

# We the Peoples|

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Dear friends, as you've heard from the Secretary-General, this event comes at a pivotal moment — a moment of escalating conflict crises and divisions, but at the same time, we must look beyond the headlines and remind ourselves that there are incredible individuals, organizations, all working out there for a safer, healthier, fairer, more inclusive and a just world. The UN Foundation is a perfect example for us. More than a quarter of a century has passed since Ted's remarkable contribution in support of United Nations, a powerful testament to what humanity can achieve through unity and collaboration, but much more importantly, putting a hand out to the UN and most in need. Across these 26 years, the Foundation has mobilized ideas and people and resources to help the UN tackle some of the greatest challenges of our time.

So thank you, Ted, and thank you to the UN Foundation for your unwavering support of the UN's mission to promote peace, sustainable development, and human rights. Tonight, we celebrate the powerful partnership between the UN and the UN Foundation, a partnership that has driven cooperation and has created solutions that have benefited people worldwide. Through the Global Leadership Awards, we honor extraordinary individuals and organizations whose work embodies the value and the mission of the UN. This evening's no exception. We are proud to recognize remarkable women making a profound difference, from championing the gender equality and SDGs to inspiring people to take action for justice and inclusion through the power of music, poetry, and journalism, to proving that sustainable farming can be profitable, innovative, and environmentally beneficial. Example after example of women leading the way to a better future, these honorees are true heroes fighting for a better world. The journey is challenging, but the right path is forward, and there is no secret that our world is facing serious headwinds. The war in the Middle East and Ukraine and Sudan rage on; carbon emissions and global temperatures continue to rise; and financing for progress and health and education remains woefully insufficient. Against this backdrop, countries at the Summit of the Future, recognized the rising catastrophic risks that we face, much of it due to our own actions or inactions. You often would've heard that climate change is manmade, but let's underscore "the man" because if women were in charge, it wouldn't happen.

They warned at the High-Level Summits that without changing course, we face a future marked by crises and collapse. Through the Pact for The Future that emerged at the Summit, they also pledged to take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just, and transformative actions to rescue multilateralism, achieve the SDGs and work to leave absolutely no one behind. While the words of solidarity have been voiced, action has not yet been followed. As the Secretary-General said in Baku only this

morning, failure is not an option. The clock is ticking. The clock is ticking on climate change. It is ticking on ending conflicts. It is ticking on rescuing the SDGs with five years to go. But as our honorees have shown, the ticking clock also compels us to take action and to take that action now. They show us that we can make all the difference, that we can build a sustainable world in harmony with nature and each other, and that is certainly a world that is worth fighting for. My friends, as we work towards a safer and a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world, we will count on you to keep on pushing and to keep on fighting for the world that our children and our grandchildren, and those that have yet unborn, deserve. And I assure you that you can count on us. Let us keep standing together in solidarity for this essential effort. Let's be brave. Let's be courageous. Let's stand tall for a world that is so much more in need today than it ever has been. Thank you.

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