



**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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## Closing out the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations

So many of our celebrations in 2020 have been muted or just ignored as we grappled with the everyday mental, social and economic burdens of life in a global health pandemic.

As the year closes, an anniversary worth a last hurrah is the 75 years since the founding of the United Nations. The founding was a desperate and enlightened response, crafted in the closing days of the deadliest war in human history. Perhaps there is a lesson here for us as pundits attempt to paint a picture of our future. Together, peoples and countries can imagine and plan a path forward from calamity, knowing what we do not want to confront again.

In 1945, the 51 founding countries of the UN, including Canada, imagined mechanisms - basically a table, where a chair would be kept in place for all - towards ensuring security, rights and justice for all. We are all well aware of the weaknesses of the grand project of the UN. Most having to do with territorial imperatives - personal and geopolitical.

However, in 2020, how could anyone doubt the importance of Agencies like the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Framework Convention on Climate Change - for both sounding the alarm to perilous global threats which we now confront, and for the united calls for action, where working together for the planet is our only hope?

As I reflect on my last day as President & CEO of UNA-Canada - the civil society organization comprised of citizens who believe in the a global body, where enlightenment and pragmatism can achieve a better world - I remain convinced that the United Nations is the singular place to identify, achieve and monitor global progress on the most vexing issues that confront us now, and in the future. The path forward remains 'we the peoples', fundamental human rights, sustainable development and peaceful coexistence.

Happy Anniversary to the United Nations.

In peace,

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*Growing Global Citizens § Citoyens du monde à venir*