



UNITED NATIONS GHANA

NewsLetter

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4



HIGHLIGHTS

- New partnership to unlock funding from the diaspora for over 2000 farmers underway.
- Accra to host Timbuktoo AgricTech Pan-African Innovation Hub.
- Ghanaian journalists receive award for quality migration reporting
- Joint program on digital and reproductive health learning launched.
- Challenges in sustainable heritage conservation in Ghana

Program on digital and reproductive health learning for boys and girls in informal settlements launched

UN-Habitat in partnership with UNHCR, UNFPA and IamtheCODE Foundation, has initiated a program to improve digital and reproductive health learning in some selected informal settlements in Ghana. The program was launched in Accra.

With a global target of reaching 1 million young women and girls coders by 2030, through this initiative, Ghana is targeting 25,000 young women, boys and girls. This aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to bridge the ICT gap and infuse computer literacy into community-initiated development projects towards advancing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, Entrepreneurship and Design (STEAMED) education.

Further outcomes from this initiative include improving Sexual Reproductive

Health awareness and creating digital health clubs as a component of wellness programme among the young people in the informal settlements.

The Founder and CEO of the IamtheCODE Foundation, Lady Marieme Jamme, highlighted the importance of the initiative in helping create employ-

ment for young people and breaking the poverty cycle in Ghana and the continent.

Ms. Jamme shared her personal



TOP: UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Charles Abani, making a statement at the program launch; ABOVE: CEO of IamtheCODE Foundation, Lady Marieme Jamme demonstrating the use of online resources on the computer kits for the coding program to students ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

story as a cleaner and how learning to code changed her life. She expressed her passion to empower, support and enlighten people from deprived communities and those who do not have access to ICT.

"I await a day when a boy or girl from a refugee camp or Jamestown will stand in front of the UN General Assembly and say - on August 17, 2022, in Ghana, I met a Senegalese woman, Lady Marieme Jamme, who told me I will be a coder and who equipped me with the tools I needed to become one" she concluded.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, highlighted the speed at which our society is becoming increasingly digitalized. He said digital technologies are expected to characterize economies of the future, shaping their ability to succeed in the global marketplace.

"The complexity of the digitalization revolves around how digital tools can

be utilized to maximize opportunities for innovation. A critical component of this required transformation is to ensure that there is adequate installation of digital infrastructure, skills, tools, and systems" he noted. He further underscored efforts being made by UN agencies to put several digital projects into action in support of the national digital agenda across all facets of the nation's development.

Under the larger COVID-19 recovery and response program in the urban areas of Ghana, it is envisaged

that the coding program will equip selected slums and informal settlements with coding skills, SRH education and wellness programs among others. It is also expected that the Joint UN program will work with partners using existing structures to ensure effective implementation.

The program launch was attended by the Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Madam Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey; Head of UN-Habitat, Abena Ntori; UNFPA Resident Representative, Barnabas Yisa;

UNESCO Resident Representative, Abdourahamane Diallo; Development Officer at the Global Affairs Canada, Eric Chimsi; Senior Education Specialist from the World Bank, Eunice Akwerh; Technical staff from the UN; Directors of Education, Accra Metropolitan and Ashaiman Municipal Assemblies; Heads of schools, teachers and students of Bishop Girls Basic and Egyekrom MA Schools.



CEO of IamtheCODE Foundation, Lady Marieme Jamme demonstrating the use of the donated computer kits to participants during the launch at the GAMADA Community Centre Reading Room; ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

AU Chairperson's Youth Envoy interacts with youth in Ghana

As part of her 60-day learning tour of some African countries to hear the views of young people on key policy issues, the African Union Chairperson's Youth Envoy, Ms. Chido Cleopatra Mpemba held a town hall meeting with young people in Ghana. They discussed issues such as livelihood, education, digital inclusion, climate change, and adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health.

The UNFPA Ghana Country Representative a.i., Mr. Barnabas Yisa welcomed the participants and emphasized how important it is to engage young people towards securing sustainable development. "The future of young people is now and UNFPA Ghana will continue to support the young people of Ghana to obtain the best" he noted.

Ms. Mpemba said young people have so much in common, irrespective of location. "We are faced with the same issues on the continent, and we have to take a stand together and be united if we are going to deliver and advocate for the Africa we want." She indicated.

During the open dialogue, young people from all over Ghana spoke about challenges facing them and recommended solutions to addressing these challenges. [Read more.](#)



Ms. Chido Cleopatra Mpemba addressing participants at the townhall youth engagement; ©UNFPA



Group photo of participants at the townhall youth engagement; ©UNFPA

JAPAN and UN in Ghana to promote KAIZEN practices to foster sustainable agribusiness

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Japan have signed an agreement to further enhance the competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for Ghana's economic and social development through scaling up Kaizen, a Japanese theory for continuous quality and productivity improvement. With funding from the government of Japan and in coordination with the Ghana Enterprises

Agency (GEA), UNIDO will implement its "Expanding the Kaizen Initiative by Enhancing Sustainable Agribusiness" project that will address, inter alia, the economic performance, the resource efficiency, the environmental sustainability, and the social welfare of MSMEs. Ultimately, the 3-year project will support Ghana in scaling up its national Kaizen initiative, and by extension enhance the performance of Ghanaian MSMEs. [Read more.](#)



Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Hisanobu Mochizuki, (R) and UNIDO Representative, Fakhruddin Azizi (L) exchanging signed agreement ©UNIDO/ Linda Gyala

GrEEen and Grow For Me bring a new paradigm in Ghana for farmers and diaspora

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), with the funding of the European Union Trust Fund For Africa (EUTF), under the GrEEen project in Ghana, has entered a partnership with Grow For Me (GFM), an innovative Ghanaian company managing a digital agricultural financing platform. GFM enables anyone to participate in farming and commodities trading digitally. It connects investors to farmers and aggregators in need of financing through their web and USSD based crowdfunding platform.

Under this partnership, GFM will leverage their business model to provide capacity building, access to finance and market, and channel diaspora investments to finance youth and women farmers in Ashanti and Western regions.

The partnership aims to reach 2,000 farmers and unlock funding from key diaspora corridors. It falls under the strategic UNCDF approach of Inclusive Digital Economies that aims to leverage digital transformation and technology to leave no one behind. [Read more.](#)

UN in Ghana trains SMEs on AfCFTA rules of origin and trains 63 lab analysts in ISO 17025 Certification



Group photograph of participants of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin training; ©UNIDO/Linda Gyala

Knowing which country to export to and meeting market requirements are crucial for businesses, particularly for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) – West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP) Ghana component, has organized a two-day training workshop for SMEs to enhance knowledge and understanding of AfCFTA Rules of Origin. Over 80 participants from the cosmetics, cassava, fruits, clothing and textiles value chains attended.

Abednego Brandy Opey, a participant, told us that “it was difficult understanding the AfCFTA, I hear about it in the news, but it is not easy to understand, So the training has helped me to really understand what the agreement aims to achieve, the right countries to source raw materials and how to go about it including taking advantage to trade within the Africa market”

Another participant, Abigail Amponsah Addy of Hencky Farms, says she is now better aware of the kind of partnership to explore within the

AfCFTA that would benefit interested businesses within the African markets. [Read more.](#)

UNIDO held another workshop to enhance the capacities of conformity assessment service providers in its member states. The aim was for the service providers to acquire ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, as well as build the local capacity of experts. By so doing, it is expected that developing countries will enhance their export competitiveness, strengthen their export base and become more integrated with international trade flows.

ISO 17025 accredited lab testing works to ensure that products meet the regulations of the targeted markets.

The lab experts through the training are expected to have the competence to generate valid results, thereby promoting confidence in their work both locally and internationally.

63 Lab Analysts from 20 laboratories in Ghana received certificates after successfully completing the EN- ISO / IEC 17025: 2017 course. [Read more.](#)



Group photograph of participants with facilitators (seated), Mr. Fred Gyamera Owusu (L) and Madam Abena Osei (R) ©UNIDO/Linda Gyala

Accra to host Timbuktoo AgriTech Pan-African Innovation Hub

Ghana is set to host a Pan-African AgriTech Innovation Hub of the new and bold innovation initiative, Timbuktoo, of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This was announced during the lively timXAccra event held recently. The Timbuktoo initiative aims to mobilize and invest one billion dollars of public and private capital over ten years, with the aim of sparking the startup revolution in Africa. [Read more.](#)



timXAccra speakers; ©UNDP/Praise Nutakor

Ensuring food security and food safety through Farmer Field Schools in the poultry sector in Ghana

The intensive system of poultry production in Ghana is expanding to respond to the growing demand for animal protein. For many medium and small-scale farmers in the animal sector, poultry farming also serves as economic backbone as it drives the local and external economies of other sectors. Enhancing the poultry farming therefore, is key to the socio-economic well-being of those in the sector.

Meanwhile, such intensive farming systems contributes to high exposure of food animals to antimicrobials, which drives the emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR works against the sustainability of the poultry industry, negatively affecting the production, productivity, and profitability of the business. Promoting prudent antimicrobial use to reduce AMR is an option.



A participant of the FAO AMR Farmer Field School program counting her benefit. ©FAO/David Youngs

The FAO and the Ghana Government through Veterinary Services Directorate are working with the poultry farmers to change farmers behavior in the use of Antimicrobials through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) with funding from the Fleming Fund UK. Since 2021, five FFS have been established and about a hundred and thirty farmers and 7 facilitators have received training. [Read More.](#)

Challenges in sustainable heritage conservation in Ghana

In 2021, parts of three forts in Ghana were damaged. The external walls of Fort at British Komenda unexpectedly collapsed when Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) staff were undertaking preparatory works to reconstruct a damaged plinth in July. Earlier in April, there was an accidental damage to the long retaining wall of Fort Fredensborg in Old Ningo by a construction company that had been contracted to build a sea defense wall to limit the erosion of the shorefronts of Ghana. The southern walls of Fort Vernon at Prampram also collapsed after heavy rainfalls.

These incidents required urgent repair works. Fort Komenda and Fort Fredensborg are components of the serial World Heritage property [Forts and Castles Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions](#) inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979. The 28 components erected between 1482 and 1786 played an important role in the gold and slave trade for four centuries and constitute a significant symbol of European-African encounters as well as the origin of the African Diaspora. The components have enormous historical relevance for the local communities

along the shoreline of Ghana and the rest of the world.

Within the framework of the implementation of the 1972 Convention on Cultural Heritage, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property undertook an [Advisory Mission](#) in 2019 and [Reactive Monitoring Mission](#) in 2020 to assess the state of conservation of these Forts and Castles and the threats facing them. A major finding of the monitoring mission was the degradation of the structural integrity of



The deterioration of one of the external walls of Fort at British Komenda ©UNESCO/George Koranteng



The architectural remains of Fort Fredensborg in Old Ningo; ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

components of the property that undermined the authenticity and threatened the [Outstanding Universal Value](#) of the property.

The report cites that lack of conservation and maintenance can be exacerbated by climate change threats such as coastal erosion and unpredictable torrential rains. The mission further recorded a lack of adequate site interpretation; lack of database information, documentation, and research; lack of a strategic vision for the entire property; poor regulation and management of development approvals and implementation; and encroachment and lack of boundaries and buffer zones as major threats.

The collapse of the external wall at British Komenda reinforces the need to urgently assess structural stability of the Forts and Castles.

In July 2021, the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session requested Ghana to implement the recommendations of the 2020 mission where sustainable planning and management of tourism were noted as some of the most pressing challenges concerning the future of the World Heritage in Ghana.

In the framework of UNESCO's program for culture in emergencies, an emergency response activity is currently being implemented by GMMB to

undertake urgent stabilization and rehabilitation works at Fort British Komenda. The project will be a positive step in drawing the needed attention to the conservation of components of the Forts and Castles that are in ruins.

Moreover, Ghana is receiving support for the preparation of a management plan for the World Heritage site within the framework of the International Assistance request submitted by Ghana and approved by the World Heritage Committee. The project is being implemented in cooperation with GMMB and it will offer the opportunity to harmonize all available materials to produce a practicable management plan for the Forts and Castles of Ghana.

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Empowering youth and women-led MSMEs to prevent violent extremism

Cross-border trade between Ghana and her neighboring countries is largely informal and facilitated by road transport through both approved and unapproved entry and exit points. Due to weak border controls between countries, activities of violent extremists pose a grave danger to cross-border trading, with traders at risk of possible attacks & radicalization. To complement the ongoing efforts by state and non-state actors to secure communities in Ghana, especially those along borders, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and selected Regional

Peace Councils are building capacity of women and youth in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in six Metropolitan, Municipal and

District Assemblies on early warning and response to counter the threats of violent extremists. [Read more.](#)



A group photo with participants of the MSMEs PVE training in the Ketu South Municipality ©UNDP/Praise Nutakor

heritage conservation - Cont. from pg. 9

The Ussher Fort Slavery Museum, one of the 28 components of the serial World Heritage sites, recently re-opened after extensive rehabilitation works. Formerly referred to as Fort Crèvecoeur, its Slavery Museum allows visitors to learn about a dark chapter in the history of the European-African encounters. It was commissioned in 2007 by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture with support from UNESCO and recounts the history of the transatlantic slave trade in Ghana until the British abolition of slavery in 1833.

Fort Amsterdam in Abandze is also to receive support to consolidate the base of the structure through support from the French Government.

Aside from the Forts and Castles, Ghana has another property on the World Heritage list, namely the [Asante Traditional Buildings](#), the last remaining testimony of the unique architectural style of the great Asante Kingdom with traditional motifs which are filled with symbolic meaning. To this day, the Asante buildings are used for consultations with the deities to seek advice before making important decisions

which reinforce a complex and intricate technical, religious and spiritual heritage.

A few of the 10 buildings are complete and, in most cases, parts of the original structures are missing. The integrity of the heritage site is threatened by impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors. This includes the deterioration of the fabric due to the warm and humid tropical climate that is damaging to the traditional earth and wattle-and-daub buildings.

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Ghanaian journalists awarded for quality migration reporting



Reporting Migration Award winners group photo; ©IOM/Angela Bortey

From March-July 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ghana hosted the country's first Reporting Migration Journalism Competition launched in several West and Central African countries. The competition aimed to foster quality reporting on migration related issues and

concluded with the Reporting Migration Awards ceremony held in Accra in August 2022.

The competition was open to Ghanaian journalists aged 18 and over who published migration related work between 2017-2022. Fifteen submissions were received in total, categorized into either

print and online articles or television and radio materials. At the event, six Ghanaian journalists were recognized for their excellence in reporting migration related issues with themes including: reintegration, climate change and migration, migrant protection, and raising awareness on safe migration. [Read more.](#)

Enhancing access to information on migration

UNESCO Ghana has held a 2-day forum in Accra on Media and Migration Voices to end the 3-year project on "Empowering Young People in Africa through Media and Communication". The forum provided the platform for stakeholders to share

experiences and good practices, and recommendations to be submitted to a Regional Scientific Committee in furtherance of addressing issues of access to and processing of information on migration.

The forum ended with presentations on lessons and recommendations from implementing partners including the Ghana Community Radio Network, the Ghana Journalists Association, the Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association, Ghana Graffiti, the Media Foundation for West Africa, and the Department of Communications Studies of the University of Ghana.

329 Ghanaians return from Libya

The International Organization for Migration in partnership with the Government of Ghana assisted 329 stranded Ghanaian migrants to return home from Libya to reunite with

their families through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return Assistance Program. With support from the IOM, returnees received basic services and items including cash assistance for their

immediate needs. IOM will follow-up on the returnees to start their reintegration processes which will include economic assistance, protection support, social and psychosocial services,

and access to legal documentation. This is to ensure a holistic approach that promotes sustainable reintegration. [Read more.](#)



IOM Ghana assists returnees at the Kotoka International Airport; ©IOM/David Darko



Southern walls of Fort Vernon; ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

heritage conservation - Cont. from pg. 10

Other challenges faced by the buildings are similar to the ones of the Forts and Castles, namely, lack of security, lack of delineation and buffer zones, lack of maintenance, lack of oversight and involvement of the traditional leaders and local communities in the preservation of the property and lack of local stakeholders'

appreciation of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity. Currently, support is provided by UNESCO for the implementation of conservation and tourism enhancement interventions for the Edwenase, Besease and Asawasi Traditional Buildings.

The Forts and Castles and Asante Traditional Buildings are both tangible evidence of the bonds between humankind. They are a shared legacy from the past and help promote cultural exchange, dialogue, and peace. Pre-

servicing Ghana's cultural heritage is important, not only because it boosts the tourism potential of the country, but also because the properties are at risk of complete deterioration without adequate safeguarding measures.

Site Managers and 1972 Convention Focal Persons meet in Accra

UNESCO Ghana organized a three-day regional capacity-building workshop on the United Nations Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in Accra. Site managers of world heritage sites from the Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Ghana, focal persons of the 1972 convention and government representatives participated in this workshop to discuss ways to conserve and protect world cultural and natural properties.

Ghana's Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, officially opened the workshop.

Ms. Guiomar Alonso Cano, Chief of Culture Unit at UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar noted that Africa has the lowest number of sites on the World Heritage List with 147 in total, and urged the State Parties to work together to ensure that more cultural and natural sites in Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone are inscribed in the World Heritage List. Moreover, she stressed the importance of protecting the ones already on the World Heritage List as well as the tentative list so that the Outstanding Unique Value is not lost.



Workshop participants visit the Jamestown Ussher Fort Museum in Accra; ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating an equitable world for all

Prejudice and discrimination based on a person's age is an increasing problem that affects the young and old alike. Ageism devalues and limits the contribution of both younger and older populations to our collective development. The International Youth Day theme for 2022 is a bold call to action towards Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages so that no one is left behind.

The UN Youth Strategy recognizes that young people's empowerment, development, and engagement is an end in itself, as well as a means to build a better world. This is why the UN together with partners, continue to create platforms like the YouthConnektAfrica to connect young people to other generations, for them to tap into opportunities to unleash their innovative potential. In Ghana, through its youth empowerment interventions, UNDP has invested in many young entrepreneurs who are building on traditional knowledge from older family members like Keitu Enoch and Rose Oduro, who are leading the charge towards economic freedom. Find out [more](#).

Intergenerational solidarity - Cont. on pg. 15



There is a need to leverage the full potential of all generations towards the attainment of the SDGs; ©Kampus Production/Pixels

Good natural resource governance: A key to development.

In Ghana, over the past years, extraction of natural resources such as cocoa, gold, and oil, among others, has helped transform Ghana's economic growth, with revenue contribution valued at 67% of exports and 15.4% of GDP.

As part of measures to contribute to Ghana's efforts to enhance natural resource governance, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a dialogue to examine Ghana's progress towards good natural resource governance and explore policy options to address existing and emerging deficits to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Read more.](#)

Gender mainstreaming: a key to sustainable ozone depleting substance management

As part of the Hydrofluorocarbons Phase-Out Management Plan (HPMP) project being implemented by the Environmental Protection



Jennifer Asuako, UNDP Ghana Gender Analyst addressing the workshop ©UNDP/Praise Nutakor

Agency, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a training of trainers' workshop was organized to empower school guidance and counselling coordinators in the Ayawaso Central Municipal Assembly. This is to help increase the interest and consciousness of young girls to pursue a career in the refrigeration sector. The HPMP project is seeking to ensure sustainable management of Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) in refrigeration to protect the environment. [Read more.](#)

Internal displacement: the silent epidemic

Africa's urban population is projected to triple by 2050 with Africa's cities being home to an additional 800 million people. This movement is expected to trigger social change that could be exacerbated by internal displacement. For most countries, coping with disasters is a challenge and often the worst affected are least able to rebuild and recover. Ramping up access to insurance and risk financing will help provide a safety net in the event of a crisis and prevent long term displacement. However, in Ghana for instance, 70 percent of Ghanaians have no access to insurance. They are incapable of protecting their assets, lives and livelihoods from the impact of crises.

In a blog post by the UN Resident Representative, Ms. Angela Lusigi, bridging this disaster protection gap requires innovative solutions such as UNDP's Insurance and Risk Finance Facility. Through this initiative, UNDP is helping to strengthen the financial resilience of developing countries like Ghana and to 'protect vulnerable communities from socio-economic, climate and health-related disasters.' [Read more.](#)

Prioritizing rights and choices: World Population Day 2022 held in Ghana

The 2022 World Population Day was observed at an event in Accra under the theme: "Prioritizing Rights and Choices, Harnessing Opportunities, the Road to a Resilient Future

for All". The event was supported by the Ministry of Health, UNFPA Ghana, the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), the Regional Institute of Population Studies, University

of Ghana and GOIL Energy Limited. Present at the event were the Executive Director of the National Population Council, Dr. Leticia Adelaide Appiah, the Country

Representative a.i. of UNFPA Ghana, Mr. Barnabas Yisa, and the CEO of the National Health Insurance Authority, Dr. Bernard Okoe Boye. [Read more.](#)



Officials at the event, including Mr. Barnabas Yisa, UNFPA Country Representative a.i. (2nd from L). ©UNFPA

Intergenerational solidarity - Cont. from pg. 13

In observance of this year's International Youth Day, the UN Information Centre partnered with Young Visionary Leaders, a local youth-led organization to organise a youth engagement in Accra. Participants deliberated about ageism and how best young people could work with the elderly.



Panel discussion on ageism at the Ga West Municipal Assembly in Accra in commemoration of IYD; ©UNIC

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

October

African Business and Human Rights [Forum](#). 11-13 October; Accra.

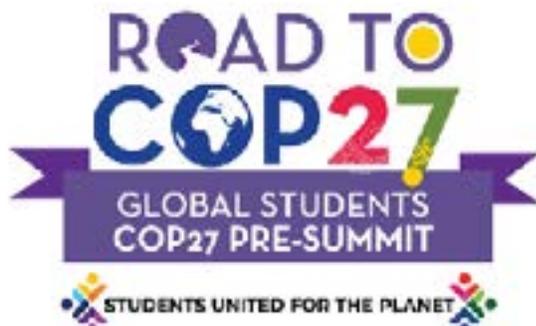


[World Food Day](#) Events
Policy Dialogue. 12 October; ISSER, University of Ghana

CSIR Food Fair. 13 - 16 October; Food Research Institute premises, Accra

National Durbar. 14 October, Sogakope, Volta Region

[Global Students COP27 Pre-Summit](#). 10 - 14 October, Accra



[United Nations Day](#). 24 October

[World Cities Day](#). 31 October

November

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (2 November) and [HL Conf. Safety of Journalists](#) (10yr anniv UN Plan of Action). 3-4 November.

[COP27](#). 7 - 18 November. Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.



[World Science Day for Peace & Devt.](#) 10 November

[16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#). 25 November - 10 December

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