

VISION STATEMENT

Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu

Candidate for Secretary-General of the United Nations



Upholding Multilateralism and Building Bridges

A United Nations that Fulfils Its Mission

The United Nations was founded to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. The UN Charter was forged through the wisdom of women and men who knew all too well the unspeakable price that war had inflicted on humanity. From the ashes of war and from the sacrifice of millions, the United Nations was established to maintain international peace and security. Throughout the decades, it has become the foremost global forum for building peace, advancing economic and social development, and promoting universal human rights. While much has been accomplished, humanity once again stands at a defining moment in its history.

International peace and security are under unprecedented strain. War is ravaging peoples and lands across the globe; widening economic inequalities undermine the legitimate aspiration of future generations to achieve greater prosperity than those who came before them; demographic shifts and global migration patterns raise new challenges that demand coordinated international responses; human rights are violated in plain sight and weakened by intolerable double standards; and transnational threats, including organized crime and terrorism, challenge States' sovereignty and threaten the security of all. At the same time, a new technological revolution is unfolding, generating both extraordinary opportunities and profound uncertainty.

The United Nations remains humanity's best hope for moving forward together.

Yet only a United Nations that rediscovers its original historic mission and purpose can rise to the challenge.

The Charter has been and remains our enduring beacon, providing the principles and framework for international dialogue and cooperation. I am convinced that it is what stands between humanity and the abyss of endless war and destruction. As Secretary-General, I would faithfully uphold, serve, and promote the Charter.

With more than four decades of experience in diplomacy, I remain firmly convinced that the United Nations can once again guide humanity toward peace, prosperity, and dignity for all. I seek the office of Secretary-General because I believe the United Nations remains indispensable - not because it is perfect, but because no other institution possesses its universal legitimacy, convening power, and moral responsibility.

Our task is not merely to preserve the Organization, but to strengthen its capacity to mediate disputes, prevent conflict, protect human dignity, and deliver tangible solutions for present and future generations.

A Secretary-General Who Builds Trust

The Secretary-General must be an independent guardian of the Charter, an honest broker among Member States, and a visionary leader of the world's most complex multilateral institution. The role demands integrity, impartiality, courage, and the ability to listen carefully and to lead. These qualities are particularly vital at a time when the United Nations is called upon to undertake profound reform, reduce costs, and refocus on its core mission. Above all, the Secretary-General must serve all Member States impartially and work to build a better future for all.

Priorities for a Stronger United Nations

First, preventing and resolving conflict.

Diplomacy remains our most powerful tool for reducing tensions and managing risks in an environment marked by mistrust. The United Nations was founded on a simple yet enduring truth: security cannot be built against one another. As hard as it may be, it must be built with one another. That principle has not changed, and our responsibility to uphold it has never been greater. In this regard, resolving today's complex conflicts requires keeping channels of communication open, and reopening those that have been closed. Engaging with those with whom we disagree is not a concession but a responsibility. It is essential for avoiding misunderstandings and reducing the risk of miscalculation in today's volatile security environment.

The Secretary-General, through the exercise of the Organization's good offices and preventive diplomacy, can bridge divides, build trust, and help achieve results both at the negotiating table and on the ground. Our objective should not simply be to manage crises, but to prevent them. To that end, the United Nations should strengthen its capacities for early warning, mediation, peacebuilding, and cooperation with regional partners in order to reduce human suffering and the enormous costs of war.

At the same time, UN peacekeeping operations continue to serve the cause of peace by fostering stability, supporting peace agreements, and protecting civilians. Although they are not an end in themselves, these operations create the conditions necessary to sustain peace and must remain agile, effective, and responsive through continuous review and reform.

Second, restoring confidence in multilateralism.

As the main platform for multilateralism, the United Nations must become a more effective platform for dialogue among all Member States, large and small. Every nation and every individual around the globe should once again regard the Organization as a trusted forum where differences can be addressed peacefully and where international law remains the common foundation for collective action.

Under the UN umbrella, we must strengthen our focus on addressing the structural and systemic challenges facing the most vulnerable members of our international community, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This is not only a moral responsibility, but also a strategic investment in global peace, stability, and prosperity.

Additionally, in an increasingly polarized and fragmented geopolitical landscape, a strong partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations is both necessary and mutually beneficial. The United Nations should work in close partnership with other organizations toward common objectives, building on the principles of regional ownership, burden-sharing, and operational sustainability.

Third, preparing the international system for emerging challenges.

Artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity, outer space, and other transformative technologies present extraordinary opportunities alongside significant risks. The United Nations must help establish global governance frameworks that promote security and foster innovation while safeguarding human rights, international peace and security, and shared prosperity. The Organization possesses unparalleled convening power to advance inclusive global governance through initiatives such as the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance, ensuring that emerging frameworks reflect the priorities of all nations.

At the same time, evolving challenges have heightened global instability and deepened inequalities, underscoring the importance of meeting humanitarian needs, foremost among them, ensuring access to food. The United Nations has already demonstrated its capacity to deliver tangible results through timely and effective action, as exemplified by the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which was made possible through close cooperation between my country and the United Nations. The Organization must continue to play a leading role in advancing global food security.

Fourth, accelerating sustainable development and climate action.

The Sustainable Development Goals remain humanity's shared blueprint for a more just, inclusive, and resilient future. Progress requires renewed international partnerships, innovative financing, scientific cooperation, and practical support for countries facing the greatest vulnerabilities. Reducing inequalities -both within and among countries- is essential to building lasting peace and stability. This means accelerating efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms, narrowing the gap in prosperity levels, bridging the digital divide, safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable populations, and protecting the environment and biodiversity.

Empowering women and girls by ensuring equal opportunities in every aspect of life is an indispensable investment in our common future. Equally, young people must be placed at the heart of our collective efforts to advance prosperity, inclusion, and peace, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making is one of the most effective ways to strengthen youth leadership in addressing international challenges.

Fifth, strengthening the United Nations itself.

The Organization must become more agile, transparent, digitally capable, financially responsible, and accountable. Resources must be directed toward measurable impact, while decision-making should be guided by evidence and strengthened through accountability at every level of leadership. Streamlining the United Nations requires a careful balancing act: improving value for money invested in the Organization without compromising its core capabilities, expertise, or operational capacity. Reform must enhance effectiveness while preserving the institutional strengths that enable the United Nations to fulfil its mandate.

Financial resources are in sharp decline, while global needs are reaching unprecedented levels. Hence, sustaining the life-saving services and life-changing work of the United Nations for millions of people around the world demands strategic prioritization, sound judgment, and a clear understanding of the value these programmes and activities deliver. The next Secretary-General should lead this comprehensive reform process with determination, firmly anchored under the guidance and broad support of the membership. We face a historic opportunity to reshape the Organization into the United Nations we need for the future. It is an opportunity we must seize with care and determination.

Principles That Will Define My Term

My approach will be guided by a number of enduring principles:

- Strict fidelity to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.
- Independence and impartiality in serving all Member States.
- Transparency and accountability throughout the UN system.
- Strong partnerships with regional organizations.
- A steadfast commitment to inclusion, ensuring that all voices, especially those traditionally underrepresented, help shape global solutions.

Throughout my career, regardless of the positions I have held, the principles of the United Nations have remained a constant source of guidance. In my current role as Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), I have remained firmly committed to the principle of impartiality among States. I have put forward ambitious and comprehensive proposals to revitalize dormant yet indispensable political processes, while advancing a broad reform agenda that has included an 11 per cent reduction in the Organization's budget, closure of redundant structures, and a leaner, more coherent institutional framework designed to eliminate duplication and strengthen synergies.

Previously, as UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Coordinator for the Independent Assessment Mandated by Security Council Resolution 2679 (2023), I put forward recommendations for a more integrated and coherent international approach to addressing the challenges facing Afghanistan -recommendations that remain relevant today.

From Aspiration to Delivery

The United Nations will ultimately be judged not by the resolutions it adopts, but by the lives it saves and the lives it improves. Success depends on translating principles into diplomatic initiatives and practical action while maintaining the confidence of both Member States and the peoples of the United Nations.

The next Secretary-General must combine strategic vision with operational strength, moral authority with political realism, and unwavering commitment to the Charter with dedication to reform. All along, the Secretary-General must recognize the indivisible relationship among the three pillars of the United Nations and give due attention to each of them.

Our world does not lack the knowledge or the resources to address its greatest challenges. What it requires is the collective will to act together. The United Nations can -and must- once again be the platform through which that collective will is forged. At this pivotal moment in history, I believe the United Nations needs a Secretary-General who understands the dynamics driving today's major conflicts, many of which have roots in the wider region in which I was born and raised, but whose consequences are felt across the globe.

Having devoted my career to addressing the very issues that continue to threaten international peace and security, and the well-being of humanity today, I am convinced that the way we confront these challenges, and the determination with which the United Nations defines and fulfils its role, will help shape our common future.

As Secretary-General, I would dedicate all my experience, energy, and commitment to ensuring that the United Nations remains faithful to the vision of its founders: preventing conflict, advancing sustainable development, protecting human dignity, and helping to build a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world for all.