



Rising to the challenge – looking back at UN DESA's year

In 2019, four years after committing to the hope of the 2030 Agenda, science paints a starker picture than ever before of the future we are facing. The existential, interwoven threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, rising global hunger and inequalities loom over our generation. The message is clear: we must accelerate our efforts now, as individuals, communities, businesses and nations, to secure the future of our people and planet. It is clearer now than ever before, that our fates are interconnected.

As a Department established to deliver on the Charter of the United Nations, UN DESA found itself again at the crossroads of history in 2015, as Member States called on the Secretary-General to enhance the Department's capacity to help them achieve the transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By 2019, the response from the Secretary-General was well under way as UN DESA realigned its work with the priorities of the 2030 Agenda in six key strategic areas.

The Department strengthened thought and intellectual leadership on key global economic and financial policy issues. It enhanced support to the intergovernmental processes that underpin the 2030 Agenda. It improved use of data and analysis to inform decision-making. It stepped up capacities to leverage financing for implementing the SDGs. It has focused on strategic substantive support to the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system and UN country teams. UN DESA has also worked to strengthen strategies and mechanisms to enhance external communications and strategic partnerships, including with the private sector and academia.

Over the past year, UN DESA pioneered innovative approaches to track progress on commitments towards the global goals. The Department launched the first rounds of VNR Labs, which help countries dive deeper into their Voluntary National Reviews, as well as

the Federated Information System for the Sustainable Development Goals (FIS4SDGs), which brings multiple data sources in one user-friendly platform.



All eyes were on the Department again in September 2019, when UN DESA served as the substantive secretariat for three meetings at the highest level – the SDG Summit, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the High-level Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Crowning a year of arduous preparations, these three events accelerated action and raised ambition on sustainable development, financing for the SDGs and delivering tangible progress for small island developing states.

These and many more major accomplishments of the Department are now compiled in the new publication – *UN DESA Highlights 2018-2019*. It offers a bird's-eye view of the Department's contributions over the course of the 73rd session of the General Assembly – a year in which UN Member States confronted some of the greatest threats to humanity since framing their aspirations in the Charter of the United Nations.

Launching the publication, UN DESA head, Liu Zhenmin, said that “through its pages, we hope to give you an insight to the work of a Department that has responded time and again to the call from Member States, a Department that is fully aligned with the priorities of Member States, and a Department that provides more robust, inclusive and evidence-based support to the global community.”

Read UN DESA Highlights 2018-2019 [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS



The whole world benefits when everyone is included

“Disability inclusion is central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. When we remove policies or biases or obstacles to opportunity for persons with disabilities, the whole world benefits,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres said earlier this year when he addressed the 12th session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Today, one billion people, or 15 per cent of the world's population, experience some form of disability. Recent data show that persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty than persons without disabilities due to barriers in society such as discrimination, limited access to education and employment and lack of inclusion in livelihood and other social programmes.

To change this, and to make sure that everyone is included regardless of ability, leaving no one behind, the world made a promise by adopting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 17 goals provide powerful guidance to local communities, countries and the international community to ensure that our development efforts are disability-inclusive.

It is against this backdrop that UN DESA is commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) this year focusing on the theme “Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda”. The theme centers around the empowerment of persons with disabilities for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda, which pledges to ‘leave no one behind’.

At this year’s event, participants will hear more about important initiatives for disability inclusion which have been launched this year. This includes the [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy \(UNDIS\)](#) which was launched by the UN Secretary-General in June this year to transform the way the UN works on disability, operationalizing disability inclusion throughout the entire organization.

They will also learn how UN entities and other stakeholders are taking action and how progress is being made to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities, their rights, well-being and perspectives in the global agenda.

Civil society and the private sector are also taking the lead in supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. In December 2019, a global conference on disability and development will take place in Qatar to step up ongoing efforts by global, national, regional and local actors to keep the promise of the 2030 development agenda for all.

Another component of this year’s celebration will focus on the power of sport to bring people together. Not only does sport help empower persons with disabilities, while promoting peace, tolerance and understanding. But it also has the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behavior and to strengthen social ties and networks among persons with disabilities. Together with different international actors, the UN is increasingly supporting interventions that are improving accessibility and availability of sporting opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Follow this year’s observance of the IDPD at UN Headquarters in New York to learn more about these efforts. The programme will consist of an official opening, a panel discussion on new initiatives for disability inclusion, and a spotlight event on the theme of ‘Sport for all for peace and development’. The event will be broadcast live via [UN Web TV](#).

For more information: [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)



International cooperation on migration – what’s next?

December is a time to recall that all migrants—no matter their immigration status—are entitled to the same basic human rights as everyone else. Migrants form a vital and integral part of our societies and contribute much to sustainable development. As revealed by UN DESA’s latest revision of estimates of the International Migrant Stock, the number of international

migrants globally reached an estimated 272 million in 2019, an increase of 51 million since 2010. The global number of international migrants has grown faster than the world’s population. As a result, migrants comprise 3.5 per cent of the global population today, compared to 2.8 per cent in the year 2000.

On 18 December, the United Nations celebrates International Migrants’ Day, marking 29 years since the adoption of the [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#). One of the nine core international human rights instruments, the Convention distinguishes between the basic human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families, regardless of their immigration status, and other rights of those who are in a regular situation. After almost three decades, the resolution continues to enjoy limited buy-in: only 55 Member States have ratified it so far, none of which are major migrant-receiving countries.

But that does not mean international cooperation on migration has stalled. On the contrary, exactly one year ago, on 10 and 11 December 2018, Member States came together in Marrakech, Morocco, to adopt the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#). The General Assembly formally endorsed the Marrakech Compact on Migration on 19 December with an overwhelming majority of 152 Member States voting in favour.

The Compact has 10 cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles: people-centred; international cooperation; national sovereignty; rule of law and due process; sustainable development; human rights; gender- and child-sensitive; whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

It includes 23 objectives covering the full migration cycle, ranging from conditions and drivers of migration in home countries, to preparations for migration, movements, border management and integration in destination countries to development impacts, return and reintegration. Each of these objectives includes a series of concrete actions Member States can take.

In 2018, the Secretary-General established the [UN Network on Migration](#), comprising 38 UN system entities to ensure coordinated support to Member States. A member of the Network’s Executive Committee, UN DESA co-leads the working group on data and evidence, contributes to the development of the Network’s knowledge platform and connection hub and supported the negotiations on the organizational arrangements for the international migration review forums.

In May 2019, the Network launched the start-up fund for safe, orderly and regular migration to support the implementation of the Compact. Today, the trust fund has already received pledges totalling more than \$7 million.

The year 2020 will be a litmus test for international cooperation on migration as UN Regional Economic Commissions and other migration-related platforms undertake regional reviews to assess the status of implementation of the Compact. The results of these reviews will inform the first [International Migration Review Forum](#) in New York during the first half of 2022.

For more information: [UN DESA's Population Division – International migration](#)

Photo: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

GET INVOLVED



UN turns 75 in 2020: Get ready to join the biggest-ever global conversation!

What are three things that can save the world? Why does global cooperation matter? As the UN will commemorate a milestone birthday next year, this soon-to-be 75-year-old wants to hear from YOU! What are your views on how to tackle the big challenges of our time? Start making plans to join next year's conversation and be part of shaping our future together!

As 2019 is nearing its end, preparations are in full swing for 2020, when the United Nations turns 75. To mark this landmark occasion, the organization will kick off the biggest-ever global dialogue on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want.

“We need your opinions, your strategies, your ideas for us to be able to deliver better for the people of the world that we must serve,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres said as the UN75 initiative pre-launched earlier in the fall.

Starting in January 2020, the United Nations will hold dialogues around the world and across borders, sectors and generations. The aim is to reach the global public with a special focus on youth and those whose voices are too often marginalized or not heard in global affairs; to listen to their hopes and fears; and to learn from their experiences.

Not only does the initiative strive to spark dialogue and action on how we can build a better world despite the many challenges we face, but it also seeks to create a global vision for the year 2045, when the United Nations will celebrate its centenary.

The views and ideas captured from around the globe will be shared online and they will moreover be presented to world leaders and senior UN officials at a high-profile event during the 75th Session of the General Assembly in September 2020.

Be sure not to miss this opportunity to add your voice to this global dialogue! Find information on how to join the conversation on the [UN75 website](#). To follow the conversation via social media, follow [@JoinUN75](#) and the hashtag [#UN75](#).



COP25: SDG Pavilion enhances link between climate action and SDGs

As global temperatures keep rising, transformative change is urgently needed to mitigate the climate-related risks to human life and well-being. The UN Climate Change Conference (COP25), to be held on 2-13 December in Madrid, Spain, will bring together the international community to accelerate efforts to reduce global warming. UN DESA is contributing by hosting the SDG Pavilion, an

interactive space where relevant actors can share experiences and ideas on how best to leverage tangible action. We spoke with Minoru Takada in UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development Goals about what to expect.

Why is it important to connect the climate agenda with the SDGs and 2030 Agenda?

"The first thing to note is that the two agendas are really two sides of the same coin. The Sustainable Development Goals—which include Goal 13 specifically on climate action—provide a blueprint for the transition needed to a healthier planet and a more just world, and climate change provides the urgency for accelerating action now. The other SDGs have direct links to climate change, for instance, protecting our forests, promoting access to water and sanitation, protecting our ocean, supporting clean energy, ensuring sustainable food production, creating jobs—these all will help us mitigate the worst effects of global temperature rise. This is backed up by the findings of the [Global Sustainable Development Report](#) that a group of independent scientists issued this year at the Secretary-General's request. So, action on one agenda supports the other. We just need to make sure that we are working smartly and not in silos."

How is UN DESA working to break down these silos?

"We've been doing a lot of work on this during the past year, starting with organizing the inaugural SDG Pavilion at COP24 in Katowice, Poland, in 2018. That experience not only brought together stakeholders to share best practices on SDG and climate implementation, but also it helped to establish good relationships with colleagues at UNFCCC. Together, our departments held the Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference in Copenhagen last April. That meeting expressly identified gaps and challenges in both climate action and SDG implementation, and resulted in new ideas for collaboration and avoiding duplication of work. UN DESA Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin and UNFCCC Executive Secretary issued a [joint op-ed](#) calling for work on both agendas to be better aligned, and in November, our two entities jointly issued an [extended report](#) on the Conference findings.

Of course, it's not only UN DESA and UNFCCC that are working on this. The Secretary-General has been clear in his remarks this year, notably at his Climate Action Summit, that we need to link climate change to a new model of development with less suffering, and more justice and harmony between people and planet. The whole UN system has been mobilized toward this effort to leave no one behind."

Tell us more about this year's SDG Pavilion!

“Yes! This is the second year that UN DESA is organizing the SDG Pavilion at a climate COP, and we’re building on the lessons learned last year. It’s a big, colorful space with all 17 SDG icons on the walls, so our guests will have that constant reminder. For our programming, we’ll have panel discussions, Q & A sessions and special events that move forward the climate and SDGs conversation, particularly as they relate to sustainable transportation—aviation, cars and shipping being big drivers of carbon emissions—and the ocean, which is under threat from the impacts of climate change but also provides some solutions. UN DESA is organizing two big conferences in 2020 on these topics, so we want to engage all the stakeholders on those issues to generate some innovative new policies and partnerships next year.”

Learn more about the SDG Pavilion on [this website](#), and follow #SDGPavilion and @SustDev on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) during COP25 from 2 to 13 December.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Tearing down the walls online

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, there is a dangerous tendency to build new divides, but this time, the walls are virtual and used to separate people online. The 14th Internet Governance Forum in Berlin gathered more than 6,000 participants from 168 countries – in person and online – to discuss ways of tearing down these barriers and improving governance of the Internet to make it a force for good.

“An accessible, free, secure and open Internet is at risk of fracturing along three intersectional lines,” warned UN Secretary-General António Guterres addressing the Forum. “There is a profound digital divide, a social divide and a political divide. If we do not work together to address these divides, we will be remembered as the generation that ruined the early promise of the Internet,” he said.

The Secretary-General also stressed that the growing frequency and severity of cyber-attacks are undermining trust and encouraging States to adopt offensive postures for the hostile use of cyberspace. He called for collective responsibility to face these challenges of nefarious use of digital technology.

Held from 25 to 29 November, this year’s Internet Governance Forum was the largest and most geographically diverse to date. Representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, and international organizations, gathered under the umbrella theme of ‘One World. One Net. One Vision’ to discuss ways to elevate global cooperation and how to build a safe, stable and secure internet.

With 3.6 billion people in the world lacking affordable Internet access, and with more than 80 per cent of the population in least developed countries still offline, inequalities were a big topic of discussion at the Forum. The Secretary-General stated that connecting all the world’s people by 2030 must be our shared priority, not only for sustainable development but for gender equality, citing that only 2 per cent of women in Latin America and the Caribbean and in East Asia and the Pacific owned a mobile phone with Internet access.

Mr. Guterres recommended ways to elevate the Internet Governance Forum as the foremost global platform where actors could meet to discuss how to address these global challenges: taking up the recommendations from the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, and announcing that he would soon appoint a technological envoy to work with governments, industry, and civil society to help advance international frameworks.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said multilateralism should be the basic principle for any further development of new technologies. “We all need to preserve the core of the Internet as a global public good, and this will only be possible if we rethink the structures of this governance of the Internet”. She further stressed that the Internet cannot be shaped only by states and governments alone, because of its impact on people’s everyday life.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and head of UN DESA, Liu Zhenmin, said that “the future governance of the Internet should be one that takes care of multi-stakeholder concerns, that safeguards global Internet connectivity and cybersecurity, that facilitates sustainable development of all countries, and accelerates human progress.”

Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and founder of the World Wide Web Foundation stated that “the web is at a tipping point. If it’s to be a force for the good, we must act now. If we fail to tackle the threats that we face we risk a digital dystopia.”

Vint Cerf, credited as a “father of the internet” also called for our collective responsibility saying that “cyberspace is a global space and we need global solutions to our shared challenges.”

For more information: [Internet Governance Forum](#)

MORE FROM UNDESA

Women need to be front and center in the energy transition

SDG BLOG



Sheila Oparaocha, International Coordinator & Programme Manager, ENERGIA



By Sheila Oparaocha, International Coordinator and Programme Manager, ENERGIA

Close to 1 billion people in the world lack access to electricity, and another 3 billion lack access to clean cooking. This energy poverty disproportionately affects women and girls. Some entrenched gender norms see women as responsible for most of the unpaid household activities, heavily dependent on men for decision-making, underrepresented in the energy value chain and unable to access funds. Gender-based inequalities are still very intense and hinder the development of the sector as a whole. Ensuring women's participation in the energy projects and programmes is an important step towards enhancing access to clean energy solutions and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this light, the narrative on women is slowly changing. Nowadays, many organizations do not see women as victims, but as agents of change, pivotal to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, as envisioned by SDG 7. It goes without saying that we must step up action to reform the energy sector to become more gender-sensitive and to enhance women's inclusion. Failing on this means that we will fall short of achieving SDG 7, and consequently also SDG 5 on gender equality.

Women entrepreneurs: Crucial for scaling affordable, reliable and clean energy access in remote areas



Since 1996, the ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy has worked at the nexus of energy access and gender. In the early years, our work focused on gender inclusion in energy programmes and projects, and on influencing energy policy. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Energy for All partnership gave new impetus to our work. ENERGIA started implementing a programme that involves women in the energy supply chains, thus combining and sustaining advocacy efforts with experience on the ground.

Women are crucial in scaling sustainable energy access to remote areas, because of their unique position as household energy managers and users—leading to higher adoption rates—and thanks to their vast networks in hard-to-reach communities.

Together with long-term partners, we have supported thousands of women in their efforts to build micro- and small-scale energy enterprises, contributing to their communities' energy access where there was none. And what success they have had! Together, they have provided almost three million people with clean energy services and created jobs for thousands of women and men in their communities.

One of these women is Hilaria Paschal. Supported by [Solar Sister](#), Hilaria started a clean energy business in her rural village in Northern Tanzania because there was no electricity in her area or in neighboring villages. Her solar business changed the opportunities for her family. "Thanks to my income as Solar Sister, my children can go to school now," said Hilaria. "And my baskets company also benefits from the solar lamps. Now I can weave in the evening." But Hilaria's success did not remain with herself and her family. In the six years as a Solar Sister, she has emerged as a true leader in her village and surroundings and a mentor to the Solar Sister group that has developed over the years. This group of women, through the solar products and the improved cookstoves they sell, have reduced women's exposure to fire hazards and toxic fumes and decreased the communities' impact on natural resources.

Oumy Ngom, an entrepreneur supported by [Energy 4 Impact](#), also contributes to the clean energy shift of her village. Oumy lives in Tambacounda in Eastern Senegal. She is president of CESIRI, a network of 1,300 women active in processing local agricultural products. Driven by the lack of grid connections in many villages and frequent power outages where electricity from the grid is available, Oumy is working with the women in the network to make clean energy available to people in Tambacounda. They sell solar lamps and improved cookstoves to households and small food-processing businesses. Oumy's biggest dream is to build a fully equipped solar plant for her unit. Together, they

have provided clean energy services and improved cooking solutions to 47,000 people in Tambacounda.

SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group to make sure no one is left behind

As co-chair of SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group (TAG), ENERGIA brings to the table this unique experience with women entrepreneurs on the ground. From our journey alongside them, we have learned what is needed to make sure that no one is left behind in the energy progress, both on sustainable energy access and clean cooking. We have also seen that more and more targeted efforts, exponential increase in investments and political will are needed to put the world on track to meet SDG 7. In reviewing progress on the SDGs, we must constantly keep in mind that progress should be inclusive and for that, specific measures and mechanisms need to be in place.

The 2018 and 2019 SDG 7 policy brief, “Accelerating SDG 7 Achievement: SDG 7 Policy Briefs in Support of the High-level Political Forum 2019,” focuses on the linkages between SDG 7 and the SDGs under review at that time. Incorporating gender into SDG 7 and energy policies and frameworks on the one hand and the wide recognition that SDG 7 is an important enabler to reach virtually all other SDGs has been a great leap forward. Now, we need to push for implementation.

There is not much time left and we still have a long way to go. World leaders, organizations, stakeholders and private sector are called upon to contribute accelerating action for sustainable development and inclusive sustainable energy access by 2030 and beyond.

SDG 7 – clean and affordable energy



The world is making progress towards Goal 7 with encouraging signs that energy is becoming more sustainable and widely available. Access to electricity in poorer countries has begun to accelerate, energy efficiency continues to improve, and renewable energy is making impressive gains in the electricity sector.

Nevertheless, more focused attention is needed to improve access to clean and safe cooking fuels and technologies for 3 billion people, to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the electricity sector, and to increase electrification in sub-Saharan Africa.

Access more data and information on the indicators for SDG 7 in the [SDG Progress Report 2019](#).



Action on energy will make or break our climate



As climate researchers, business leaders, activists and policymakers meet this month for the 25th Conference of Parties to the UN climate convention, better known as COP 25, the planet will be 1°C (1.8°F) warmer than pre-industrial levels and the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will have surpassed levels last seen hundreds of thousands of years ago.

The delegates will also know that there is little more than 10 years left to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels, as foreseen in the Paris Agreement, and that even half a degree Celsius beyond that threshold will substantially increase the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

For all the diverse streams and conversations at the COP, it is action in just one sector that will make or break the world's chances of success at reining in climate change. That sector, responsible for about three quarters of global greenhouse gas emissions, is energy.

Changing the global energy mix to move away from burning fossil fuels is the only way to decisively break the link between economic activity and greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, current projections are at odds with the changes that are necessary. While most new power generation capacity added globally is coming from renewables, most energy consumed globally is still provided by fossil fuels.

At the same time, global energy demand continues to rise. Without more rapid gains in energy efficiency and conservation, global energy demand may increase by a further 50 per cent by 2050.

Decision makers the world over continue to underestimate the urgency of this energy transition, resulting in short-sighted decisions that expand investment into carbon-intensive assets. Newly built coal-fired power plants in many countries are locking in emissions of air pollutants for decades to come. They will contribute not only to catastrophic climate change, but also to rising numbers of premature deaths from air pollution, which is already the fifth-largest threat to human health globally.

The window of opportunity to act is narrowing. To succeed, an unprecedented global political and economic effort will be required, including investment and swift scale-up of renewable energy technologies, modernization of electricity transmission and distribution, and increase in energy efficiency and electrification.

More in-depth analysis on this and other regional issues related to the world economy and energy transition are available in the December Monthly Briefing on the World Economic Situation and Prospects.

Effective governance for sustainable development: putting principles into practice



The confluence of economic, social and environmental trends – such as demographic shifts, growing inequalities, evolution of the digital economy, rapid urbanization and climate change – are reshaping governance. There is an increased demand for institutions that can design and deliver services integrating all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Recognizing these needs, UN DESA, together with the African Union/African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) organized the African Regional Workshop on *Effective governance for sustainable development: Putting principles into practice* from 30 October

to 1 November in Pretoria, South Africa. It explored several entry points through which the principles of effective governance for sustainable development can lead to a way forward.

The principles were developed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), and endorsed by UN Economic and Social Council, to assist interested countries, on a voluntary basis, to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. They apply to all public institutions.

The principles can be instrumental in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as well as Agenda 2063–Africa’s master plan for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse of the future. The ten substantive sessions of the workshop examined how.

Discussions during the workshop dwelled on elements that can enable both Agendas. Competent planning, robust monitoring and evaluation were linked not just with the economic needs but also the well-being of all Africans as well as a healthy environment. SDG training and research were covered as were data and statistics. Policy coherence was also addressed to depict a fuller array of experiences and institutional practices on the continent.

A report released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the SDGs Center for Africa in June 2019 ranked the progress of 52 African countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda based on 97 indicators across the 17 SDGs. It concluded that the region has shown moderate gains in achieving the SDGs since 2018, with half of the surveyed countries showing no net progress or having regressed.

The African Regional Workshop affirmed that the continuous engagement of UN DESA with the APRM can help overcome barriers to building strong institutions while ensuring that the governance and sustainable development objectives of the continent are fulfilled.

For more information: [Access workshop materials and summary report](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2-4 December, New York	Second meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics
3-7 December, Uganda	Workshop on Municipal Asset Management Action Plans
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
9-17 December, China	Capacity Building Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals
16-17 December, New York	EGM in addressing emerging requirements and challenges for policy and decision-making in developing countries in the age of digital cooperation

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