

UN @ 70 – A New Commitment to Action
High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
21 April 2016

Countries adopted in Sept 2015, after unprecedeted consultation, a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, ensure shared prosperity and foster global peace. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda successfully defines “What” needs to be done over the next fifteen years. This High Level Thematic Debate seeks to explore the next critical step – “how” these goals and their targets can be successfully achieved over the next 15 years, including “who” the primary actors need to be for meaningful implementation.

Objectives

- Catalyse ambitious and immediate plans of action by all stakeholders, at all levels.
- Consider how to strengthen action by governments on implementation and unlock private investment to finance poverty eradication and sustainable development, including on climate.
- Illuminate the potential of information and technology for sustainable development and identify key technology partners.
- Examine how to build on the Paris Agreement through climate action that also supports the SDGs.
- Articulate the structure of potential partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

Outline

This event will bring together global political, business and civil society leaders in New York to focus on kick-starting SDG implementation. Declared candidates seeking to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations will also be invited so that they are fully aware of what is required in this area, if selected. Sessions will be dedicated to five focus areas, selected to contribute to the above outcomes with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and capacity building.

1. **Action at all levels:** Member States have committed to drive national responses to implementation of the SDGs. All actors, led by national governments, will need to work out how this can be done, and who is best charged with delivering sustainable development which leaves no-one behind.
2. **Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development:** Implementing the SDGs and fulfilling Paris Agreement commitments requires substantial financial resources as well as sound regulatory frameworks. Public and private finance as well as domestic and international finance can be urgently mobilized and potential strategies for doing so will be explored.
3. **Technology and data for SDGs:** To achieve the SDGs, there is a need to improve access to technology, as well as capacity for technology development, and ensure that the best available tools and information sources are used across sectors such as clean energy, health and information.
4. **Partnerships for the implementation of SDGs:** This new Agenda will only be realized if the implementation process is partnership based, fully inclusive, transparent and accountable.
5. **Climate action in the context of sustainable development:** A reception will be held to celebrate the successful adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and ensure coherence and synergies in implementation of these outcomes. For details regarding invitations see the climate reception Concept Note.

The Debate will be a one-day event, consisting of multiple sessions. A full programme will be available at <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>