

# Post-covid world

## Catch-phrase :

The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis, it is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis, and a human rights crisis. It has highlighted severe fragilities and inequalities within and among nations. It is a turning point in history and the world after will be different.

## Economy :

**Inflation** in the US reached 7% in 2021, the highest since 1982.

**Economic changes**, winning and losing sectors :

- winning sectors : new technologies, online distribution, health
- losing sectors : automotive, tourism, aeronautics

## Social :

**Inequalities in the world** : Several factors may have increased the vulnerability of those with low socio-economic status.

Example: Pay cuts, job losses, and high food prices due to reduced food imports and closure of informal markets, disrupted food supplies, with poorer communities especially affected.

→ Measures: The World Food Program (WFP) is at the forefront of meeting the food and nutrition needs of 87 million poor, marginalized and hungry people. One of the objectives is Zero Hunger Strategic.

**Social interaction is reduced** : less physical proximity, no more kissing, work from home, more virtual.

**Professions are different**, in particular those that require physical proximity : telemedicine, use of technologies like AI, e-business, delivery jobs

“Number of remote workers will increase to 93.5 million in the US in 2024, compared to 78.5 million in 2020. It represents nearly 60% of the US workforce” according to IDC.

## Environment :

**A realization** : Many people became aware of the impact of consumption on the environment. In many countries, the period of lockdown has given us a glimpse of how animal and plant species react to less human disturbance, in both rural and urban

settings.

→ Significant changes : lifestyles, habits.

**Pollution** : The demand for passenger transport has declined as a result of international travel restrictions and reduced commuting, tourism and business travel.

→ Dramatic improvement in air quality, especially in some of the world's most polluted cities.

COVID-19 has had a significant effect on the consumption of single-use plastic packaging and products.

→ The mask used daily is a case in point. Indeed, so much new waste that "does not disappear on its own", says the director general of the Ocean Conservancy who is worried about their massive appearance in marine territories.

### Problematics and lines of thinking :

- Do you believe that post Covid19 economic recovery is compatible with a fully sustainable world ?
- How and why does COVID-19 require us to rethink development ?
- Are we entering a new era of work ?
- Two years of COVID-19: What have we learnt?
- Will the post-covid world be different ?

### Vocabulary :

*the spread of a virus* : la propagation d'un virus

*an epidemic* : une épidémie

*the death toll* : le nombre de victimes

*health workers/medical staff* : les (personnels) soignants

*preventative/protective measures* : les gestes barrières

*to wear a (face) mask* : porter un masque

*to self-isolate* : s'isoler

*a vaccine* : un vaccin

*to be under quarantine* : être en quarantaine

*lockdown* : confinement

*to work from/at home* : télétravailler

*remote worker* : travailleur à distance

*sustainable* : durable

*consumer society* : la société de consommation