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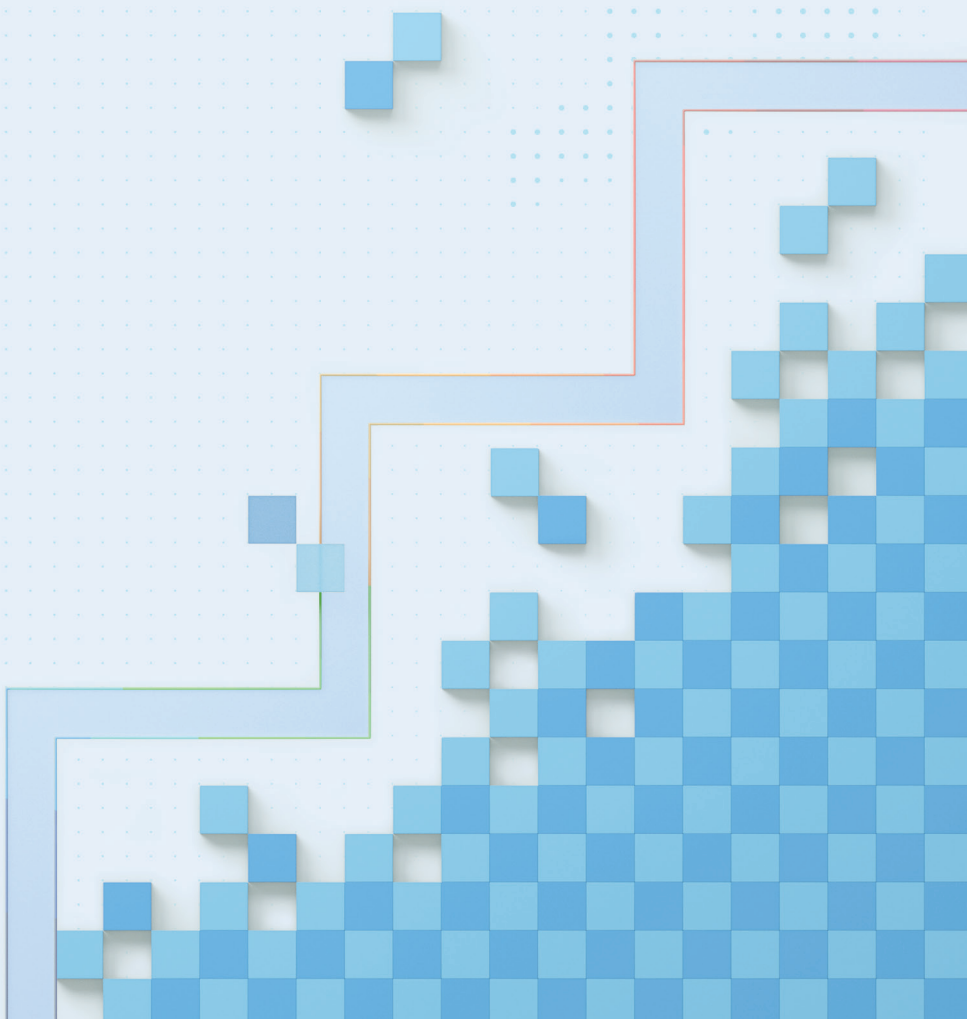
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS

2018-2019



Towards
Sustainable
Development
For All



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Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

■ HIGHLIGHTS ■

2018-2019

List of Acronyms

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
AIMS	Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea	NGO	Non-governmental organization
CDP	Committee for Development Policy	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CEPA	Committee of Experts on Public Administration	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
COP 24	24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
COSP-CRPD	Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
EU	European Union	STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
GA	General Assembly	TFM	Technology Facilitation Mechanism
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GPSDD	Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data	UN OICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
HFLDs	High Forest Cover and Low Deforestation countries	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HLPF	High-level political forum on sustainable development	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IATT	Interagency Task Team	UNFF 14	14th session of the UN Forum on Forests
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies	UNGGIM	United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
IDI	INTOSAI Development Initiative	UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
IGF	Internet Governance Forum	UNPSF	United Nations Public Service Forum
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
INFFs	integrated national financing frameworks	UNU	United Nations University
INTOSAI	International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions	VNR	Voluntary National Review
IOM	International Organization for Migration	WESP	World Economic Situation and Prospects
LDCs	Least Developed Countries	WPP	World Population Prospects
METER	Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness	WUP	World Urbanization Prospects
MICs	Middle-Income Countries		

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Highlights 2018-2019 is a tool to communicate the achievements and contributions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs over the course of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, covering September 2018-August 2019. UN DESA Highlights 2018-2019 presents key events and major themes that reflect the mandate and priorities of the Department. It also aims to increase the visibility of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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INTRODUCTION

UN DESA: Rising to the challenge



I have the honour to introduce the first edition of the *UN DESA Highlights 2018-2019*, which reflects upon the major achievements and contributions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) during the 73rd session of the General Assembly, a year in which Member States confronted some of the greatest threats to humanity since framing their aspirations in the Charter of the United Nations.

In 2019, four years after committing to the hope of the 2030 Agenda, science has painted a starker picture as never before of the world we are facing. The existential threat of climate change, biodiversity loss, the rise of global hunger and inequalities, looms over our generation. The

message is clear: we must accelerate our efforts now, as individuals, communities, businesses and nations, to secure the future of our people and planet. It is clearer now than ever before, that our fates are interconnected.

As a Department established to deliver on the Charter of the United Nations, UN DESA found itself again at the cross-roads of history in 2015, as Member States called upon the Secretary-General¹ to enhance the Department's capacity to help them achieve their transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By 2019, the response from the Secretary-General was well under way as UN DESA realigned its work with the priorities of the 2030 Agenda in six key strategic areas.

We strengthened our thought and intellectual leadership on key global economic and financial policy issues, based on the latest data, sound research and in-depth analysis. We enhanced our support to the intergovernmental processes that underpin the 2030 Agenda. We improved our use of data and analysis to inform decision-making that enhances collective accountability for results. We stepped up capacities to leverage financing for implementing the SDGs. We've added a focus on the provision of strategic substantive support to the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/299

system and the new generation of UN country teams, complementing the Secretary-General's broader efforts to reposition the United Nations development system.

The Department has also worked to strengthen strategies and mechanisms to enhance external communications and strategic partnerships, including with the private sector and academia. This founding edition of the *UN DESA Highlights* is a product of this latest effort.

In stepping up its support to Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda, UN DESA has pioneered innovative approaches to track progress on global commitments. Among our efforts in 2018-2019 were the first rounds of VNR Labs, which help countries dive deeper into their Voluntary National Reviews, and the Federated Information System for the Sustainable Development Goals (FIS4SDGs), which brings multiple data sources in one user-friendly platform.

These and other innovative approaches helped UN DESA deliver on its role as the substantive secretariat for the preparations of three high-level events that took place during the high-level debate of the 74th session of the General Assembly: the SDG Summit, the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development; and the High-Level Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway. These events facilitated policy, business, civil society and other global leaders to announce their actions to accelerate progress on sustainable development, financing for the SDGs

and delivering results for small island developing states.

Through these pages, we hope to give you an insight to the work of a Department that has responded time and again to the call from Member States, a Department that is fully aligned with the priorities of Member States, and a Department that provides more robust, inclusive and evidence-based support to the global community.

As we enter the second cycle of the high-level political forum to follow up our global commitments to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, we must resist the temptation to tackle global issues alone. A networked and inclusive multilateralism, -more intense cooperation with other organizations and closer partnership with multiple stakeholders-will help us overcome the challenges of our time.

UN DESA will continue to be a responsive partner working with you to achieve our goals. It is in this spirit that we invite you to join us in our efforts.

Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General for
Economic and Social Affairs

September 2019

What does UN DESA do?



Intergovernmental support

By facilitating major global conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as mandated by UN Member States, UN DESA assists countries as they find common ground, set norms, and take decisive steps forward.



Analysis

As the think tank of the UN, DESA, generates, analyses and compiles a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and statistics to inform and advise Member States and other stakeholders as they take stock of trends and policy options to tackle common problems.



Capacity-building

UN DESA assists in translating policy frameworks developed in UN conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, supports Member States in building national capacities.



Major databases

- [UN Data](#)
- [UN e-Government Knowledge Database](#)
- [UN Global SDG Indicators Database](#)
- [UN SDG Data Hub](#)
- [UN LDC Data](#)
- [UN Public Service Awards Database](#)
- [Population databases](#)
- [UN Comtrade International Trade Statistics Database](#)
- [UN System SDGs Actions Database](#)
- [Voluntary National Reviews Database](#)



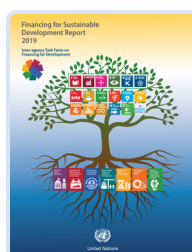
Major publications



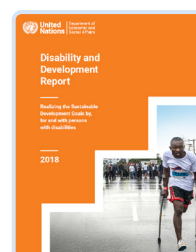
World Social Report



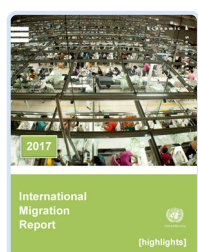
World Economic Situation and Prospects



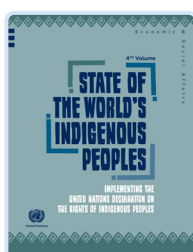
Financing for Sustainable Development Report



Disability and Development Report



International Migration Report



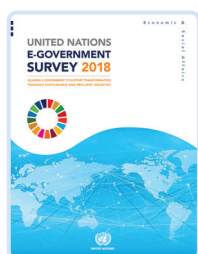
State of the World's Indigenous Peoples



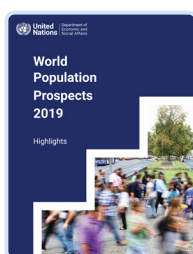
The Sustainable Development Goals Report



The World's Women



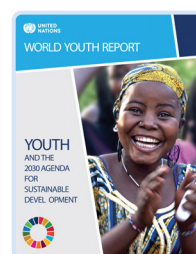
United Nations E-Government Survey



World Population Prospects



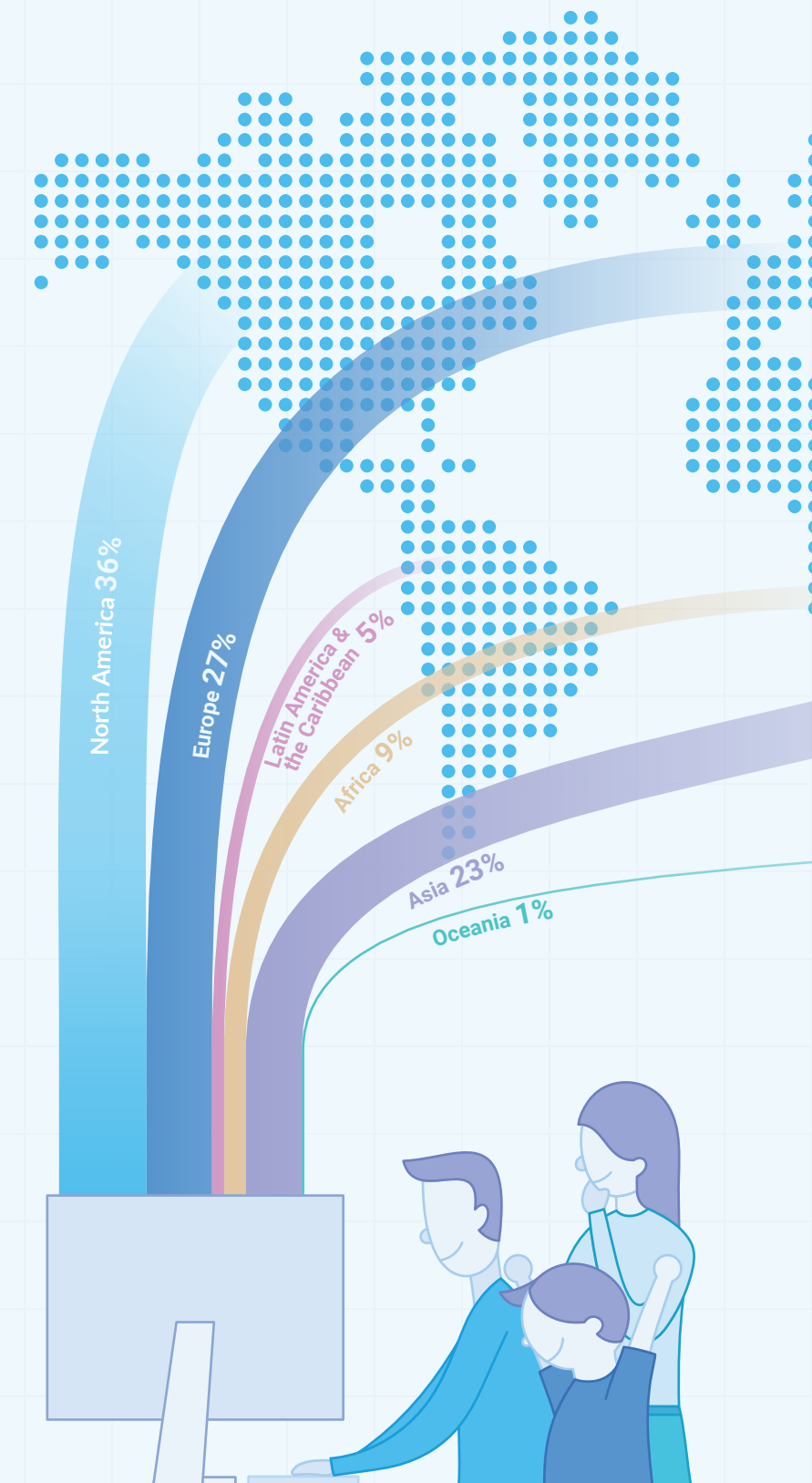
World Public Sector Report



World Youth Report

In 2018-2019, UN DESA:

- Leveraged our resources to better support the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF);
- Further aligned our work with the 2030 Agenda to more effectively lead international implementation efforts, as the UN system's sustainable development hub;
- Strengthened our role as the main hub for financing for sustainable development in the UN;
- Boosted analytical capacities at the global level, including on frontier and emerging issues;
- Enhanced our capacity-development work and strengthen our internal coordination mechanisms in support of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System;
- Strengthened central monitoring and evaluation capacity to enhance the Department's accountability framework;
- Modified the Department's organizational structures and redefined the job descriptions of many staff members to further align its work with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- Further aligned and enhanced our strategic communication and branding efforts, increasing the visibility of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Share of visits to the UN DESA website
(by region, 2018)

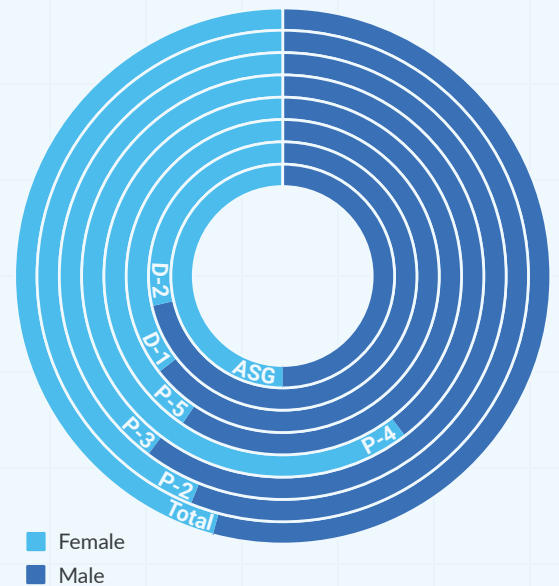


5 most downloaded UN DESA publications in 2018



In 2018, UN DESA's top 5 most popular publications were downloaded a total of **343,621** times from UN DESA web sources.

UN DESA is working to increase gender parity

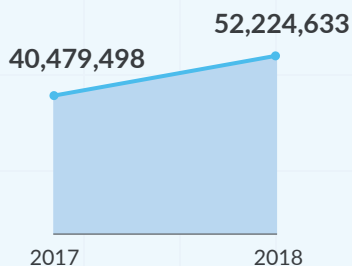


UN DESA established a network of gender focal points to support the Department's work on gender equality and women's empowerment.



In 2018, UN DESA ran more than **200** capacity-building projects in **86** countries from all developing regions.

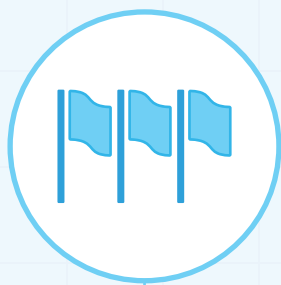
UN DESA staff represent more than **80** countries worldwide from all regions.



Annual web visits

Visits to UN DESA's websites reached 52,224,633 in 2018, an increase of **29%** from 2017

Supporting development for all through intergovernmental processes



General Assembly

Plenary

Economic and Financial Committee
(Second Committee)

Social, Humanitarian
and Cultural Committee
(Third Committee)



High-level political forum



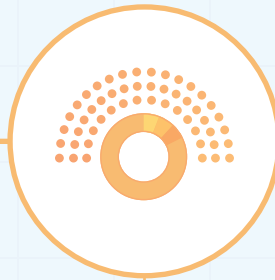
Forums

Development Cooperation Forum
Financing for Development Forum
Internet Governance Forum
Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science,
Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
Partnership Forum
World Data Forum
Youth Forum



UN Collaborative Mechanisms

Collaborative Partnership on Forests
Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs
High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination
and Capacity-building for the 2030 Agenda
Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
Inter-agency Consultative Group on SIDS
Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development
Inter-agency Task Team
for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism



Economic and Social Council



Commissions

Commission for
Social Development

Commission on Population
and Development

Statistical Commission

United Nations
Forum on Forests



Committees and Advisory Bodies

Committee of Experts
on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Committee for Development Policy

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management

United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

UN-Energy

UN-Water

UN Inter-agency Support Group
on Indigenous People's Issues

United Nations Inter-agency Network
on Youth Development

United Nations Global Working Group (GWG)
on Big Data for Official Statistics

LEAVING
NONE
ONE
BEHIND

UN DESA is a leading voice for promoting inclusion, reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty. Throughout the year, UN DESA drew on its convening power and analytical capacity to ensure that the global dialogue included and considered the voices of all peoples, everywhere. The Department also supported the development of national actions to leave no one behind.

UN DESA...

- Led the development of the UN system-wide action plan for the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027).
- Brought together more than 1,000 young people from more than 100 Member States to have their voices heard at the 2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum.
- Convened the 18th United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, bringing together more than 1,200 representatives of indigenous peoples, Member States, academia, parliaments and the UN system.
- Produced the Disability and Development Report, the first ever on disability and the SDGs.

Leaving no one behind

The commitment to leave no one behind is a central tenet of the 2030 Agenda and a long-standing keystone of UN DESA's support to Member States. In 2018-2019, UN DESA brought the UN system together on key issues of inclusion and equality, ensuring a coherent and integrated approach to the UN's work on poverty eradication, youth development, ageing and disability inclusion. The Department continued advising countries that are preparing to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category, and worked to ensure that the special needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are effectively addressed in the global drive for a healthy and prosperous planet. The Department also supported the high-level political forum's work on the theme of inclusiveness and Sustainable Development Goal 10 on inequality.



LOOKING FORWARD

World Social Report 2020

In 2020, UN DESA's flagship **World Social Report** will carry on the Department's rich tradition of informing decision-making on development issues. Focusing on shaping the future of inequality, the 2020 report will build on decades of compelling analysis to assess the likely impact of major global trends on inequality. Discussing the impacts and potential of technological innovation, climate change, urbanization and international migration, the report will highlight the policy frameworks that can both mitigate impacts and fuel progress.

Bringing the UN system together to end poverty

2018-2027 marks the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty with the theme *Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty*. In 2018, UN DESA led the development of a system-wide action plan for the implementation of the Third Decade, bringing together the ideas of academic experts from around the globe, UN regional entities, and UN funds and programmes. The action plan's 10 basic principles will guide the collective work of the United Nations work on poverty eradication and inform the individual contributions of system entities.

Fiscal, wage and social protection for leaving no one behind

From 11 to 21 February 2019, UN DESA supported the 57th session of the Commission for Social Development – the ECOSOC advisory body that addresses the social dimensions of development. Focused on addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies, the Commission recognized inequality as a defining issue of our time. It encouraged governments to expand universal social protection and promote decent work for all. The Commission also underscored the important interlinkages between youth unemployment and inequality. It stressed the importance of realizing the social dimensions of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) through coordinated, integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.



A construction worker hangs off the side of a building in Dhaka, June 2010. Photo: UN Photo/Kibae Park



10 basic principles of the system-wide plan of action that will guide the collective work of the United Nations system on the eradication of poverty

1. Poverty is multidimensional and new forms are emerging.
2. Development policy needs to integrate social, economic and environmental concerns.
3. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is necessary.
4. Respect for internationally agreed human rights is essential.
5. Gender mainstreaming is vital.
6. Discrimination, marginalization and exclusion must be removed.
7. Leave no one behind.
8. The UN's role is to support Member States to strengthen their capacities to develop and implement effective, evidence-based, nationally-owned development strategies.
9. Integrated system-wide action should enhance efficiency, coherence, impact and adaptability to emerging trends.
10. Inclusive and strategic partnerships are key.

**Adapted from the Report of the Secretary-General A/73/298.*



2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum closing session, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić



Standing with youth protecting peace

In 2018-2019, UN DESA worked with young people and policy makers in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Kenya, Togo and Lebanon to address the links between social policy, youth development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The initiative attracted more than \$500,000 to help ensure that national youth policies address peace and security issues and, conversely, that peace and security policies consider the needs of youth.

Ensuring young people have a seat at the table

The active engagement of youth is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies by the year 2030, and to averting the worst, irreversible consequences of climate change. Recognizing the importance of young people's engagement, the Secretary-General launched Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy. As a co-chair of the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development, UN DESA played an integral role in the development of the strategy, bringing the UN system together to identify priorities for collective action. Youth 2030 aims to guide the UN system in stepping up support for the empowerment of young people, while ensuring that the Organization's work fully benefits from their insights and ideas.

Working jointly with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UN DESA helped make the 2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum one of the most successful, enabling the participation of more than 1,000 young people in this vibrant gathering held from 8 to 9 April 2019 at UN Headquarters in New York. Addressing the theme *Empowered, Included and Equal*, the Forum was a unique space for youth to voice their opinions, share ideas and interact with more than 100 Member State representatives, to discuss the critical importance of engaging young people in global development dialogue and in national policymaking. The outcome of the Youth Forum brought the unique perspectives of the young generation to the high-level political forum on sustainable development later that year.

Responding to the changing needs of a rapidly ageing world

In 2018, for the first time in history, persons aged 65 or above outnumbered children under five years of age, globally. That proportion will only continue to grow. Today, nine per cent of the world's population is over the age of 65. By 2050, that proportion will be 16 per cent. UN DESA's **World Population Prospects 2019** found that the number of persons aged 80 years or older is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050. More broadly, the Commission on Population and Development, at its 52nd session in April 2019, recognized the critical importance of population dynamics for sustainable development by adopting a political declaration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Department also supported the 10th session of Open-ended Working Group on Ageing held from 15 to 18 April 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Civil society organizations and national human rights institutions came together with Member States to strengthen social policy frameworks and facilitate human rights protections of older persons.



Participants at the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons in New York October 2018. Photo: UN DESA photo



Opening of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić



The 18th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2019 in Numbers

1,200 participants

14 government ministers

121 side events

Over **2** weeks



LOOKING FORWARD

The 19th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held from 13 to 24 April 2020 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, addressing the theme *Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16*

Standing up for indigenous peoples

In 2018-2019, UN DESA continued to support the social inclusion and rights of indigenous peoples. In 2018, with support from UN DESA, the Government of Namibia validated a draft white paper on the rights of indigenous peoples. In Uganda, UN DESA has been working in collaboration with UN Women and OHCHR to support the development of an affirmative action programme for indigenous peoples.

As the secretariat to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), UN DESA supported the Forum's 18th session, which convened from 22 April to 3 May 2019. The meeting brought together more than 1,200 representatives of Member States, indigenous peoples and United Nations organizations to address the theme *Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection*. Discussions focused on the role that core international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, the ILO Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, can play to ensure that indigenous knowledge is duly recognized and protected.



Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Persons with Disabilities, June 2019. Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić

Enabling disability inclusion

UN DESA serves as the secretariat to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP-CRPD), one of the largest international gatherings of disability stakeholders in the world. The 12th session of the COSP-CRPD was held on 11 to 13 June 2019, with a focus on empowerment of persons with disabilities. Participants debated technology, health and social inclusion through participation in cultural life.

The 12th session also marked the launch of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. This comprehensive strategy ensures that the United Nations system is fit for purpose for the practice and promotion of disability inclusion through all pillars of its work. As a co-chair of the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN DESA played an important coordinating role in the development of the Strategy and continues to support its implementation.



178 countries have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), one of the most widely ratified international treaties to date.

The 12th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, was the most highly attended so far with 1,200 Participants, including:

- more than **800** civil society stakeholders
- **150** Member State interventions
- **1** Vice President of State
- **1** First Lady
- **35** ministerial-level officials



Boys playing with marine algae on the beach of Tarawa, Kiribati, July 2017. Photo: Asian Development Bank

Guiding Least Developed Countries towards a sustainable future

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets. There are currently 47 LDCs in the world, with five in the process of graduating from the category. Vanuatu is scheduled to graduate in 2020, Angola in 2021, Bhutan in 2023, and São Tomé and Príncipe and Solomon Islands in 2024. In 2018-2019, UN DESA continued its support to the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which is responsible for reviewing the status of LDCs and for monitoring their progress after graduation from the category. The Committee also provides independent advice to ECOSOC on emerging cross-sectoral development issues and on international cooperation for development.

UN DESA also provided training and advice to enhance the capacities of stakeholders in LDCs for achieving sustainable growth. In 2018, the Department launched **gradjet.org** – a one-stop shop with resources and useful

contacts that officials in LDCs can use to better prepare their countries for graduation. UN DESA also manages the Support Measure Portal for LDCs, an interactive platform that compiles and catalogues information about LDC-specific international support measures provided by development partners.

Supporting the unique development needs of Small Island Developing States

One of UN DESA's top priorities in 2018-2019 was preparing the High-level Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway. This included producing the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, facilitating the work of the Co-Chairs and supporting intergovernmental negotiations in the lead-up to the September 2019 event. An interregional meeting on the SAMOA Pathway reviewed and analysed the conclusions of three SIDS regional meetings held earlier in 2018. UN DESA facilitated and supported all of these meetings. UN DESA has continued to provide support to SIDS in strengthening their public institutions' capacities to promote policy coherence and to implement the SDGs. UN DESA also provides comprehensive information on



High-level political forum on sustainable development - Panel discussion with UN Assistant Secretary-General Elliott Harris in the Digital Media Zone.
Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić

the digital readiness of SIDS and policy guidance on how e-Government can support transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies through its UN E-Government Survey.

Building the resilience of Middle-Income Countries

Middle-Income Countries (MICs) are home to 73 per cent of the world's poor and face significant challenges to achieving sustainable development. UN DESA provided substantive support to the first High-level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries and the 2030 Agenda, convened by the President of the General Assembly in December 2018. A key objective was to highlight the improved coordination that the United Nations Development System, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders can extend to MICs. The discussions generated action-oriented and solutions-based recommendations that will support MICs to build their capacity and resilience towards the attainment of the SDGs.

MICs need access to better technologies, research and innovation and better management practices. UN DESA is actively engaged in supporting innovation in developing countries through analytical work and multi-stakeholder engagement.



LOOKING FORWARD

The high-level meeting to review progress on addressing the priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway took place on Friday, 27 September 2019, at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Review was an opportunity for the international community to thoroughly assess the progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway over the last five years and to agree on the next steps to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS.

F I N A N C I N G
S U S T A I N A B L E
D E V E L O P M E N T

Financing sustainable development

Achieving the SDGs requires both a surge in investments and adoption of national and international policies in support of sustainable development. In 2018-2019, attention to diversifying and accelerating sustainable development financing was a major priority for the entire UN system. Leading the follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, UN DESA supported the development of both government-focused and multi-stakeholder initiatives for guiding policy and securing partnerships for investment.



LOOKING FORWARD

High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development is mandated to take place every four years to review the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The first High-Level Dialogue took place at UN Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2019. The Dialogue elevated the issue of financing for sustainable development to a higher political level and mobilized the political capital and actions needed to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. UN DESA provides primary substantive support to the Dialogue and its follow-up.

Supporting financing for development follow-up and facilitating global policy consensus

UN DESA, as the secretariat for the annual ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, spearheaded support to the 2019 FfD Forum. Against an increasingly challenging global context, the Forum demonstrated the growing importance and convening power of the UN on financing issues. It offered space to discuss issues such as the governance of e-commerce, sovereign debt restructuring, illicit financial flows and taxation of the digital economy. It also identified issues to take to the highest political level at the 2019 General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. The Forum adopted an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document by consensus which was considered a major success given the highly divergent views in some areas. UN DESA's support to the negotiations was acknowledged by Member States.

Promoting effective SDG financing

UN DESA supported the September 2018 High-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where the Secretary-General launched his Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This common UN narrative on financing sustainable development proposes concrete actions to better align global



economic policies and financial systems with the 2030 Agenda and to enhance sustainable financing strategies at the regional and country levels.

UN DESA is supporting implementation of the Secretary-General's Strategy through concrete initiatives, including: (i) toolkits to support countries in designing and implementing integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs); (ii) methodological work to build a shared understanding on what sustainable investing means and how to measure its impact. UN DESA also examined how budget processes can be harnessed to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs through its **2019 World Public Sector Report**.



UN DESA supported municipalities in four LDCs (Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda and Tanzania) to improve essential services through enhanced management of physical assets (land, buildings and infrastructure). Through the project, the Department helped Governments to review municipal assets in an integrated way; trained city officials in using customized asset management action plans; and increased dialogue among government agencies. Our work helps the countries to identify critical areas for improvements, better understand the impact of policies on municipal asset management and implement a long-term sustainable development strategy.



At the request of developing countries, and with sustainable development considerations front of mind, UN DESA expanded its capacity-building efforts on issues such as double taxation, transfer pricing and carbon taxation.

Building capacities for effective taxation

UN DESA made concrete progress during the past year in its ongoing effort to ensure that taxation plays an effective role in domestic resource mobilization for sustainable development. The Department worked to provide a forum for developing country leadership in discussions on tax policy and administration. Through support to the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and related capacity-development, UN DESA is equipping countries to better identify and address prevailing threats to their tax bases and take advantage of opportunities to more effectively mobilize resources in an increasingly digitalized economy.

UN DESA supported a successful 18th session of the Committee this year. In a notable achievement, the Committee agreed to an accelerated workplan for ensuring

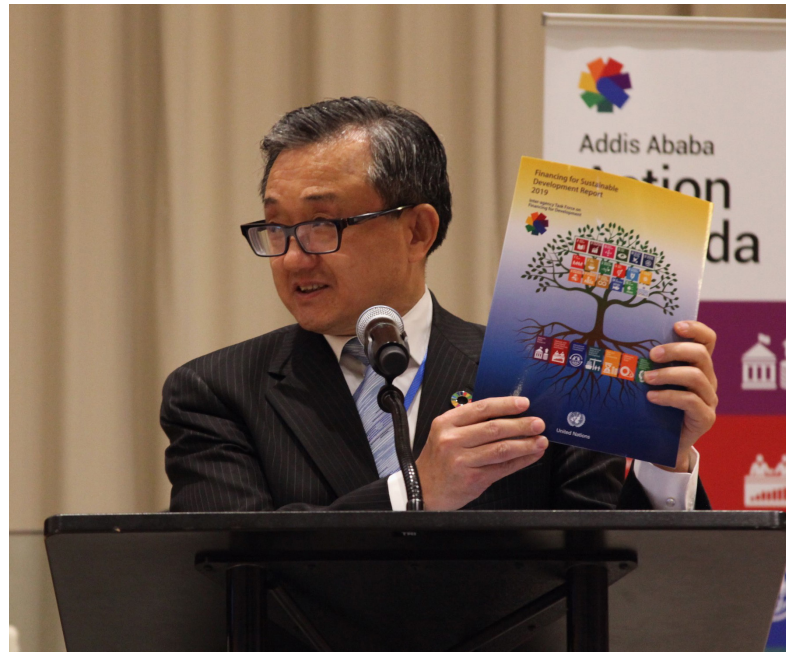
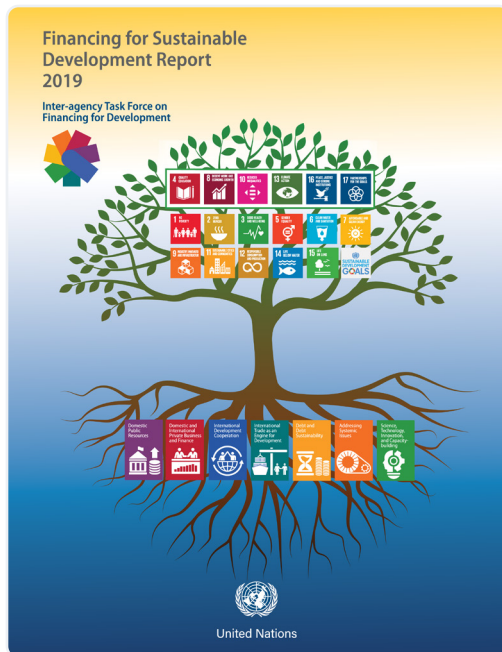
that digitalized ways of doing business do not result in tax avoidance and erosion of tax bases. UN DESA also supported the ECOSOC special meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. The special meeting provided an opportunity to address emerging issues of tax policy and administration related to digitalization of the economy, taxation and environmental protection, and taxation and inequality. The vibrant discussion on the digitalized economy made clear the important role of the Committee and the need for a multilateral solution.

Mobilizing development cooperation for the SDGs

UN DESA serves as the substantive secretariat to the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which generates policy recommendations for both the HLPF and FfD Forum. Through its support to the DCF, UN DESA animates the international community to enhance the quantity and quality of Official Development Assistance (ODA); strengthen policy, technical and institutional capacities, including for domestic resource mobilization and blended financing; facilitate the development and transfer of science, technology and innovation solutions, including through South-South and triangular cooperation; and achieve more results-based and effective cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

2019 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić





UN DESA Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin launches the Financing for Sustainable Development Report at the 2019 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić



Identifying financing needs and making policy recommendations

UN DESA convenes the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, which comprises over 60 international organizations, including the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The Department led the preparation and analytical work for the **2019 Financing for Sustainable Development Report**, the main substantive input to the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum. The report emphasized that multilateral arrangements in trade, debt, tax cooperation and other areas are under stress due to growing inequality and changes in technology and geopolitical factors. However, these challenges provide an opportunity for reform to make the

international system fit for purpose to advance sustainable development in a rapidly changing world.

At the national level, the report put forward building blocks for countries to operationalize integrated national financing frameworks. These building blocks – assessments of financing needs, opportunities and risks; a financing strategy that matches resources with needs; monitoring and review mechanisms; and a governance and coordination structure – will also inform the strengthened UN country teams as they advise governments on financing strategies for SDG achievement.

ENHANCING
GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIPS

Enhancing global partnerships

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals everywhere. SDG 17 on means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda highlights the need to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources and to promote effective partnerships. By engaging key sectors of society in sustainable development efforts, UN DESA is both a matchmaker for new and a counsellor for existing partnerships. The Department opens regular avenues for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing, researches and analyses good practices from a myriad of sectors and helps all stakeholders to improve their capacity for developing and managing partnerships. Through a variety of online registries, UN DESA also encourages, compiles and monitors multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments announced at various international conferences in support of the SDGs.

Monitoring partnerships for the SDGs

As of September 2019, 4,901 partnerships and voluntary commitments have been registered on the Partnerships for SDGs Online Platform by stakeholders from different sectors, across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Housed and monitored by UN DESA, the Platform brings together registries launched in support of various UN conferences and processes, including the 2017 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (the Ocean Conference), the 2016 Global Sustainable Transport Conference, the 2014 SIDS Conference, and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. The Platform also helps the partnerships grow and allows users to find and join a partnership or a community of action on a specific topic, including action networks maintained by other UN entities and actors.

In addition to compiling all the partnerships on a single

platform, UN DESA helps the partnerships, exchange experiences, thrive and grow. For example, the Department brought together the nine multi-stakeholder-driven Communities of Ocean Action in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 30 to 31 May 2019, to share good practices and to deepen the existing partnerships and establish new ones. The Communities of Action drive the implementation of over 1,500 voluntary commitments made by Governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community, and the private sector during and around the 2017 Ocean Conference.

UN DESA engaged all kinds of partners for the 2030 Agenda through the 2019 Partnership Forum. The Forum demonstrated how the so-called inclusion targets in the SDGs could be translated into tangible “business goals” and make positive impacts in the lives of women, youth



United Nations Partnership for SDGs platform. Website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships>

and vulnerable populations. Long-term engagement of partners, dialogue among them and effective regulatory frameworks are key to aligning private sector operations with the SDGs. The Forum also demonstrated the potential of big data for public good, while underscoring the need for consistency and sustainability of data to measure progress.

UN DESA used the 2018-2019 period to convene the HLPF Partnership Exchange, and the Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue. Between them, these two events attracted some 850 participants. To support the SAMOA Pathway High-level Midterm review, the Department also organized partnership dialogues in Mauritius, Tonga, Belize and Samoa, attended by 170 partnership focal points and experts.

On the analytical side, UN DESA studied the contribution that partnerships can make to the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, the Department conducted an in-depth analysis of over 4,000 partnerships and voluntary commitments registered through the Partnerships for SDGs online platform.

The Department also conducted an in-depth analysis of

the 555 partnerships for Small Island Developing States that have been registered on its platforms and prepared a "SIDS Partnerships Toolbox" to enhance the capacity for designing, monitoring and reviewing partnerships.

Sharing SDG Knowledge

UN DESA's online Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform continued to be one of the UN's most viewed websites, with more than 5.7 million visits in 2018. That same year, UN DESA launched a new UN System SDG Action online database, which features inputs from over 40 UN entities on their actions to implement the 2030 Agenda. In the spring of 2019, the Department launched a searchable database of good practices, success stories and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The database, which now contains more than 500 entries crowdsourced from a variety of stakeholders, is a useful tool for scaling up SDG-related projects, and for inspiring new initiatives. The Department also created a new registry of SDG Acceleration Actions to collect voluntary initiatives and actions by countries and other actors to contribute to the urgent realization of the goals.



UN DESA Assistant Secretary-General Maria Francesca Spatolisano speaks to over 20 Caribbean countries gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago at a meeting on implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Caribbean Region. Photo: ECLAC/Blaine Marciano



Multi-stakeholder partnerships for better SDG data

UN DESA continued to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration in support of national data systems. For instance, UN DESA and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) convened the Collaborative on SDG Data Interoperability, which in October 2018 launched “Data interoperability: a practitioner’s guide to joining up data in the development sector”. In addition, UN DESA is co-leading the Data4Now initiative, together with GPSDD, the World Bank and the Solutions for Sustainable Development Network. This initiative aims to increase the use of robust methods and tools that improve the timeliness, coverage, and quality of SDG data.

Ensuring a seat at the table for civil society

In 2018, UN DESA reviewed and processed a record number of applications for consultative status with ECOSOC. Of the 740 organizations who applied that year, 433 were granted consultative status. The current cycle has already shattered that record with more than 800 applications received so far. UN DESA supports the NGO

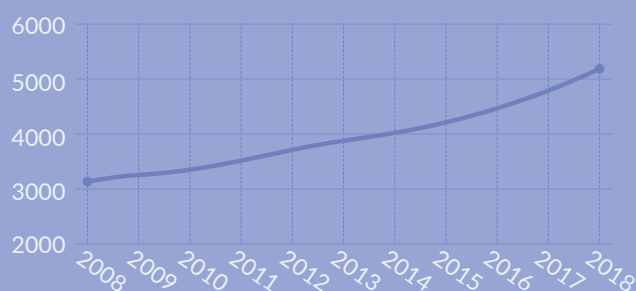
Committee in the assiduous process of reviewing these applications and the quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs with consultative status. The Department has also organized consultations between the NGO Committee and organizations with consultative status. As the interest in collaboration with the UN grows, UN DESA is stepping up its support to the NGO Committee to ensure that there is always a seat at the table for the civil society.

The 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development in July was the largest meeting to review SDG progress to date. UN DESA facilitated the engagement of more than 2,000 registered civil society participants. The Department also ensured slots for 17

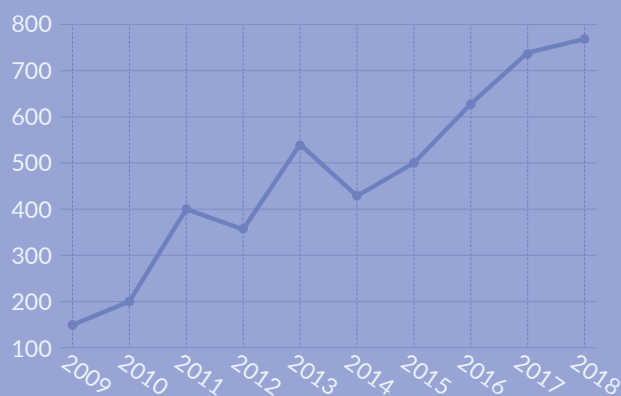
major groups and other stakeholders in side events as well as their participation in Voluntary National Review (VNR) presentations and in VNR Labs. In the lead-up to the HLPF the Department hosted a series of webinars to inform interested stakeholders about the forum and ways to engage in it. Close to 300 participants attended the first HLPF 101 webinar in December 2018.



Between 2008 and 2018, the number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC increased from around 3,000 to over **5,000** – an increase of **66** per cent. The number of applications received annually increased from around **150** in 2009 to more than **800** in 2019.



Numbers of NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC



Numbers of applications for ECOSOC consultative status received between 2009 and 2018

Investing in data and statistics for the SDGs

As the principal global authority on statistics, UN DESA leads the compilation and dissemination of global statistical information. It develops standards and norms for statistical activities and supports countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. The Department promotes the use of new technologies and develops new data sources, including under the Open SDG Data Hub and the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics.



To support countries, especially developing countries, in meeting the challenges of producing official statistics to measure, monitor, and report on the SDGs, targets, and indicators, UN DESA and nine other UN Secretariat entities have joined forces in implementing an ambitious, joint capacity-development programme on statistics and data.

The programme has contributed to methodological development, technical assistance and training regarding most SDG indicators.

Bringing the world data community together

In October 2018, Dubai welcomed the global data community for the second UN World Data Forum, organized by UN DESA. Over 2,000 data experts from 100 countries gathered at the Forum. The Forum launched the Dubai Declaration, which calls for the establishment of an innovative funding mechanism to strengthen national data and statistical systems to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The geospatial way to a better world

The integration of statistical and geospatial information is key to supporting Member States in the modernization of national data systems. UN DESA convened the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in Deqing, China in November 2018. With the theme *Geospatial way to a better world*, the event gathered more than 2,000 participants and exhibitors from all continents to discuss the use of frontier geospatial technologies and the enhancement of private-public partnerships. The Congress culminated in the Moganshan Declaration, which will inform the global geospatial information management agenda for years to come.

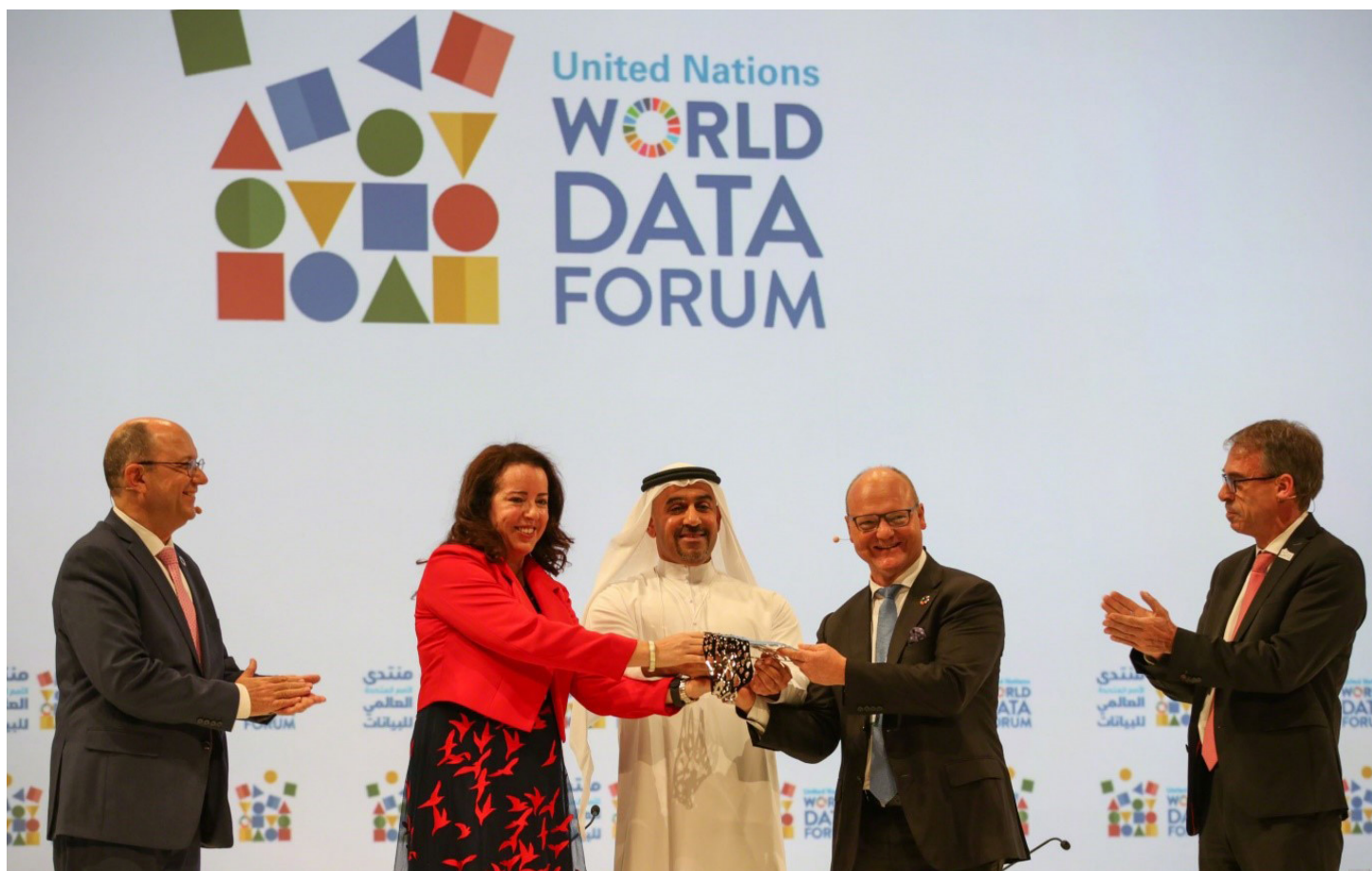


LOOKING FORWARD

The next UN World Data Forum will take place in Bern, Switzerland on 18-21 October 2020.

Gender statistics – for good measure

Over 150 statistics experts from around 40 countries assembled in Tokyo in November 2018 to discuss ways of improving data for evidenced-based gender policies. The 7th Global Forum on Gender



UN World Data Forum, October 2018 in Dubai, UAE. Photo: IISD/Kiara Worth



World Geospatial Information Congress, November 2018, Deqing, China. Photo: Ministry of Natural Resources, P.R. China



7th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, November 2018, Tokyo, Japan. Photo: Government of Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



UN DESA supports the United Nations Statistical Commission, the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities, bringing together Chief Statisticians from UN Member States. In March 2019, the Department helped to organize the 50th session of the UN Statistical Commission on the theme *Better data, better lives*, which focused on data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda.

Statistics, organized by UN DESA, sought ways to fill gender data gaps by using international statistical standards and methods, cutting-edge technologies and by sharing best practices. The Forum discussed the nexus between gender and environment, measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective, monitoring international migration and producing data on gender identity, among others.

UN DESA is doing its share to fill data gaps by collecting global data on reproductive health and mortality. The Department is also working to improve data for the SDG indicator on family planning to extend the data coverage to all women, not just those who are married.

Counting the uncounted

Leaving no one behind requires sound disaggregated data for vulnerable groups—including children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and those internally displaced. The lack of disaggregated data exacerbates their vulnerabilities by masking the extent of deprivation and disparities and compromising the ability of Governments and the international community to design effective policies and provide necessary services.

UN DESA provided substantive support to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to carry out its work on data disaggregation. UN DESA assisted the IAEG-SDGs to conduct a comprehensive analysis to compile currently available data disaggregates and develop future plans for additional data disaggregation.

Highlighting gaps in inclusion to leave no one behind

In December 2018, UN DESA launched the first comprehensive **Disability and Development Report**, which found that people with disabilities are at a disadvantage across all 17 SDGs. The report analysed globally crowdsourced data on the accessibility of public spaces, covering 1.2 million places worldwide. UN DESA partnered with other entities to compile and analyse the data to highlight best practices in fostering more accessible, and disability-inclusive societies.

Keeping track of people on the move

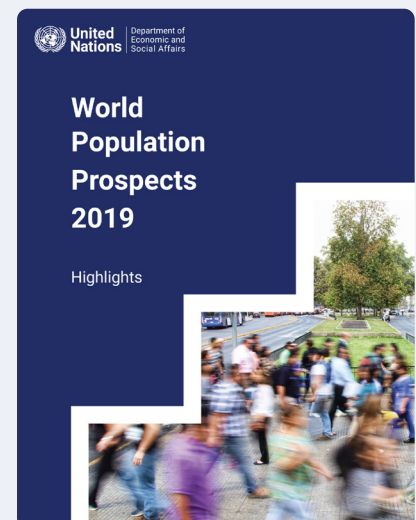
Stronger data can help to highlight the enormous contributions made by the 272 million international migrants to both their host and origin countries. In 2018, migrant workers transferred US\$529 billion in remittances to their families in low- and middle-income countries, exceeding the value of foreign direct investment (FDI) for the first time. Remittances and diaspora investments have helped to lift millions of people out of poverty, contributing to improvements in food security, education, health, well-being and housing for families and communities in countries of origin, as well as promoting their financial inclusion. In February 2019, on the heels of the Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, UN DESA convened migration experts to review interrelations between international migration and development.

UN DESA and the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics, in collaboration with the UN Migration Network, are developing and implementing a Global Programme to build and enhance national capacities for migration data. The global programme will boost collaboration between stakeholders at all levels, develop statistical standards and methods, provide training and technical assistance, and build on efforts in other statistical areas, such as harnessing new data sources. The first International Forum on Migration Statistics, convened in Paris, France, in January 2019 by UN DESA, IOM and the OECD, brought together over 500 participants from 90 countries, reflecting the urgent need to improve the availability of quality migration data.

UN DESA is also leading capacity-building activities with countries in Asia and Latin America, producing reliable international migration statistics.



In June 2019, UN DESA released the 2019 edition of **World Population Prospects**, a comprehensive overview of global demographic patterns and trends. The study concluded that the world's population could reach its peak around the end of the current century, at a level of nearly **11 billion**. The report provides updated population estimates for **235** countries and areas, from the year 1950 to the present day. It also projects their population changes from now until the year 2100. The latest assessment uses the results of **1,690** national population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2018, as well as information from vital registration systems and from **2,700** nationally representative sample surveys.





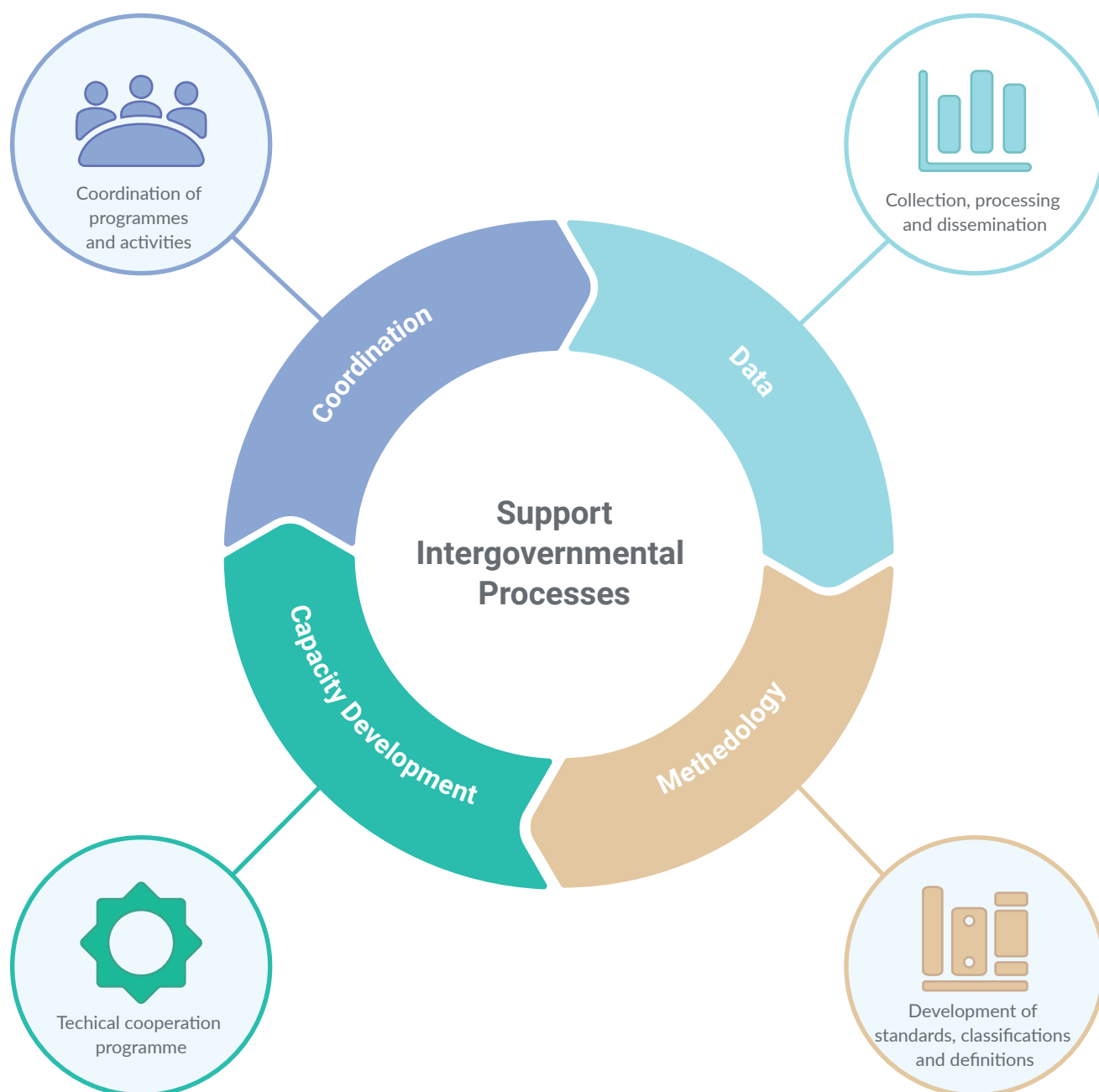
Francesca Perucci, Chief of the Development Data and Outreach Branch and Assistant Director of DESA's Statistics Division, working with colleagues from the National Statistical Office of Viet Nam at an SDG data workshop in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Photo: UN DESA/Linda Hooper



In September 2019, UN DESA published its authoritative set of estimates of the number of international migrants in the world today, including the distribution of migrants by countries of origin and destination, as well as age and sex.

In close partnership with the African Union, UN DESA is working on improving the data ecosystems of African States. From enhancing the statistical legal frameworks, to strengthening national census capacity, to reporting on SDG progress, to integrating new data sources with traditional ones, UN DESA is supporting African countries in producing high-quality information that is timelier and more granular. In the spring of 2019, UN DESA organized the 5th international conference on Big Data for official statistics in Kigali, Rwanda along with several related workshops. The Department also held two thematic conferences on “Managing a statistical organization in times of change” tailored to African Chief Statisticians.

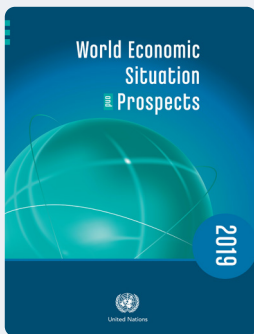
UNDESA's Statistics Work focuses on:



ADVANCING
THOUGHT
LEADERSHIP
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Advancing thought leadership for sustainable development

Striving to stay ahead of the curve in its research and analysis on sustainable development and other social and economic issues, UN DESA is unique in its holistic analysis of global social, economic and environmental trends and issues. It draws on diverse sources of knowledge and expertise to paint as complete a picture as possible of the world we live in today. In 2018-2019, UN DESA also offered glimpses of the world to come by analysing the latest developments of frontier technologies and their impacts.



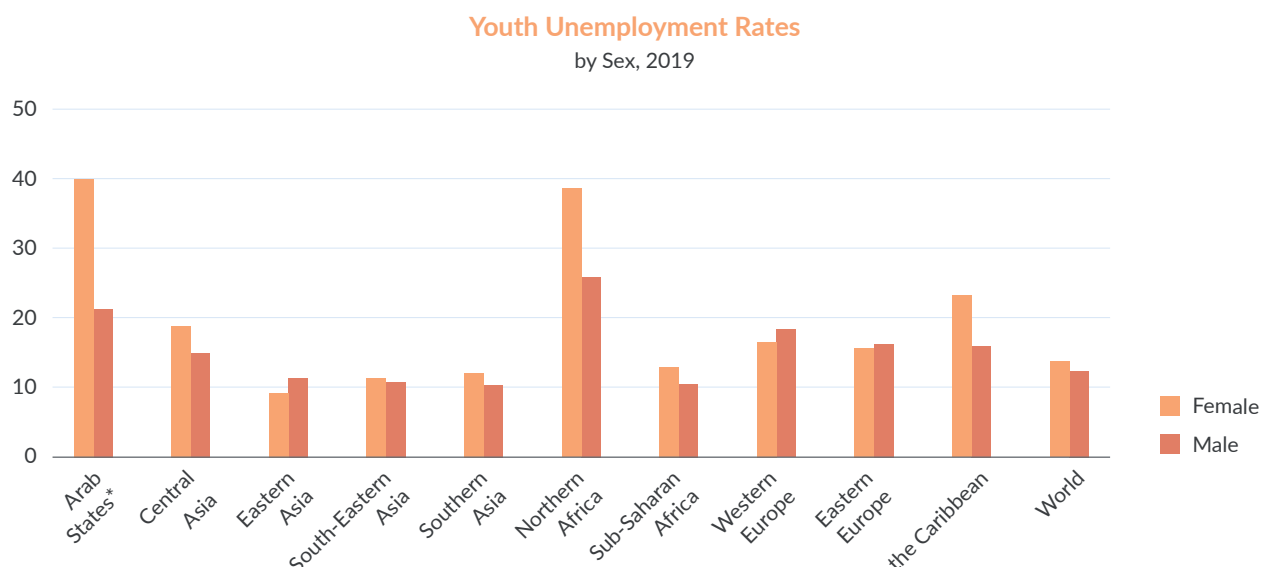
“ Our report is not just about the decimal points of GDP growth – we look at the bigger picture. We ask ourselves what the future of economic growth means for decent jobs and youth employment, for our environment and climate, for women's empowerment and for all the things that make up the Sustainable Development Goals. ” -Dawn Holland, Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch at UN DESA.

Seeing the bigger picture

UN DESA supports the deliberations of United Nations Member States on the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. UN DESA submitted more than 300 parliamentary documents and reference materials to intergovernmental and expert bodies and provided expertise during 837 mandated meetings. UN DESA authored and released 192 analytical publications, think pieces, major databases and other technical material in support of the normative work of Member States. In 2018, UN DESA also led the development and implementation of 191 seminars, workshops and training events in support of sustainable development.

UN DESA set itself apart as a pioneer in taking an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental research and policy analysis. This holistic and integrated analysis continues today. For example, the 2019 edition of the flagship **World Economic Situation and Prospects** report, jointly produced by UN DESA, and UNCTAD the five UN Regional Economic Commissions, provides an in-depth inquiry into the linkages between short-term macroeconomic prospects and social and environmental issues.

The report, launched in January and updated in May 2019, found that, beneath the optimistic headline macroeconomic numbers, an undercurrent of growing trade and geopolitical tensions was threatening further growth. The study sounded the alarm on climate change, warning that global warming should no longer be treated as a long-term threat,



*Arab States correspond to the countries of Western Asia with the exception of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Turkey. Source: ILO (2018b).

but rather an immediate risk to the global economy. The report also warned that economic growth was failing to reach those who needed it the most – including the LDCs – placing the world off track to achieving the SDGs, particularly those on eradicating poverty and hunger and creating decent jobs for all.

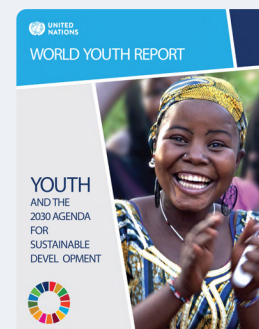
Addressing the complex challenges of today's youth

The **World Youth Report**, released by UN DESA in January 2019, provides insight into the role of young people in sustainable development. While all 17 Sustainable Development Goals are critical to youth development, this latest report focuses primarily on education and employment as fundamental. In addition, the report briefly analyses issues related to other Goals, including gender equality, good health, reducing inequality, combating poverty and hunger, and action on environmental issues and climate change. The report also includes a detailed statistical annex, a one-stop shop for all available data relevant to youth in the context of the 2030 Agenda indicators.



LOOKING FORWARD

Young people's desire to "do good" socially while they "do well" economically is translating into a rise in youth social entrepreneurship around the world. The next **World Youth Report** will examine the role that youth entrepreneurship can play in supporting the 2030 Agenda.



Global network, local insight

In March 2019, the Department organized the first meeting of the UN chief economists network, with participation from the ILO, the five UN Regional Economic Commissions, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNRISD and UNU. Participants identified a set of key economic and social topics and themes - including social policy, technology, inequality, financing for sustainable development, trade and investment, measurement and data, and structural transformation - that will become the focus of joint research among UN agencies over the next two years. They expressed full support for the Network's twin objectives: facilitating the collaboration and joint work among agencies on issues of shared interest and relevance to the sustainable development agenda; and providing a network of support on economic, financial and social policy issues to the UN Country Teams and the Resident Coordinator Offices.

UN DESA has also been instrumental in strengthening the economic analysis capacities of the UN Resident Coordinator system, as part of a broader reform of the UN Development System.

Tapping into a diverse brainpower

UN DESA repeatedly leveraged its convening power to bring together some of the world's leading experts on sustainable development, global economy, social development, population dynamics and many other issues, to tackle some of the most pressing problems facing the world.

Throughout the year, the Department supported the production of the **Global Sustainable Development Report**, prepared by 15 independent scientists. This report assesses progress made so far towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and identifies the levers of change that can accelerate action on multiple fronts at

the same time.

In March 2019, UN DESA organized the 21st session of the UN Committee for Development Policy, which comprises some of the most prominent names in contemporary development economy and which advises, among others, on countries' graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) category. The Committee members warned against development under unfettered market conditions and poor institutional frameworks and against the threats of climate change. The Committee also analysed the VNRs and identified ways to make them more effective instruments of mutual learning.

In October 2018 and March 2019, UN DESA convened the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs to deepen the Department's understanding of critical development challenges and strengthen its thought leadership for fostering sustainable development. The Advisory Board is a group of former Heads of State, Senior Government officials, a Nobel Laureate and other eminent experts on economic and social policies that provides advice to the research and policy analysis work of UN DESA. The Board's discussions reviewed key development trends, challenges and risks shaping sustainable development today. The debates focused on inclusive, stable and sustainable growth; rapid technological change and inequality; uncertainty associated with conflicts, climate change and disasters. The group also analysed interlinkages, externalities and trade-offs that drive sustainable development outcomes.



HARNESsing
SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
AND
INNOVATION
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

New frontier technologies – everything from renewable energy technologies to biodegradable plastics, artificial intelligence and electric vehicles – hold immense potential to improve people's lives and significantly accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address climate change. But without appropriate policies, they can also drive greater inequality and increase social exclusion.

Scanning the frontiers of technology's impact

Staying ahead of the curve in its social and economic research in 2018-2019, UN DESA offered a glimpse into the future by thoroughly analysing the impacts of frontier technologies – such as artificial intelligence and robotics – on employment, the global economy, the environment and inequalities.

Through its newly launched Frontier Technology Quarterly, UN DESA keeps its finger on the pulse of the latest developments in frontier technologies and analyses their

implications for the 2030 Agenda – from the good, bad and ugly consequences of genetic manipulation to the radical transformation of the data economy.

UN DESA is uniquely placed to objectively assess the impact that emerging technologies have on sustainable development outcomes, including their effects on employment, wages and income distribution. This enables Member States to steer the pace and sequence of technological breakthroughs towards sustainable development.



The **World Economic and Social Survey 2018** found that renewable energy technologies and efficient energy storage systems are already enhancing environmental sustainability, allowing countries to “leapfrog” over existing technological solutions. New technologies have enhanced access to medicines and improved the well-being of the most vulnerable. Mobile technologies and innovations in digital finance have made financial services accessible to millions in developing countries. But while technological change holds the promise of considerable benefits to people, the economy and the environment, when left unmanaged or mismanaged, new technologies will likely widen inequality within and between countries. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics automation, among other technologies, can enhance economic efficiency but, at the same time, divide the world into winners and losers.



2019 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/P. Vasić

Connecting data, science and policy

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the importance of bringing the latest scientific knowledge, quality data, and evidence to bear when making policy decisions to advance sustainable development. To strengthen this science-policy interface, UN DESA coordinated the UN system's support to the Independent Group of Scientists that prepared the **2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)**, aimed at analysing SDG progress and identifying key areas where policy interventions can set the world on a more sustainable path. UN DESA also gathered important insights from the natural and social scientists by organizing a series of expert meetings on the SDGs under review at the July HLPF.

To support the integration of data and information to monitor and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the secretariat of the High-Level Committee on Management (HCLM) of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in collaboration with UN DESA has developed a proposal for common

Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs) for Goals, Targets, Indicators and related statistical series. These common identifiers will contribute to the transformation of the current SDG-related document and data assets into a homogeneously classified information space, and provide the foundation to enhance the automatic retrieval, processing, and integration of information related to SDGs on the semantic web.

Mobilizing experts on technology and innovation for sustainable development

To facilitate interaction and networking between government officials, innovators, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders, UN DESA convened the fourth annual Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum in May 2019, under the theme *STI for ensuring inclusiveness and equality, with a special focus on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, and 16*. The fourth STI Forum attracted hundreds of participants representing a cross-section of scientists, innovators, technology specialists, entrepreneurs, policy makers and civil society representatives. They discussed policies and

actions necessary to harness STI for achieving the SDGs under review at the 2019 HLPF. The Forum also addressed STI roadmaps for the SDGs, gender and STI, indigenous peoples and STI, and involvement of young people in STI. One innovative aspect of the STI Forum this year was its emphasis on women in science.

UN DESA continues to serve as the secretariat for the Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT) and for the Group of high-level representatives of scientific community, private sector and civil society (10-Member Group) appointed by the UN Secretary General. The two groups mobilize experts from within and outside the UN system to advance the SDGs through STI in various contexts.

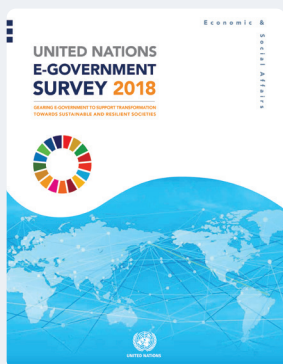
Over the year, IATT membership increased to 41 UN entities and more than 100 active staff members – an unprecedented level of cooperation on science and technology across the UN.

The IATT and the 10-Member Group closely collaborated

to operationalize the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) Online Platform, 2030 Connect, which supports technology matchmaking and sharing technology knowledge and information. The prototype now includes a wide range of resources, from publications to training opportunities, to technology offers and requests.

Bringing the world together on internet governance

The thirteenth annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF), organized by UN DESA in Paris from 12 to 14 November 2018, brought together representatives from Governments, the technical community, business and civil society to boost digital cooperation within and among countries. Recognizing the need for a paradigm shift in the way Governments and societies govern themselves, the IGF went beyond gathering the traditional digital community and invited scientists from other disciplines, such as philosophers and anthropologists to inform the discussions



The biennial **United Nations E-Government Survey** presents a systematic assessment of the use of digital technologies to transform the public sector by enhancing its efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, inclusiveness, trustworthiness and supporting people's participation and engagement. By studying broad patterns of e-Government around the world, the Survey ranks the e-Government development status of the 193 United Nations Member States. The Survey was recognised by the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation as an added-value product in ranking, mapping and measuring e-Government in supporting the implementation of the SDGs. The 2018 edition of the Survey examined how Governments can use e-Government and digital technologies to build sustainable and resilient societies.



Internet Governance Forum, November 2018, Paris, France. Photo: UNESCO/Christelle Alix

CLIMATE ACTION

Runaway climate change is possibly the biggest single threat to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. UN DESA continues to advocate urgent efforts for sustainable development that go hand-in-hand with climate action in a way that leaves no one behind.

UN DESA...

- Showcased the important and intricate links between climate action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the SDG Pavilion during COP 24, which featured 38 multi-stakeholder events on SDGs with over 150 panelists and 1,000 participants.
- Supported global actions for sustainable ocean management, including support for the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference and preparations for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.
- Led the push for sustainable forest management across the globe, supporting the realization of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.

Climate action

The world is facing a climate crisis, threatening to derail progress on the SDGs. There is reason for hope, but humanity has only left itself a narrow window of opportunity to act. A short moment in time, which happens to coincide with the timeframe set out for SDGs implementation. The need for complementary and coherent action on both tracks - combating climate change and realizing the SDGs - is thus becoming more and more evident. UN DESA is moving the needle forward for a synergistic climate and sustainable development action.

Bringing water and energy into focus

Serving as the secretariat of both UN-Energy and UN-Water, UN DESA supported intergovernmental processes in the areas of energy and water. On the margins of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, UN DESA and its partner ITAIPU Binacional jointly organized the event Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions - Towards the Creation of a Global Network.

Ahead of the 2019 HLPF, UN DESA led the efforts to inform intergovernmental discussions on SDG 7 (clean and affordable energy) and its relation to other SDGs. On 23 May 2019, UN DESA released **Accelerating SDG 7 Achievement: SDG 7 Policy Briefs in Support of the high-level political forum 2019**.

SDG 7 was also the focus of the High-level Dialogue on the implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024: A Midpoint Review, organized on 23-24 May 2019 by UN DESA, the President of the General Assembly, the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy, members of UN-Energy and the

Technical Advisory Group on SDG 7.

Moreover, UN DESA lent strong support to the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, launched in the spring of 2018. The Department led informal negotiations of the draft resolution for the Mid-term comprehensive review of the Decade.

Highlighting the interlinkages between climate change and the SDGs

In 2018-2019, UN DESA and the Peacebuilding Commission jointly organized ECOSOC meetings to discuss the economic and social impact of hurricanes in the Caribbean, drought in the Sahel and devastation caused by the cyclones in Southern Africa. These meetings demonstrated the urgency to pursue a risk-informed and resilient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the review of SDG 13 at the July HLPF brought to the forefront the interlinkages between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



USG Liu and the UN DESA team at the COP24 meeting in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. Photo: UN DESA/Ariel Alexovich

Working together for climate action and sustainable development

To showcase the intricate, symbiotic links between climate action and sustainable development, UN DESA participated in the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24), held in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. At its SDG Pavilion, the Department featured 38 multi-stakeholder events on the SDGs that brought together over 150 panelists and a total audience of more than 1,000 actors from all regions of the world.

The Department also organized the Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference in Copenhagen in April 2019, as well as the thematic review of SDG 13 during the 2019 HLPF. The results informed the Climate Action Summit in September.



LOOKING FORWARD

The 2020 High-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference) will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 2-6 June 2020. The Governments of Kenya and Portugal are co-hosting the event, which will address the theme *Scaling Up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions*.



Pahmung Krui Damar Forest, winner of UN Forum on Forests photo competition. Damar, Indonesia, 2010. Photo: UN Photo/Eva Fendiaspara

Taking ocean action

UN DESA extensively supported the Government of Kenya in planning and preparing the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, held on 26-28 November 2018 in Nairobi. In addition, the Department supports the Governments of Kenya and Portugal as they prepare the 2020 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, with the head of UN DESA, Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, serving as Secretary-General of the Conference. The Department also offered steadfast support throughout the year to the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson.



Ensuring sustainable forest management

UN DESA continues to lead global efforts on sustainable forest management, supporting implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and the UN Forest Instrument. In May 2019, the Department organized the 14th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 14), which discussed forest contributions to accelerating SDG progress. UNFF14 discussions addressed issues including climate change, economic growth, inclusive institutions and societies, reduced inequality, education, private sector engagement, monitoring, assessment and reporting frameworks, mobilizing forest financing, and outreach activities.

In February 2019, UN DESA co-organized the Conference on Climate Financing for High Forest Cover, Low Deforestation Countries (HFLDs) in Paramaribo, Suriname, with the Government of Suriname and UNDP. The conference adopted the Paramaribo Declaration calling for significant increases in climate finance for HFLDs.

In March 2019, UN DESA organized a special event on forests and education to commemorate the International Day of Forests. In April 2019, UN DESA organized the Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature to commemorate International Mother Earth Day.

STRENGTHENING
INSTITUTIONS
FOR
SDGs

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals will ultimately depend on the ability of public institutions to deliver essential services. UN DESA is working to strengthen their capacities and to develop effective partnerships for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

UN DESA...

- Brought together 24 world renowned experts to examine how to build strong institutions for equal and inclusive societies at the 18th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration.
- Raised awareness of SDG 16 and of its critical importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through its cutting-edge publications and capacity-development activities.
- Informed the review of SDG 16 at the HLPF through the World Public Sector Report 2019.
- Promoted and rewarded innovation and excellence in public services at the United Nations Public Service Forum.
- Provided policy guidance on how to leverage digital government to support transformation for equitable and resilient societies through its 2018 UN E-Government Survey.
- Brought together diverse actors at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to amplify digital cooperation.

Strengthening institutions for SDGs

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that building effective, inclusive and accountable institutions is vital to the implementation of the SDGs and to ensuring participation in decision-making, especially for the most vulnerable. Building resilient, peaceful and inclusive societies is only possible when principles such as justice, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and participation are embedded in government programmes and policies. Strengthening the capacities of public institutions and mobilizing public servants is also critical. This year's HLPF, supported by UN DESA, reviewed global progress on SDG 16 on effective, inclusive and accountable institutions. In 2018, ECOSOC endorsed the principles of effective governance for sustainable development.

Informing the review of SDG 16 at the HLPF

The year 2019 marked the first-ever review of progress on SDG 16 at the HLPF. In preparation for the HLPF, UN DESA organized a conference to take stock of global progress towards achieving the SDG 16. It identified areas of concern and main challenges and suggested ways



Upma Chawdhry and Moni Pizani at the 18th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/Mimi Wang

forward in terms of policies, partnerships and coordinated actions at all levels as well as specific ways to leverage the interlinkages between SDG 16 and other Goals. The **World Public Sector Report 2019** provides a baseline assessment of progress on institutional dimensions of SDG 16, including accountability, transparency, participation, and non-discrimination. The report provides in detail at anti-corruption in the context of the SDGs. It looks at institutions for gender equality through the lens of SDG 16. The report also reviews two critical instruments that can support effective public institutions and public administration for the SDGs – national budget processes and risk management. By reviewing key challenges and opportunities for public institutions, the report aims to help countries create institutions that are fit to deliver the SDGs. The Department further updated a compendium of national institutional arrangements for the implementation of the SDGs.



Juraj Nemec, Cristina Duarte, and Ali Hamsa at the 18th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, April 2019. Photo: UN DESA/Mimi Wang

Building capacity for effective governance

UN DESA continued to support Member States in strengthening their public institutions' capacities. In 2018-2019, UN DESA trained an estimated 1,600 public officials from over 100 developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, on promoting effective governance and public institutions for sustainable development. For example, in October 2018, UN DESA organized in Incheon, Republic of Korea, the Symposium on Strengthening Capacities of Public Institutions and Developing Effective Partnerships to Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Effective institutions are essential to deliver quality public services to people, including access to education (SDG 4), health (SDG 3), water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), among others.

The Department is also working with national schools of public administration from around the world to equip public servants with the capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and to mainstream the SDGs in their training curricula. In 2019, more than 1,200 public servants from various levels were trained on the SDGs by national schools of public administration. Also, new training centres were established and new curricula developed as a result of this initiative.

As part of UN DESA's work on ICT and digital government to realize the SDGs, countries have promoted innovation and digital government



Public sector reforms needed to implement the 2030 Agenda continue to be a challenge for many countries. To surmount this challenge, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), supported by UN DESA, has developed a set of principles of effective governance for sustainable development. These voluntary principles provide practical guidance to countries on a broad range of governance challenges associated with implementing the 2030 Agenda.

UN DESA also initiated a programme on working with public administration schools and institutes to mobilize and equip public servants for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Responding to the requests of several countries, especially LDCs and SIDS, UN DESA provided advisory services and capacity-building tools to build institutions for the SDGs, including through online training courses. The Department designed a four-module online training course on “Developing Transformational Leadership Capacity in Africa’s Public Sector Institutions to Implement the 2030 Agenda and Achieve the SDGs”.



The **World Public Sector Report 2019**, launched on 24 June at the UN Public Service Forum in Baku, was the first-ever assessment of national-level developments on the institution-related targets of Goal 16.



through the establishment of innovation centres, promotion of new institutional arrangements for inter-ministerial policy dialogue and revised digital strategies. UN DESA is also supporting digital government capacity for disaster risk reduction and resilience in Small Island Developing States.

UN DESA also collaborated with the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Development Initiative (IDI) on SDG audits and provided its support to the conduct of SDG preparedness audits.

UN DESA continued to enhance its existing tools for strengthening institutions, such as Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness (METER), Measurement and Evaluation Tool for Engagement and E-Participation (METEP) and the DiGIT4SD (Digital Government Implementation for Sustainable Development) toolkit.

Rewarding those who serve the public

Since 2003, UN DESA has been rewarding innovation and excellence in public service with the United Nations Public Service Awards. The Awards are conferred at the annual United Nations Public Service Forum (UNPSF), which offers an opportunity for public servants from different countries to come together and share challenges and strategies for better delivery of public services. The 2019 Forum took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 24-26 June 2019, under the theme *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through effective Delivery of Services, Innovative Transformation and Accountable Institutions*.

Strengthening the UN Development System

UN DESA provided information and analysis that was essential for Member States to improve support to programme countries in their quest to implement the 2030 Agenda. This work culminated in the 2019 operational activities segment of ECOSOC where UN DESA helped bring together all the key players in a comprehensive dialogue about the historic UN Development System reform. The outcome of this dialogue will be an important input into the 2020 GA quadrennial comprehensive policy review of UN operational activities.



United Nations Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan. Photo: UN DESA/Xiao Wang

STRENGTHENING
THE
HIGH-LEVEL
POLITICAL
FORUM
ON
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Every year since 2015, nations come together in New York to evaluate their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. UN DESA has been leading the support to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and exploring innovative ways to improving it.

UN DESA...

- Organized the successful 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which, in addition to the plenary sessions, included close to 150 side events.
- Helped to prepare the 47 Member States who presented their SDG implementation and progress through Voluntary National Reviews.
- Supported expert reviews of the six SDGs considered at the HLPF.
- Informed the global discussion on SDG progress through leading the work on the Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report.

Strengthening the high-level political forum on sustainable development

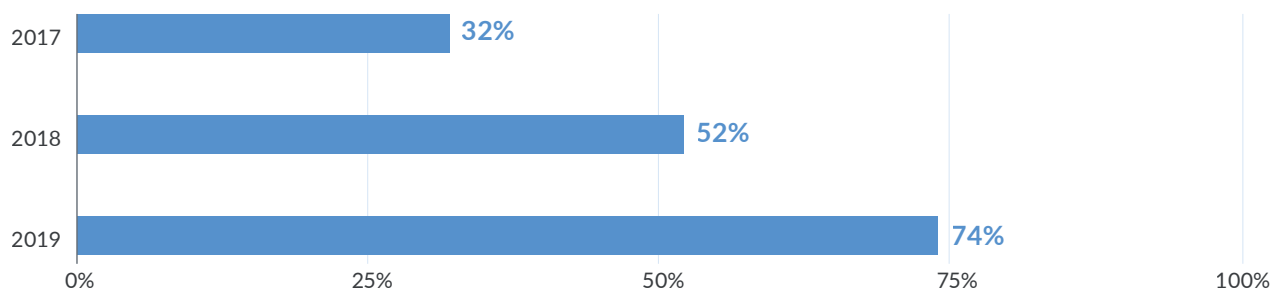
The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the central platform to review the implementation of the SDGs. With the July 2019 meeting, the forum completed its first cycle. The HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly, also known as the SDG Summit, gathered world leaders in September 2019 to review global progress on all 17 SDGs, and charted the way forward. It will be followed, in early 2020, by a review of the resolutions that govern the HLPF's functioning.

UN DESA spearheaded the thematic review of the SDGs at the HLPF in July by organizing several expert group meetings and conferences. UN DESA worked closely with other UN entities and stakeholders, helping to prepare the 47 Member States who would take the stage at the 2019 HLPF to present their VNRs. Over the years, a total of 142 countries have shared their plans and efforts to achieve the global goals.

Taking place on 9-18 July 2019 and gathering more than a thousand participants from across the globe, the HLPF delivered a clear picture of the state of play on SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships. The HLPF paved the way for the SDG Summit in September while advancing reflection on the theme *Empowering people*

Towards Universal Voluntary National Review Coverage

per cent of all countries that conducted a VNR





2019 high-level political forum (under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council)

130 Ministers

5 Special Events

150 Side Events

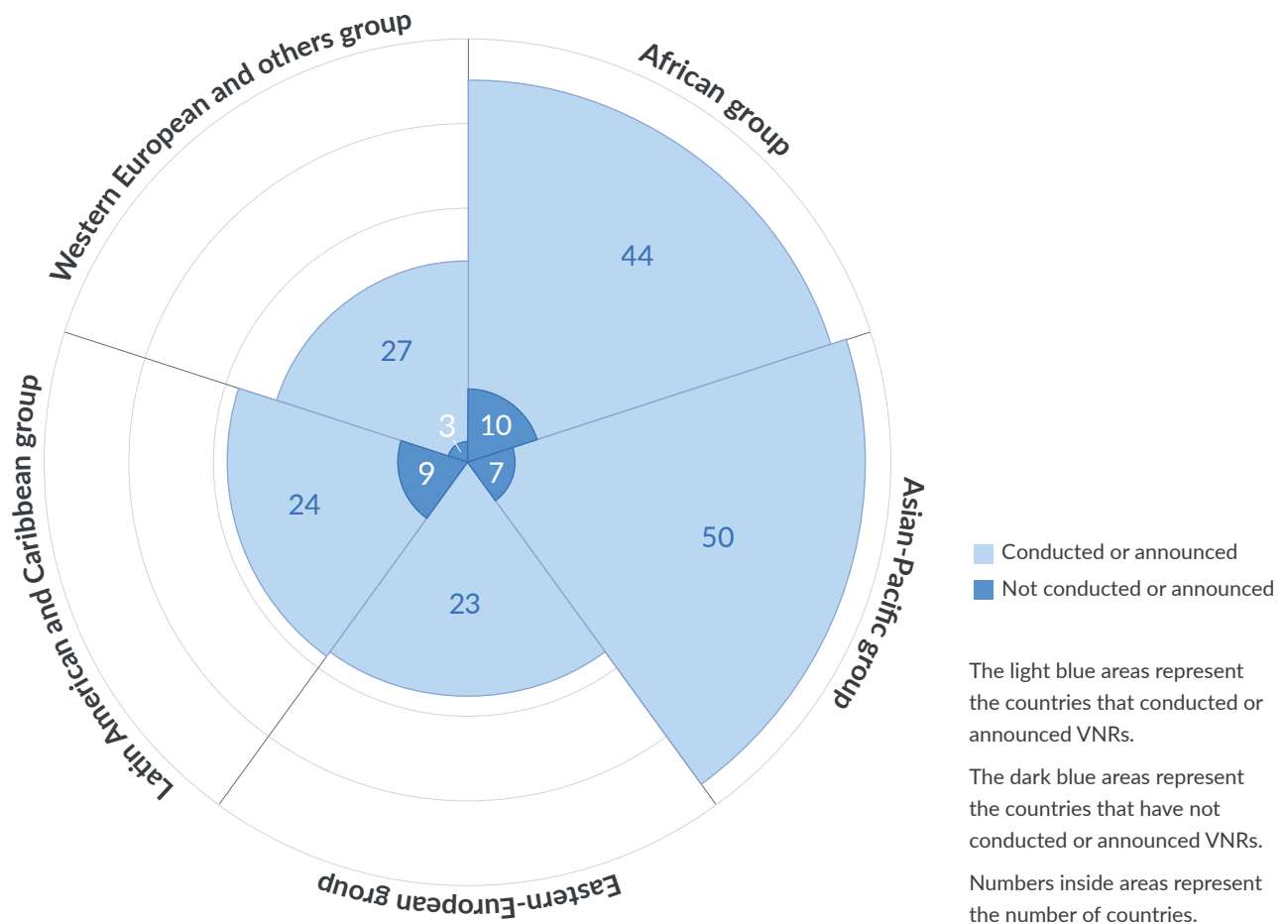
18 VNR Labs

2,000 registered civil society participants



One of the UN Secretary-General's most picked up quotes in July was delivered at the HLPF, saying that “the evidence is clear: development is not sustainable if it is not fair and inclusive – and rising inequality hinders long-term growth.”

Status of Voluntary Nation Review Preparation by Region [as of 18 Sept. 2019]



and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. The message was clear at this year's HLPF: we are not on track to achieve the SDGs, but we can still reach them if we step up and accelerate our actions.

In addition to plenary sessions, close to 150 side events were organized at the HLPF in July. Higher education, philanthropy, business for SDGs, and SDG training and capacity-building – were just some topics of special events organized by UN DESA during the forum. Engaging panels and interviews were also on full display in a buzzing SDG Media Zone on 9 and 10 July, featuring important influencers in sustainable development to highlight actions and solutions in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to the Global Media Analysis report prepared by the Department of Global Communications, HLPF was one of the UN's most-covered topics in July 2019.

The report also highlighted that media mostly reported from a national angle, featuring individual countries' progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The event created a buzz on social media. A testament to the interest shown for countries' presentations at the HLPF, UN DESA's most popular tweet in July, was the one announcing which countries were going to present at this year's forum. Shared on the eve of the event, that tweet earned 1,092 likes, 494 retweets, 287,417 impressions, 4,297 engagements and 1,448 link clicks.

Reviewing progress on the global goals

The **Report of the Secretary General: The Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report**, was published as an official document ahead of the HLPF to help Member States and other stakeholders better grasp global SDG progress and inform their discussions at the forum.

Going beyond the usual data on SDG progress, the special edition also analysed the global response to the call of the 2030 Agenda and the gaps and challenges encountered over the first cycle of its implementation. It also described efforts necessary to accelerate SDG action. The report was

Special Events at the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC

SDG Learning, Training and Practice: The 2019 edition featured ten learning sessions on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs under review, co-organized by almost 50 partners from different sectors.

Enhancing capacity of Member States to engage stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: In collaboration with UNITAR, the fourth version of an online training course on strengthening stakeholder engagement for the

implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda was introduced in 2019

Supporting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels: In 2019, for the first time, a Special Event on Philanthropy and the SDGs was held at the margins of the HLPF. Regional and Sub-national stakeholder workshops were organized as part of the country preparations for their VNRs.

← Tweet



UN DESA
@UNDESA

47 countries will report on #SDGs progress at the 2019 #HLPF:



Here's everything else you need to know:
is.gd/2019hlpf

7:00 AM · Jul 8, 2019 · TweetDeck

494 Retweets 1.1K Likes

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019



prepared in cooperation with the UN system Task Team on the HLPF.

The **Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019**, launched on the first day of the HLPF on 9 July, tells the stories of SDG progress with charts, infographics and maps, and presents an in-depth analysis of selected indicators. This report was prepared by UN DESA with inputs from more than 50 international and regional organizations. In addition to the global trends, this report also highlights regional progress and analyses.

Both reports highlighted that while countries embraced efforts to achieve the SDGs, they are facing mounting challenges, including a fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, and persistent pockets of poverty and hunger. Despite some success, the current pace of progress is not sufficient to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Monumental challenges remain. Urgent collective attention and more rapid action are needed to realize the 2030 Agenda's far-reaching vision.

ANNEXES



Mr. Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General

Mr. Liu Zhenmin was appointed as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. In his position, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the high-level political forum, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity-development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, from 2011 to 2013.

Mr. Liu brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. For 10 years, he was deeply involved in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Over the last several years, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues.

Mr. Liu holds a Master of Laws from the Law School of Peking University.



Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano

Assistant Secretary-General

Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano was appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, effective 20 December 2018.

Ms. Spatolisano has 33 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. Prior to her appointment she was responsible for international organizations and development dialogue with other donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In that capacity, she ensured the European Union's presence and developed its positions on development policy in a number of international forums, including the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty, where she represented the bloc in its Development Working Group.

Ms. Spatolisano served as the European Union Ambassador to OECD, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Monaco and Andorra.

She was also a member of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section. She covered all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) and in the Economic and Social Council, also serving as the European Commission representative to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

Prior to that role she served in the Washington Delegation of the European Commission and was the representative of the European Commission to the Trade and Development Committee of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law (cum laude) from Florence University. She went on to research and teach at the Florence University Law School for seven years.



Mr. Elliott Harris

Assistant Secretary-General
Chief Economist

Mr. Elliott Harris was appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, effective 2 April 2018.

Mr. Harris brings over 25 years of international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. He has extensive experience in the design of macroeconomic policies and their application as a central instrument for the reduction of poverty and for resilient and sustained economic development. His work in the field of economics also focuses on the macroeconomic linkages with global social and environmental policies.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Harris served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 2015. He joined UNEP's Senior Management Team in 2013 as Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group.

Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002 he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department.

Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and political science and an advanced degree in economics. He was awarded an Advanced Studies Certificate in international economics and policy research from the Institute of World Economics in Kiel, Germany.



Ms. Marion Barthélemy

Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and
Coordination for Sustainable Development

Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Barthélemy was Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government from 2016 to 2018. From 2012 to 2016, she served as Chief of the Intergovernmental Support Branch in the Division for Sustainable Development. In this capacity, she was part of the team supporting the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda.

From 2007 to 2012, she served as Chief of the Development Cooperation Policy Branch in the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development where she supported the Development Cooperation Forum and the General Assembly's review of UN system country-level activities (QCPR).

From 2000 to 2005, she served in the Office of two Under-Secretary-Generals for Economic and Social Affairs, supported the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and served as Special Assistant to the UN Deputy Secretary-General.

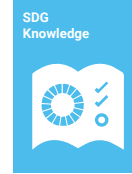
At the beginning of her career, she worked as an economist in the Division for the Advancement of Women in DESA and later in the UN Drug Control Programme, working with the Secretary of the International Narcotics Board. She joined the UN in 1987 through the National Competitive Exam for economists and studied in the Paris Institute of Political Studies in Paris, with a focus on macroeconomic and social policies.



Ms. Daniela Bas

Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development

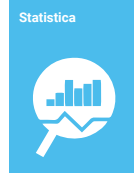
Ms. Daniela Bas specializes in international politics, human rights and social development. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Senior Consultant on human rights for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She advised the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on anti-discrimination issues. Ms. Bas has worked for close to 10 years for the UN as a Professional Officer in social development and human rights. She served as Special Adviser on Fundamental Rights for the former Vice President of the European Commission; and as the Italian representative designated by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on the topic "Tourism for All" to the European Commission; Ms. Bas is a Board Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defense of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. She graduated in Political Science in 1985, with a major in International Politics and wrote her dissertation on "The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities". She has also worked as a journalist and broadcaster for Italian Radio and TV.



Mr. Alexander Trepelkov

Officer-in-Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals
Officer-in-Charge, Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests

Mr. Alexander Trepelkov leads the work of the global secretariat for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on providing substantive support, integrated policy analysis, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity-development in the thematic areas such as natural resources, water, energy, climate, ocean, transport, science and technology, as well as special concerns of small island developing States (SIDS). He is also in charge of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat as the focal point for intergovernmental support, policy analysis and capacity-development on all issues related to sustainable forest management and financing. In 2010-2018, Mr. Trepelkov was Director of the Financing for Development Office, with primary responsibility for substantive support, promoting policy coherence and multi-stakeholder engagement at all levels in public and private resource mobilization, international development cooperation and trade, debt sustainability and international financial system for development. His previous work in UNDESA was in the areas of Macro- and Micro-economic and Social Policy Analysis and Public Administration and Finance. Prior to joining the UN Secretariat in 1989, Mr. Trepelkov was employed for 12 years in the Russian diplomatic service. He holds a PhD in International Economics from MGIMO-University in Moscow and has authored several publications.



Mr. Stefan Schweinfest

Director, Statistics Division

Mr. Schweinfest joined the Statistics Division in 1989 and has served as the substantive secretary of two intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) since 2002, and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGIM) since 2011.

Mr. Schweinfest supported the work of the Statistical Commission and its Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to develop the global indicator framework to monitor progress towards the SDGs. Under his leadership, the Statistics Division works on implementing this framework and ensuring countries receive capacity-building support to monitor progress towards the SDGs.

Mr. Schweinfest played a key role in the negotiations leading to the 2011 ECOSOC resolution to establish UN-GGIM and has actively involved himself with global geospatial information management since, including the negotiations leading to a second ECOSOC resolution in 2016 that strengthens and broadens the mandate of this Committee of Experts.

Stefan Schweinfest studied Mathematical Economics at the Universities of Wuerzburg and Bonn in Germany. He holds a Diplome D'Etudes Approfondies (Masters equivalent) from the University of Paris in these fields. He also conducted postgraduate research at the London School of Economics.



Mr. John Wilmoth

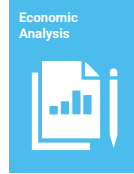
Director, Population Division

Prior to his appointment as the Director of the Population Division, Mr. Wilmoth served as Professor in the Department of Demography of the University of California at Berkeley. He also served in the Population Division as Chief of the Mortality Section from 2005 to 2007.

Mr. Wilmoth oversees the Department's support to the Commission on Population and Development and to intergovernmental discussions on international migration, including for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Under his leadership, the Population Division continues to upgrade its production of internationally comparable population data, which are essential inputs to the global monitoring of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Wilmoth served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the World Bank from 2009 to 2012, leading the development of new global estimates of maternal mortality. He is a member of the Population Association of America and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. He also serves on the editorial boards of some leading demographic journals including *Demographic Research* and the *European Journal of Population*.

Mr. Wilmoth is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers examining various aspects of population dynamics and population issues, including the causes of the historical decline of human mortality, prospects for future trends in life expectancy, the impact of population ageing on public pension and healthcare systems, popular perceptions of population growth and its consequences, and methodologies for estimating and projecting demographic trends.



Mr. Pingfan Hong

Director, Economic Analysis and Policy Division

Mr. Pingfan Hong joined the United Nations in 1989 and has since worked predominantly in the areas of economic research and policy analysis, particularly global economic outlook, macroeconomic policies, and international policy coordination.

During his prior assignments, he served as the Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Unit, where he was the lead author and coordinator of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) and also worked extensively with Project LINK, an international collaborative research group for econometric modelling and forecasting, coordinated jointly by the Economic Analysis and Policy Division of DESA and the University of Toronto.

Mr. Hong worked as an Officer in the State Planning Commission of China and as a Research Fellow and Assistant to Professor Lawrence Klein at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, a Dual master's in computer sciences and Management Sciences from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and a Bachelor in Engineering from Wu Xi Institute of Light Industrial Technology. He was the World Bank McNamara Fellow of 1985.



Mr. Juwang Zhu

Director, Division for Public Institutions and
Digital Government

Mr. Juwang Zhu leads the Division in promoting inclusive, effective, accountable institutions that are well equipped to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 16.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Zhu served as Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of DESA from 2008 to 2013. In that capacity he advised the Under-Secretary-General on policy and management issues and coordinated the Department's substantive advice to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on development issues and on the restructuring of DESA's capacity-building programme.

Mr. Zhu was Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and assisted in coordinating support for the Conference. He also contributed to the Departmental support for Rio+20 follow-up. As Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals from 2016 to 2019, Mr. Zhu coordinated the Secretariat support for the high-level political forum, the UN Ocean Conference, and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

Mr. Zhu graduated from the Shanghai International Studies University in 1982 and did post-graduate studies in Beijing Foreign Studies University. He has an MSC in financial economics from University of London and an MA in international relations from Webster University.



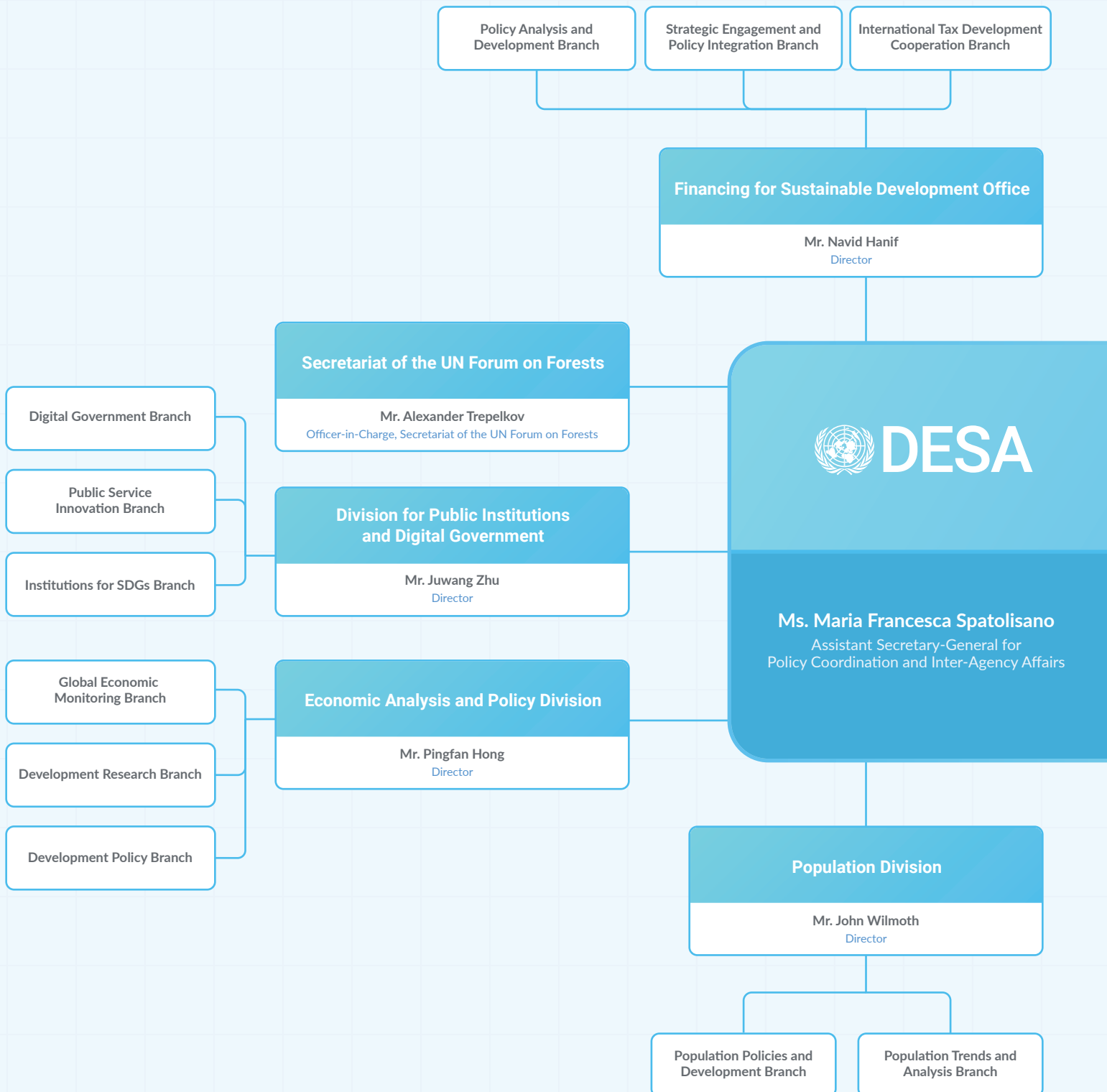
Mr. Navid Hanif

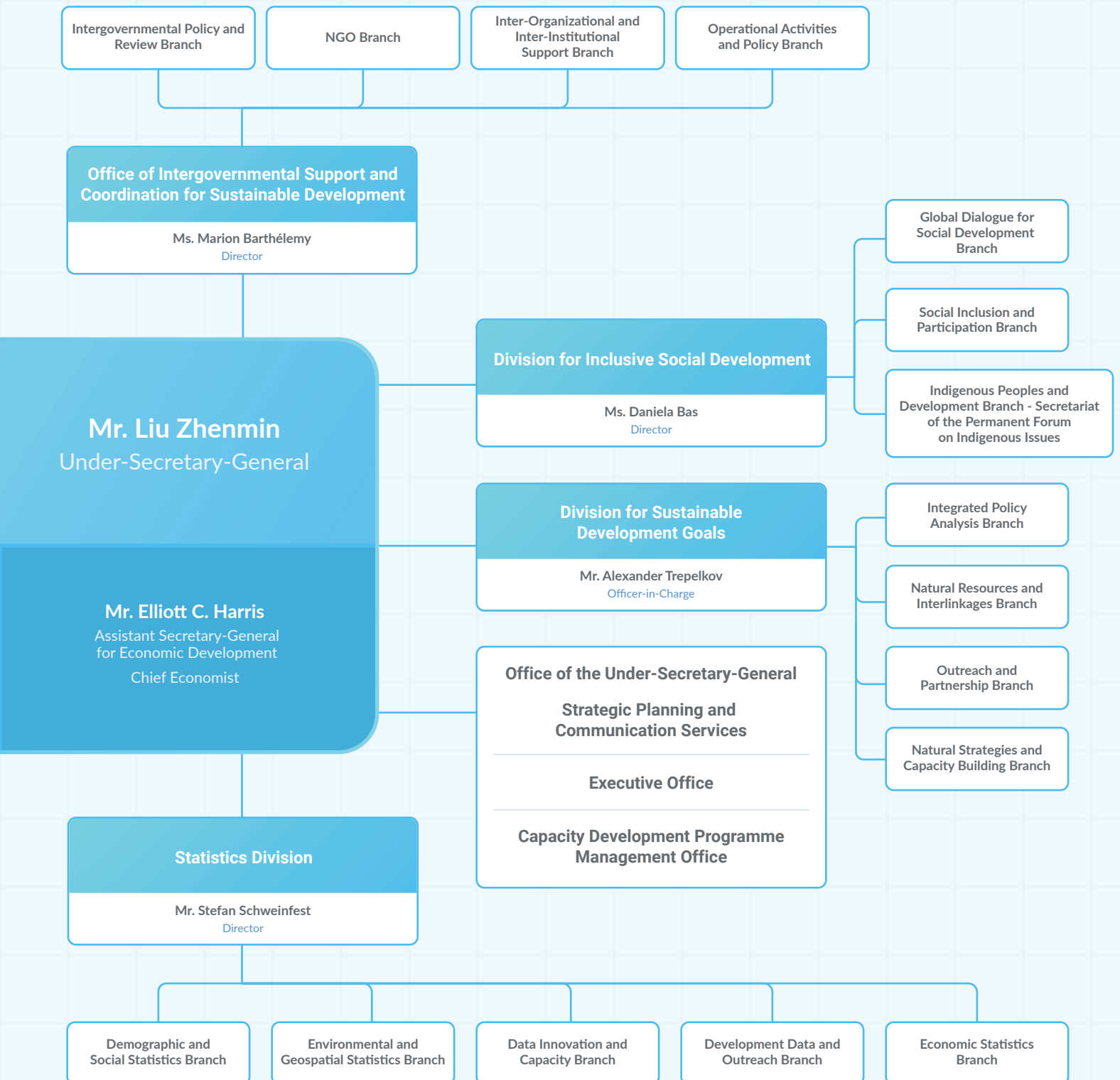
Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

Mr. Navid Hanif joined DESA in 2001; until 2003, he was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for DESA and focused on departmental initiatives in various policy areas. He worked as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support from 2004 to 2009. In 2005, he was sent on a special one year assignment to work as a Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. He worked there as a member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In 2010, he was appointed as Head of the newly established DESA Strategic Planning Unit. Most recently, Mr. Hanif served as Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, from 2012 to 2018. Mr. Hanif holds a Masters in International Political Economy from Columbia University, New York and a Masters in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.

UN DESA Organigramme





Key moments and milestones of the 73rd General Assembly

	Week 1	Week 2
September 2018		
October	International Day of Older Persons (1 Oct)	Global Infrastructure Forum (13 Oct)
	Opening of the 73rd session of the Third Committee (2 Oct)	
	Opening of the 73rd session of the Second Committee (4 Oct)	
	World Economic and Social Survey (8 Oct)	
November		
December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 Dec)	Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration (10-11 Dec)
	UNGA High-level Meeting on Middle-income Countries and 2030 Agenda (4 Dec)	
January 2019		
February	Formal meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (date tbc)	Commission for Social Development (11-21 Feb)
March	Statistical Commission (5-8 Mar)	Committee for Development Policy (11-15 Mar)
April	Commission on Population and Development (1-5 Apr)	ECOSOC Youth Forum (8-9 Apr)
	Paris Agreement-2030 Agenda Interlinkages Conference (1-3 Apr)	ECOSOC Partnership Forum (11 Apr)
	Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (1 Apr)	Committee of Experts on Public Administration (8-12 Apr)
May	UN Forum on Forests (6-10 May)	Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (14-15 May)
June	ECOSOC Management Meetings (6-7 Jun)	Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (11-13 Jun)
July	International Day of Cooperatives (6 Jul)	High-level political forum on sustainable development including Ministerial Meeting (16-18 Jul)
	ECOSOC Integration Segment (8 Jul)	World Public Sector Report (10 Jul)
	The Sustainable Development Report (9 Jul)	World Population Day (11 Jul)
August		International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 Aug)

ECOSOC Functional Commission (Intergovernmental) [Supported by DESA]	ECOSOC Advisory Bodies (Experts) [Supported by DESA]
High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting	Publication/Dataset Launch

Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Opening of the 73rd session of the General Assembly (date tbc)	High-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (24 Sep)	
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 Oct)	UN World Data Forum (22-24 Oct)	Inter-regional Meeting for SIDS on the SAMOA Pathway Midterm Review (30 Oct - 2 Nov)
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (16-19 Oct)	Regional Symposium on Strengthening Capacities of Public Institutions (24-26 Oct)	
Internet Governance Forum (12-14 Nov)		
Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (13 Nov)		
ECOSOC meeting on Pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS (13 Nov)		
International Migrants Day (18 Dec)		
World Economic Situation and Prospects (21 Jan)		Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (21-30 Jan; 8 Feb)
	High-level Debate on International Migration and Development (27 Feb)	Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (27 Feb- 1 Mar)
World Youth Report (20 Feb)		
World Day of Social Justice (20 Feb)		
International Day of Forests (21 Mar)		
World Down Syndrome Day (21 Mar)		
World Water Day (22 Mar)		
SDG Investment Fair (15-17 Apr)	Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (22 Apr-3 May)	
ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (15-18 Apr)	ECOSOC Management Meetings (23-25 Apr)	ECOSOC special meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (29 Apr)
	Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (23-26 Apr)	
International Day of Families (15 May)	World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2019 (May 21)	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (resumed 21 - 30 May)
	ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment (21-23 May)	
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 Jun)	World Population Prospects (18 Jun)	
	ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (24-26 Jun)	
International Day of Family Remittances (16 Jun)	UN Public Service Forum (24-26 Jun)	
(ECOSOC) (9-15 Jul)		
World Youth Skills Day (15 Jul)	ECOSOC Management Meetings (23-24 Jul)	
International Youth Day (12 Aug)		

Key moments and milestones of the 74th General Assembly

	Week 1	Week 2
September 2019		Global Sustainable Development Report (11 Sep)
October	Opening of the 74th session of the Third Committee (1 Oct)	Opening of the 74th session of the Second Committee (7 Oct)
	International Day of Older Persons (1 Oct)	
November		
December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 Dec)	
January 2020		
February	Commission for Social Development (10-19 Feb)	World Youth Report (date tbc)
March	Statistical Commission (3-6 Mar)	
April	Commission on Population and Development (date tbc)	Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (date tbc)
	ECOSOC Youth Forum (1-2 Apr)	
	ECOSOC Partnership Forum (3 Apr)	
	Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (6-9 Apr)	
May	ECOSOC special meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (1 May)	World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2020 (date tbc)
	UN Forum on Forests (4-8 May)	
	Second UN Sustainable Transport Conference (5-7 May)	
June	ECOSOC Management Meetings (2-3 Jun)	World Oceans Day (8 Jun)
		ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (9-11 Jun)
	UN Ocean Conference (2-6 Jun)	Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (10-12 Jun)
July	International Day of Cooperatives (4 Jul)	High-level political forum on sustainable development including Ministerial Meeting (14-17 Jul)
	The Sustainable Development Report (date tbc)	ECOSOC Integration Segment (6 Jul)
		World Population Day (11 Jul)
August		International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 Aug)

ECOSOC Functional Commission (Intergovernmental) [Supported by DESA]	ECOSOC Advisory Bodies (Experts) [Supported by DESA]
High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting	Publication/Dataset Launch

Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Opening of the 74th session of the General Assembly (17 Sep)	UN Climate Action Summit (23 Sep) SDG Summit (24-25 Sep) High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (26 Sep) SAMOA Pathway High-Level Midterm Review (27 Sep)	
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (15-18 Oct) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 Oct)		
	Internet Governance Forum (25-29 Nov)	
International Migrants Day and launch of International Migration Report (18 Dec)		
World Economic Situation and Prospects World Social Report (date tbc)		Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (20-29 Jan; 7 Feb)
World Day of Social Justice (20 Feb)		Committee for Development Policy (24-28 Feb)
International Day of Forests (21 Mar) World Down Syndrome Day (21 Mar)	World Water Day (22 Mar)	Committee of Experts on Public Administration (30 Mar-3 Apr)
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (13-24 Apr)		Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (27-30 Apr)
ECOSOC Management Meetings (15 Apr)	ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (20-23 Apr)	
Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (12-13 May) Development Cooperation Forum (14-15 May) International Day of Families (15 May)	ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment (19-21 May) High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (20-21 May)	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (resumed – 18-28 May; 5 Jun)
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 Jun) International Day of Family Remittances (16 Jun)	World Population Prospects (date tbc) UN Public Service Day (23 Jun)	UN E-Government Survey (date tbc)
(ECOSOC) (7-17 Jul) World Youth Skills Day (15 Jul) SIDS Partnership Dialogue (date tbc) International Youth Day (12 Aug)	ECOSOC Management Meetings (21-22 Jul)	World Public Sector Report (date tbc)

Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2019

Goal and Targets	World	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Central and Southern Asia	Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Australia and New Zealand	Oceania*	Europe and Northern America
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Goal 1 | End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere ¹	moderate poverty	very high poverty	low poverty	moderate poverty	low poverty	low poverty	low poverty		low poverty
Achieve substantial social protection coverage ²	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage	moderate coverage	very high coverage

Goal 2 | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

End hunger	high under-nourishment	very high under-nourishment	moderate under-nourishment	high under-nourishment	moderate under-nourishment	moderate under-nourishment	very low under-nourishment		very low under-nourishment
End stunting in children under 5 years of age	high prevalence	very high prevalence	moderate prevalence	very high prevalence	moderate prevalence	low prevalence		very high prevalence	
Increase government investment in agriculture	moderate investment	moderate investment	high investment	high investment	moderate investment	moderate investment	moderate investment	moderate investment	high investment

Goal 3 | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Increase the coverage of births attended by skilled health personnel	high coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage	high coverage	very high coverage	high coverage	very high coverage	high coverage	very high coverage
End preventable deaths of children under 5 years of age	high mortality rate	very high mortality rate	high mortality rate	high mortality rate	moderate mortality rate	moderate mortality rate	low mortality rate	high mortality rate	low mortality rate
End the epidemic of HIV infections	low incidence	very high incidence	low incidence	low incidence	low incidence	low incidence	low incidence	low incidence	low incidence
End the epidemic of malaria	high incidence	very high incidence	moderate incidence	low incidence	low incidence	low incidence	no incidence	high incidence	no incidence
Increase vaccine coverage of target population	low coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	high coverage	low coverage	high coverage

Goal 4 | Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all

Ensure that all children achieve proficiency in reading at the end of primary education	moderate proficiency	low proficiency	moderate proficiency	moderate proficiency	high proficiency	moderate proficiency	high proficiency		very high proficiency
Ensure that all children achieve proficiency in mathematics at the end of primary education	moderate proficiency	low proficiency	moderate proficiency	moderate proficiency	high proficiency	moderate proficiency	moderate proficiency		high proficiency
Reduce the out-of-school rate for primary school children	moderate rate	high rate	high rate	moderate rate	low rate	low rate	very low rate		very low rate

Goal 5 | Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Eliminate child marriage	moderate marriage rate of girls	high marriage rate of girls	moderate marriage rate of girls	moderate marriage rate of girls	moderate marriage rate of girls		
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for managerial positions	poor participation	poor participation	very poor participation	very poor participation	moderate participation	moderate participation	poor participation
							moderate participation

Goal 6 | Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Achieve universal and equitable access to safely managed drinking water services	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage			high coverage
Achieve universal and equitable access to safely managed sanitation services	low coverage	low coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage
Ensure the sustainability of water use by decreasing the level of freshwater withdrawal ³	low level water stress	low level water stress	very high level water stress	high level water stress	low level water stress	low level water stress	low level water stress

Goal 7 | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Achieve universal access to electricity	moderate access	low access	high access	moderate access	high access	very high access	very high access
Increase the share of renewable energy in the final energy consumption ⁴	moderate share	very high share	low share	high share	moderate share	moderate share	moderate share
Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	good improvement	moderate improvement	moderate improvement	good improvement	very good improvement	good improvement	good improvement

Goal 8 | Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Sustain per capita economic growth	high growth rate	low growth rate	moderate growth rate	very high growth rate	moderate growth rate	high growth rate	high growth rate
Achieve full and productive employment for all	moderate unemployment rate	moderate unemployment rate	high unemployment rate	moderate unemployment rate	high unemployment rate	moderate unemployment rate	moderate unemployment rate
Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)	high NEET rate	high NEET rate	very high NEET rate	moderate NEET rate	high NEET rate	very high NEET rate	low NEET rate

Goal 9 | Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Significantly raise industry's share of GDP	very high share	high share	very high share	very high share	high share	moderate share	high share
Reduce CO2 emissions per unit of GDP	very high ratio	high ratio	very high ratio	very high ratio	high ratio	very high ratio	very high ratio
Substantially increase the expenditure for scientific research and development	moderate investment	very low investment	low investment	high investment	low investment	moderate investment	high investment

Goal 10 | Reduce inequality within and among countries

Reduce inequality within countries ³	moderate inequality	high inequality	moderate inequality	moderate inequality	very high inequality	moderate inequality	high inequality	moderate inequality
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Goal 11 | Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Reduce the proportion of urban population living in slums	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	very high proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	low proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers
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Goal 12 | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Reduce the domestic material consumption (DMC) per unit of GDP	high ratio	very high ratio	high ratio	very high ratio	very high ratio	high ratio	moderate ratio	very high ratio
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Goal 13 | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions ⁶	high GHG emissions							
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Goal 14 | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Restore the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels ^{6,7}	low sustainability							
Increase coverage of marine protected areas	medium coverage	medium coverage	low coverage	medium coverage	medium coverage	medium coverage	high coverage	medium coverage

Goal 15 | Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest areas ¹	moderate forest cover	moderate forest cover	low forest cover	low forest cover	moderate forest cover	moderate forest cover	low forest cover	high forest cover
Protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species ⁸	extinction risk at global average	extinction risk above global average	extinction risk above global average	extinction risk below global average	extinction risk below global average	extinction risk at global average	extinction risk above global average	extinction risk above global average

Goal 16 | Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Significantly reduce all forms of violence, including homicides	moderate incidence	high incidence	moderate incidence	moderate incidence	moderate incidence	very high incidence	low incidence	moderate incidence
Reduce the proportion of unsentenced detainees ⁹	high proportion	high proportion	moderate proportion	very high proportion	high proportion	very high proportion	moderate proportion	high proportion
Increase the proportion of countries with independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	moderate compliance rate	moderate compliance rate	moderate compliance rate	moderate compliance rate	moderate compliance rate	moderate compliance rate	very high compliance rate	low compliance rate

Goal 17 | Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Ensure fully implementation of the net official development assistance commitments by donor countries ⁶	low ODA									
	moderate number of subscriptions	low number of subscriptions	moderate number of subscriptions	moderate number of subscriptions	moderate number of subscriptions	low number of subscriptions	moderate number of subscriptions	moderate number of subscriptions	very high number of subscriptions	very high number of subscriptions
	moderate proportion	low proportion	high proportion	moderate proportion	moderate proportion	moderate proportion	moderate proportion	moderate proportion	low proportion	very high proportion
Increase proportion of countries with a national statistical plan										

The progress chart operates on two levels. The text in each box indicates the present level of development in the specific area addressed by the indicator and based on the latest available data. The colours show progress made toward the targets according to the legend below:



* Excluding Australia and New Zealand

Notes:

1. Trend assessment based on progress from 2010 to 2015.
2. Data available for 2016 only.
3. Data available for 2014 only.
4. Trend assessment based on progress from 2010 to 2016.
5. This assessment is based on the Gini coefficient, agreed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators to be used as a proxy indicator for Goal 10.
6. Assessment only at the global level.
7. Trend assessment based on progress from 2011 to 2015.
8. Regional level extinction risk is evaluated relative to the extinction risk at the global level.
9. Trend assessment based on progress from 2014 to 2017.

For the regional groupings and country data, see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>. Country experiences in each region may differ significantly from the regional average.

Sources: United Nations, based on the latest available data and estimates as of September 2019 provided by: Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Energy Agency (IEA), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Organization for Economic and Cooperation and Development (OECD), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Bank Group, World Health Organization (WHO).

Compiled by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

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