

**United
Nations**



CHAPEAU

The challenges we face can only be addressed through stronger international cooperation. The

In Our Common Agenda, I proposed to Member States that we work together on arrangements to convene and operate an Emergency Platform in the event of complex global crises. I stated that: “The platform would not be a new permanent or standing body or institution. It would be triggered by the magnitude, regardless of the type or nature of the crisis involved. Once activated, it would bring together leaders from Member States, the United Nations system, key country groupings, international organizations, countries or research bodies, and other experts.” This proposal would allow the convening role of the United Nations to be maximized in the face of crises with global reach and should be “agnostic

What are complex global shocks?

Complex global shocks are being taken on new and worrying characteristics. They are becoming more complex, their impacts are more global, and the need for international cooperation to respond to them is therefore even more critical. Today, the complexity and acuity of the potential global shocks we face outstrip the existing capacity to manage those risks.

A complex global shock can be broadly understood as an event with severely disruptive consequences for a large population that leads to secondary impacts.



FIGURE I

POSSIBLE FUTURE COMPLEX GLOBAL SHOCKS



Complex global shocks can severely undermine progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Complex global shocks hit the poorest and most vulnerable hardest as they lack the capacity and resources to cope. Such events will throw off-track the progress towards almost all the Sustainable Development Goals, with women and girls disproportionately affected. Recent crises have highlighted how shocks can exacerbate risks for women and girls, including gender-based violence. For example, more women than men lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, fewer women and girls across the world have received vaccinations than men and boys, even though most health-care workers are women and have consequently been more exposed to the virus.³ Complex global shocks – and the response to them – can also have a negative impact on the full spectrum of human rights and reinforce existing infringements on rights, including structural discrimination and inequalities.

Once a complex global shock occurs, a more timely, predictable, and effective international response could potentially mitigate some of the impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals

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FIGURE II

IMPACT OF GLOBAL SHOCKS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: INDICATIVE STATISTICAL EXAMPLES⁵



Another example of a complex global shock is the global cost of living crisis in 2022, the effects of which are still being felt today. This crisis has

been characterized by vicious cycles with impacts on a billion people in the world.

In April 2022, I convened a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance to pursue effective global responses to these interconnected crises and advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable. I invited six Heads of State and Government to be champions of the Global Crisis Response Group, established a steering group to ensure strategic coordination across the United Nations system and engaged a wider community of partners, including the private sector, civil society and academia.¹² In May 2022, in its resolution [76/264](#), the General Assembly welcomed “the initiative by the Secretary-General to establish a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, with a Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General”, and took note with appreciation of “the analysis and the Group on the three-dimensional crisis”.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 cost of living crisis offer lessons for how the multilateral system could respond more effectively to future complex global shocks. These include the importance of:

- A rapid, predictable and structured international response;
- Maximizing the unique convening role of the United Nations;
- Catalysing political leadership through networks of willing Member States;
- Multisectoral, interdisciplinary coordination across the multilateral system;
- Multi-stakeholder engagement and accountability in the global response;
- Strengthened accountability for delivering against commitments and bringing coherence to the international approach.

How to strengthen the international response to complex global shocks

Recent complex global shocks have shown that, at the global level, our existing, conventional crisis response mechanisms are not up to the task of responding coherently and effectively to global shocks that have an impact on multiple sectors simultaneously. We lack the necessary forums at the global level to tackle multidimensional threats with a multidimensional response. Our existing response architecture, while appropriate for responding to complex global crises. Our global response is too often hampered by the absence of incentives for multilateral entities to

How an Emergency Platform would work

FIGURE IV

KEY PRINCIPLES OF AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM



KEY PRINCIPLES

To respond to the breadth of potential future global shocks, an Emergency Platform will need to adhere to the following principles:

> We need a platform that is agnostic to the type of risk we may face of the shock that arises. For this reason, the Emergency Platform would not be a standing body or entity but a set of protocols that can be activated when required.

> Learning from experiences of past complex global shocks, an Emergency Platform must actively promote and drive an international response that places the principles of equity and



Any response mechanism must ensure that participating actors make clear commitments that directly and immediately support the global response to a complex shock. This may, for example, include a commitment to advocate with key actors for a policy shift that would have a meaningful impact on the response. Participants would need to agree on the platform



DECISION TO CONVENE AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM

The Secretary-General will convene an Emergency Platform in response to a

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The factors that would be considered as part of the decision to convene an Emergency Platform could include:

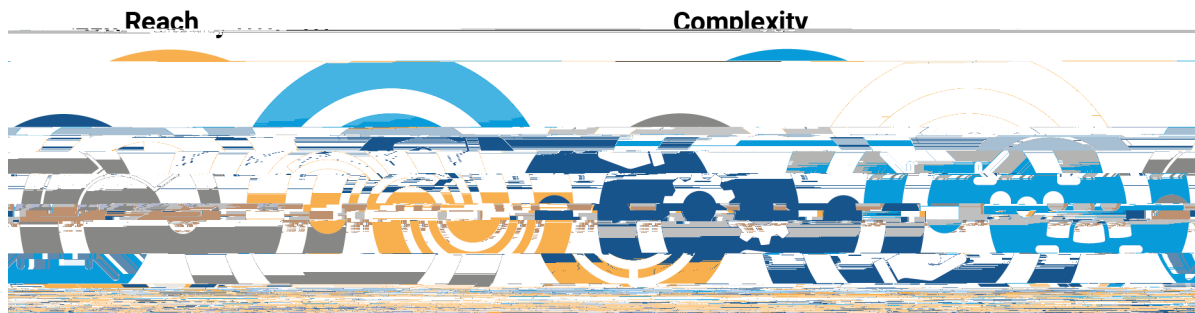
- a) **Severity of a crisis.** This would include consideration of the acuity of the primary and secondary impacts of a crisis, including metrics such as the number of people adversely affected, the impact on global economic indicators and/or the scale of environmental damage;
- b) **Reach of a crisis.** This would include the number of people, countries or regions affected by the primary and/or secondary impacts of the crisis;
- c) **Complexity of a crisis.** This would include consideration of whether the crisis is a multidimensional, multisectoral and interconnected crisis that requires cooperation across pillars and sectors

in national Governments, the United Nations system and/or other parts of the multilateral system, and the involvement of groupings, local governments, international organizations, the private sector and/or civil society;

- d) **Existing coordination and operational response mechanisms.** This would include consideration of whether there could be an adequate response to a crisis through an existing mechanism and whether the convening of an Emergency Platform could provide additional political and advocacy support to existing coordination and operational response mechanisms.

FIGURE V

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECISION TO CONVENE AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM



HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES OF AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM

The overarching objectives of an Emergency Platform would be as follows:

- a) **High-level political leadership.** Leverage the unique legitimacy and convening

FIGURE VI

OBJECTIVES OF AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM

RESOURCING OF AN EMERGENCY PLATFORM

Upon activation of an Emergency Platform, initial operating costs would be met from existing resources. Thereafter, United Nations entities and other relevant actors would be asked to provide support for the day-to-day running of the Emergency Platform, including through the secondment of technical experts. In addition, i] Zg Xdj a W V g f j g b Zci id b d W a z °



FIGURE VII

EMERGENCY PLATFORM PROCESS FLOW AND RESPONSE



Recommendations for Member States

I invite Member States to consider my proposal for an Emergency Platform to help strengthen the international response to complex global shocks. In that regard, Member States may wish to draw on the following elements for inclusion in the Pact

Nations entities, specialized agencies, other multilateral institutions that are mandated to respond in the event of

- k) Decide that, in the event of a complex global shock, the Secretary-General is requested to convene an Emergency Platform with the objective of:
 - i) Providing high-level political leadership by convening relevant actors to respond to complex global shocks;
 - ii) Ensuring an international response on the basis of solidarity and equity;
 - iii) Leading the multilateral system's response to a complex global shock to ensure a coherent and coordinated response;
 - iv) Leading a multi-stakeholder forum that can bring together all relevant actors that can contribute to the response;
 - v) Leading high-level advocacy and strategic communications in response to the complex global shock, including by ensuring timely, accurate data, analysis and policy recommendations;
 - vi) Securing clear commitments from key actors to support directly and immediately the global response to a complex shock;
 - vii) Ensuring accountability for the delivery on commitments and pledges from all participating actors.
- l) Recall Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and request that all multilateral participants in an Emergency Platform – including international specialized agencies and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes – should cooperate with and report to the Secretary-General when undertaking ac

Annex

CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

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The ideas in the present policy brief draw on the proposal for an Emergency Platform outlined in the report entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982) [1] which was developed through consultations with Member States, the United Nations system, thought leaders, young people and civil society actors from all around the world. The policy brief responds, in particular, to the rich and

