

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO
GENOA MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020**

20-22 February 2020

Genoa, Italy

Thank you for taking part in the Model United Nations and for getting involved in some of the biggest issues of our time: peace, climate action, sustainable development and human rights.

Our world has achieved remarkable progress in recent years, from increasing life expectancy to reducing child mortality. In the span of just one generation, the number of people living in extreme poverty has been reduced by more than a billion.

But these gains face big risks. Climate change is an existential threat and the defining challenge of our time. You are the first generation to grow up in the shadow of climate change and the last who can prevent its worst consequences. The world needs your strong engagement to increase ambition, to cut emissions and to hold leaders to account.

The United Nations is the platform for action on climate change, on growing inequality, on harnessing new technologies for the good of all, and on all global issues that cannot be addressed by any one country alone. Our blueprint is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the globally-agreed plan for dignity, peace and prosperity on a healthy planet.

To achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, we need a great global mobilization that goes beyond governments, bringing people together from all walks of life and showing that international cooperation can deliver for everyone. The voices of women and girls, and of young people, are essential.

That is why the Model United Nations is so important. Thank you for getting involved, and for standing up for the shared values of all humanity.

I hope you will take what you learn here into your lives, to your family and friends and to the wider world. The United Nations counts on you to be agents of change as we strive to build a better future for all.