



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



The Sustainable Development Goals go live on 1 January 2016

Overview

On 1 January, 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — will officially come into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The SDGs build on the success of [the Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

At the global level, the 17 SDGs with 169 targets will be monitored using a set of global indicators that are currently being developed and will be agreed by the Statistical Commission at its 47th Session in March 2016.

Starting in July 2016, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will meet to oversee the follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs at the global level. The Forum will carry out regular reviews of countries' progress—on a voluntary basis—while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders. Thematic reviews of progress on the Goals, including on cross-cutting issues, will also take place.



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Background to the 2030 Agenda

In September 2015, more than 150 world leaders attended the UN Sustainable Development Summit held at UN Headquarters in New York to formally adopt an ambitious new sustainable development agenda.

Agreed by the 193 Member States of the UN, the Agenda, entitled “Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” consists of a Declaration, 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, a section on means of implementation and renewed global partnership, and a framework for review and follow-up.

The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in history, serve as a springboard for the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Only two short decades ago, nearly half of the developing world lived in extreme poverty. Since the MDGs, the number of people now living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. Gender parity in primary school has been achieved in the majority of countries and women have gained ground in parliamentary representation over the past 20 years in nearly 90% of the 174 countries with data.

However, progress has been uneven across regions and countries, leaving significant gaps. Millions of people are being left behind, especially the poorest and those disadvantaged because of their sex, age, disability, ethnicity or geographic location. Moreover, climate change is now affecting every country on every continent, and the poorest and most vulnerable people are being impacted the most.

Sustainable Development

Since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development —the Earth Summit— in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the world identified a new pathway to human well-being, that of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development, presented in Agenda 21, is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The new sustainable development agenda builds on the outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 2010 Summit on the MDGs, the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20) and the views of people around the world.

In “The future We Want,” the outcome document of Rio+20, UN member States agreed to establish an open working group to develop a set of sustainable development goals. The proposal of the open working group, finalized in July 2014, is the core of the new 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.



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Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 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
- 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
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development