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Our world is "in the danger zone" as global solidarity plummets, says a major new analysis by global leaders and experts.

"Reigniting global solidarity" is the theme of this year's UN General Assembly. But as world leaders converge on New York, the Global Solidarity Report 2023 report finds that unless urgent action is taken across three "drivers of solidarity" the international community will likely fail to overcome poly-crises.

NEW YORK CITY, 13 September 2023 – A major new report has found worrying evidence of a weakened and ineffective global community. But there are seeds of hope to be built on. The Global Solidarity Report 2023 is produced by Global Nation and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Citizen and Goals House.

In her foreword, **Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados**, says: *"The crises we face today, and most of all the climate crisis, present challenges greater than those humanity has ever faced. We cannot let millions of homes and lives, we cannot let whole countries, sink under the sea. The only solution to these unprecedented challenges is an unprecedented increase in global solidarity."*

Main findings:

- The global public demonstrates **substantial support for solidarity**, and wants to collaborate to solve collective action problems,
- But **institutions are not strong enough to deliver** – they need more funding and better representivity.
- Crucially, **the impacts of global cooperation are at their most worrying in decades**, from health to CO2 emissions, from conflict deaths to economic convergence.

This is undermining the confidence of the public and politicians in multilateralism and the institutions we need to forge global progress – a **vicious cycle that can only be broken by renewed leadership and action**.

The Global Solidarity Report 2023 highlights three **Calls to Action**. To shift towards a world with shared purpose:

1. **Just transition, now** to tackle climate change, by providing more incentives for countries to reach net zero, and more food systems innovation to help farmers adapt.

2. **Cooperate against viruses** by expanding the Pandemic Fund and signing a global Pandemic Accord so that next time, the world is prepared.
3. **Pool global resources** for global objectives, by implementing the Bridgetown Initiative, establishing a new UN tax body, and reimagining foreign aid as Global Public Investment.

In their foreword, **Erna Solberg, former Prime Minister of Norway** and **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuko, former vice-president of South Africa**, say: *“We are concerned that in 2023 the world is in the DANGER ZONE, and that solidarity seems to have weakened compared with the first two decades of this century. That only underlines the urgency of action in the face of great challenges.”*

In his conclusion, **Stefan Löfven, former Prime Minister of Sweden**, says: *“We know the challenges we face and the evidence presented in this report does not diminish them in the slightest. We are in the Danger Zone. But it does offer some reasons to hope... [Our] sense of common destiny is the basis on which solidarity, community and cooperation will grow in the 21st century. It is time to believe in ourselves, and to redouble our efforts.”*

Other contributors to the report include:

- **Ismahane Elouafi**, Incoming Executive Managing Director, CGIAR
- **Chikwe Ihekweazu**, WHO Assistant Director-General for Epidemic Intelligence and Surveillance Systems
- **Saber Hossain Chowdhury**, Special Envoy to Hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh
- **Avinash Persaud**, Special Envoy on Climate Finance, Barbados
- **Evan Lieberman**, Director, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- **Vanessa Kerry**, WHO Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health
- **Sarah Cliffe**, Executive Director, New York University Center on International Cooperation
- **Eun Mee Kim**, President, Ewha Womans University
- **Anjali Kwatra**, Director of Advocacy, Marketing and Communications, UNDP
- **Toyin Saraki**, Founder & President, The Wellbeing Foundation Africa

As world leaders meet in New York for the 78th session of the UN General Assembly focused on accelerating action on the 2030 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals through the theme of ‘Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity’, Global Nation has produced (for the first time ever) a tool designed to measure global solidarity, and to gauge annually whether the global community is taking meaningful steps forward, or is strained to breaking point. The report showcases up-to-date data and analysis shaped by leading experts across multiple disciplines and identifies three key drivers of solidarity: identities, institutions and impacts.

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Contacts

For all media and communications related inquiries: Qali Id, qali.id@globalnation.world

For all other inquiries: Sophie Barbier, sophie.barbier@globalnation.world

About Global Nation

Global Nation is a think-/do-tank at the nexus of academia, advocacy, strategy, and communication. Founded by Hassan Damluji and Jonathan Glennie in 2022, it aims to work for a more cooperative world.

For more information about the Global Nation's work visit: <https://globalnation.world/>
To read the Global Solidarity Report visit: <https://globalnation.world/global-solidarity-report/>

Substack: <https://globalnation.substack.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GlobalNation>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/globalnation-thinktank/>

MORE FROM THE REPORT:

"The new Global Solidarity Scorecard reveals relatively high levels of solidarity among citizens around the world," write **Martijn Lampert, Glocalities Research Director and Panos Papadongonas, Glocalities Senior Research Consultant**, research partners to the report. *"Despite a changing world, we have seen stable, fairly strong feelings of global citizenship since the start of our research programme in 2014."*

"If we can forge a greater sense of global solidarity through shared identity – imagining others around the globe as an extended community about whom we care deeply – this may compel climate-related sacrifice in the manner a soldier goes to war for the nation" said **Evan Lieberman, Professor of Political Science and Contemporary Africa and Director, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Michael Sheldrick, Co-Founder and Chief Policy, Impact and Government Affairs Officer, Global Citizen suggests *"We must bring individuals back to the forefront of multilateralism. A lot of people feel that the realm of international affairs is too distant and abstract for them to meaningfully impact it. But it doesn't have to be that way."*

"To claim individual solidarity is one thing, but measuring it across the globe has the potential to transform how we communicate about the issues we care about most, and how we organize to solve the challenges we face as a global collective" said **Ahmed Badr, UN Sustainable Development Goals Young Leader 2018-2020, and President & CEO, Narratio**

"The pandemic we face today is a pandemic of poor and expedient choices by world leaders, many in the private sector and a powerful few who drive the decisions that continue to harm our planet and its population" said **Vanessa Kerry, WHO Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health** *"We must pivot to a new ambitious path – one with solidarity and partnership at its core – otherwise our health and survival are in peril"*

"Broader solidarity, however, will require aligning interests, reversing rising inequality within countries in order to address rising inequality and tensions between countries" said **Sarah Cliffe, Executive Director, New York University Center on International Cooperation**

“Working in solidarity across sectors (philanthropy, academia, private sector, and NGOs) to drive data for social impact forward can transform global interventions and services and increase resilience. The challenges are too great to tackle alone” said **Danil Mikhailov, Executive Director, data.org** *“By exploring and developing solutions together, we will unlock the power of local communities to address issues like pandemics, climate change, and financial inclusion through the transformative power of AI.”*

“The SDGs, with the hope to end extreme poverty by 2030, started with hope that we will ‘Leave No One Behind’” said **Eun Mee Kim, President, Ewha Womans University** *“As we work toward action for Global Solidarity, we need to make sure that we leave no one behind through the cracks of inequalities between the Global North and the Global South; and among peoples.”*

“We know that when countries work together rather than in opposition, the world becomes a less scary place – for all of us. This requires partnerships across states and a strong multilateral system to help drive solutions to overcome global challenges” said **Anjali Kwatra, Director of Advocacy, Marketing and Communications of the United Nations Development Programme**

“For any initiative to have a sustained, positive impact, it must engender autonomy and agency to build, redeem, and reinforce a foundation of respect” said **Toyin Saraki, Former First Lady of Kwara State, Nigeria, Chair, Nigeria Civil Society Primary Health Revitalisation Support Group, and Founder & President of The Wellbeing Foundation Africa** *“Where does this respect come from, if not solidarity? The recognition that we are all interconnected, and that we must trust one another if we are to achieve better outcomes for us all?”*

MORE FROM THE CALLS TO ACTION

Although this picture of humanity looks bleak, this report serves as a beacon of hope and emphasises three critical calls to actions for world leaders meeting in New York if this is to be turned around. These are calls by politicians, institutional leaders and advocates, to:

1. ‘Just transition, now’

“When we talk about 1.5°C, it’s not a political statement – this is what science demands of us as a minimum. Who will join us in acting on the basis of science?” said **Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Special Envoy to Hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh (Environment & Climate Change)**

“Energy must be understood as a common good whose extraction and use has occurred unequally and unfairly in historical, geographical, and class terms, with consequences for both human beings and non-human nature” said **Tatiana Rodríguez Maldonado, General Coordinator, Censat Agua Viva, Colombia**

“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to reduce the long-term damage from climate change, but we live in a world in which the climate has already changed. Investing in agricultural science is one of the best ways that we can adapt to sequester more GHG and

produce healthier food for all, leaving no one behind” said **Ismahane Elouafi, Incoming Executive Managing Director, CGIAR**

2. ‘Cooperate against viruses’

“Last year, a new financing mechanism was launched called the Pandemic Fund, housed in the World Bank, with technical support from WHO. The Fund identified a need for \$10 billion per year in financing to build health emergency systems in every country” said **Chikwe Ihekweazu, WHO Assistant Director-General for Epidemic Intelligence and Surveillance Systems** *“It could turn into a true health emergency protection system for the world, with all countries contributing what they can.”*

“Two key drivers of the pandemic were the failure of individual nations to prioritize, plan, and adequately invest in preparedness, and the collective failure to join forces in a timely, concerted global response” said **Carolyn Reynolds, Co-Founder of Pandemic Action Network** *“To address these failures, in 2022 the World Health Assembly agreed to launch international negotiations on a new Pandemic Accord. While the Accord will not be a silver bullet, it will be an essential weapon in our global arsenal against an existential threat to humanity.”*

3. ‘Pool global resources’

“We need new taxes and levies, otherwise the world's poorest, who contributed the least to global warming, will bear the greatest loss and damage. We cannot let that continue. Insurance is not enough” said **Avinash Persaud, Special Envoy on Climate Finance, Barbados, and Member of the COP High-Level Experts Panel** *“We need a hundred billion dollars. We can get it from a 1% profit levy from oil, gas, and coal companies, with a shipping tax and financial transaction taxes.”*

“To make progress in tax justice, a new, truly global body, with a mandate to represent all countries and regions, should be created within the umbrella of the United Nations” said **Alvin Mosioma, Director for Fiscal Justice, Open Societies Foundation**

“Global Public Investment is a bold re-imagining, but it has practical implementation at its core. As the current funding system is increasingly seen to be inadequate, GPI can be an attractive model for countries at different income levels” said **Wanjiru Kanyiha, Network Coordinator, Global Public Investment Network**