

UNU-EGOV

Big Family

words by Flávia Barbosa

pictures by Catarina Gomes



UNU
EGOV





- Rami, we've got another one! He's practically a baby, he's very scared...
- You can bring him here, Mia, thank you.
Rami, the big white cat with gray stripes, sighed. There were more and more abandoned cats, the family was getting bigger all the time. He sharpened his nails on a stone, stretched slowly in the sun and returned to the house that sheltered his entire family.

There were cats of all colors, breeds and sizes. All of them together formed a big rainbow: the most mischievous, Ben and Tom, had rolled around in purple paint the week before. At the back of the room, Mia was holding a small kitten, a black fuzzy ball that was shaking from paw to tail.

- Mia, thank you, I'm already here - meowed Rami. - What's your name?
- Cal - replied the little kitten, letting himself be hugged by Rami.

- Our family will feed you. You can stay with us as long as you like. Forever, if you want.
- Thank you! You're well looked after... Your fur shines and your nails are strong. How do you live on the street and look so beautiful?
- Oh, that's because we live in a very special place - smiled Rami. - Now you must eat, bathe and rest. I'll show you everything tomorrow, I promise.



13 AÇÃO CLIMÁTICA



12 PRODUÇÃO E CONSUMO SUSTENTÁVEIS



10 REDUZIR AS DESIGUALDADES



4 EDUCAÇÃO DE QUALIDADE



1 ERRADICAR A POBREZA



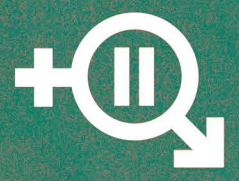
6 ÁGUA POTÁVEL E SANEAMENTO



15 PROTEGER A VIDA TERRESTRE



5 IGUALDADE DE GÊNERO



3 SAÚDE DE QUALIDADE



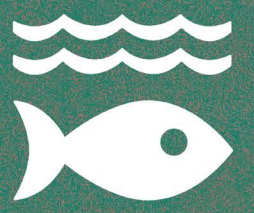
8 TRABALHO DIGNO E CRESCIMENTO ECONÓMICO



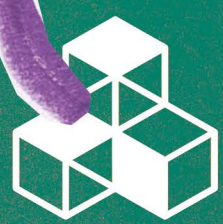
16 PAZ, JUSTIÇA E INSTITUIÇÕES EFICAZES



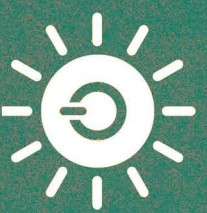
14 PROTEGER A VIDA MARINHA



9 INDÚSTRIA, EDUCAÇÃO E INFRAESTRUTURAS



7 ENERGIAS RENOVÁVEIS E ACESSÍVEIS



17 PARCERIAS PARA A IMPLEMENTAÇÃO DOS OBJETIVOS



11 CIDADES E COMUNIDADES SUSTENTÁVEIS



Cal purred and snuggled up to Mia, who had found him sheltering from a storm under a car. He had only been on the streets for a few weeks and his fur was covered in mud, one of his whiskers was broken and his nails were brittle. How were those street cats so cute and chubby? He followed Mia into a corner and was even more amazed: there was food! He looked around, saw the pairs of bright eyes that encouraged him and began to eat. Soon he was asleep curled up with two other cats who warmed him up immediately. When he woke up, it was already night.



**UNU
EGOV**



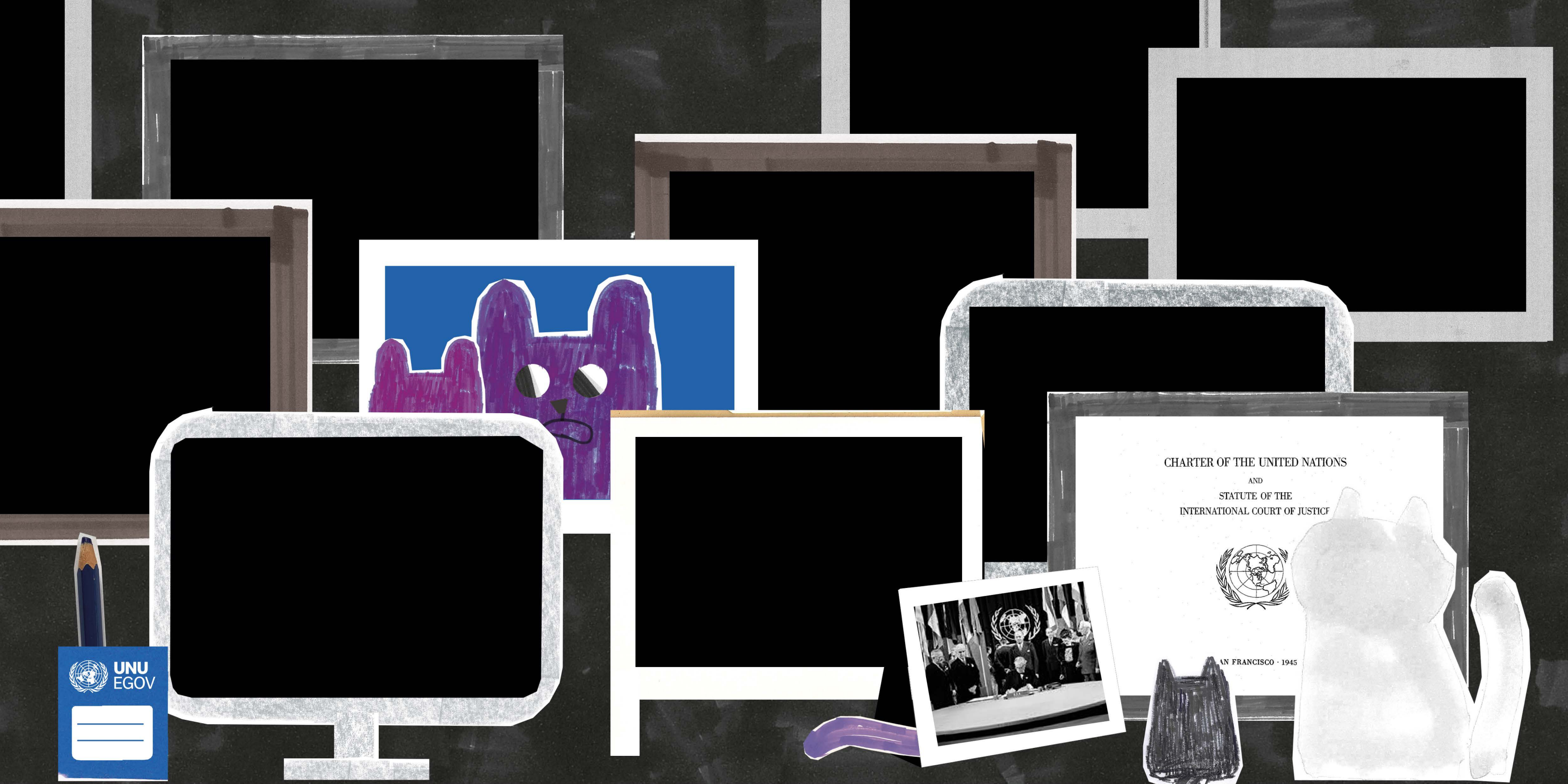
- Do you want to know where we live? - Rami asked.
- Of course! - replied Cal, excited.
- So... Welcome to UNU-EGOV. This is where our human family is!
- UNU what? What a complicated name... And you have pet humans?
- United Nations University. It's an Operational Unit dedicated to Electronic

Governance - Rami replied proudly, pointing with his chin.
Cal's mouth dropped open. They had left the shelter and passed through a garden with large plants that tickled his whiskers. In front of them was a huge courtyard and a building with a large chimney. There were lots of windows and Cal saw desks, computers, flashing lights and colorful flags.



- I've heard of the United Nations, but I'm not sure how they work...
 - The UN has existed for a long time, since October 24, 1945. We know that because humans always celebrate that occasion - remarked Rami, scavenging the ground.
 - And what does the UN do?

- Well, you know that there are many countries and lands in the world, don't you? The UN collaborates with the governments of these countries, they talk and solve problems together. This makes it easier to have peace in the world, dialog, and security, which are some of the UN's main objectives.
 - Wow, how do you know all that?



- There's a very famous letter that talks about all this, we've already read it. The UN also fights to ensure that everyone has access to food, a place to live, education, health, security, dignity... They never seem tired, they are always working for all the good things!
- And they respect animals too?

- Yes. How do you think we look like this? - Rami laughed, pointing to his round belly.
- How nice to have a place like this. Have you lived here long?
- Almost ten years. This Unity was founded in May 2014 and in June I moved here with Mia. The rest of the family came along little by little. Some heard that the humans were treating us well, others were rescued by us.



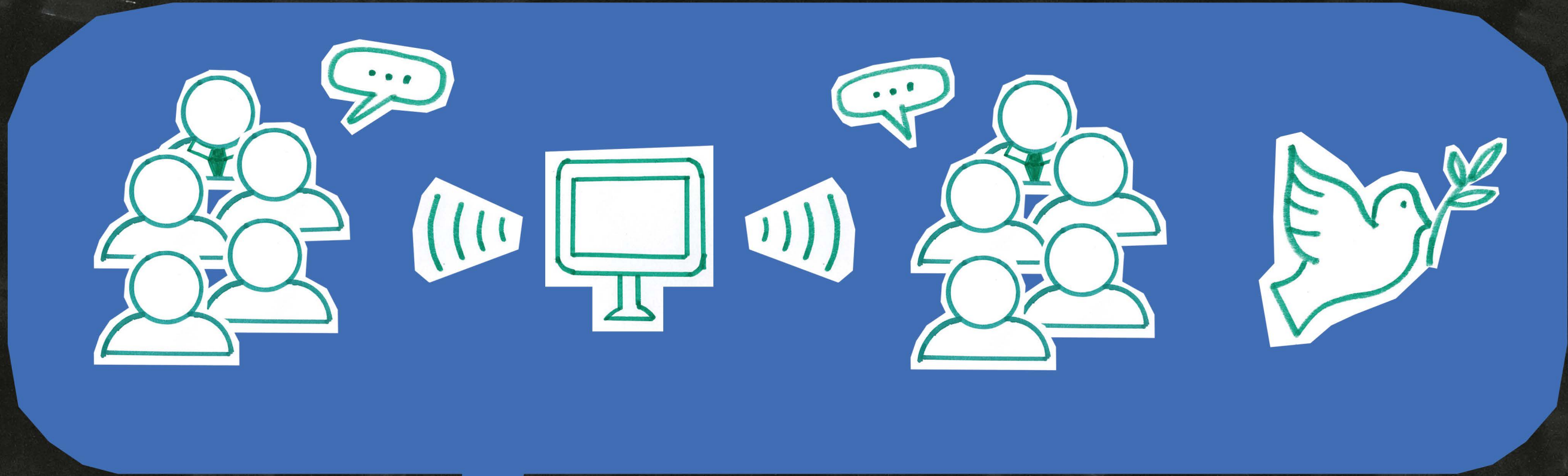
- And why does this Unit have such a odd name?
- You're a very curious kitten, aren't you? - Rami asked with a laugh. - The name isn't so strange once you understand what they do.

- I think I get it, they strive for peace, don't they?
- Among other things... The United Nations University opened in 1974, after a very important man called U Thant proposed the creation of a university to achieve the objectives of the Charter I told you about.

Rami walked through the glassed-in offices and climbed to the roof. In the moonlight, his fur was even brighter. He helped Cal up and the two of them peered through the large skylight.

- The University is spread around the world, in twelve countries, and the headquarters are in Tokyo, Japan. The Institutes investigate the problems that exist in the world and work on the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as more specific areas. In this case, Electronic Governance.





- Wow, so far away! I've never traveled, but I'd love to. What is e-Governance anyway? You still haven't explained it to me - purred Cal.
- Back in the day, when none of us were born, there were no computers, no cell phones, or the technology that exists today. E-Governance is about how governments use these technologies to work, helping people, companies, organisations...



- I understand. If they use these technologies well, they will help people to achieve all those things you mentioned, like a house, education or health.
- That's right! You're very smart, I think you're ready to work at UNU-EGOV - meowed Rami.

Cal laughed and looked at the large building. There was one question he hadn't asked yet.

- And who feeds you?

- I was right, you're very clever... You asked the question that matters most

- joked Rami. - Some of the researchers feed us. Sometimes, when they have a party, they even bring us special food.

- Do they have parties? - Cal asked in amazement.

- Of course, they're like us: one big family!





2 ERRADICAR
A FOME



- What... What is this? - Cal asked, wide-eyed.
- It's also a party, replied Mia.
- For me?
- For you and for us! After all, it's not every day that the family gets bigger. Welcome, Cal - said Mia, hugging him.
Cal let himself be taken into that warm embrace. As he celebrated with all the other cats that appeared from the plants, the walls and all the little holes nearby, he thought about how lucky he was now: food, a roof over his head and the love of a family.
"Two families, by the way! I can't wait to meet my pet humans," he thought, purring happily.



UNU-EGOV

The United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV), based in Portugal (Guimarães) since 2014, is a global think tank focused on research, advisory services and training in the area of digital governance, bridging the gap between research and public policy in this field. An integral part of the United Nations University, UNU-EGOV's mission is to support the United Nations (UN), as well as its Member States, in transforming governance mechanisms and building effective governance capacities through the strategic application of digital technologies, thus contributing to inclusive socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security.

Considered an international reference in this area, UNU-EGOV brings together a team of more than 30 researchers from 18 nationalities around complex problems and emerging challenges. Since its establishment, UNU-EGOV has developed more than 60 digital governance projects in more than 18 countries, collaborated with 19 international organizations, organised more than 90 events and produced more than 300 publications.

UNU-EGOV coordinates and organises the annual ICEGOV Conference, bringing together a community of more than 6500 authors, academics, researchers and professionals working in the field of digital governance.

More information about UNU-EGOV is available on the website at <https://egov.unu.edu/>.



