



Ensuring that no one is left behind

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development last year marked a watershed year for sustainable development. Its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets are expected to stimulate action over the upcoming years in areas of critical importance for people and the planet. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, is the UN's central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Forum, which adopts a Ministerial Declaration, is expected to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda's implementation and follow-up; keep track of progress of the SDGs; spur coherent policies informed by evidence, science and country experiences; as well as address new and emerging issues.

What will happen during HLPF in 2016?

HLPF in 2016 will run from 11 to 20 July in New York, and will kick off with an overall assessment of progress of the new Agenda, guided by the first ever report by the Secretary-General on the progress of the SDGs. The first five days of HLPF will review

progress of the SDGs with a particular focus on “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, which is both the theme of HLPF in 2016 as well a central pledge of the 2030 Agenda.

Sessions during the five days will focus on issues related to all the SDGs; poverty eradication, economic growth, food security and sustainable agriculture, climate action, peaceful and more inclusive societies, among other issues, as well how to create ownership at the national level, mainstreaming SDGs into national policies and strategies, and challenges faced in mobilizing means of implementation.

Nations to present work done so far

The ministerial days of HLPF, which is in the second week (18-20 July), will include, for the first time, national voluntary reviews from Member States. In 2016, 22 countries have volunteered to conduct national reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since the implementation of the 2030 Agenda only started on 1 January 2016, countries are not expected to already be able to report on the review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, but rather; they might choose to focus on strategies and policies that are being put in place to facilitate implementation.

The Secretariat of HLPF, UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, has developed [online platform](#) dedicated to compiling voluntary inputs from countries participating in the national voluntary reviews, as well other voluntary governmental inputs. The platform also includes inputs from ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, inputs from major groups and other stakeholders, as well contributions from multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in their support of the SDGs.

In the margins of the HLPF

HLPF will also include a range of side events, the first ever Partnership Exchange special event for reviewing contributions from multi-stakeholder partnerships in supporting the SDGs, a one day SDG Business Forum where the private sector has been invited to share its support for the new 2030 Agenda, and a NOVUS Summit which aims to unite the science, technology and innovation community around the world.

During the HLPF, a range of SDGs Learning, Training and Practice sessions will also be held, which will provide a capacity building, networking and experience-sharing event, with high-level speakers and experts on crucial topics related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Participation at the forum

HLPF is an inclusive and participatory forum at the United Nations, bringing all Member States of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies together. It is open to participation from civil society through the major groups and other stakeholders.

To stay updated on the event via social media, follow the hashtag #HLPF2016. A new app has also been launched to help participants and others who are interested in the event, stay updated what’s happening at the HLPF. The app “HLPF” can be downloaded via the App Store or via Google Play.

For more information:

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Join Thomas Gass in Twitter chat on the SDGs!



Thomas Gass, UN DESA's Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, invites the online community to join him in a Twitter chat on 8 July from 8:30 to 9:30 am EDT to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What must be done to achieve these goals? How can we make sure that everyone is included? Join the chat and post questions using #SDGsChat!

With the 2030 Agenda and its 17 transformative SDGs, the international community has the basis of a new social contract between the governments of the world and their peoples. It is a solemn promise – to leave no one behind. “I look forward to discuss with the online community what this actually means, and the important role that the SDGs play in this context,” said Thomas Gass ahead of the Twitter chat.

The chat event takes place in the lead up to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which kicks off on 11 July. The chat offers an opportunity for participants to learn more about the Forum, the apex body for countries to review and follow up on SDGs implementation.

“During the chat, I look forward to a dialogue and answering any questions that participants may have on the SDGs and their realization, as well as on this upcoming Forum,” said Thomas Gass. “We need all hands on deck to implement these goals, and I hope that this chat will also shed light on ways for people to take action in their own communities to achieve the goals,” he added.

To share questions or comments with Thomas Gass, join the chat on Friday, 8 July from 8:30 to 9:30 am EDT and tweet to @ThomasGass on using #SDGsChat. Questions can also be shared in advance with the event hashtag #SDGsChat.

“One year ago, I held my first Twitter chat to discuss the SDGs before they were adopted,” said Thomas Gass. “I really enjoyed the opportunity to connect with so many people and to discuss what matters to them. I look forward to this opportunity again on 8 July and hope that people from all corners of the world will be able to join!”

For more information:

Twitter chat: Achieving the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind

Lever for effective implementation of 2030 Agenda



The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) focuses on trends and progress in international development cooperation, promotes mutual learning, and encourages coherence in development policy and across diverse actors and activities. It is a core function of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This year, ECOSOC will convene the fifth biennial high-level meeting of the DCF at UN Headquarters in New York on 21-22 July, as part of its annual High-level Segment.

The meeting will focus on the global policy dialogue on “Development cooperation: lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

The keynote address will be delivered by Ms. Mary Robinson, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, and former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Over 200 high-level participants from developing and developed countries, representing national, local and regional governments, parliaments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector are expected to attend.

Development cooperation as an integrating force in the SDG era

During its 2014-2016 cycle, the DCF has focused on the role of development cooperation in the new global architecture, advanced analysis on South-South cooperation, and monitoring, review and accountability of development cooperation.

The 2016 DCF will reflect the discussions in the comprehensive preparatory process, including analytical work and outreach and high-level symposiums organized jointly by UNDESA and host Governments in the Republic of Korea (April, 2015), Uganda (November, 2015) and Belgium (April, 2016).

The high-level meeting in New York will place special emphasis on supporting national efforts to achieve the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no-one behind. It will provide a lively, interactive space to exchange ideas and experiences in aligning development cooperation and its institutions to the 2030 Agenda, including in the critical area of monitoring and review to strengthen quality, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation for sustainable development.

The meeting will also discuss specific challenges and opportunities in South-South cooperation, private development cooperation and blended finance, and technology transfer and capacity building.

The deliberations will be informed by the 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on “Trends and progress in international development cooperation”, building on the series of analytical work commissioned and conducted by UN DESA during the past two years (see DCF 2016 Policy Briefs).

The DCF Accountability Study, based on the biennial DCF Accountability Survey, will also provide background for the discussions. The survey undertakes the global scanning and assessment on the state of play of development cooperation on the ground, which is used to form policy recommendations and facilitate policy dialogue. The DCF Accountability Study will be launched in a side event in the margins of the high-level meeting on Wednesday, 20 July.

Bringing all stakeholders together for peer learning and knowledge sharing

The 2016 DCF will generate concrete policy guidance on the substantive themes for policymakers and practitioners at all levels, and advance global dialogue on development cooperation in the SDG era in an open and candid setting.

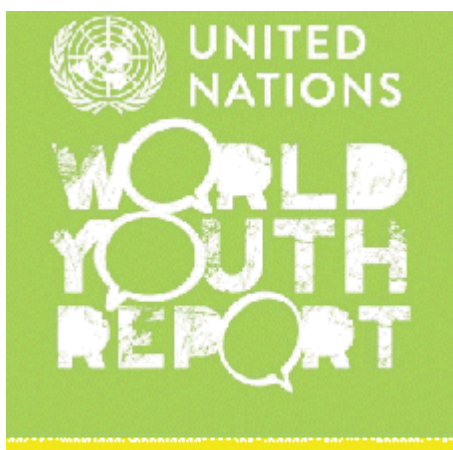
ECOSOC plays an important role in the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing sustainable development. The outcome of the 2016 DCF will be a set of key messages on development cooperation in this context.

The conclusions will be taken into consideration by the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up process and by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The DCF-related research and discussions have also been feeding into the ECOSOC dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system and the key messages taken forward in order to advance synergies and ensure as many voices as possible are heard. This includes informing the Report of the Secretary-General on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, submitted to the Operational Activities Segment in February, as well as current work to update the Report for the General Assembly.

For more information:

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)
Fifth biennial high-level meeting of the DCF



UN launches World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement

On 15 July the UN will launch its World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement. The Report, prepared by UN DESA, explores young people's participation in economic, political and community life, responding to a growing interest in and an increased policy focus on youth civic engagement in recent years among

Governments, young people and researchers.

The report provides thematic insights on economic, political and community engagement, coupled with expert opinion pieces so as to provide robust and varied perspectives into youth engagement. In offering fresh perspectives and innovative ideas on youth engagement, the report is intended to serve as an impetus and tool for dialogue, policy discussion and action between youth and government.

Youth Engagement in economic, political and community life

The transition from youth to adulthood marks a key period characterized by greater economic independence, political involvement, and participation in community life. Such engagement not only impacts the individual and community, but can act as an enabling force for young women and men's involvement in the development and formulation of youth-related policies.

However, a young person's ability to effectively engage relies heavily on the socioeconomic and political environment in which they live. While access to free and open internet, political demonstrations and peace-building initiatives can confer long term benefits to both the individual and community, a lack of decent jobs, limited access to labour rights and social service spending can impose long-term negative consequences on a young person's life-long ability to engage. Such conditions can also impart long term negative consequences on development and social inclusion more broadly.

Throughout the report, selected authors provide contributions on topics pertaining to the three broad areas of economic, political and community engagement. Under Economic Engagement the issues of trade unionism, entrepreneurship, and internships are discussed; Political Engagement explores the topics of electoral participation, institutional transitions, digital engagement and negative engagement; while under the theme of Community Engagement the issues of volunteerism, sport for development, and peace-building are delved into.

In all three of the areas addressed in the Report, the full engagement of young people in society relies on the active participation and commitment of governments. It is only through meaningful involvement and active partnership, inclusive policies and

decision-making processes that solutions to some of the key problems experienced by young people can be developed. To that effect, the respective roles of young people, policy makers, and the institutions through which they work should be clearly defined. While young people need to play a central role in addressing issues that affect them, they cannot tackle the multitude of challenges alone, particularly in the economic and employment area.

For more information:

[Register to attend the launch event](#)

[Watch the event live on UN Web TV](#)

[Learn more about the report](#)

EXPERT VOICES



Getting the numbers right on human mobility

Tracking the movements of refugees and migrants across the globe has been at the heart of Bela Hovy's work for the past 20 years. As the Chief of the Migration Section in UN DESA's Population Division, he and his team ensure that the international community has accurate data to help promote safe and well-managed international migration.

People at the centre of sustainable development

Ahead of the upcoming World Population Day, celebrated annually across the world on 11 July, we asked Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA's Population Division, to share some of the current population trends across the globe and why it is important to commemorate this day, this year with a focus on teenage girls.

World Population Day is celebrated every year on 11 July. Why is it important to have a day putting a spotlight on the world's population?

"Setting aside one day per year for the world to focus on population issues is important, as it helps the global community to take stock of achievements in the field of population and development, to highlight obstacles and challenges to people-centred sustainable development, and to explore emerging issues.

This year, with a thematic focus on teenage girls, the international community should recognize, for example, that although adolescent fertility has been declining globally,

it remains high in many countries. Although further declines in the level of adolescent fertility are projected, future trends will depend heavily on the investments made in education, especially for girls, and on the availability of information and services in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

A yearly focus on a particular population issue is crucial so that the international community can take stock, identify achievements and address challenges to the implementation of the commitments made in Cairo in 1994 and more recently as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly, reaching 244 million in 2015. How does monitoring trends in human mobility help us to ensure safe and well-managed international migration?

“By mainstreaming migration as part of the 2030 Agenda, the international community recognized the important linkages between international migration and development for countries of origin and countries of destination, and for migrants and their families.

The follow-up and review of the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda, such as target 10.7, which seeks to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people”, are critical for achieving the new development goals.

A robust indicator framework to monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is essential for assessing current and future needs and setting policy priorities. As a starting point, we need accurate and timely data on trends in international migration disaggregated by age, sex and other characteristics of migrants.

In addition, keeping in mind the call by the 2030 Agenda to promote inclusive and equitable development for all, throughout the indicator framework, data pertaining to human conditions and outcomes should be disaggregated by migrant status.”

Are there any striking new trends within the global population that you can foresee within the next few years?

“The world’s population numbered 7.3 billion in 2015, and it is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, with most of the increase occurring in Africa and Asia. However, the story of future global demographic change is not simply one of continued population increase.

It is also a story of substantial demographic diversity, with respect to both the growth rate and the age distribution of the populations of different countries. This diversity is driven primarily by differences in levels and trends in fertility.

While fertility has been declining in many countries to levels where women now have fewer than 2.1 children, on average, over their lifetimes, fertility in some countries, mostly in Africa, has remained high, such that the average woman continues to have 5 or more children over her lifetime. At the same time, gains in life expectancy have been achieved worldwide with life expectancy at birth rising by 3 years between 2000-2005 and 2010-2015, that is from 67 to 70 years. All major areas shared in the life expectancy gains over this period, and the largest gains over this time period have been for Africa.

The slowdown in global population growth, due to the overall reduction in fertility levels, has caused the proportion of older persons to increase over time. At the same time, populations with high levels of fertility, even those where fertility has fallen to intermediate levels, still have relatively young age distributions.

In all areas of the world, persons of working age (ages 15-64) comprised a higher proportion of the population in 2015 than in 1970. Many countries, including a growing number in Africa, will experience further increases in the working age proportion between 2015 and 2030, while others have already peaked or are expected to do so between 2015 and 2030.

The period of rising proportions of people of working age may afford a “demographic window of opportunity”, allowing more rapid economic growth provided that the economy generates a sufficient number of decent jobs for the growing number of workers. In addition, over half the world’s population now lives in urban areas, and nearly all of the population growth projected over the next few decades will take place in cities.

The number of large cities has been growing rapidly, and they house an increasing proportion of urban dwellers. For the world as a whole, the urban population is expected to grow from 3.9 billion in 2015 to 5 billion in 2030.

Lastly, international migration has grown in scope and complexity in recent years. The number of international migrants, defined as persons currently living outside of their country of birth, rose to 244 million in 2015, up from 222 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000.

Given that international migration can be a transformative force, lifting people out of poverty and contributing to sustainable development, the continued growth in the number of international migrants is overall a positive trend. In conclusion, understanding future demographic changes as well as the challenges and opportunities that they present will be crucial to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

For more information:
UN DESA’s Population Division

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



One of world’s largest disability meetings concludes annual session

The 9th annual Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) took place on 14-16 June at UN Headquarters in New York City, under the overarching theme “Implementing the 2030 development agenda for all persons with disabilities: Leaving no one

behind”. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD.

Roundtables with presentations by various stakeholders covered the sub-themes of the conference and during the event, elections were held for nine members of the

CRPD Committee. The new members elected were: Ahmad Alsaif (Saudi Arabia); Monthian Buntan (Thailand); Imed Eddine Chaker (Tunisia); Jun Ishikawa (Japan); Samuel Njuguna Kabue (Kenya); Laszlo Gabor Lovasz (Hungary); Robert George Martin (New Zealand); Martin Babu Mwesigwa (Uganda); and Valery Nikitich Rukhledev (Russian Federation).

Delegates from 160 States and over 600 NGOs attended the conference, participating in over 70 side-events covering a range of disability issues, receptions, concerts and film-screenings organized by Governments, the UN system, and civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. The conference strived to be fully accessible and included International Sign and CART services, as well as other accommodations for wheelchair accessibility, and assistive devices for visual and hearing impairments, Braille materials and large-font documentation through the Accessibility Centre at UN Headquarters.

Prior to the Conference, the Office of the President of the General Assembly convened a multi-stakeholder panel discussion to review and discuss outcomes from the high-level meeting on disability and development. A civil society forum was also held the day prior to the conference to address common goals and challenges related to the implementation of the CRPD.

The conference's closing meeting involved an interactive dialogue between the UN system, States Parties and other stakeholders. UN DESA was represented by its Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Lenni Montiel.

This was the last year of the current bureau's term led by the Republic of Korea, with Italy, Poland, Tanzania and Brazil as vice-presidents. The incoming President will be Bulgaria while vice-presidents include Germany, Tunisia, Sri Lanka and Ecuador.

In 2017, the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties will be held on 13-15 June at UN Headquarters in New York.

For more information:

9th session of the Conference of States Parties

The Sustainable Development Goals Report
2016



The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016

This year's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be the first since the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. Member States will have an opportunity to hear the first national reviews but also to receive the first global progress report on the SDGs.

The Secretary-General's progress report on the SDGs, "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals 2016", as mandated in the 2030 Agenda, is based on a set of global indicators, developed by the Inter-agency Expert Group on the SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March this year.

In addition to the report of the Secretary-General, the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016 is being released on 19 July, during the Ministerial Segment of the HLPF. It presents data and analysis on SDGs for a wider audience, in a user-friendly format, with charts, infographics and analysis on selected indicators for which data are already available.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016 is the first account of where the world stands at the beginning of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the beginning of our journey, one in eight people still live in extreme poverty; nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger; an estimated 5.9 million children die before they reach age 5; more than one in four girls marry before their 18th birthday; 1.1 billion people live without electricity; and water scarcity affects more than 2 billion people.

The 2030 agenda promises to leave no one behind and to reach the most vulnerable first. The first report by the Secretary-General stresses that several population groups remain at large disadvantaged. The statistics presented in the report show how important data are for systematic follow-up and review of progress and to provide evidence for decision-making at all levels. The data requirements for the global indicators are vast and unprecedented, and constitute a tremendous challenge to all countries, calling for coordinated data-generation efforts involving stakeholders worldwide.

This report is prepared by UN DESA's Statistics Division, based on data and information provided by the United Nations system and other international agencies.

For more information:
UN DESA's Statistics Division

Achieving sustainable development through infrastructure



Resilient infrastructure is essential for ensuring sustainable development for all. “If we are to achieve our goals, and leave no one behind, we must address large infrastructure gaps in developing countries,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the inaugural Global Infrastructure Forum in April 2016.

Implementing the SDGs through infrastructure

Infrastructure is a pre-requisite for advances across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, addressing inequality and ensuring environmental sustainability. Infrastructure is addressed directly through SDG 9, which commits the international community to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Moreover, “investments in sustainable infrastructure are recognized as a major cross-cutting driver that can contribute to achieving all the SDGs”, as stated by Under-Secretary-General for UN DESA, Wu Hongbo, at the 2015 Global Forum on Development.

Bridging the infrastructure gap

“Developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, need international support to bridge existing infrastructure gaps,” emphasized Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the Global Infrastructure Forum. Infrastructure gaps pose major challenges to the implementation of the SDGs. The financing gap for infrastructure in developing countries, for example, is estimated to be 1 to 1.5 trillion dollars annually. Through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the international community has committed to support resilient, sustainable infrastructure and to provide a comprehensive framework for mobilising the means to finance it.

Ensuring environmentally sustainable infrastructure and development

Infrastructure that enables countries to adapt to and mitigate climate change is needed to support the Paris Climate Change Agreement. New and resilient infrastructure is also needed to support sustainable urbanization, as the number of people living in cities in emerging economies is expected to double by 2030. Resilient infrastructure is needed, moreover, to cope with the increasing incidence and magnitude of natural disasters.

Infrastructure as an integral part of the new development agenda

In recent years there have been several new global, regional and national initiatives aimed at increasing investment in infrastructure. In Africa, for example, infrastructure is a priority element for realizing the vision of Africa’s Agenda 2063. At the global level, the international community committed to support the realisation of resilient, sustainable infrastructure through the AAAA, and created a new Global Infrastructure Forum—which held its inaugural meeting in April—to facilitate access to financing and technical expertise.

The global discussion on infrastructure will continue on 21 July 2016 at UN Headquarters as part of ECOSOC’s 2016 thematic discussion on “Infrastructure for sustainable development for all”. The thematic discussion, part of ECOSOC’s High-level Segment, will engage a broad range of voices in a global dialogue on infrastructure for sustainable development that is inclusive and leaves no one behind. It will offer policy recommendations and inform the Inter-agency Task Force report on Financing for Development, as well as the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum.

For more information:

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 July	Twitter chat on the SDGs with Thomas Gass, ASG of DESA
11-20 July, New York	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
15 July, New York	Launch of the World Youth Report
18 - 22 July , New York	ECOSOC High-level segment
21-22 July, New York	5th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum

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