee on Disarmament, brought about major arms control agreements, including the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT, 1968), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC, 1972), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC, 1993) or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT, 1996). In 2009, it also set up a series of working groups, which, e.g. deal with the elimination of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT), the elaboration of practical steps to reduce nuclear weapons, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS).

While its work has largely stalled over the past two decades, it remains the only multilateral disarmament forum worldwide to negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several review conferences have been postponed, but were ultimately able to take place in 2022. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is largely seen as a watershed moment among diplomats. It has further exacerbated the overall work of the CD and has made the conferences a deeply challenging exercise. The international talks on a ban on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), which have been ongoing in Geneva since 2017, came to a grinding halt after the Trends and developments in the past years

Russian invasion of Ukraine; albeit parties could not agree on any outcome to limit autonomous weapons even prior to that. Hence, not much progress has been made since the publication of the eleven guiding principles on LAWS by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). The positions by some members of the Convention of certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), notably that of the US (no binding agreement, only a code of conduct) and Russia (no new regulation of any sort regarding LAWS), make any prospect of agreement or breakthrough unlikely in the near future. Also the long-awaited 10th NPT Review Conference which finally took place in August 2022, failed to deliver a consensus resolution with Russia disliking wording in some paragraphs. After an array of accusations, mainly between the US and Russia over the potential use or the alleged maintenance of facilities for biological weapons in Ukraine, the 9th BWC Review Conference adopted a final document by consensus and a working group was established. It aims at strengthening the convention and bringing it into the 21st century. What is more, the 25th anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (pp. 192-193) which was celebrated in Geneva in November, coincided with unsettling new developments: anti-personnel mines have newly been used by Myanmar and Russia, the latter deploying at least seven types in Ukraine since the invasion. Similarly, Ukraine is the only country in the world where cluster munitions (pp. 194-195) are still used, particularly extensively by Russia.

The road to recovery and development of conflict-ridden countries is burdensome and challenging. The support and solutions needed are often interdisciplinary and must be tackled holistically, which is why the g7+, a group of fragile or conflict-affected countries, partnered up with the WTO to facilitate the integration of their economies into the multilateral trading system (pp. 196-197). Seeing trade as part of the solution, the programme tries to leverage the benefits of economic integration in support of peacebuilding and state-building efforts.

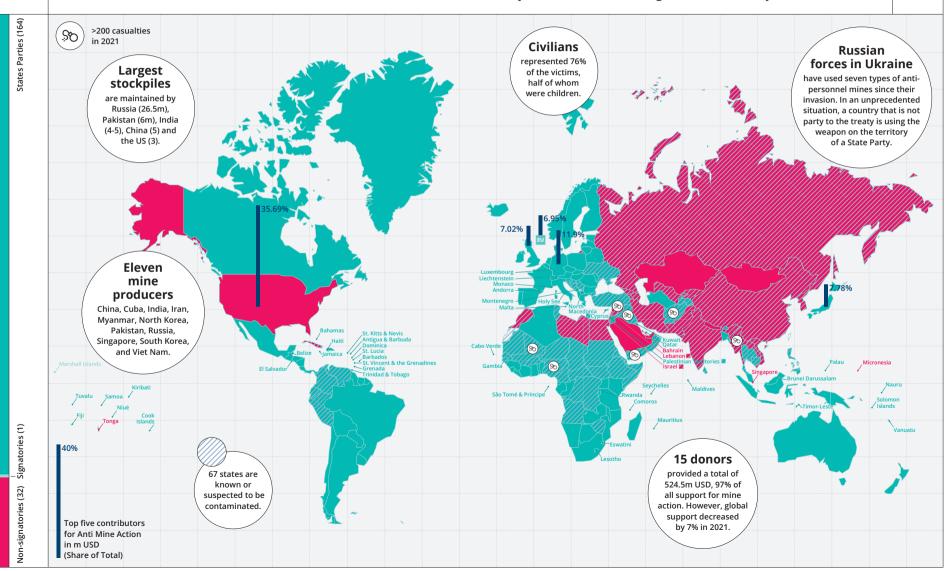
(SIPRI)



## Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

**Peace and Security** 

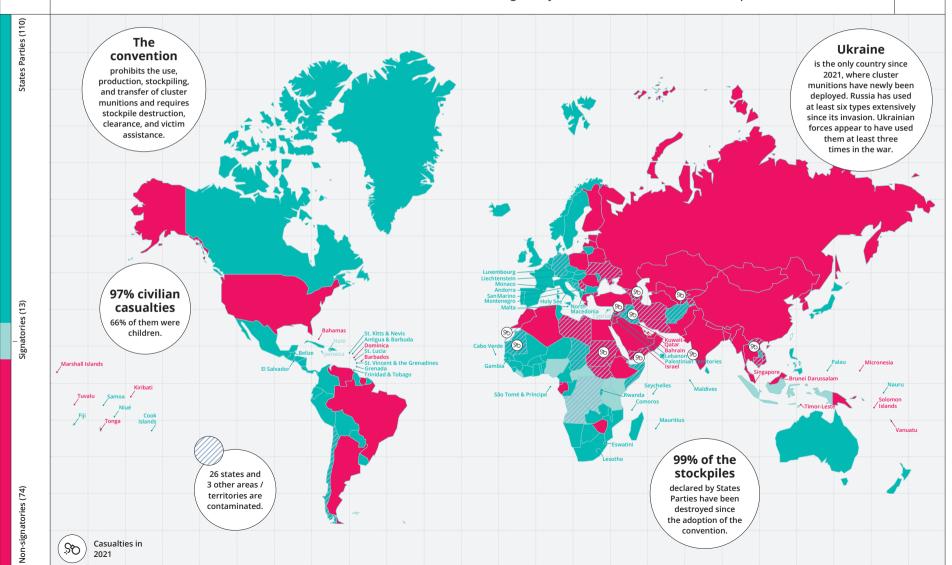
2022 marked the 25th anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty which aims to promote the disarmament of landmines by prohibiting their use, development and stockpiling. The 164 States Parties meet annually in Geneva. In 2021, 67 states or territories worldwide were contaminated. At least 5,544 people were killed or injured, 26% of them in Afghanistan, 17% in Syria, 8% in Yemen.



## **Peace and Security**

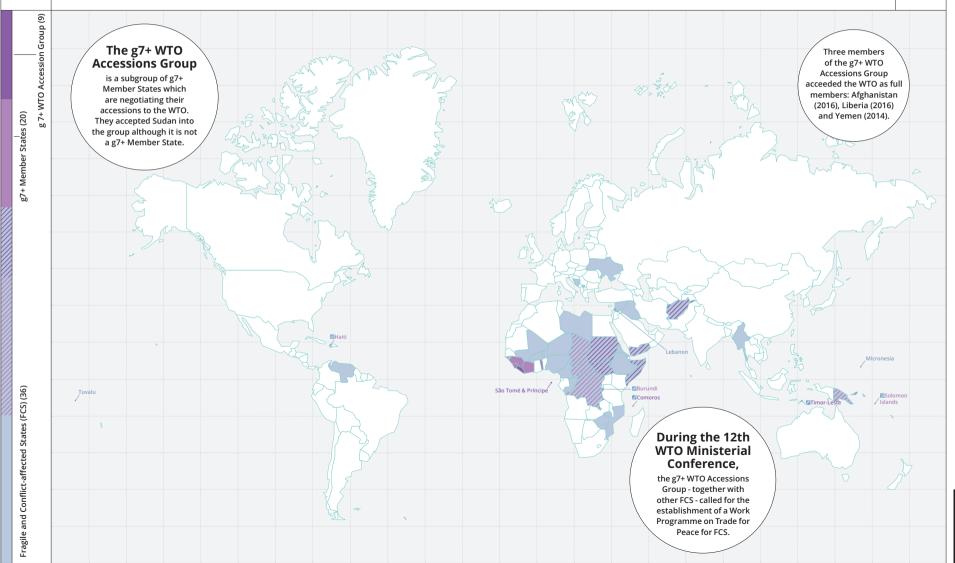
## The Convention on Cluster Munition

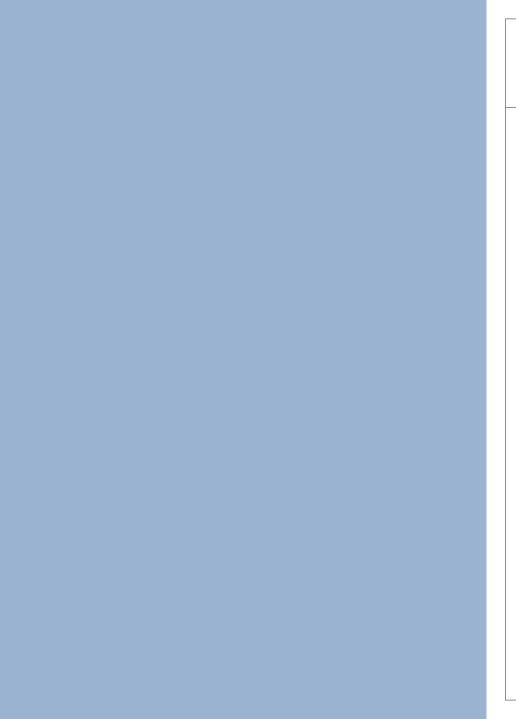
The Convention on Cluster Munitions was adopted in 2008. As of August 2022, there were 110 States Parties who meet annually in Geneva. Cluster munitions are considered de-facto landmines as they kill and maim indiscriminately long after the conflict has ended. While the number of casualties has dropped globally, a dramatic increase has been reported in Ukraine.



### **WTO Trade for Peace**

The Trade for Peace Programme of the WTO aims to assist fragile or conflict-affected countries (FCS) by facilitating their accession into the multilateral trading system. The programme grew out of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group, launched in 2017. The g7+ is an intergovernmental organisation of 20 conflict-affected countries supporting peacebuilding and state-building efforts.





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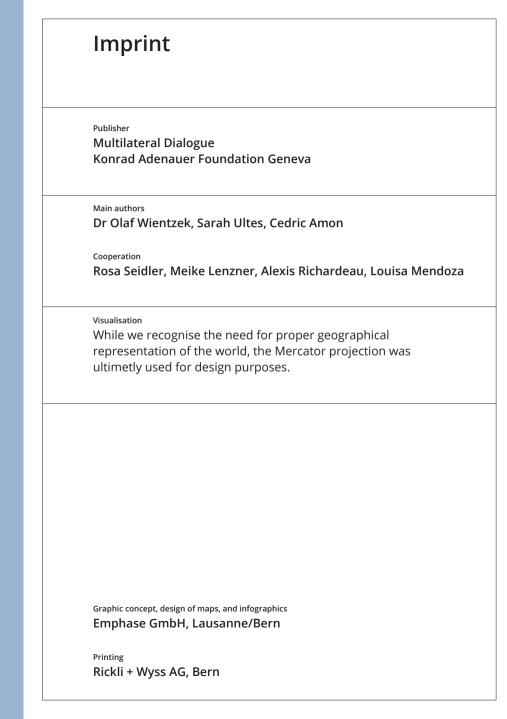
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Despite being home to the United Nations' second headquarters, the public often overlooks the importance of Geneva. The 'Concise Atlas of International Geneva 2021/2022' argues that this is unfounded since the work of over 45 international organisations as well as of over 750 non-governmental organisations located here, shapes multilateral diplomacy like few other places in the world. On the basis of key policy areas in Geneva such as human rights, humanitarian aid, flight and migration, global trade, digital affairs, global health, labour or peace and security, the atlas highlights the central importance of international Geneva for global developments and multilateralism.



