

Scenarios and possible medium and long-term trends related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of SDGs

Friday, 16 July, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Delivered by: David Styers on behalf of United Way Worldwide

Thank you, Moderator and your Excellencies. The one-billion Volunteers in every country across the world are a powerful resource to help build back better from the pandemic and to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The very nature of global volunteering reflects the universality of the Sustainable Development Goals by bringing together members from civil society, academia, and the public and private sectors from diverse locations to work together.

A 2020 survey by the Plan of Action Secretariat showed that more than 90% of respondents believe that volunteers contribute significantly to the SDGs, particularly in health and education. So, we call on all Member States to support and recognize volunteering in their Voluntary National Reviews and national plans and strategies to achieve the SDGs.

For innovative visions and models of volunteering support, it is important to

1. promote integrated rather than siloed approaches,
2. collaborate across different sectors and levels, and
3. effectively engage the public and private sectors.

There is also a great need for digital infrastructure that enables people to collaborate and share knowledge, as we have been doing these past two weeks, especially where we cannot meet easily or safely in person.

In closing, Member States and society must improve their recognition, support, and integration of volunteers' and civil societies' contributions in wider development efforts and in crisis prevention, management, and resolution. We can all be part of a transformative force for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by going further, going faster, and most importantly going together to make the world a better place for all.

Now more than ever, communities need help. They need hope. We have one life. To live better, we must Live United and leave no one behind.

Thank you.