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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

Kathmandu, 15 February 2024

I am pleased to send my warm greetings to all gathered in Kathmandu for the 2024 World Social Forum.

Thank you for coming together in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. The World Social Forum represents an important space to lift up voices, focus on the most vulnerable, restore hope and find innovative solutions for people and planet.

Uniting for the common good is critical as conflicts rage and geopolitical divisions grow. We need global solidarity to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals – and reform an outdated, dysfunctional and unfair global financial system.

We must also rally together to address the climate crisis. As I witnessed during my recent visit in Nepal, countries on the frontline of climate change require far greater support. My Climate Solidarity Pact urges big emitters to make extra efforts to cut emissions and wealthier countries to support emerging economies to do so.

Finally, we must unite within communities – with a renewed social contract, based on trust, justice and inclusion, and anchored in human rights. Women, youth, and marginalized people must have a seat at the decision-making table.

A world of peace, dignity and sustainability is not only possible, it is necessary. Let us build it together.