

**SDG SUMMIT 2023**  
**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**18-19 SEPTEMBER 2023, NEW YORK**  
**Concept Note and Programme Outline**

*Background*

Globally, cascading and interlinked crises are exacerbating long-standing challenges to sustainable development and placing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in peril. The confluence of crises, dominated by the effects of COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts, have created severe impacts on poverty, food and nutrition, health, education, the global economy, the environment, social cohesion and peace and security.

Urgent and ambitious action is needed to rescue the SDGs and deliver progress for people and the planet by 2030. According to the 2023 Special Edition of the SDG Progress Report, a preliminary assessment of the approximately 140 targets with data shows that only about 12 per cent are on track; close to half, though showing progress, are moderately or severely off track; and some 30 per cent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline.

The President of the United Nations General Assembly will convene Heads of State and Government for the 2023 SDG Summit on Monday, 18 September and Tuesday, 19 September 2023. The Summit marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a crucial opportunity to change course.

The SDG Summit is the central UN platform for Heads of State and Government to provide political leadership on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. It will provide high-level political guidance on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation. The Summit will be the centerpiece of the UN's work in 2023 and of the General Assembly's high-level week this September.

*Objectives and expected outcomes*

Through the Summit, countries, both individually and collectively, have an opportunity to place the world on a sustainable development path. The international community can seize this opportunity to make significant transformations for integrated SDG implementation and how societies produce, consume and share benefits and risks, while leaving no one behind.

The Summit is envisaged to be forward-looking, action-oriented and to accelerate international action to improve people's lives, reinvigorating the sense of hope, optimism and enthusiasm that characterized the adoption of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. It is expected to adopt a concise, action-oriented political declaration as its outcome document.

The Secretary-General has urged world leaders to deliver a Rescue Plan for People and Planet at the SDG Summit through deliverables three areas. First, he requested countries to deliver global commitments to the SDGs, including through an SDG Stimulus by massively scaling up financing and other measures, such as debt relief. Second, he urged world leaders to convey a National Commitment to SDG Transformation. This could include clear benchmarks to reduce domestic poverty and inequality levels by 2027 and 2030, in tandem with nationally determined climate contributions. And third, all countries are urged to fully engage their domestic constituencies, particularly civil society and the private sector, in their Summit preparations.

The SDG Summit will also be followed by the Summit of the Future in 2024, which will build upon the Summit to fill gaps, and address new challenges.

#### *Programme overview*

The opening of the Summit will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations Secretary-General, and the President of the Economic and Social Council. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290, there shall be "a concise negotiated political declaration to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly". The political declaration will be ceremoniously adopted by Heads of State and Government during the opening of the Summit.

The opening will be followed by parallel Leaders' Dialogues to give Heads of State and Government and key SDG partners the opportunity to set out commitments to SDG transformation and discuss themes crucial to accelerating implementation.

Each Leaders' Dialogue will be co-moderated by two Member States at the level of Head of State and Government. Participating States will intervene on the specific theme of the Leaders' Dialogue to share political guidance and recommendations on implementation based on national experiences. The Dialogues will also feature interventions from selected representatives of the UN system or intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society and academia.

**SDG SUMMIT 2023**  
**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**18-19 SEPTEMBER 2023, NEW YORK**  
**Draft Programme**

**Monday, 18 September**

09.00-10.00 am

**Opening (GA Hall)**

Opening and welcome remarks

- President of the General Assembly (*5 minutes*)
- Secretary-General (*5 minutes*)
- President of ECOSOC (*5 minutes*)

Adoption of the Political Declaration

- Statements by Co-facilitators for the Political Declaration (*3 minutes each*)

Setting the stage: What has been done, where we lag behind, and what needs to be done

- Moderated leaders' discussion (*approximately 35 minutes*)

Statement by youth representative (*3 minutes*)

**Parallel meetings – Leaders' Dialogues**

10:15 – 11:45 am

Dialogue 1 A: **“Scaling up actions on key transitions to accelerate SDG progress”**

Dialogue 1 B: **“Scaling up actions on key transitions to accelerate SDG progress”**

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Dialogue 2A: **“Building resilience and leaving no one behind”**

Dialogue 2B: **“Building resilience and leaving no one behind”**

*Break*

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | <p>Dialogue 3A: <b>“‘Game-changers’: Applying science, technology, innovation and data for transformative action”</b></p> <p>Dialogue 3B: <b>“‘Game-changers’: Applying science, technology, innovation and data for transformative action”</b></p> |
| 4:45 – 6:15 pm | <p>Dialogue 4A: <b>“Strengthening integrated policies and public institutions for achieving the SDGs”</b></p> <p>Dialogue 4B: <b>“Strengthening integrated policies and public institutions for achieving the SDGs”</b></p>                         |

## **Tuesday, 19 September**

### **Leaders’ Dialogues continued**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 – 4:25 pm | Dialogue 5: <b>“Unity and Solidarity: Strengthening the multilateral system for enhanced support, cooperation, follow-up and review”</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4:45 – 6:15 pm | Dialogue 6: <b>“Mobilizing finance and investments and the means of implementation for SDG achievement”</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 6:30 – 7:00 pm | <p><b>Closing of SDG Summit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back from Leaders’ Dialogues and other Summit components</li> <li>• Closing remarks by the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secretary-General (5 minutes)</li> <li>○ President of the General Assembly (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |