



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 December 2021

My dear Colleagues,

As 2021 draws to a close and we look forward to the New Year, I want to thank you for your commitment and dedication over these past twelve months. This has been a year like no other, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc around the world, and to create new challenges for the United Nations. You ensured that we rose to meet those challenges by adapting our working methods and finding ways around, over and through the many obstacles it has put in our way. I thank each and every one of you for your part in delivering for the people we serve.

This is also a time when we remember those we have lost. I send my deepest condolences to the family members, friends and colleagues of all those who died in the service of the United Nations this year. And I deeply appreciate our personnel who are stationed far from their family members over the holiday season, often in difficult and dangerous places.

Looking forward, January marks the start of the New Year, and of my second term as Secretary-General. My central priorities for my second term will be to build and maintain momentum to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; to support countries, particularly developing countries, to recover from the pandemic and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and to improve our management of critical global public goods, especially in the digital realm. My recent report on Our Common Agenda includes concrete recommendations for a more inclusive, networked multilateralism, fit for the twenty-first century. I look forward to working with you to promote and realize these goals, beyond conflict prevention and resolution.

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect our work for the foreseeable future. As we work for universal access to vaccines and treatments, and for an equitable recovery, we must also be prepared for further complications and difficulties. I have great faith in our resilience as an Organization, and could not wish for more dedicated colleagues during these troubled times. I hope that as travel reopens safely, I will be able to resume visits to our United Nations operations around the world in 2022, and to meet many more of you. Once again, thank you for your service.

I send my warmest wishes to you and to your families for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

*with my warmest regards*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written over a horizontal line.

António Guterres