



Decade of Ecosystem Restoration – 2021 - 2031

World Environment Day on **June 5th** marked the launch of the UN Decade of Ecosystem restoration under the theme: *“Reimagine, recreate, restore: Urgent actions for the world environment and ecosystems restoration”*. The global UN initiative on ecosystem restoration was called for by a UN General Assembly resolution in 2019 as part of an effort to assist in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, and conserve the ecosystems that are still intact. It presses for urgent action as there has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now. *“Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet – and its people.”* The **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2031** calls



for actions to reimagine, recreate, and restore, while preventing, halting, and reversing the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.



[Watch the short video](#) We are urged to become part of the solution by doing something to remedy the situation. We invite you to **take action** by pledging to *“Restore the Planet.”*



[Watch a short video](#)

UN Secretary General – Second Term



On 18th June, the **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** was re-appointed to a **second five-year term** by acclamation in the 193-member U.N. General Assembly. He had been previously nominated by his homeland, **Portugal**, and endorsed by the **UN Security Council**. None of the **7 independent candidates** for the position were put forward by a member state of the UN, so the re-appointment was widely anticipated.

In his address following taking the oath of office, Secretary General Antonio Guterres said *“We are truly at a crossroads, with consequential choices before us. Paradigms are shifting. Old orthodoxies are being flipped....The pandemic has revealed our shared vulnerability, our inter-connectedness and the absolute need for collective action. It is my intention to serve with humility. I will give it my all to ensure the blossoming of trust between and among nations, large and small, to build bridges and to engage relentlessly in confidence building. I will also seek to inspire hope that we can turn things around, that the impossible might be possible”*. [Read more](#)

Child Labor

The commemoration of the **World Day against Child Labor (June 12th)** took on extra significance this year as **2021** was declared by the UN as the **International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**. In August 2020, the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour became the first international labour standard ever to achieve universal ratification by all 187 ILO member states. However, the fruits of this historic achievement are yet to be borne out on the ground. **A recent joint report by the ILO and UNICEF** reveals that the number of children engaged in child labor has risen in the course of the last 4 years, despite prior decades of declining numbers. Now the COVID-19 crisis further threatens to reverse years of progress in tackling the problem. Although child labour is more prevalent among boys than girls, the gender gap is narrow when 21 hours per week of household chores undertaken by girls are taken into account.



[Watch David's story...](#)

[Learn about the Fair Share Campaign re Child Labour](#)

Did you know that


- Worldwide, **160 million children** are engaged in **child labour**; and **79 million** of them are performing **hazardous work**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa** is the region with the highest prevalence (**23.9%**) and largest number of children in child labour (**89 million**)
- **Child labor is 3 times** more prevalent in **rural areas** than in urban areas, with **agriculture** being the most common sector.
- **89 million children** between the ages of **5 and 11** are engaged in child labor; **one third** of them are **girls**.
- There are **237 million children** globally who do not have a **birth certificate** and thereby lack a legal identity making them more vulnerable to **child trafficking**.

Alliance 8.7 is a **global partnership** of 240 government organizations, NGOs and private enterprises that came together under with a special focus on eradicating forced labor, child labor and human trafficking around the world under the umbrella of **SDG 8.7** Chaired by the **ILO (International Labor Organization)** they focus on specific action areas which include supply chains, migration, governance and conflict & humanitarian settings. . They work with invite pathfinder countries, member states who are committed to fast tracking efforts to eliminate forced and child labor and achieve SDG 8.7. A week of action was declared to focus out progress made in carrying out their **2021 Action Pledges**. [Watch the short video](#)

ALLIANCE



Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the world of work.


On June 25th, the first-ever international treaty on violence and harassment in the world of work – known as **ILO Convention 190 (C190)** – came into force. The Convention protects workers from violence and harassment. The **NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons** together with three other NGO committees in which the RSHM NGO is an active participant is partnering with ILO to strengthen the call for member states to ratify and implement the Convention.  [Learn more](#)



Generation Equality



The **Generation Equality Forum** was a global gathering which took place in Paris from 30th June – 2nd July and engaged nearly 50,000 people in a mainly virtual format to generate action for the rapid advancement of gender justice. . Twenty six years after the historic Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the **Beijing Declaration**

and Platform for Action the Forum was designed to assess progress made towards gender equality, with a focus on accelerating further action. Happening at a critical moment when the gendered impact of COVID 19 has been widely acknowledged, the Forum launched a **Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality**. **The plan was** designed by six Action Coalitions – multi-stakeholder partnerships that have identified the most critical actions required to achieve gender equality in specific areas ranging from gender-based violence and technology to economic and climate justice. Commitments from governments, donors and corporations that were made during the Forum totaled **\$40 billion dollars**. This represented “the largest-ever collective infusion of resources into global gender equality.”  [Read more....](#)



RSHM Briefs



During the month of June, **RSHM NGO** worked closely with other NGOs at the UN to organize **two virtual Side events** linked to the **elimination of child labor**. One was organized by the **NGO**

Mining Working Group – and focused on the issue of child labor in the coltan mines in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Good Shepherd sisters in the area gave concrete testimony to the work they are doing with the local community to offer alternatives, including education for children in the coltan mines, while other panelists highlighted the important role of local and global advocacy and the role of the **International Labor Organization**.

The second webinar was jointly organized by the NGO Committee to stop Trafficking in Persons and the NGO Committee on Migration and the addressed the issue of **"Improving Outcomes for Migrant Children at Risk of Trafficking"** with input from the Special Rapporteur on Child trafficking, the Mexican mission to the UN and UNICEF, as well as the voice of a survivor of child trafficking.



SAGRADOMUN

The **Model UN programme** continues to be an important and enriching element of the broader educational programme of many of the schools in our **Global Network of RSHM Schools**. On the 15th and 16th of June, **Model UN Conferences** were held in the **3 RSHM schools in Portugal**. Veronica RSHM was asked to contribute a short video as part of the Opening session, speaking about the role of the RSHM as an NGO at the UN. The 2021 **SAGRADO MUN Conference** in Lisbon focused on the Post Pandemic Consequences and issues pertaining to Refugees. Students took on the roles of specific member states and learnt the importance of dialogue and debate on important global issues from diverse perspectives and experiences. As one teacher expressed it **"Sagrado MUN was a success. The students were real UN Delegates. They got into the spirit of the discussion and problem solving"**.

An excerpt from the closing talk of the student leader of the **Economic and Social Committee in CSCM Lisbon** *"I hope that this space for negotiation, presentation of resolutions and debate has provided everyone with the opportunity, as the theme of the year tells us, to launch networks of hope, which promote improved relations between States and which keep in mind the dignity and improved living conditions of all people"*

 [Read about the first **SAGRADO MUN Conference** in Fatima.](#)



Distribution

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