

Dear Excellency,

We are writing to you on behalf of Together First - a coalition of over 200 civil society groups from all regions - to share our short [overview](#) of the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* report, and to ask for your support in ensuring it leads to action.

This is a matter of urgency. Across the world, many people have been at the point of breakdown for years, if not decades. Now, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it painfully clear that no one is safe, until we all are.

It is also a matter of credibility for the United Nations. In the UN75 Declaration, Member States committed to listening to the global public. That was also the spirit in which the Secretary-General launched his UN75 "global conversation" and the follow-up process to the Declaration, including the We the Peoples' consultation on *Our Common Agenda*.

Our coalition has spent the past two years reaching out to our networks - including youth, marginalised and offline communities - to make the case for engaging with these UN processes. We need to know that our efforts will lead to results.

The report proposes much-needed action to address pressing challenges, notably the climate emergency. As states prepare for COP26, we hope these ideas will be considered ahead of any processes created to take forward the report. Climate change does not respect the schedules of international organisations.

We also welcomed the report's emphasis on the need to build trust between people and institutions. In this regard, we were pleased that the Secretary-General will ask all UN entities to establish a civil society focal point, and that he will explore further the calls for a high-level entry point. We know from areas such as gender and youth that the UN is more effective when it has a dedicated entity, as well as mainstreamed capacity - and we hope that you will support implementation of these proposals.

Finally, we hope that the report - which was mandated by the General Assembly - will be given due prominence during High-Level Week. It is precisely because of the many challenges we face that we need to make time to look at how we can better manage them, now and in the future.

We therefore encourage Member States to foster discussion on the report - in the Assembly and in capitals. We suggest this includes discussions on next steps, to ensure that the Secretary-General is given sufficient time to prepare for the proposed 2023 Summit of the Future, including consultations with Member States and other stakeholders.

Whether this report heralds a breakthrough for “we the peoples” depends on leadership by Member States and we stand ready to support you. In the coming weeks, we will be releasing analysis on different aspects of the report and organising events with civil society partners (click here to [watch initial reactions](#) from the Club de Madrid, Group of Women Leaders, UN Foundation and UNA-UK).

We would welcome the opportunity to engage with your mission.

Yours sincerely,  
The Together First Team