

Dear Mr Guterres

### **Let's put wellbeing first**

In our view the ultimate purpose of government is the wellbeing of the people – their quality of life as they experience it. This should be clearly stated at the UN Summit of the Future this September. We urge you to press for this.

Until recently this was simply an idea. But wellbeing has now become a practical objective, as wellbeing science reveals more and more clearly how different policies affect people's wellbeing. Clearly the economy affects wellbeing, but so does much else. Mental health, for example, is now a highly cost-effective priority – for treatment and for prevention.

A revolution in wellbeing will require new priorities for employers and for educators, as well as for governments. Increasingly, employers realise that employee wellbeing is in the interest of employer and employee alike. To improve it requires a major rethink of work organisation and management in many businesses. Similarly, schools should not be exam factories. They should be places to develop the overall wellbeing of the students.

All these arguments were deployed at greater length in the [Como Wellbeing Manifesto in 2022](#). Our plea now to you and the participants at the UN Summit is this: please make it clear that the ultimate objective of all policy should be the wellbeing of the people – both the present generation and those to come.

[Signed],

---