Vienna, along with New York, Geneva and Nairobi, is one of the four headquarters of the United Nations.

You may not realize just how connected the work of the United Nations family in Vienna is with your everyday activities ...
THE UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA
IN YOUR DAILY LIFE
Since 1957, over 7,000 satellites have been placed in Earth orbit and beyond. Over 93 per cent have been registered with the United Nations in accordance with international law.

You switch on the TV to watch the news or check the weather forecast for the weekend. This is made possible by communication and weather satellites. Nowadays, nearly 3,300 satellites orbit the Earth, truly revolutionizing our lives. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) manages the Register of official information on space objects, including satellites, launched into Earth orbit or beyond.
On the Internet, on the phone, following the news?

YOU DISCOVER AN INTERNET PHARMACY. IS IT OK TO ORDER MEDICINES THERE?

Licensed and legally operating Internet-based pharmacies can be an important complement to traditional health-care services. However, there are also illegal Internet pharmacies. Often owned or run by criminal networks, they obtain and supply medicines illegally, provide fake prescriptions, smuggle drugs or sell fraudulent medicines. The quality of the medicines offered by illegal Internet pharmacies cannot be controlled, and customers risk purchasing medicines that are counterfeit or substandard, which can have disastrous health consequences. In some cases, fraudulent medicines have been found to contain highly toxic substances such as rat poison. They also make some of the world's most dangerous diseases and viruses stronger by contributing to the development of drug-resistant strains.

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has provided guidelines for Governments on preventing the illegal sale of internationally controlled substances through the Internet.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also works to tackle the production and sale of fraudulent medicines by assisting countries to adopt and implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and training law enforcement officers to intercept such products.

YOU CANNOT IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT THE INTERNET, BUT YOU ALSO WORRY ABOUT INTERNET SECURITY

As more and more people become connected to the Internet, more fall prey to criminals who find ways to illegally benefit from the globalization of information. The range of offences by cybercriminals is wide: from crimes relating to access to computer data and systems (such as “hacking”) to forgery and fraud (“phishing”) to serious content offences such as child pornography. Cybercrime is a growing area of international concern. Anyone can become a victim. Your bank details could be stolen for example, or your children might fall prey to online predators.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with Governments and international organizations to make cyberspace safer for users.
The United Nations in Your Daily Life

You go online to buy books, clothes and so on, but the products never arrive. What do you do?

Currently, it might be difficult to resolve this problem, but the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is trying to improve the situation by creating legal standards for online dispute resolution that are designed to establish a neutral and efficient method for resolving cross-border disputes on the Internet.

You are on the internet looking for a birthday gift for your cousin who is a stamp collector.

Stamps issued by the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) mirror the work of the United Nations and promote awareness of issues of global importance. United Nations stamps, created by artists from around the world, are miniature works of art that have received numerous awards. Collectors appreciate UNPA stamps for their innovative designs and universal themes, but also because it is possible to collect every one of the more than one thousand stamps that have been issued by the UNPA since its founding in 1951.
YOU WANT TO DISPOSE OF YOUR COMPUTER OR MOBILE PHONE WHEN YOU GET A NEW ONE

Did you know that if instead of recycling you just throw away an electronic device, it can end up in a toxic waste dump on the other side of the globe? Next time you upgrade your computer or phone, think about the problem of e-waste and how to solve it.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) works with companies such as Hewlett Packard and Microsoft to restore old computers so that they can be reused by schools, hospitals, government offices and businesses in developing countries. In doing so, UNIDO creates jobs for entrepreneurs, technicians and salespersons within the local economy.

UNIDO and Microsoft have expanded their strategic partnership to develop a sustainable business model for refurbishment centres in developing economies, helping to address the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises for affordable, quality hardware.
YOU RECEIVE AN OFFER BY E-MAIL TO INVEST IN A PIECE OF LAND ON THE MOON

Outer space is the province of all humankind, says the Outer Space Treaty.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the secretariat to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was instrumental in establishing the international legal regime on outer space, consisting of five treaties and five sets of principles. Under international law, outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty and nations bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space whether they are carried out by Governmental or non-governmental entities.
Your next door neighbours have a housekeeper living with them who looks unhappy, sometimes has bruises and does not speak your language.

The sale of human beings is more prevalent than you might think and its effects are felt in virtually every country. Imagine for instance if your friend moved overseas for a modelling job but ended up trapped as a victim of sexual exploitation or in a nightmare “job” of domestic servitude. With criminals looking for any and all avenues through which they can exploit people as though they were commodities, this crime can not, and should not, be considered as something which only happens to others.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute criminals by assisting authorities in source, transit and destination countries. UNODC supports survivors of this crime through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, and raises awareness through efforts such as the Blue Heart Campaign. Additionally, UNODC’s tools, manuals and research are widely employed by authorities and other partners for training and building responses to human trafficking.
ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT SO MUCH MONEY IS BEING SPENT ON ARMS AROUND THE WORLD AND SO LITTLE TO ELIMINATE POVERTY?

Over the past century, Governments have tried finding ways to agree reductions in military expenditure, or at least to be open about how much countries spend on their military.

The United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, initially developed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, allows countries to report what their military budget looks like. Such transparency may increase confidence within regions and beyond. By making the figures publicly available, the United Nations encourages their verification and analysis.

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works to promote global norms of disarmament. UNODA’s Vienna office places a particular focus on liaison with Vienna-based Organizations on issues such as nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament or illicit trafficking of weapons.

Nuclear weapons are the most expensive type of weapons. By banning all nuclear explosions, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) makes it almost impossible for countries to develop nuclear weapons for the first time. The same goes for making existing nuclear weapons more powerful—modern H-bombs can have the explosive power of 100 or more Hiroshima bombs. For a fraction of the sum that was previously spent on nuclear testing, the planet is now monitored for nuclear explosions from the United Nations in Vienna through a global network of monitoring stations. This system also helps disaster early warning efforts and allows scientists to better understand the earth.
YOU HEAR SPECULATION IN THE NEWS THAT COUNTRY X MAY BE PLANNING TO TEST A NUCLEAR WEAPON

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is actively inspecting nuclear material and facilities throughout the world and reports when it determines that material may be being diverted for possible military purposes.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear explosions, everywhere and by everyone. This makes it almost impossible for countries to develop nuclear weapons for the first time or to make existing nuclear weapons more powerful. The CTBTO’s verification regime ensures that no nuclear explosion escapes detection. The relatively small nuclear tests in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in 2006 and 2009 were detected immediately and reliably.
YOUR (GRAND) FATHER TELLS YOU OF HIS ARMY COMRADES WHO DIED OF CANCER. THEY HAD PARTICIPATED IN A NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAMME.

Cold War nuclear testing released large amounts of radioactivity, affecting in particular the personnel involved and populations near the test sites. Animal life and the environment were also affected, leaving the soil contaminated and the ground water threatened. Plutonium-239, one of the main substances used in nuclear weapons, takes over 24,000 years to lose half its radioactivity.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) has evaluated information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation since 1955. Its early reports laid the scientific grounds for the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty prohibiting atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

Testing effectively stopped when the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which bans all nuclear explosions was launched in 1996. Over 2,000 nuclear explosions had been carried out between 1945 and 1996 in over 60 different locations. Many of these sites were inhabited by indigenous populations and minorities. Since 1996, only a handful of tests have been conducted.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is helping countries control and clean up the contamination left behind by Cold War nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining.

Over 2,000 nuclear tests were conducted worldwide between 1945 and 1996. Around one fourth of them were carried out above ground, releasing large amounts of radioactive Carbon and other isotopes into the atmosphere that can still be measured in both hemispheres.
YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HAS BECOME UNSAFE BECAUSE OF CRIME

Every year, countless lives are lost as a result of organized crime. Drug-related health problems, violence and firearm deaths are all part of this. While transnational organized crime is a global threat, its effects are felt locally. When organized crime takes root it can destabilize countries and entire regions. Crime groups work with local criminals, leading to an increase in corruption, extortion and racketeering, and violent gangs can also turn inner cities into dangerous areas and put citizens’ lives at risk.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with countries to combat transnational organized crime to harmonize action at the international level in identifying, investigating and prosecuting the people and groups behind these crimes.
Drug trafficking can create a ripple effect through society, affecting multiple countries. The communities where illicit drug crops such as opium poppies or coca leaf are cultivated are often victims of violence between organized crime groups. Countries on drug smuggling routes suffer from an influx of illegal activity, corruption, violence and drugs, leaving addiction, death and lost potential in their wake. The citizens of destination countries can become victims of increased criminal activities by drug dealers. One often overlooked factor is the impact of drug production on the environment—for instance, abuse of cocaine results in ever-worsening deforestation as growers of illicit crops clear away the natural habitat to grow coca plants. The cultivation of drugs also means that precious agricultural land is no longer available to produce food.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in tackling illicit drugs and monitors developments using satellite technology and observers on the ground. It produces authoritative reports and data on trends in production, consumption and trafficking, which are relied on by Governments in formulating national strategies. UNODC produces the annual World Drug Report—a key publication used by authorities, researchers and the general public.

To produce drugs such as heroin, cocaine and amphetamines from scratch or from raw materials such as opium poppy or coca leaf, drug manufacturers need certain chemicals called precursors. To prevent such chemicals being used for the illicit manufacture of drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) assists Member States through its Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system. The system alerts authorities about suspicious shipments while simultaneously helping to ensure the legitimate trade of these chemicals, which are also required to produce everyday goods.
What’s going on in your community?

Thousands of Somalis, mainly women and children, have fled their homes to seek shelter in dusty, sun-scorched Dolo Ado in south-east Ethiopia.

On return from school your child started asking questions about where refugees come from and why they left their home country.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) protects and supports refugees and displaced people all over the world. Currently more than 42 million people are affected by displacement. Raising awareness about their lives and their plight is an important task for creating solidarity with them. UNHCR provides information, school materials and games to learn more about refugees.
YOUR NEIGHBOURS KEEP TELLING YOU HOW UNFAIR IT IS THAT ASYLUM SEEKERS GET SO MUCH MONEY FROM THE STATE AND DO NOT WANT TO WORK

You know that these are prejudices but where can you get simple and correct answers?

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) country offices give basic answers about the situation of asylum seekers, their social allowances, their accommodation and their daily lives. Reading the materials you will also learn about personal stories told by refugees.
The United Nations in Vienna in Your Daily Life

You see on the news a report of a terrorist attack, or fear for your safety when you travel. Terrorist atrocities are a global issue and can happen even in the least expected places.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works to build legal capacity among Governments to help prevent terrorism and to ensure that this crime which affects multiple countries is dealt with in an effective and internationally coordinated manner.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) trains staff at border crossings as well as police to use equipment for the detection of radioactive material which could be used in a dirty bomb or inadvertently recycled along with scrap metal.

You are a teacher and your class is starting a project on human rights. Where can you get more information?

The Visitors Service at the United Nations in Vienna offers special guided tours for school classes with a focus on human rights issues, during which the students discover the importance of human rights through games, role-play and examples.
YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ON DAILY RADIATION LEVELS IN YOUR WORKPLACE OR AT HOME AND WHAT LEVELS MIGHT BE HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH, or you have learned about a nuclear power plant accident abroad and want more information on the radioactive emissions.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) systematically evaluates global and regional levels and trends of radiation exposure and provides the scientific basis for international radiation protection standards. For example, UNSCEAR evaluated the effects of the Fukushima accident in March 2011 involving over 80 international scientists assessing the radiation measurements; the release and dispersion of radioactive material; and radiation exposures of people, animals and plants.

Experts at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are studying the long-term effects of radiation on the environment. Since the Fukushima accident in March 2011 the IAEA has been given a stronger mandate by its Member States to serve the international community in the dissemination of information at the time of an accident.
Thinking about health?

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) uses 80 extremely sensitive sensors to detect radioactivity from nuclear explosions. These stations will also register the dispersion of radioactivity stemming from other sources anywhere in the world, in particular from power plant accidents. This information is made available to all 183 CTBTO Member States, whose radiation protection and public health agencies can use it to inform the public. This was the case during the 2011 Fukushima power plant accident.
Thinking about health?

YOU GO TO THE DOCTOR TO GET A VACCINATION

Syringes are sterilized through a nuclear technology called ionizing radiation.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assists countries in the developing world to learn the technique and to set up facilities to irradiate food stuffs and medical materials. After being irradiated the materials are not radioactive, just as we are not radioactive after we have had an x-ray, or been lying in the sun. The treatment kills bacteria, viruses and insects to eliminate sources of infection when the materials are packaged for storage or sale.

YOUR TOOTH HURTS. YOU HAVE TO GO AND SEE A DENTIST

But before the dentist starts working, an x-ray has to be taken. Is the machine being operated safely and is the radioactive source inside correctly calibrated?

Radiation techniques are used in diagnostics and also for cancer therapy and during open heart surgery. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supports its Member States in the safe and effective uses of these essential medical tools.
YOUR FRIEND, BROTHER OR SISTER TAKES DRUGS AND YOU ARE WORRIED THAT THEY ARE STARTING TO LOSE CONTROL

Illegal drugs are easily addictive and so harmful to your health that countries have decided to control them. Countries have passed several international laws that specify which drugs are controlled, as well as policies to treat addiction to illicit drugs and to provide appropriate help for addicts.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with Governments to implement these controls and policies, and supports several awareness raising efforts to prevent illicit drug use and promote healthy lifestyles through its World Drug Campaign. UNODC encourages countries to tackle drug use as a chronic illness, such as cancer or heart disease. Focusing on health means helping countries’ public health systems to provide drug prevention and treatment services and reach all people in need of help. The UNODC Youth Initiative encourages young people to adopt healthy lifestyles and promote drug awareness in their communities, while other programmes help families, schools and communities to build a young person’s personal, social and communication skills and provide a supportive environment.

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) maintains a system of estimates of countries’ requirements for drugs for medical and scientific purposes, for example for the relief of pain. By verifying shipment quantities against estimated requirements, authorities can determine whether or not a shipment should be imported or exported. This ensures that adequate supplies are available for the treatment of medical conditions, while at the same time preventing the diversion of narcotic drugs to trafficking and abuse.
YOU ARE TAKING DAILY MEDICATION AND WILL BE TRAVELLING ABROAD

If your medicines contain substances that are internationally controlled, you will need to make sure that you have appropriate documentation to prove that you are authorized to carry these medicines for your personal use. You should also check with the embassy of the countries of transit and destination to see what regulations or restrictions may apply.

The international guidelines for national regulations concerning travellers undergoing treatment with internationally controlled drugs provide guidance on procedures to be followed by national authorities and travellers and were developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These procedures are designed to ensure that the use of internationally controlled drugs is restricted to medical and scientific purposes and that the diversion of these preparations to illicit trafficking and abuse is prevented. The website of the INCB also includes information, where available, on national regulations.

ARE MOSQUITOES BUGGING YOU?

Satellite imagery, global navigation satellite systems and geographic information systems make it easier to integrate ecological, environmental and other data to predict the spread of infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) helps countries use space applications in fighting the spread of diseases.

With the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), some countries are beginning to experiment using the Sterile Insect Technique, with which the deadly Tsetse fly has been eradicated on the island of Zanzibar, to try to reduce mosquito populations.
YOU PLAN TO SPEND THE WEEKEND HIKING IN THE MOUNTAINS

The impacts of climate change and landscape fragmentation due to transport infrastructure are threatening sensitive mountain ecosystems and the many things that we all depend on: water, energy, recreation, as well as biodiversity.

The United Nations Environment Programme Vienna Office—Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna ISCC) is working to preserve mountain regions in the Balkans, the Carpathians, the Caucasus and others worldwide, striving for a balance between environmental protection of these fragile ecosystems and sustainable development. Activities include climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, water management and development of sustainable tourism and transport solutions. UNEP is a partner in strategic projects such as BioREGIO Carpathians, aiming to develop an information system on biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathian Mountains by listing endangered habitats and species in the region to help prevent their extinction. The aim is to keep the region attractive for locals as well as for sustainable tourism.
YOUR FLIGHT MIGHT BE CANCELLED DUE TO A VOLCANO ERUPTION DISRUPTING AIR TRAFFIC, AS HAPPENED AFTER THE ERUPTION OF THE ICELANDIC VOLCANO EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL IN 2010

How can aircraft be warned of volcanic ash plumes the very moment one of the world's 600 active volcanoes erupts? How can ships be warned of underwater volcanoes, ice shelf break-up or the creation of icebergs?

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is setting up a global network of nearly 340 monitoring stations, designed to detect telltale signs of a clandestine nuclear test. This network can also detect any other larger source of sound, shockwave or radioactivity on earth or in the atmosphere. It can for example detect volcanic eruptions or the breaking up of ice shelves with its infrasound stations which register sound that is inaudible to the human ear. The 183 Member States of the CTBTO and international and national institutions responsible for aviation and maritime safety receive this information so that they can warn their citizens and others concerned.
YOU ARE EXCITED ABOUT GOING ON VACATION TO ANOTHER CONTINENT, BUT YOU WILL BE IN A TSUNAMI-HIGH-RISK AREA

How do you know that it is safe to visit? Is an effective early warning system in place? Is the area earthquake-prone?

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) global alarm system, designed to detect all nuclear explosions, can also detect earthquakes that can cause tsunamis. The information is picked up by seismic and hydroacoustic stations which monitor underground and the oceans respectively. It is provided by the CTBTO in near real time to tsunami warning centres, in particular in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, to help them issue more timely and precise warnings. CTBTO seismic stations alone register around 30,000 seismic signals each year—mostly earthquakes, but also mine blasts and other explosions.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its UN-SPIDER programme, assists countries in developing national policies, plans and procedures to use space technologies for emergency response and disaster risk reduction.
YOU ARE OFFERED VERY AUTHENTIC-LOOKING COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER BAGS ON THE BEACH

The trade in counterfeit goods is big business for criminals. This type of organized crime cheats consumers and undermines legitimate trade. It could also endanger the health and safety of individuals who purchase fraudulent medicines and household goods.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the guardian of the main international instrument to counter transnational organized crime, which includes counterfeiting. UNODC helps countries create the legal framework to investigate criminal offences and tackle organized crime, prosecute and convict offenders, and assist and protect victims and witnesses. The Organization also works to build public awareness around the hidden costs associated with counterfeiting and its links to transnational organized crime. UNODC helps train law enforcement officers to intercept such products, for example, through the Container Control Programme jointly run with the World Customs Organization.

YOU BUY SOME SOUVENIRS AND, AT THE AIRPORT, IT TURNS OUT THAT THEY ARE MADE OF IVORY

Next time you decide to go on a safari holiday, the animals you see may be far fewer in number and more limited in types of species. Poachers, often linked to organized crime groups, threaten the existence of many species of animals. Rhinos and tigers are just two examples of animals that are now at risk of extinction because of the greed of criminals. Environmental crime is a serious problem, particularly in developing countries.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with Governments to stop criminals from exploiting the world’s precious resources and to raise awareness about this issue among consumers. Through coordinated action with other international organizations, UNODC supports national wildlife law enforcement agencies and regional networks to counter environmental crime.
YOU DO YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING AT THE SUPERMARKET

You will find that your shopping cart contains a range of animal and plant products from outside the European Union.

You may take their quality for granted, but the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) works with supermarket chains, via its E-trace system, to ensure that these products are fit for human consumption.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has made it possible for foreign producers and European Union supermarkets to trade across borders with confidence. The treaties and model laws created by UNCITRAL enable and encourage cross-border trade by establishing a fair, understandable and universal legal regime. Thus, buyers and sellers can trade with no fear by either party that the law governing the contract will be alien or unfair.
Shopping for food, running a household?

The United Nations in Vienna in Your Daily Life

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) helps nations use isotope hydrology to assist in tracking water pollution as well as the sources and age of water.

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) helps Danube-basin countries coordinate their efforts to improve the treatment of wastewater through the construction of collection systems or treatment plants. If treated adequately, wastewater can even be cleaner than the river water it gets released into. ICPDR has also advocated for binding caps on the phosphate content of dishwasher and laundry detergents, as phosphates contribute to the growth of algae and pollution. This has been met by EU legislation, cutting phosphate loads in the Danube and its tributaries.

Columbia Glacier: the ice giant on the Prince William Sound in Alaska has been retreating for years; between 1986 and 2011, the tidewater glacier has dramatically changed. A series of Landsat images in false colour documents the change.

Water is fundamental in our daily lives: bathing, washing fruit and vegetables, washing clothes, and most importantly, healthy drinking water.

Satellite images of the Earth provide essential information for natural resources management and environmental monitoring, including water management. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) assists countries in utilizing space-based solutions, in particular in using satellite imagery for managing their natural resources.
YOU EAT SEVERAL PIECES OF FRUIT A DAY TO STAY HEALTHY

Some of the citrus fruit you eat are free of harmful chemicals because a nuclear application called Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) has been used to suppress produce-destroying pests.

The technique developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Member States, and with the support of the IAEA, is used to combat insects that carry deadly diseases that affect people and livestock. The SIT irradiates male larvae in a way that sterilizes the adult insect. The adult males are then released into infested areas where they mate, resulting in unfertilized eggs being laid by the females.
The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) has developed guidelines for planning hydropower plants in balance with environmental and economic needs around rivers. For example, fish passes can allow migratory fish to pass dams, improving biodiversity and water quality upstream.

Just imagine the plight of the almost four billion people worldwide who do not have access to electricity and other energy services.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) works with partners to eliminate energy poverty globally and wants to reduce the number of people without energy for productive uses by 40 per cent by 2030.

You miss the end of your favourite detective show on TV because of a brief interruption in the power supply at home.

Around 1.4 billion people lack access to energy. A small rechargeable lamp is the only light a family in the village of Kychom in Sierra Leone can count on as evening comes. Universal energy access is one of UNIDO’s highest priorities.
YOU USE FREE SOFTWARE TO CALCULATE THE QUICKEST ROUTE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT, OR YOUR CAR’S NAVIGATION SYSTEM HELPS YOU AVOID A TRAFFIC JAM

Using different navigation systems when travelling, in particular across continents used to be difficult. Whether travelling in Europe and the United States or making a stop-over in the Russian Federation on your way to China, you will be able to switch from various global navigation satellite system providers with no difficulty.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) brings together all major providers of global navigation satellite systems (GPS, GLONASS, GALILEO, COMPASS) to ensure the compatibility and interoperability of their systems.
WORRIED ABOUT ROAD SAFETY?
Driving under the influence of drugs is an issue of growing concern. Although alcohol is by far the most prevalent and well-documented psychoactive substance affecting drivers, concerns have been mounting about increasing reports of road deaths linked to illicit or medicinal drugs. It is well known that drugs, even those prescribed by a physician, can impair perception, judgement, motor skills and memory-critical skills for safe and responsible driving.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with Governments to develop national responses to address drug-affected driving, by assessing and monitoring the magnitude of this phenomenon and by exchanging information and best practices on effective responses.

The roads you drive on are checked for potentially lethal cracks and hidden damage using non-destructive radiation technology which is being developed by Member States with the support and assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That is the same technology used to check gas and oil pipelines, as well as jet engine turbines for cracks that if undetected, would cause catastrophic accidents.

IF YOUR CAR HAS EVER BEEN STOLEN IT MIGHT BE TRANSPORTED IN A MARITIME CONTAINER AND SMUGGLED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)—World Customs Organization joint Container Control Programme trains police and customs officials to identify suspicious container shipments. Operations coordinated with port authorities have led to seizures of illicit goods such as skins and parts from endangered species, stolen luxury cars, drugs and counterfeit products.

Nuclear technologies are used with the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by its Member States to see through container walls and at borders to detect illicit trafficking of people, goods and radioactive sources.
On the way to work?

Have you ever seen a green bridge? You might have noticed that some road bridges you pass under have grass and vegetation growing on them. Have you ever wondered why?

Roads may enable humans to get to their desired destination faster, but they also interrupt traditional migration routes for wild animals, resulting in accidents, dangerous for humans and animals alike.

The United Nations Environment Programme Vienna Office—Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna—ISCC) with its project Alpine Carpathian Corridor aims to re-establish ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Carpathians. By building “green bridges” over roads, UNEP Vienna—ISCC and its partners are able to support animals in migrating freely from one habitat to another, ensuring biodiversity, as well as improving road safety.
YOU START A BUSINESS SELLING INTERNATIONAL FOOD PRODUCTS

You order a variety of products from a company in another country and pay for them. But when the products arrive, everything is rotten. How will you resolve the situation?

Because of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), you do not necessarily need to solve this problem with an expensive law suit or in a foreign court. The United Nations and UNCITRAL have developed treaties, model laws and rules in the field of arbitration that have made it possible for local businesses to arbitrate with foreign producers. What is more, these legal texts mean that the results of arbitration will be binding and enforceable locally or abroad.

SORTING OUT THE PAPERWORK TO GET ALL THE PERMITS YOU NEED FOR YOUR NEW BUSINESS IS GOING SLOWLY. A FRIEND SUGGESTS IT MIGHT HELP TO GIVE A LITTLE FINANCIAL GIFT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO WILL PROCESS YOUR PERMIT

Corruption is a massive drain on public resources and affects our lives in many ways. Public sector projects for instance can cost taxpayers far more than they ought to if tender kickbacks become part of the process. Bank customers can lose their life savings through corruption and shareholders can be robbed of their investments. While corruption used to be seen as a white collar crime, the perception is changing as more and more people realize how much this affects our daily lives.

As the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) helps Governments across the world create a culture of transparency and integrity in public institutions and the private sector. UNODC provides advice and training and sets standards to help promote the rule of law and empower societies against this scourge. On 9 December, UNODC, alongside the United Nations Development Programme, promotes the International Anti-Corruption Day—encouraging individual action to say “no” to this crime.
Finding a job is not easy these days, especially for young people who are just starting out.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) works to create employment via industrialization, agribusiness and manufacturing for all, especially global youth.

Organic farming not only improves soil quality and mitigates greenhouse gases through sustainable farming methods but also creates substantial employment and business opportunities for local people, as well as new businesses like eco- and agro-tourism.

There are many opportunities to create new “green” jobs in organic agriculture, especially in Eastern Europe, which is rich in agricultural land. The United Nations Environment Programme Vienna Office—Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna—ISCC) works closely with Governments in the region to develop green economy initiatives.

Piassa Daniel helps at her father's workshop, here in Nampula, Mozambique. At 19, she's learned about running a metalwork business. She also knows about business plans, budget control and balance sheets: she plans to start her own business. She is part of a remarkable UNIDO Youth Programme.