



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Sustainable Development Outlook

- *Gathering storms
and silver linings*

An overview of SDG challenges



Sustainable development drivers



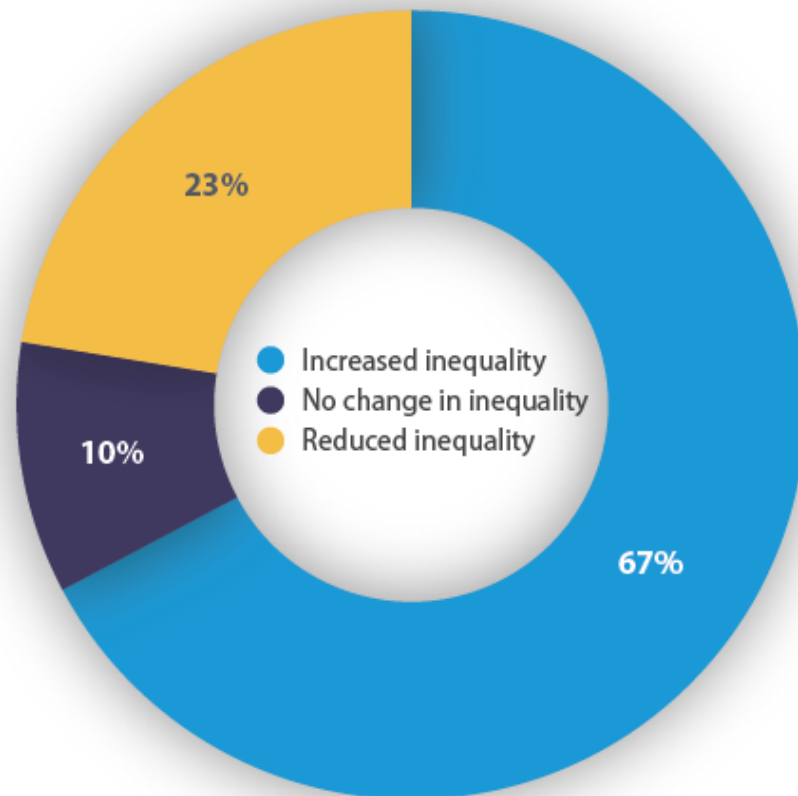
SDGs are facing significant headwinds

- Slowing economic growth
- High and rising inequality
- Growing climate risks
- Conflicts and increasing pressure of population displacement

- For too long, we tolerated the risks of rising inequality and climate change
 - In our relentless pursuit of economic growth
- LDCs are particularly vulnerable

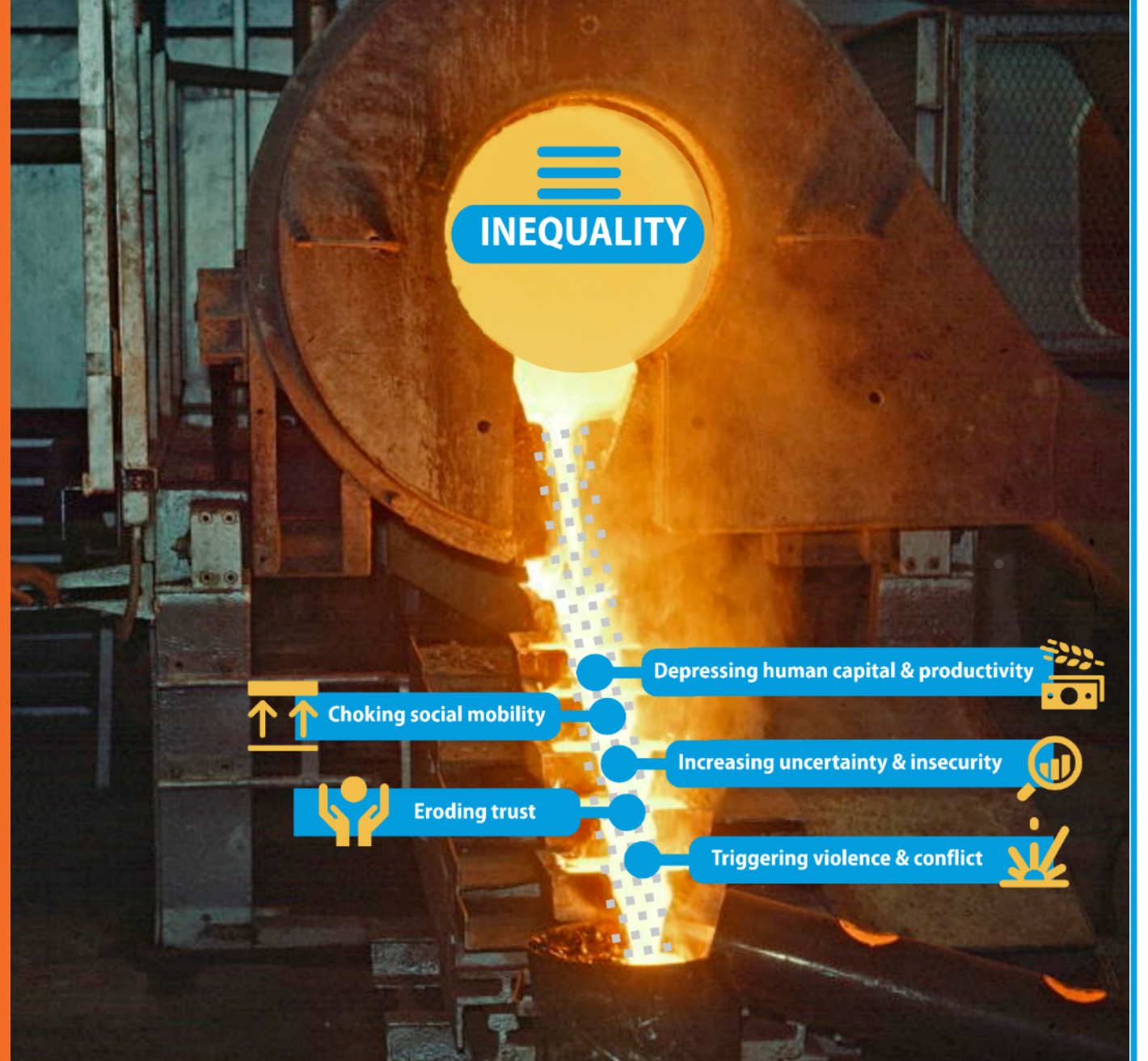
The reach of rising inequality

Percentage of world population facing inequality, 2000–2013



Source: UN DESA, based on the Standardized World Income Inequality Database.

Inequality matters

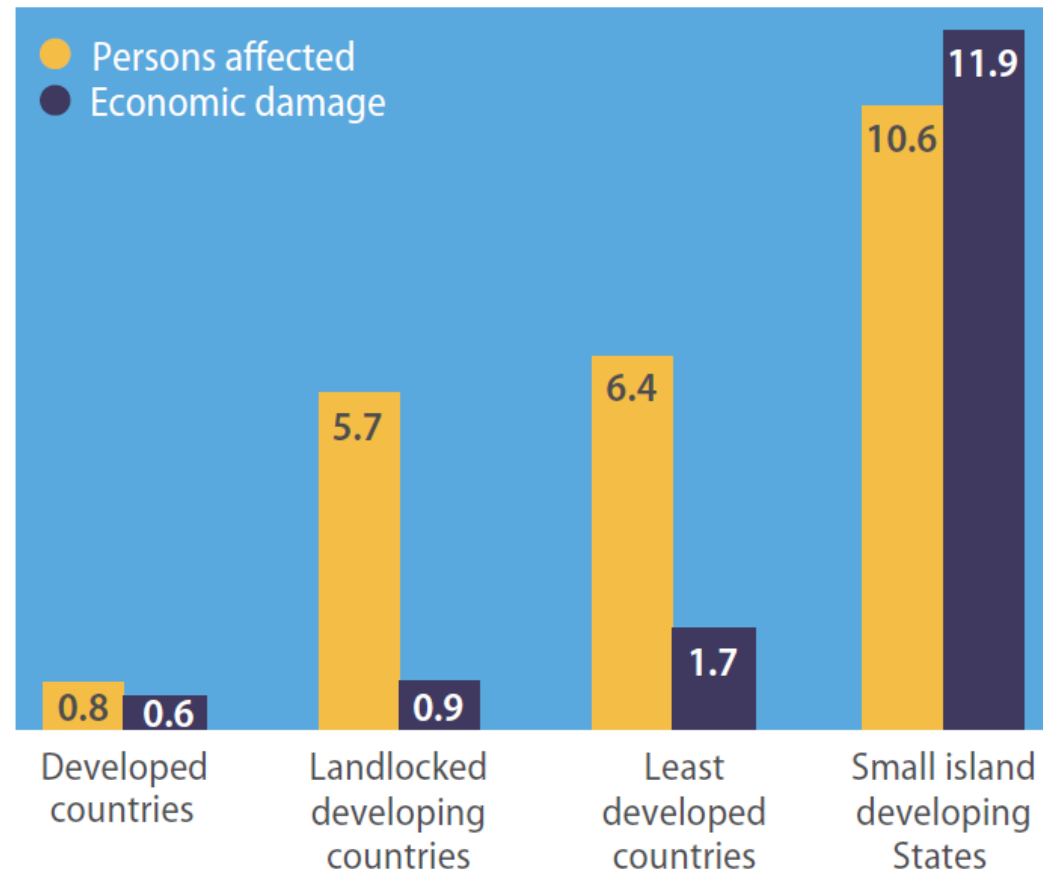


Vicious cycles

- Inequality breeds insecurity and discontent
 - More visible, stark and painful
- Costs of coping with climate change disproportionately fall on the poor,
 - eating up their income and wealth
 - leading to more inequality
- More inequality and insecurity increases demand for migration
 - Increasingly hard – people feel entrapped
 - Leading to more violence and conflicts
 - Accelerating environmental degradation
- Bold climate action and pro-immigration policies breed populism, nativism and nationalism
- Rising nationalism corrodes multilateral system and processes that are sine qua non for managing inequality, climate change and conflicts

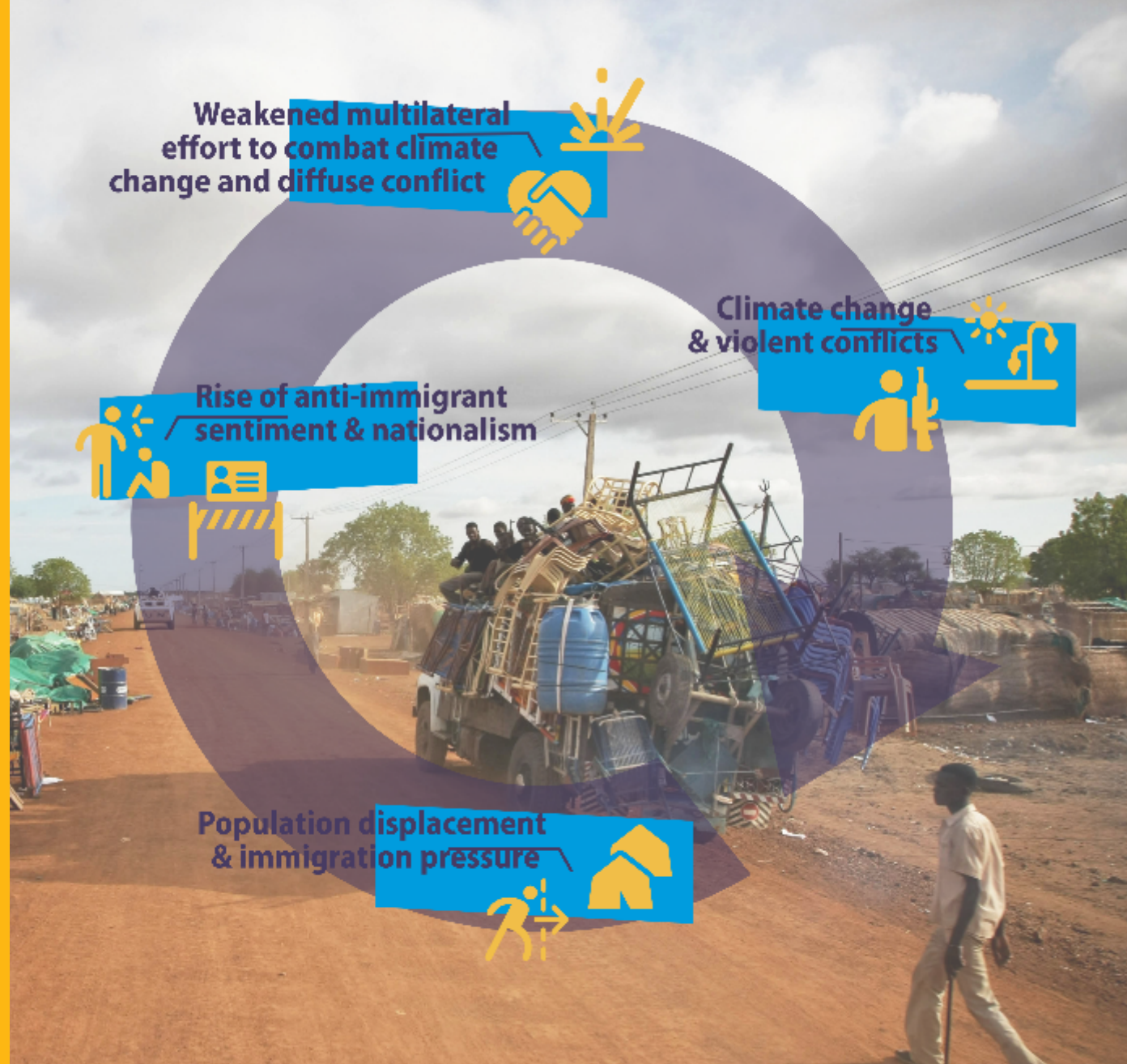
LDCs are among the most climate-vulnerable countries

Cost of climate-related disasters as a percentage of affected population and of GDP, selected groups of countries, 1999–2017

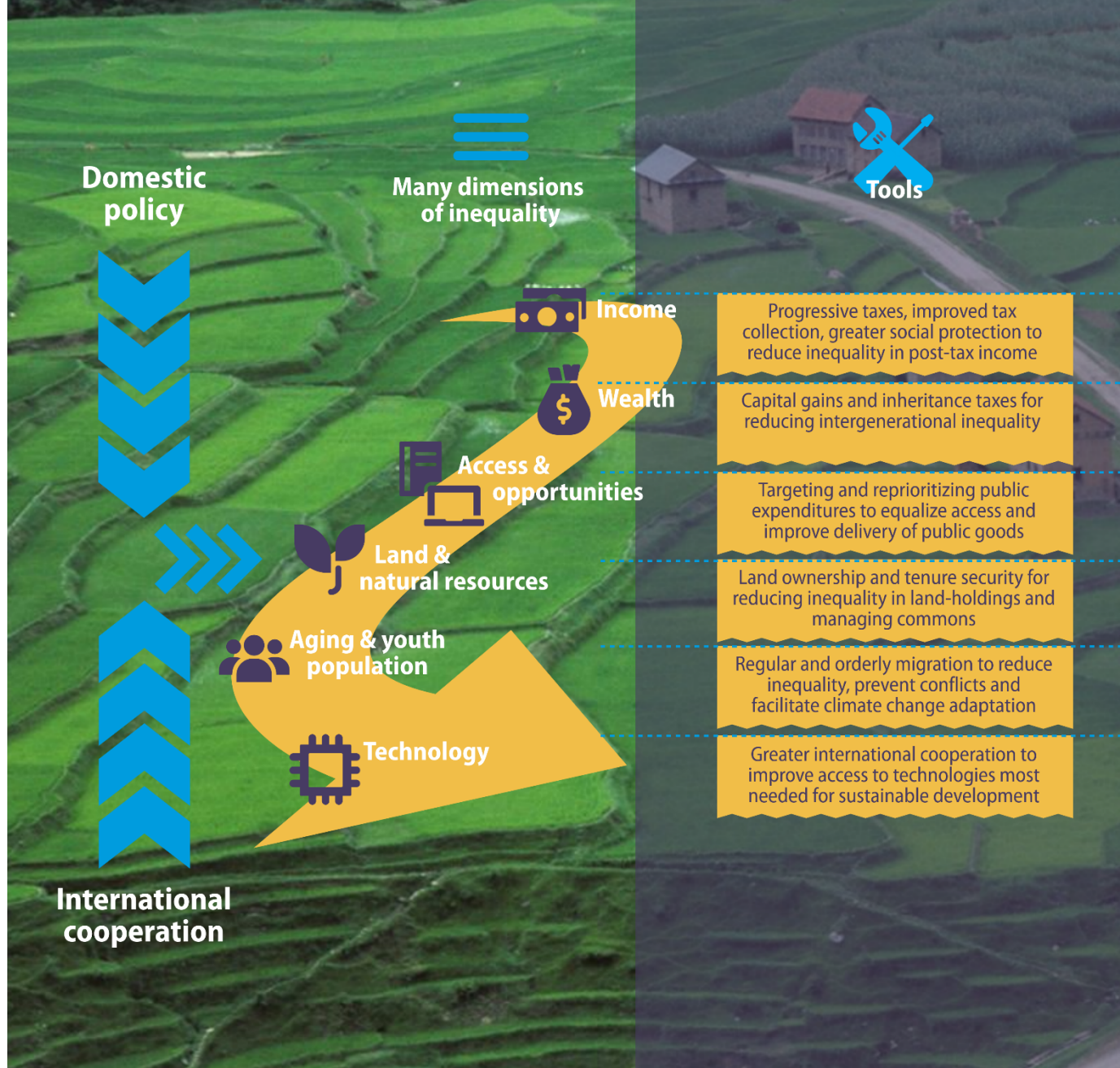


Source: UN DESA, based on data from EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database, World Development Indicators database and UNdata.

Climate change and conflicts: vicious cycles



Many paths to fighting inequality



Inequality is not inevitable

- It is a matter of choice – many paths and many solutions exist for fighting inequality
 - no one size fits all
- Redistribution of income, wealth, access and opportunities
- Fiscal policy must play increasingly important role
 - redistributing
 - creating even playing fields for access and opportunities
- Regular and managed migration can be an important tool for
 - reducing inequality
 - adapting to climate change
 - preventing conflicts

Satellites



Computer algorithms



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On-the-ground
measurements

Leveraging technology for sustainable development

Technology presents a silver lining

- But technology can cut both ways
- Identifying and prioritizing right technology to address food, shelter, energy and health related insecurities
- Building a national innovation system
 - Develop, improvise and disseminate new technology
 - Manage risks with new and emerging technologies
- International cooperation will remain critical



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Thank you.

www.un.org/development/desa/

