

4 causes of the global crisis, according to UN advisor Jeffrey Sachs



Sachs discussed four causes of the current global crisis: geopolitical multipolarity, economic convergence, environmental crisis, and demographic changes

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In a lecture for **students** and faculty at [Tecnológico de Monterrey's Santa Fe](#) campus, [Jeffrey Sachs](#), an American **economist** who holds various positions at the [United Nations \(UN\)](#), explained four causes of the current **global crisis**.

For the president of the **UN [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#)**, the four causes of the current global crisis are: geopolitical multipolarity, economic convergence, environmental crisis, and demographic changes.

Sachs is a **[Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) Advocate** for UN Secretary-General António Guterres and served as a **special advisor** to former Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, among holding other positions.

Paulina Campos, Vice President of the Tec's Mexico City campuses, remarked that: *"Dr. Sachs's **leadership** has been instrumental in efforts to **eradicate poverty**, create **public health** policies, and **mitigate climate change**."*

These are the **four causes** of the current global **crisis**, according to Jeffrey Sachs:

Today, we had the honor of welcoming Jeffrey Sachs to [#TecCSF](#) ! 🇲🇽 He shared valuable insights with students & professors on the complex landscape of geopolitics and the future of global economic policies. 🇲🇽 pic.twitter.com/CwfiI2K5bW

— Tec Santa Fe (@Tec_CSF) [March 4, 2025](#)

1. Geopolitical multipolarity

Jeffrey Sachs explained that one of the reasons for the current global crisis is **geopolitical multipolarity**, meaning that many states holding significant power have ideological differences.

*"During the **Cold War**, we supposedly had a two-pole world, which the **United States** and the **Soviet Union** led. After that war, the **United States** declared that it would lead the world, which was a **unipolar** world.*

*"Now, the U.S. Secretary of State has said that we are in a **multipolar** world. What does that mean? The **United States** is a **superpower**, without a doubt, but so are **Russia, China, India**, and other countries," Sachs said.*



Jeffrey Sachs gave a lecture to students and faculty at the Tec's Santa Fe campus. Photo: Leonardo Torres

2. Economic convergence

The second cause of the current global crisis that he mentioned is **economic convergence**.

According to Sachs, this means that: *"The most **underdeveloped countries** have great potential to **grow** faster than rich countries and thus narrow the gap between them."*

Sachs mentioned that although this **convergence** is **positive** in principle, it **causes** geopolitical **multipolarity**, one of the main reasons for global instability.

Furthermore, he explained that **economic convergence** is driven by the growing opportunity for **underdeveloped countries** to make practical, high-return **investments**.

*"When you look at the economic difference between a poor country and a rich one, it's based on a few practical **investments** that simply aren't that expensive and have a very high return. "That's what **economic development** is all about," says*

Jeffrey Sachs.



Jeffrey Sachs is an SDG Advocate for UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Photo: Leonardo Torres

3. Changes in global demographics

According to Sachs, another of the causes of the current global crisis are the changes that **world demographics** are undergoing.

The economist highlighted the case of the **North Atlantic** region, which includes **Europe** and the **United States**, among others. He noted that although this region accounted for 30% of the **world's total population** in 1945, it will represent only 10% by the end of the century.

He also discussed the case of **China**, which today represents 18% of the world's **population**, but which will **decrease** to 8% by the end of the century.

On the other hand, Sachs highlighted the case of the **African** continent, which will experience very rapid **population growth** as a result of economic convergence.

*“**Africa** will grow from 1.4 billion people today, the same size as China and India, to 3.5 billion or more. It will represent 30 or **40%** of the world’s **population** and a significant part of the **economy**,”* Sachs reported.

*“**Dr. Sachs’s leadership has been instrumental in efforts to eradicate poverty and mitigate climate change.**” - Paulina Campos*

4. Environmental crisis

The economist stated that there are three **ecological crises** in process, and that these are directly related to economic **development** and global **instability**.

*“It turns out that current **economic development** was based on quite dangerous technologies, where the dangers were either not understood, denied, or hidden.*

*“**Climate catastrophe, biodiversity loss, and the pollution crisis** all fundamentally result from the **industrial revolution**, the rise of the **global economy**, and the increase in **human population**,”* said Jeffrey Sachs.



Jeffrey Sachs visited Tec de Monterrey in Santa Fe on March 4, 2025.

Photo: Leonardo Torres

Tec community collaborates with Sachs on sustainable development

Jeffrey Sachs is President of the [**UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network**](#), a global network of universities and research institutions working to advance the **SDGs** and the **2030 Agenda** for **Sustainable Development**.

Paulina **Campos** mentioned that **Tec** de Monterrey and the [**National Autonomous University of Mexico \(UNAM\)**](#) lead this network in Mexico under the guidance of the economist, implementing **initiatives** that seek a more equitable and **sustainable** future for the world.

*"We have **worked** with **Dr. Sachs** for several years in our **efforts** to achieve the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**."*

*"As part of its commitment to this network, the Tec participates in the **leadership council** and contributes to global **sustainability** discussions at the network summit held in New York each year," Campos explained.*

To conclude his lecture, which took place on March 4, 2025, at the [Tec's Santa Fe campus](#), Jeffrey Sachs recalled that: *"We're going through a time of notable global instability, which is why **young people** are so **important** for the **future.**"*

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