A glance at the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Draft Report

Briefing of the General Assembly on Science-based Evidence in support of Sustainable Solutions
7 February 2023. Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

Members of the Independent Group of Scientists (N=15)

Dr. Åsa Persson, Research Director and Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

Dr. Nancy Shackell, Senior Research Scientist, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dr. Jiahua Pan, Director of the Institute of Eco-civilization Studies and Professor of Economics, Beijing University of Technology

Timeline & Role of the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023

- An evidence base for SDG Summit
- Strengthen the science-policy interface
- An assessment of assessments
- Extensive input including Regional Consultations: South America, Southeast Asia, Africa, Western Asia
- Draft delivered to Member States recently
  - IGS very much looking forward to feedback

>>>SDG Summit – UN General Assembly, 19-20 September, 2023

CONTEXT

- We are in the Anthropocene… ➔ social vulnerability.

- In the 2020s ➔ Multiple Compounding Global Risks: climate change, biodiversity loss, geopolitical conflict, financial instability, COVID19 and natural disasters

  ➔ *Escalating* social vulnerability.

IGS 2023 wanted to...

- Keep a Focus on *the INTEGRATED perspective* of SDGs to avoid trade-offs and international spillovers

- Use Theory of Change that could help accelerate actions at key phases.

.... sense of urgency AND a sense of hope

Global Sustainable Development DRAFT Report 2023

Chapters
 1: Half-way To 2030
2: Framing The Future
3: Accelerating Transformations to SDGs
4: Transformations Through Science
5: Call To Actions

CHAPTER 1: HALF-WAY TO 2030 – PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ………………….

- Evaluating progress since 2015 and 2019, all SDGs

- Focusing on Colors and DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT->

  - Slowing down of progress

  - Reversed progress on several goals

  - Still negative trends on environment- and inequality-related goals

  - Temporary shocks or 'scarring' effects- including COVID19

POTENTIAL FOR MEETING SDGs BY 2030 BASED ON TRENDS IN SELECT TARGETS
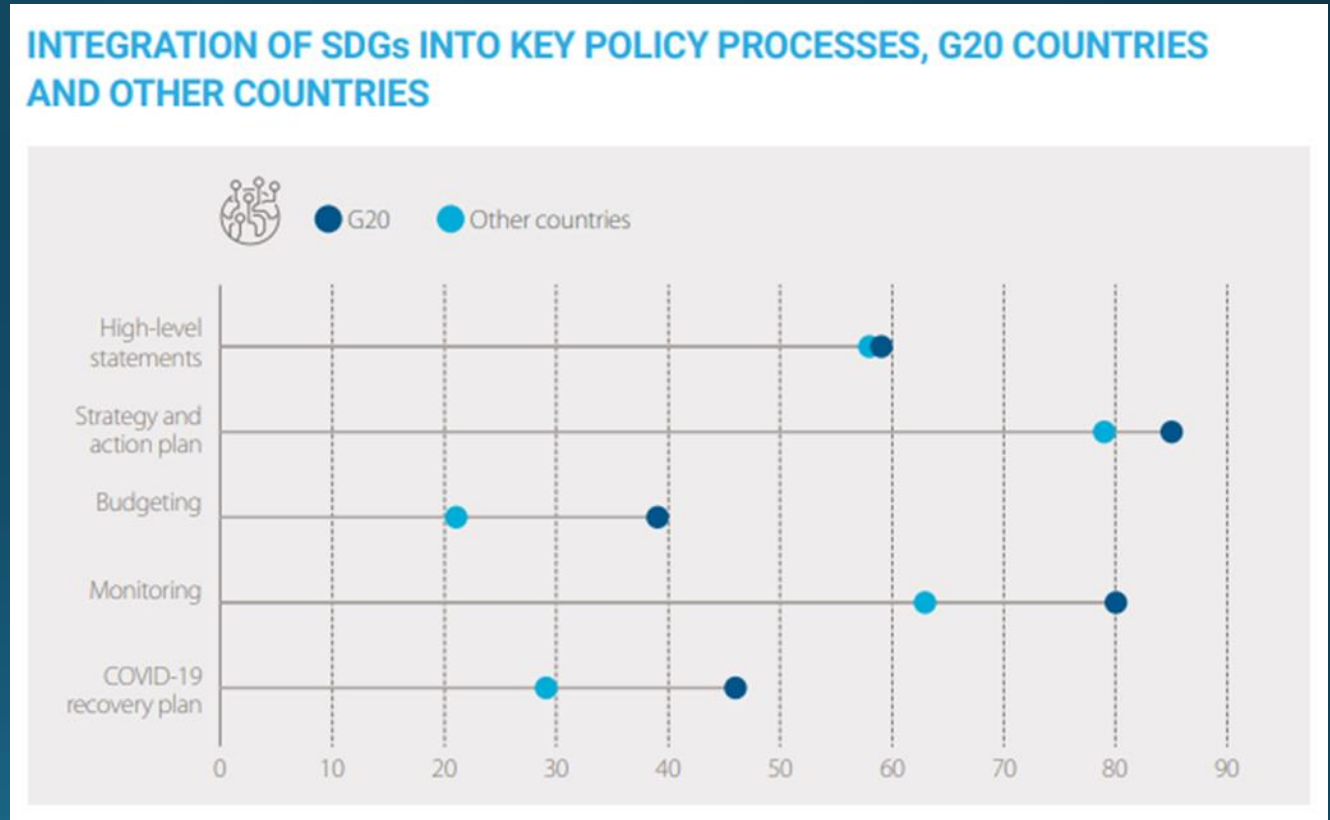
Chapter 2: Framing the future

- There is ample room to both **prepare for** and **shape** the future – up to 2030 and beyond

- Planning for **medium-term trends** that will predictably affect prospects for SDGs

  - A **warming climate**, with losses and damages but also low-carbon opportunities

  - Losses in **nature and biodiversity**, putting 50% of GDP at risk

  - A **digital transformation** – net effect for sustainable development?

  - **Demographic change**, altering the workforce and consumption patterns

  - Growing **economic inequalities**, increasing social tensions

SDG action and governance

- Broad awareness – the SDG framework is robust

- Increasing commitments, partnerships and institutional mechanisms

- Weak links
  - Financing and budgeting
  - International cooperation
  - Accountability

INTEGRATION OF SDGs INTO KEY POLICY PROCESSES, G20 COUNTRIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- G20   - Other countries

High-level statements
Strategy and action plan
Budgeting
Monitoring
COVID-19 recovery plan

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

SDSN, 2022. SDG Index

Incorporating new scientific knowledge

We have new science-based tools and data:

SDG interlinkages

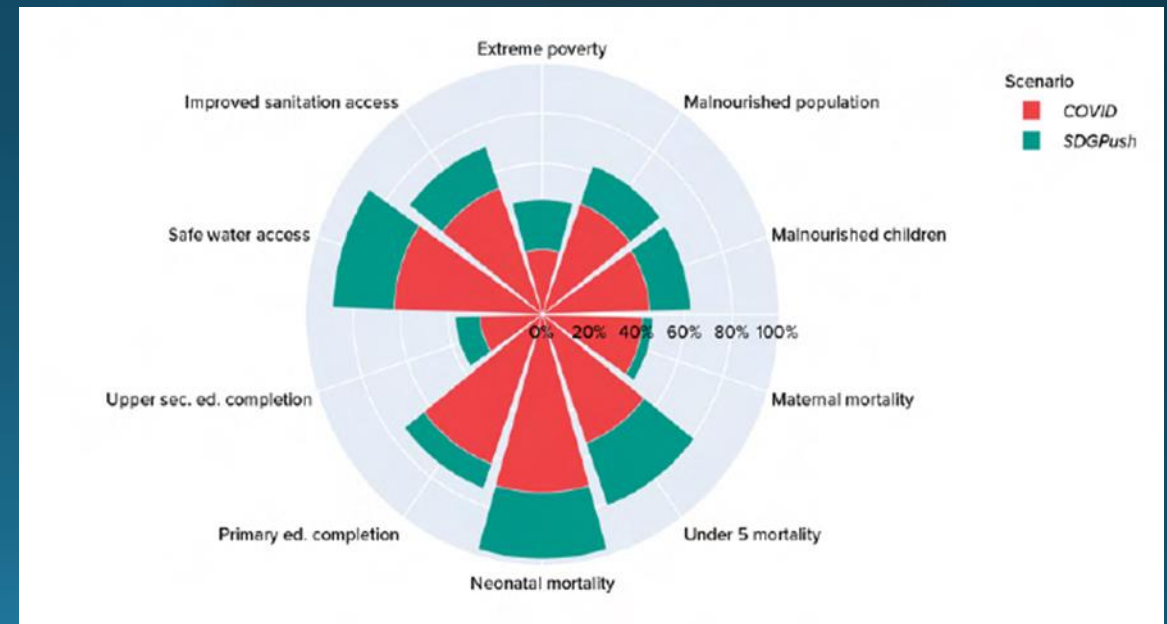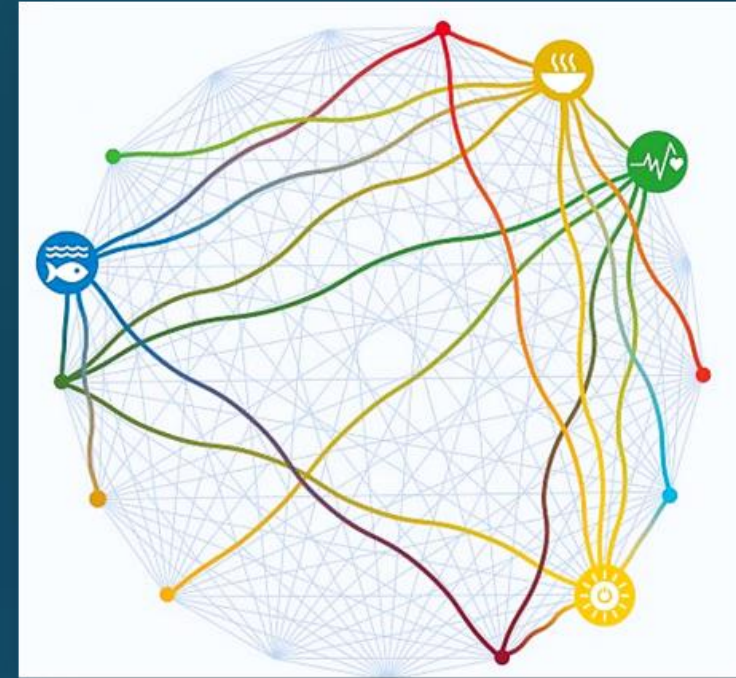- *Which SDGs are particularly synergistic or involve trade-offs?*

International spillovers
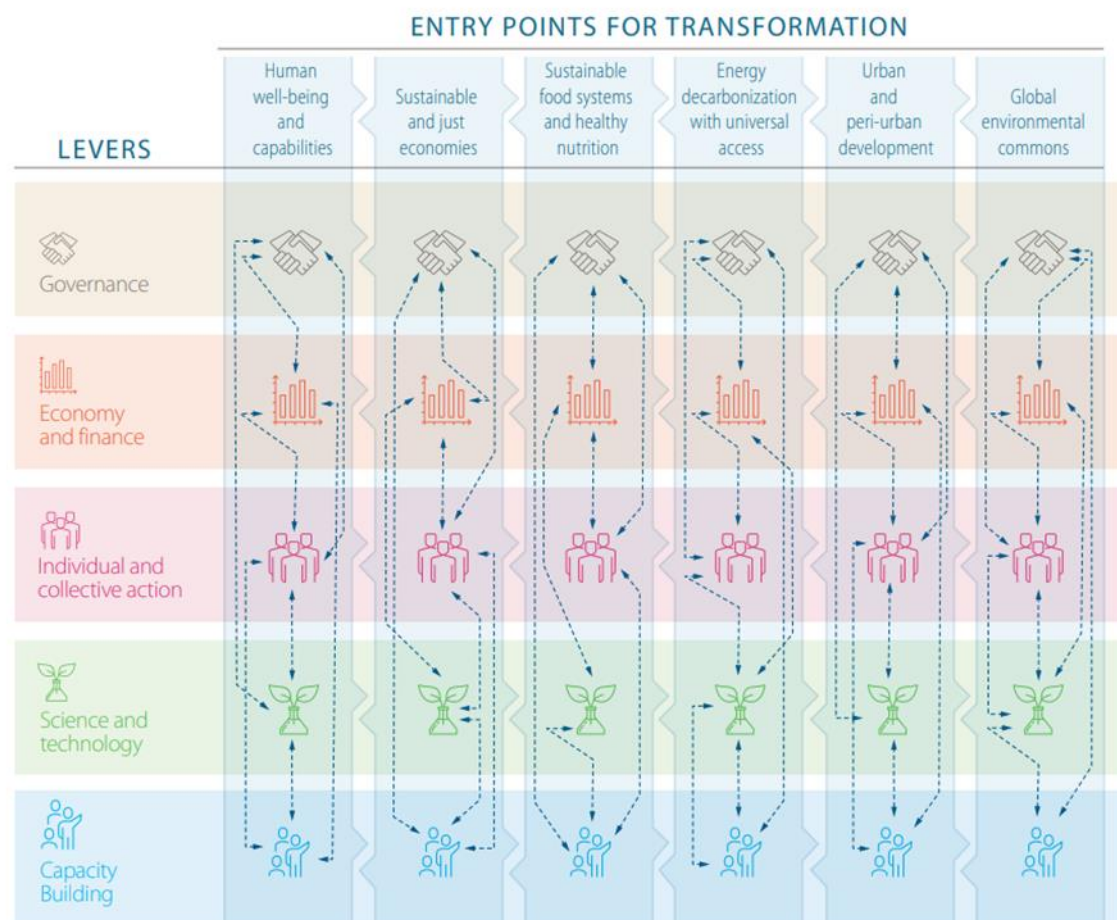
- *How are we interdependent?*

Scenario modelling

- *Where are we heading, and what if we change?*

Need for accelerated and intensified science-policy-society collaboration, with a clear focus on action and implementation.

Hughes et al. 2021

Transformative change and key interventions

TRANSFORMATIONS TO THE SDGS: ENTRY POINTS AND LEVERS

ENTRY POINTS FOR TRANSFORMATION

LEVERS
- Governance
- Economy and finance
- Individual and collective action
- Science and technology
- Capacity Building

Entry points:
- Human well-being and capabilities
- Sustainable and just economies
- Sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition
- Energy decarbonization with universal access
- Urban and peri-urban development
- Global environmental commons

- 2019 GSDR framework
- New lever: Capacity-building
- Example key interventions:

  - Universal health coverage, doubled health budgets
  - Universal social insurance, double R&D budgets
  - Public procurement for sustainable diets, green fertilizer mandate
  - Carbon pricing, EV mandates, coal phase-out
  - Public transport investment, access to basic services
  - Payment for nature-based solutions, secure land tenure, metrics beyond GDP

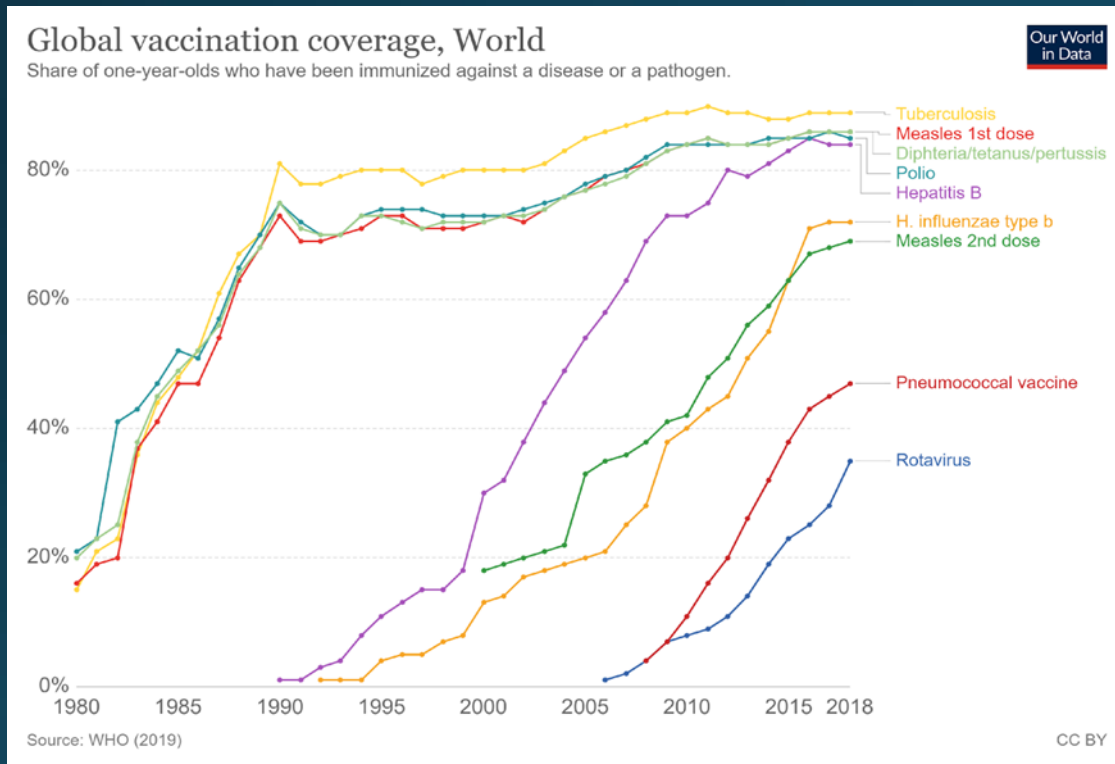- Take an integrated and dynamic approach

Chapter 3: Accelerating Transformations to SDGs

Can we strategically enable SDG solutions to move from emergence to acceleration to stabilization – tracing an S-curve?
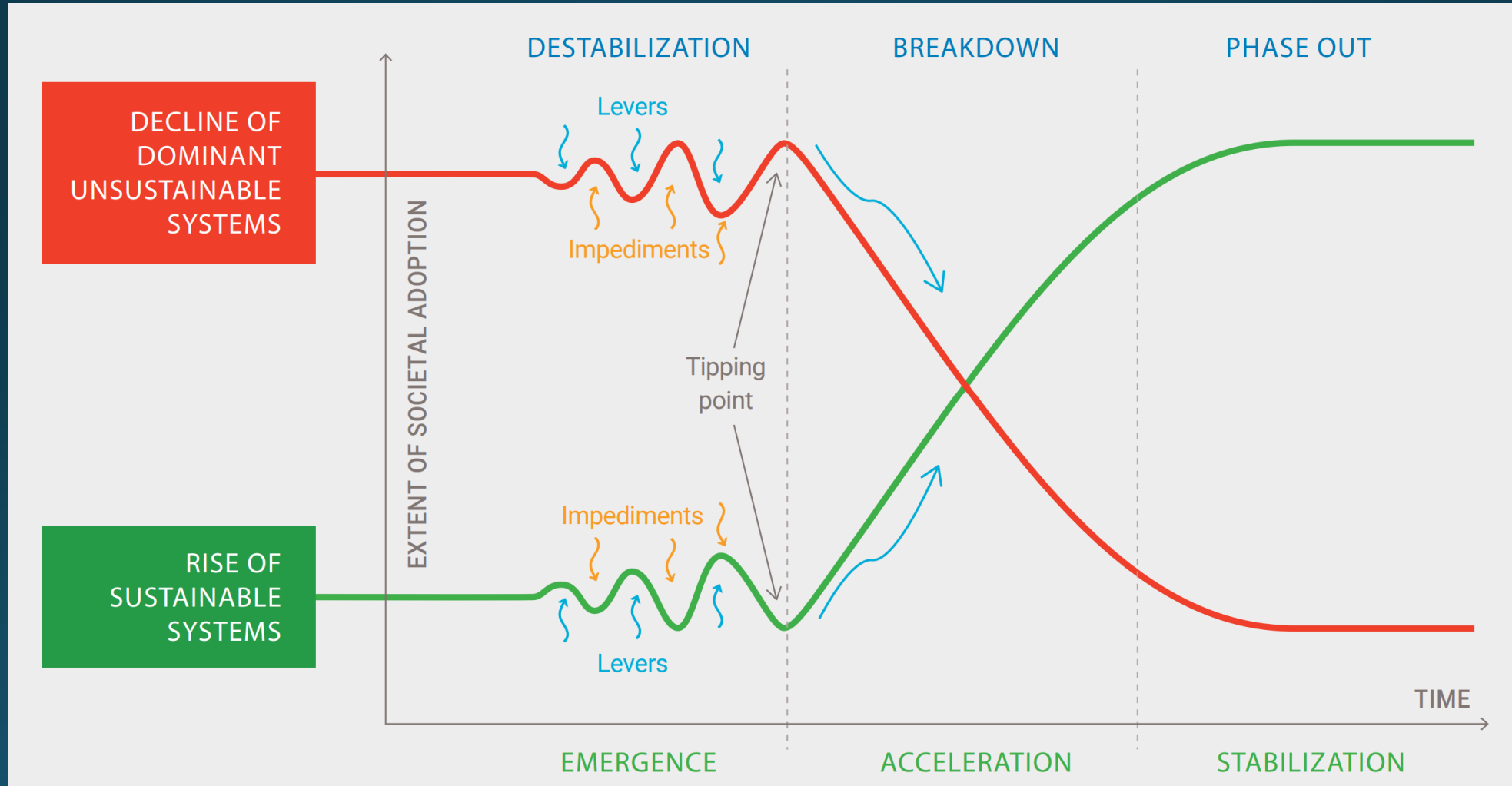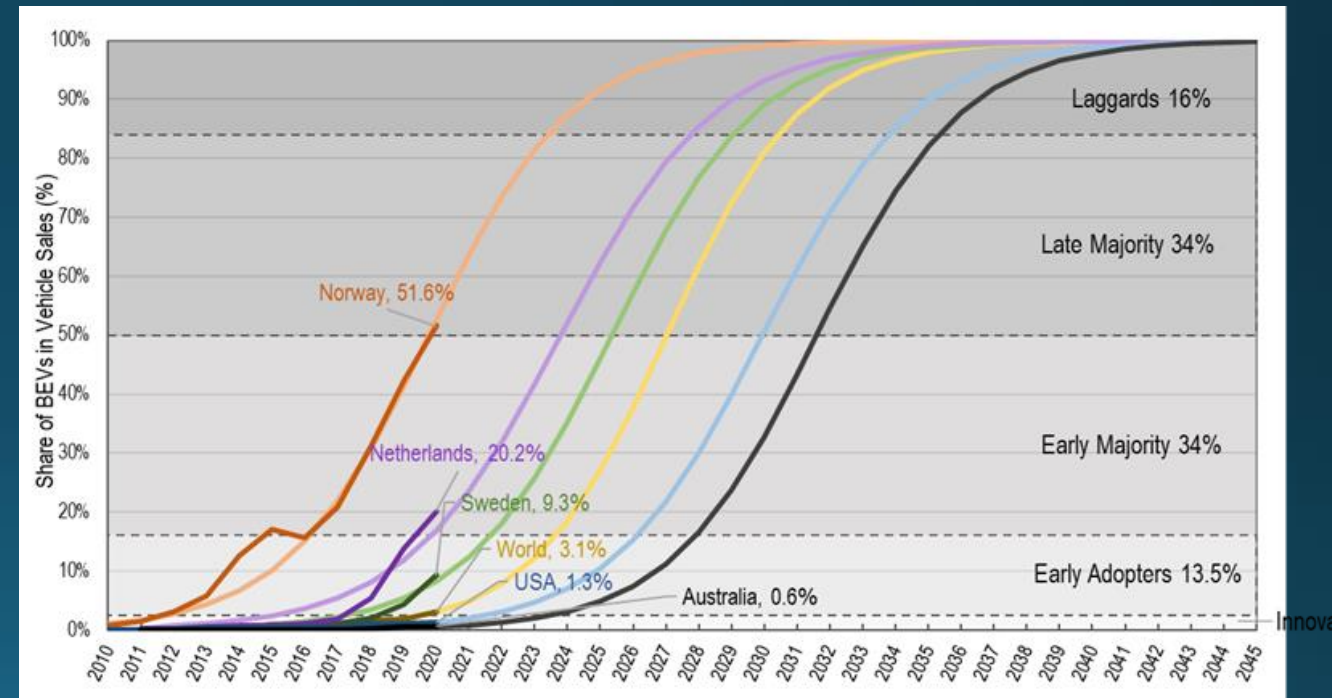
Examples of s-curves - Technological, social and policy innovations
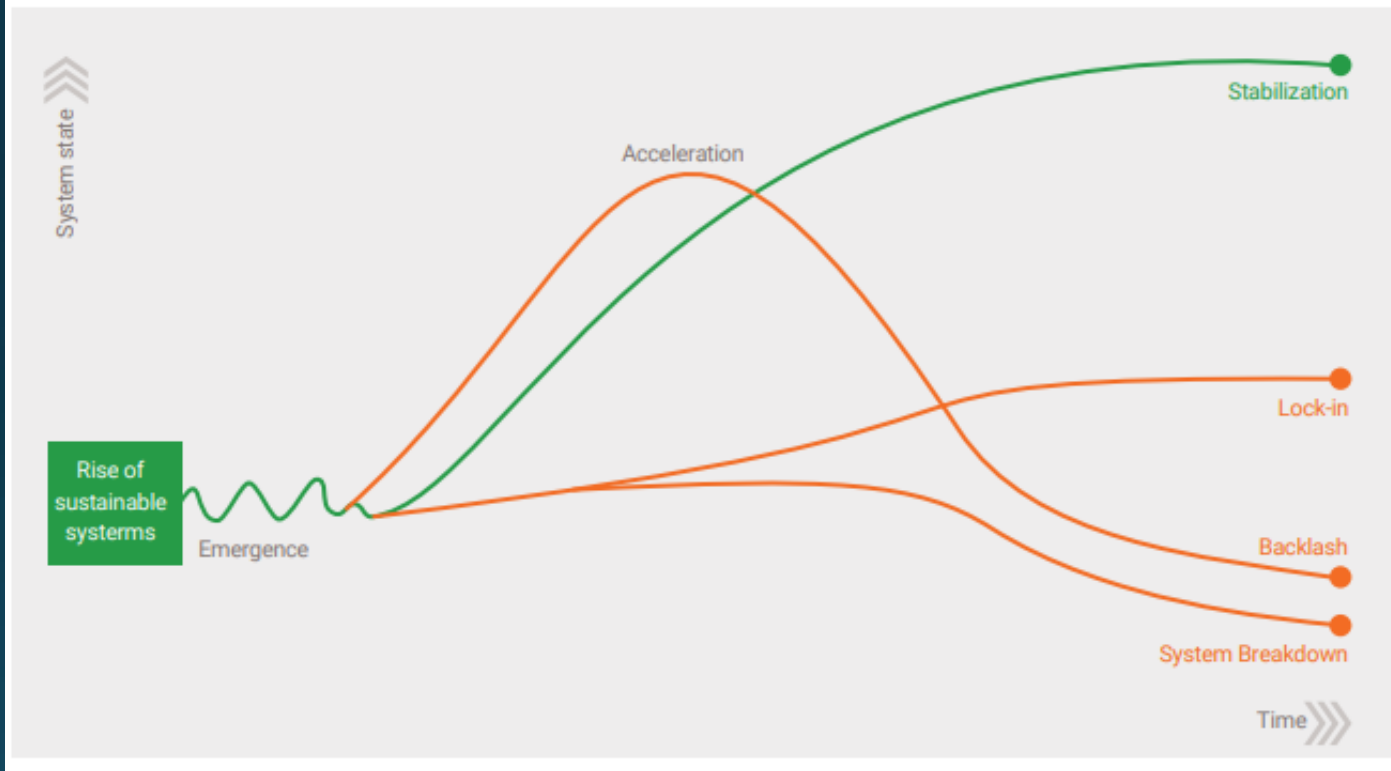
Vaccine coverage

Share of electric vehicles

Capacities for dynamic transformations
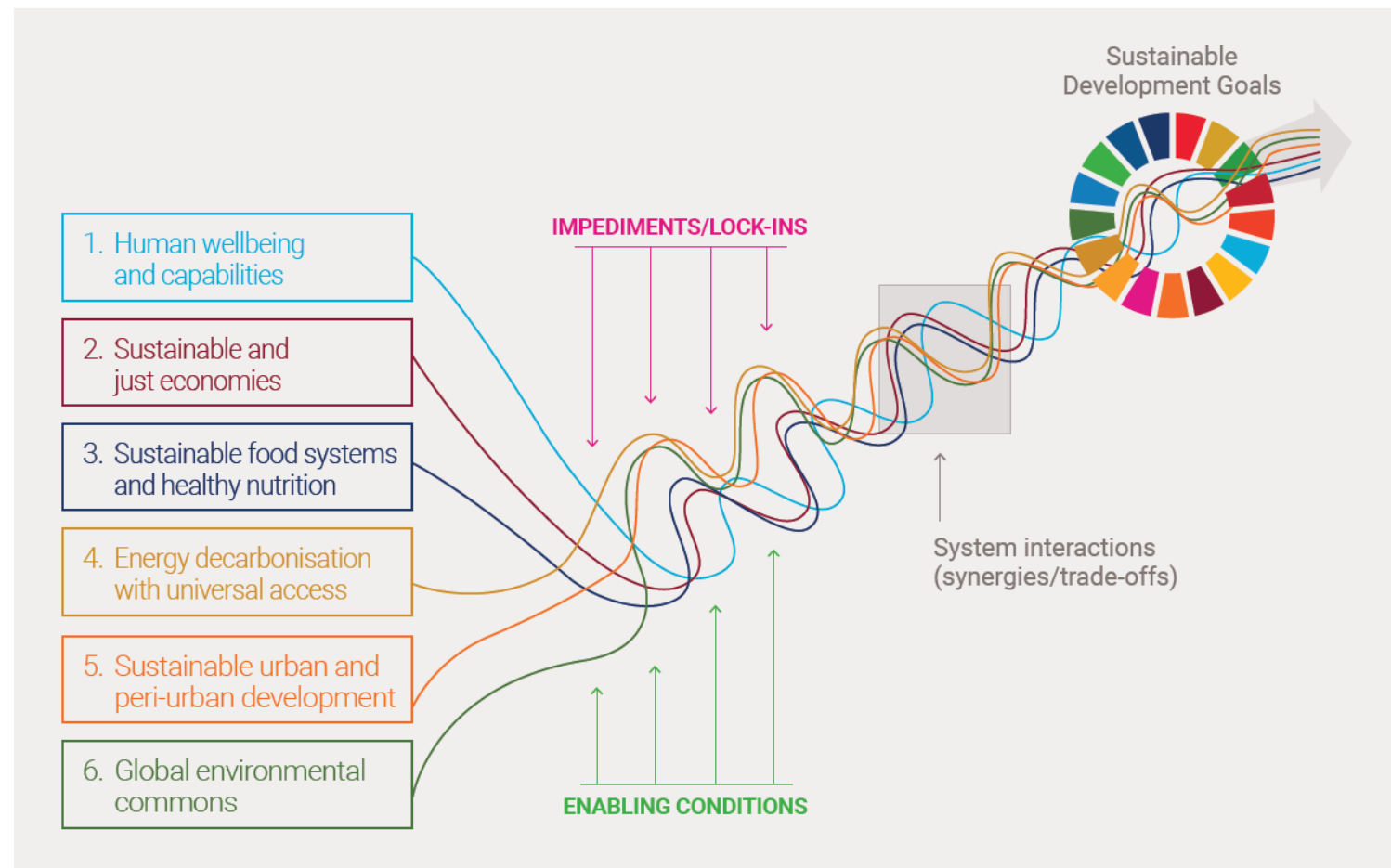

SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS

- Nurture innovation
- Give strategic direction
- Manage impediments

Capacities for integrated transformations

TRANSFORMATIONS ARE INTERLINKED ACROSS SYSTEMS – COHERENT ACTIONS CAN GENERATE SYNERGIES/MANAGE TRADE-OFFS

Sustainable Development Goals

1. Human wellbeing and capabilities
2. Sustainable and just economies
3. Sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition
4. Energy decarbonisation with universal access
5. Sustainable urban and peri-urban development
6. Global environmental commons

IMPEDIMENTS/LOCK-INS

System interactions (synergies/trade-offs)

ENABLING CONDITIONS

From a single "s-curve"

–

to integrated "SDG-curves"

4: Transformations Through Science

- "Science lies at the heart of sustainable development" -> GSDR 2019

- BUT we know a lot already, how can society – including scientists –speak more convincingly to government– to inspire bold decisions - to use the power of science and technology as an effective lever for starting, accelerating and stabilizing transformation.

- Transformations can be rooted in "socially robust" science.

- Socially-robust=
  - Production of scientific knowledge rooted in real-world application

  - Many Sources of Expertise

  - Extended peer communities to frame, exchange, and review knowledge to ensure quality (also a good offset fake news…)

Indigenous

Civil Society Org

University
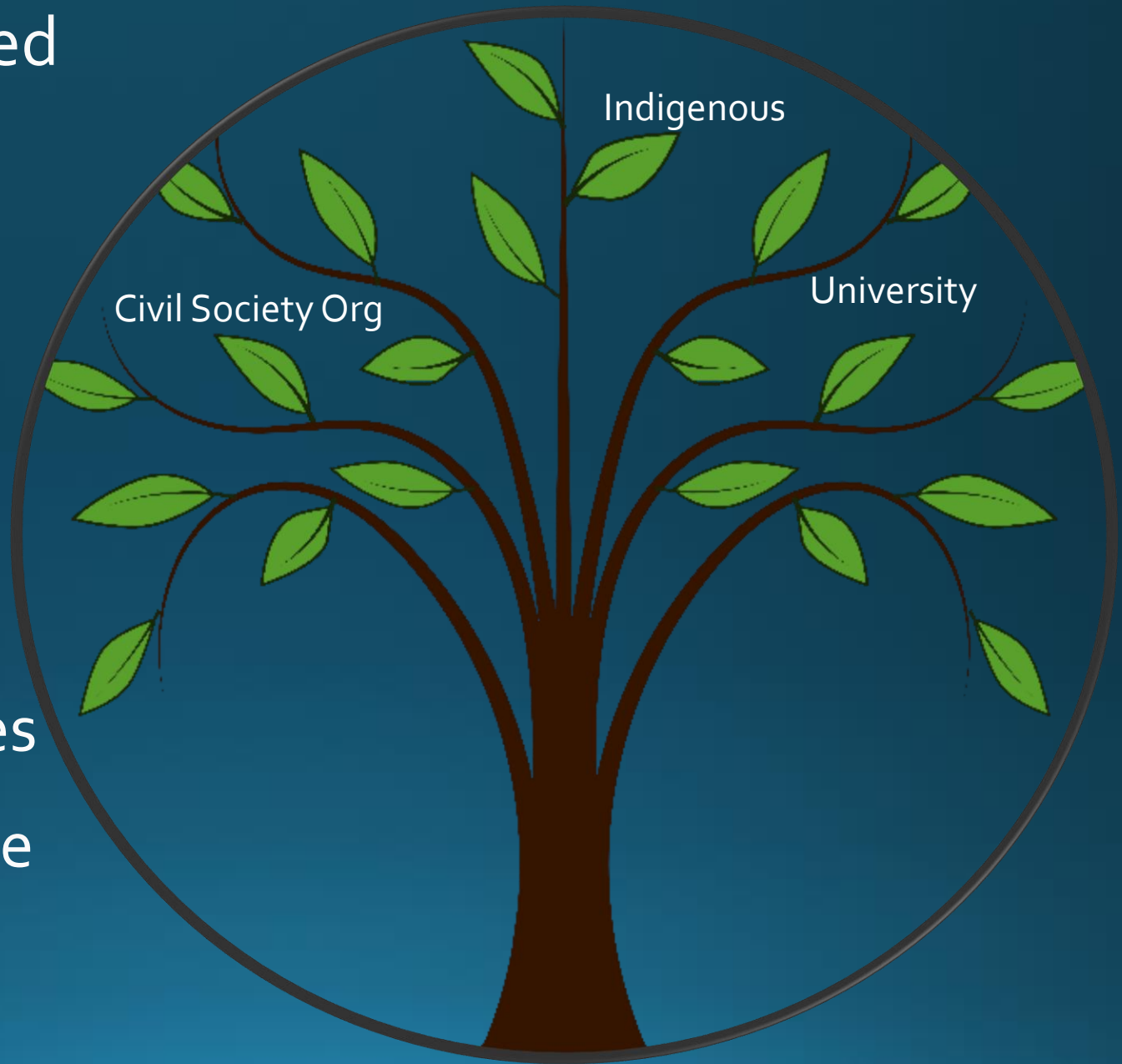
THE DYNAMICS OF SCIENCE PRODUCTION AND POLICY DECISION MAKING
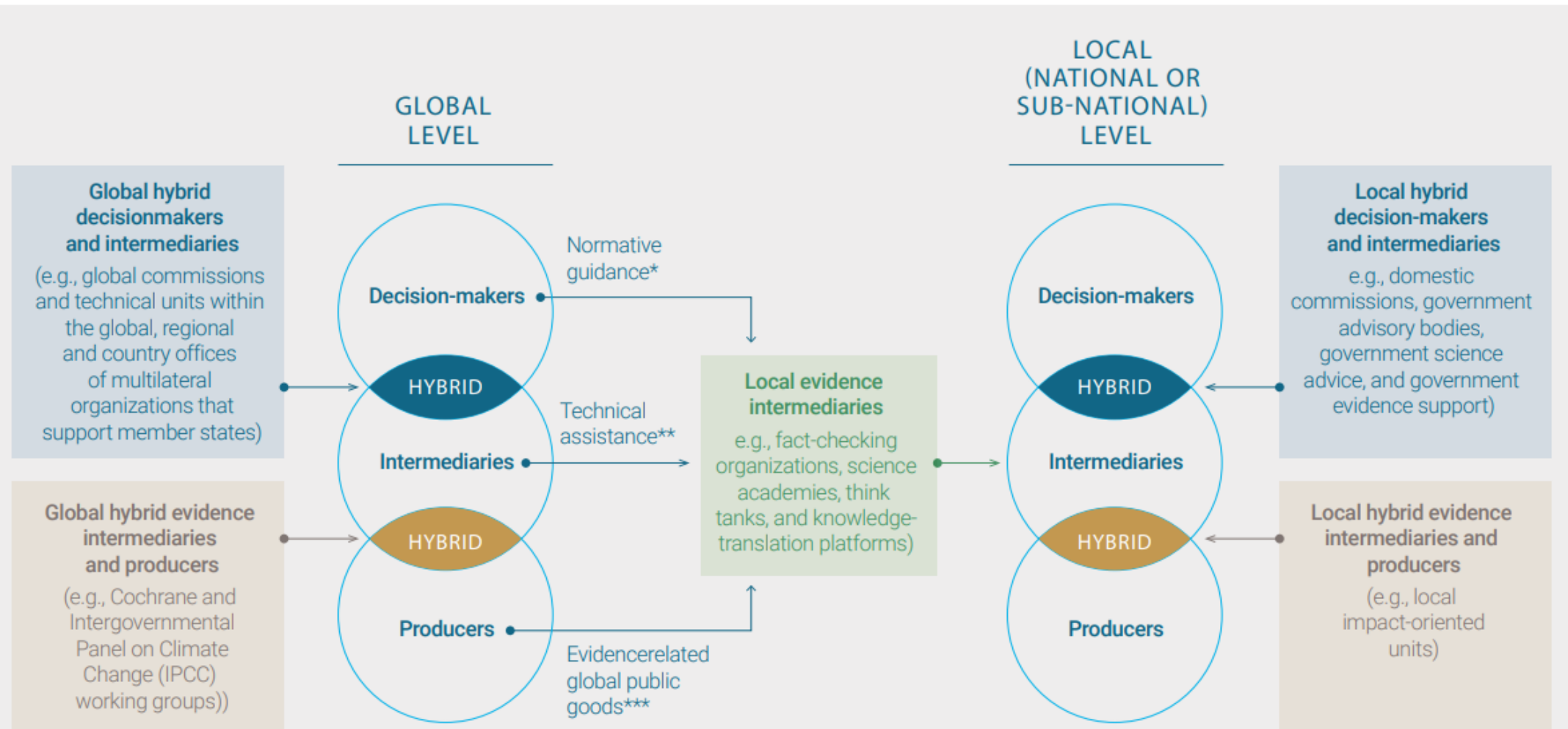
Goal: "Science-Policy-Society" Interface...and it's happening...

Building Knowledge Repositories

Home   Scope   Objectives   Global PPP   Events   English ⌄

Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure (IKRI):
A Tool to Support the Implementation of UN SDG's and 2030 Agendas

The Global Research and Knowledge Repository" initiative called "Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure (IKRI) aims to develop a global collaborative infrastructure using Public-Private-Partnership.

GROWING Networks
- Governmental Science Advice
- Improving SPI
- Improving Knowledge

...a few examples of growing capacity through networks

Addressing....Global imbalance in research and development

- GERD ~4X> in high income countries (most $ from private industry)

- The inequality=> impt questions not asked, important results not always equitably distributed.

- Inequality Excerbated by COVID19 Vaccine Production and COVID19 Vaccine Distribution

GROSS DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (GERD) IS CONCENTRATED IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES

● High ● Opper-middle ● Middle ● Lower-middle ● Low

GERD AS %GDP

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

GERD PER CAPITA ($PPP)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
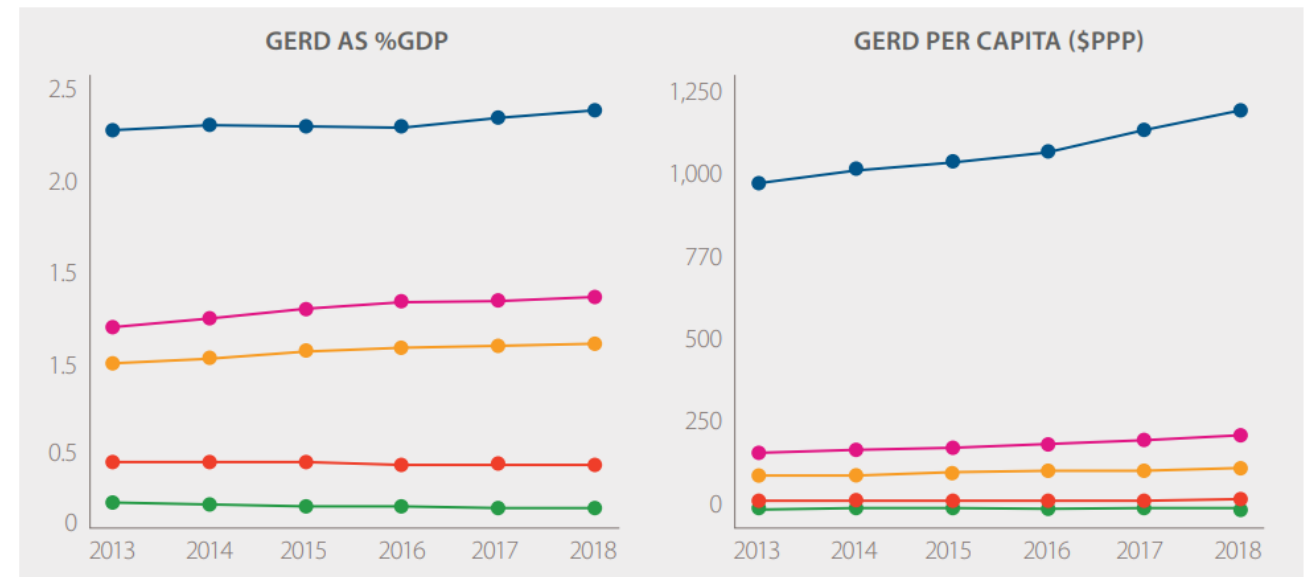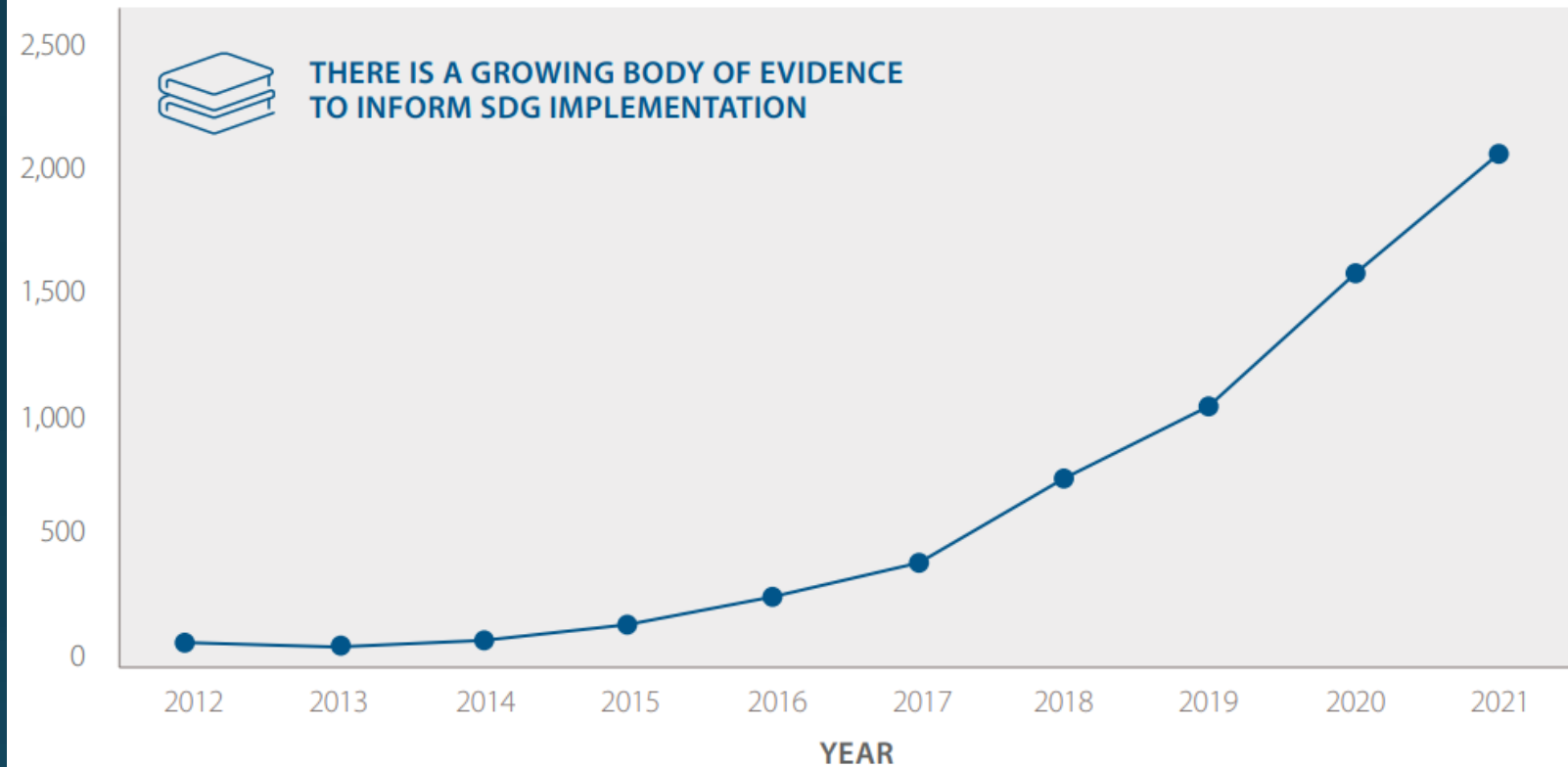
Growing SDG and Integrated Approach in literature
….Leads to More SDG Tools for Decision-Makers

UNDP integration platform: Tools for Coherent Implementation of SDGs

- …we see an emerging SCIENCE-POLICY-SOCIETY INTERFACE that leads to enhanced global cooperation and multilateralism

BUT progress depends on sharing knowledge openly and equitably

OPEN SCIENCE:

- A shift to open science can change how research is done, who is involved, and how it is valued.

- Mobilizing knowledge to influence public policy, the education system and public understanding.

OPEN SCIENCE

Outputs of research, metadata, should be freely accessible with no borders – geographical, temporal, social or cultural, ➔ expands use of science towards the attainment of the SDGs

Public interest groups, policymakers, industry and teachers should have access to all underlying scientific research including publications, data and software

Trust and Integrity

- States, media outlets and regulatory bodies should explore a GLOBAL CODE OF CONDUCT that promotes integrity in public information, facilitated by the United Nations

- Time to better manage and regulate the digital commons as a global public good

UN Secretary General, in *Our Common Agenda*
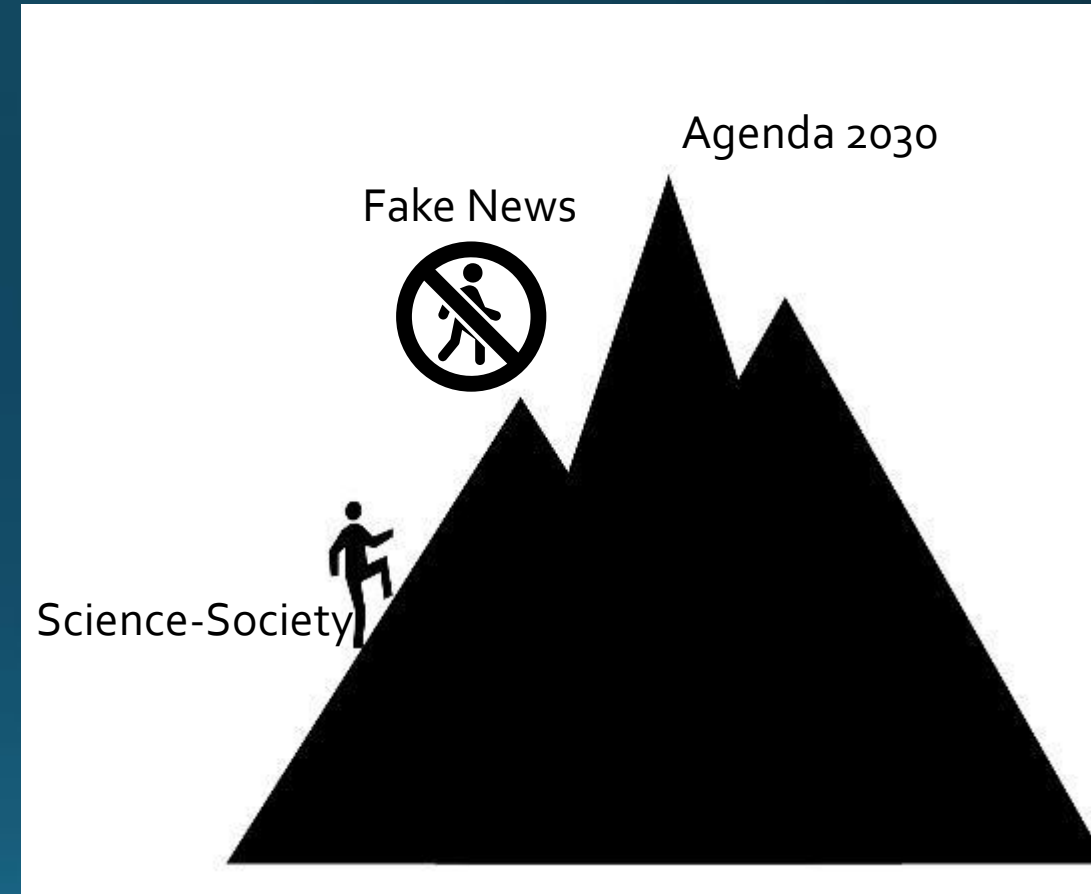
Socially robust science may bridge the gap between policy commitment and policy implementation

- IPCC is a well-developed global scientific process yet…we are not on track to stay "Below 1.5C"

- Broadening towards a Science-Policy-Society Interface can only help…..
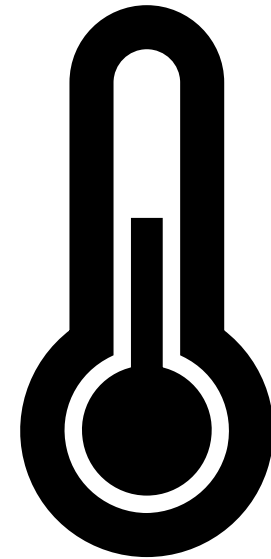
Target -Below 1.5C

Chapter 5: Calls to action for transformation

- Against the backdrop of the changes and shocks of the last few years, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a strong and valid agenda for a desirable future – for people, planet, and prosperity in peace.

- Making progress on the SDGs is an insurance/building resilient systems against new crises and shocks

Chapter 5: Call to Actions in 5 Themes

- ➢ Establish an SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Action by 2024
- ➢ How to Build Capacity of State and Non-state-holders
- ➢ How to use Levers in an integrated way to overcome impediments along the S-curve
- ➢ Identifying interventions (for each Entrypoint) that will capitalize on SDG synergies and minimize trade-offs and spillovers
- ➢ Identify measures to accelerate implementation.

… For today, we will focus on the First Call to Action theme.

➢ Establish an SDG Transformation Framework for Accelerated Action by 2024... to include components such as...

Set global priorities that guide national prioritisation of SDG action

Analysis of SDG interlinkages

ID Synergies, Bottlenecks and Multilateral commitments:
Minimize Environmental tradeoffs, transboundary spillovers

Identification of key interventions to achieve Multiple Goals

In Closing......

- Against the backdrop of the changes and shocks of the last few years, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a strong and valid agenda for a desirable future – for people, planet, and prosperity in peace.

- Making progress on the SDGs is an insurance/building resilient systems against new crises and shocks
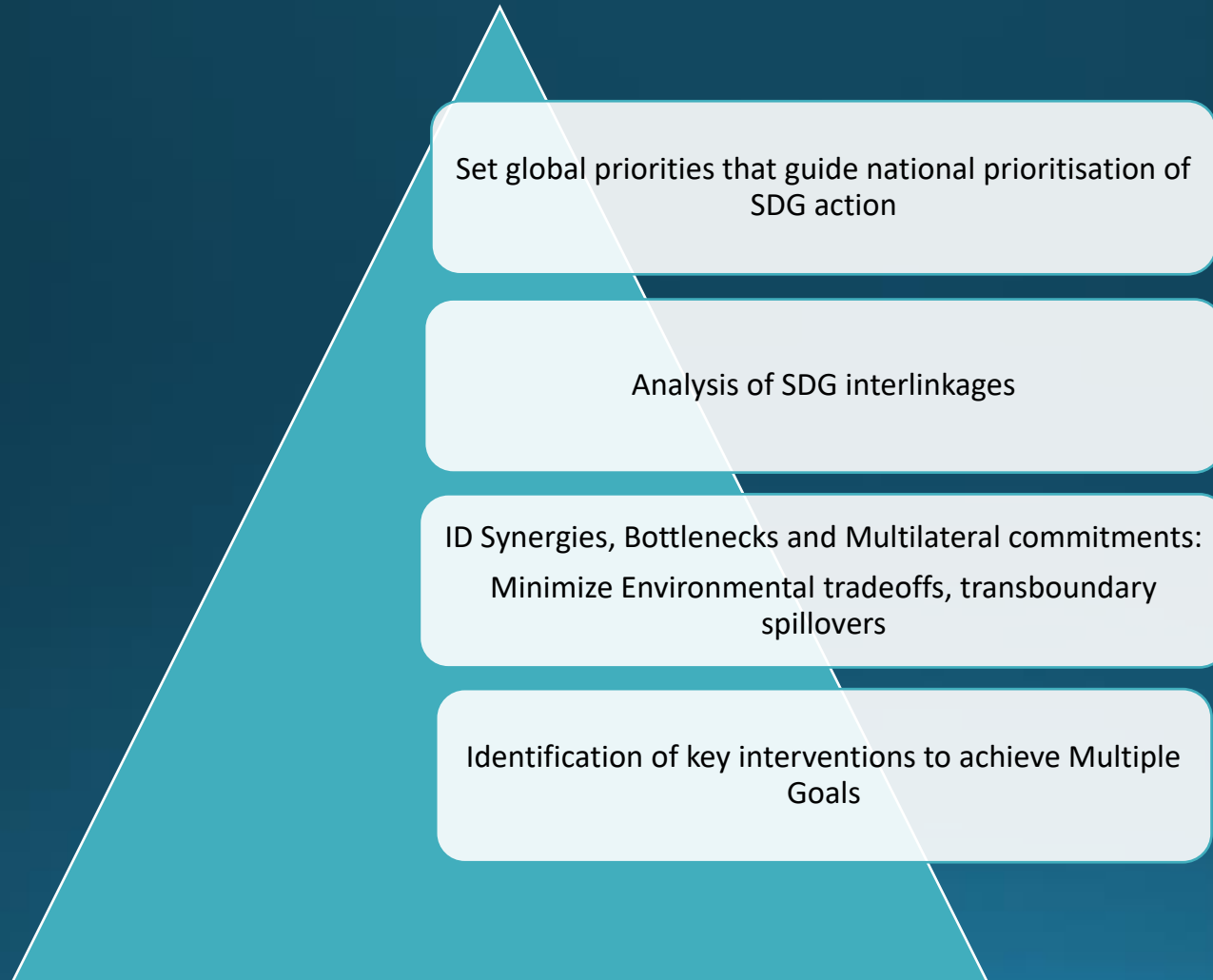
Thank you

Universal social protection is possible….. It was boosted by crises

- Social protection is the set of policies and programmes designed to 'reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle'.

- This includes health protection along with benefits for children and families, maternity, unemployment, and employment injury, as well as for sickness, old age, and disability. National social protection systems address some or all these areas through a mix of contributory schemes, social insurance, and non-contributory tax-financed benefits, including social assistance.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments acted quickly to protect their citizens. According to the World Bank, during the pandemic, 203 countries increased their coverage. BUT it proved difficult to reach informal workers in for e.g. Latin America

- Social protection enables just transitions to low-carbon economies

POTENTIAL FOR MEETING SDGs BY 2030 BASED ON TRENDS IN SELECT TARGETS

DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT
- Substantial progress/on track
- Fair progress but acceleration needed
- Limited or no progress
- Deterioration

GOAL AND TARGET FOR 2030

5. TARGET MET OR ALMOST MET
4. CLOSE TO TARGET
3. MODERATE DISTANCE TO TARGET
2. FAR FROM TARGET
1. VERY FAR FROM TARGET

DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT

Goal 1 | End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere
- Achieve substantial social protection coverage

Goal 2 | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- By 2030, achieve a 50 per cent reduction from 2012 in the number of stunted children under 5 years

Goal 3 | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Increase the coverage of births attended by skilled health personnel
- Reduce under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- End the epidemic of malaria
- Increase diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine coverage among 1-year-olds

Goal 4 | Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all
- Ensure all girls and boys complete primary education

Goal 5 | Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Eliminate child marriage
- Ensure women's full participation and equal opportunities in national parliaments

Goal 6 | Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Achieve universal access to safely managed drinking water services
- Achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation services

Goal 7 | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Achieve universal access to electricity
- Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Goal 8 | Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Sustain per capita economic growth
- Achieve full employment

Goal 9 | Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Significantly raise industry's share of GDP
- Substantially increase the expenditure for scientific research and development as a proportion of GDP
- Increase access to mobile networks

Goal 10 | Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Reduce inequality within countries

Goal 11 | Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Reduce the proportion of urban population living in slums

Goal 12 | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Reduce the domestic material consumption per unit of GDP
- Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP

Goal 13 | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions

Goal 14 | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Increase the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
- Increase the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine Key Biodiversity Areas

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 terrestrial ecosystems
- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems
- By 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

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
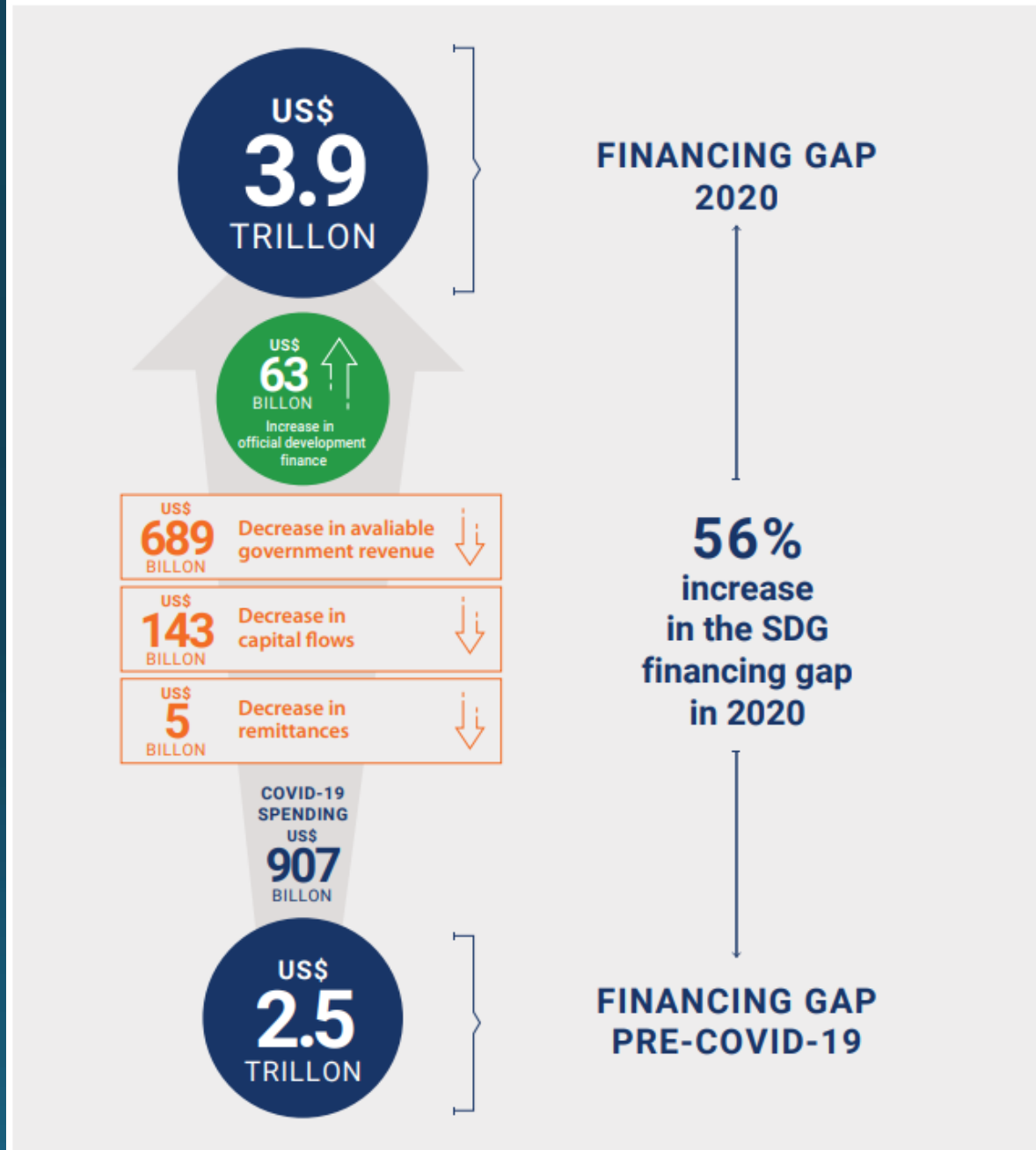- Significantly reduce homicide rates
- Reduce the proportion of unsentenced detainees
- Increase the proportion of countries with independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

Goal 17 | Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
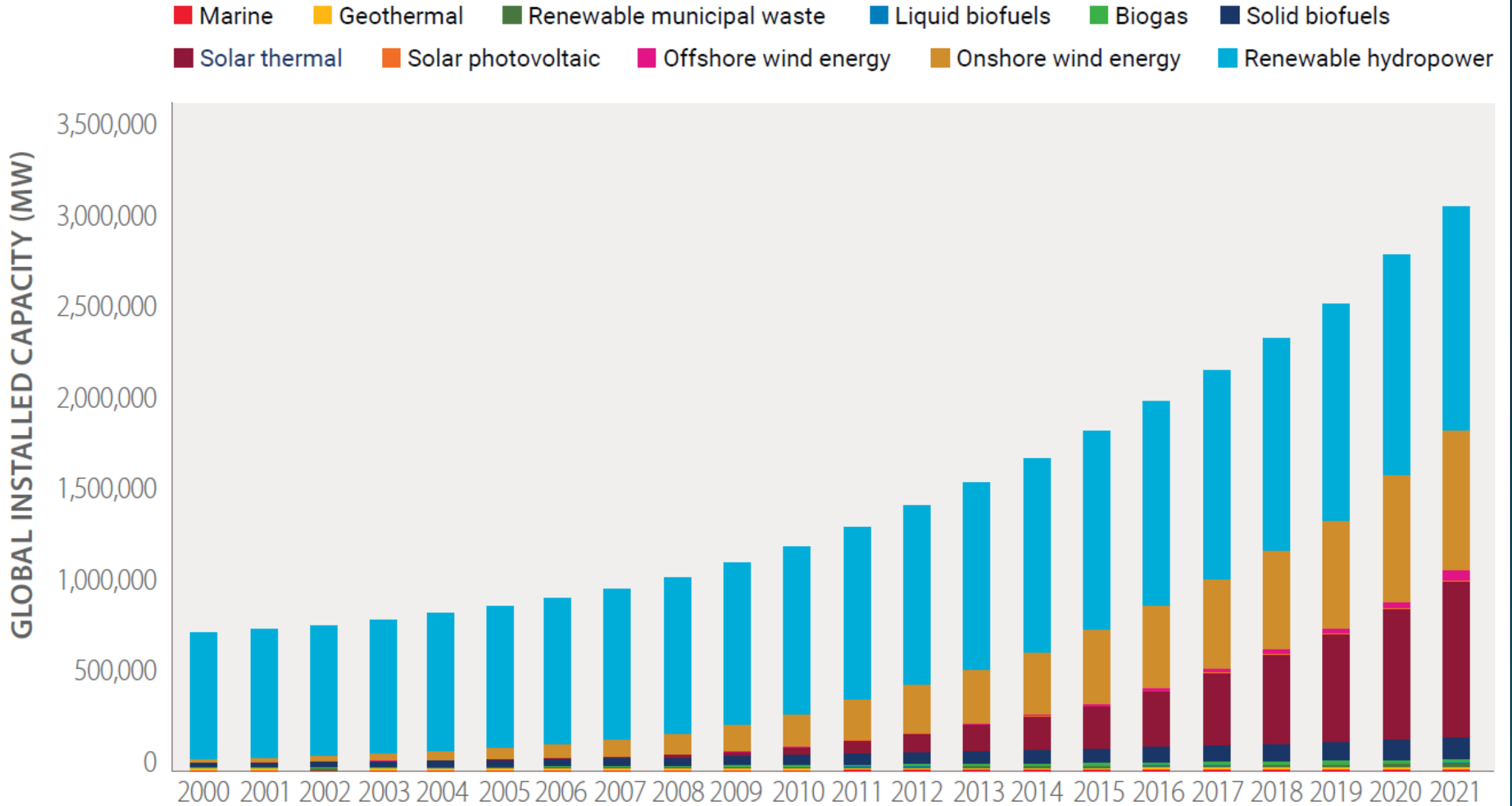- Ensure full implementation of the net official development assistance disbursements by donor countries
- Enhance access to technology by increasing internet use
- Increase proportion of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded

THE SDG FINANCING GAP IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCREASED BY AT LEAST 56% IN 2020

US$ 3.9 TRILLON

US$ 63 BILLON
Increase in official development finance

US$ 689 BILLON — Decrease in avaliable government revenue

US$ 143 BILLON — Decrease in capital flows

US$ 5 BILLON — Decrease in remittances

COVID-19 SPENDING US$ 907 BILLON

US$ 2.5 TRILLON

FINANCING GAP 2020

56% increase in the SDG financing gap in 2020

FINANCING GAP PRE-COVID-19

ACCELERATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, 2000-2021

Legend: ■ Marine ■ Geothermal ■ Renewable municipal waste ■ Liquid biofuels ■ Biogas ■ Solid biofuels ■ Solar thermal ■ Solar photovoltaic ■ Offshore wind energy ■ Onshore wind energy ■ Renewable hydropower

Stacked bar chart of GLOBAL INSTALLED CAPACITY (MW) from 2000 to 2021, with y-axis from 0 to 3,500,000.

SEQUENCED INTERVENTIONS FOR HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS – REACHING THE TIPPING POINT
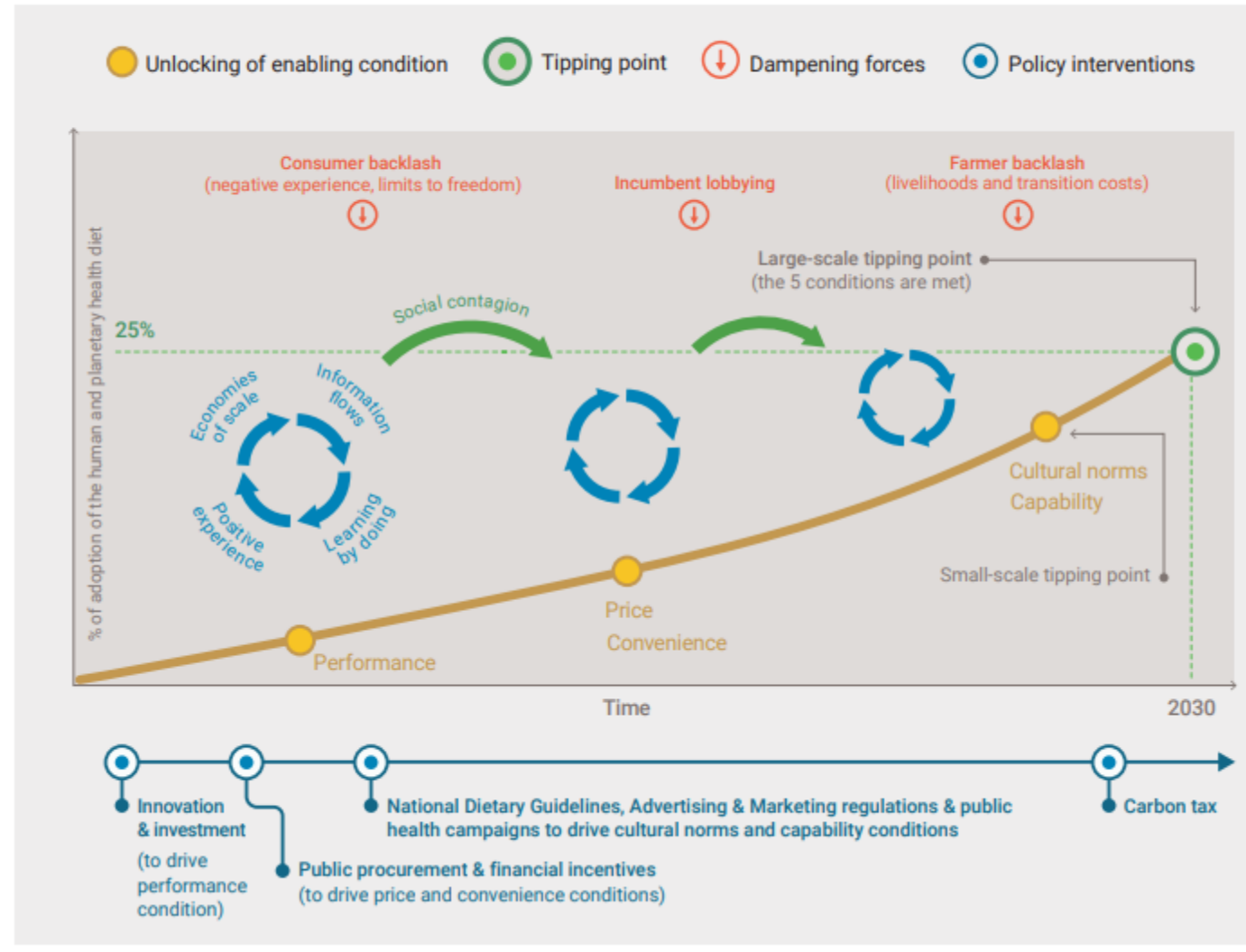
SCENARIOS OF IMPACTS OF CONFLICT ON SDGS IN YEMEN
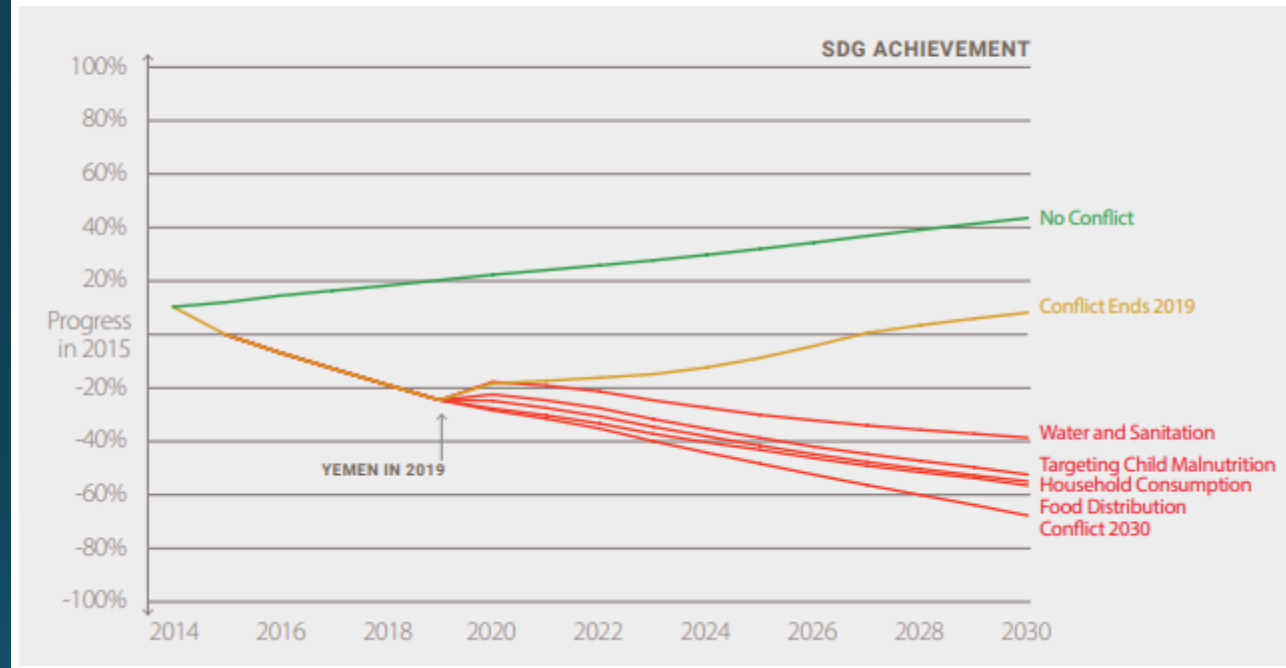
THE TRANSITION TO UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

ABSENCE OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION
- Out-of-pocket
- spending for
- health care

INTERMEDIATE STAGES OF COVERAGE
- Mixes of community
- Cooperative and enterprise – based
- health insurance, other private health
- insurance, SHI-type coverage for specific
- groups and tax-based financing

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE
- Tax -based financing
- Social health insurance
- Mix of tax-based financing
- and various types of
- health insurance