



**BOOSTING PARTNERSHIPS AND
MULTISTAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Galvanizing ownership and maximizing the support of key stakeholders for the SDGs

UN DESA created spaces alongside intergovernmental meetings for key sectors and stakeholder groups to galvanize their ownership, support and commitments to the 2030 Agenda. For example, the Department worked with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to organize the SDG Action Weekend ahead of the 2023 SDG Summit, which brought more than 6,000 participants to UN Headquarters. The SDG Mobilization Day on 16 September showcased how youth, women, science and academia, local and regional governments, civil society, the private sector, major groups and other stakeholders are contributing to the SDGs. The SDG Acceleration Day on 17 September centred around three special sessions and the UN-led High Impact Initiatives, such as Energy Compacts, FutureGov, SDG Stimulus and Power of Data. UN DESA also supported the commitments made by governments through the SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform.

Harnessing the power of partnerships to accelerate SDG implementation

UN DESA continued to galvanize partnerships between Member States and all other key stakeholders for sustainable development, as the Secretariat for the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. The Forum demonstrated how innovative partnerships could be scaled up to drive the implementation of SDGs under review in 2024, leveraging learnings from the High Impact Initiatives. It featured a set of SDG Action Segments organized by key partners from the UN system working in collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders.

The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator Initiative led by the Department continued to support effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs – offering training and advisory services for stronger collaboration across sectors to Member States, UN entities, and stakeholders. Through the Partnership Accelerator, UN DESA established the Mexico Network of Partnerships for Local Action, collectively developed by various stakeholders dedicated to realizing the SDGs through



Participants at the SIDS Partnership Symposium, February 2024, Bangkok, Thailand. | UN ESCAP

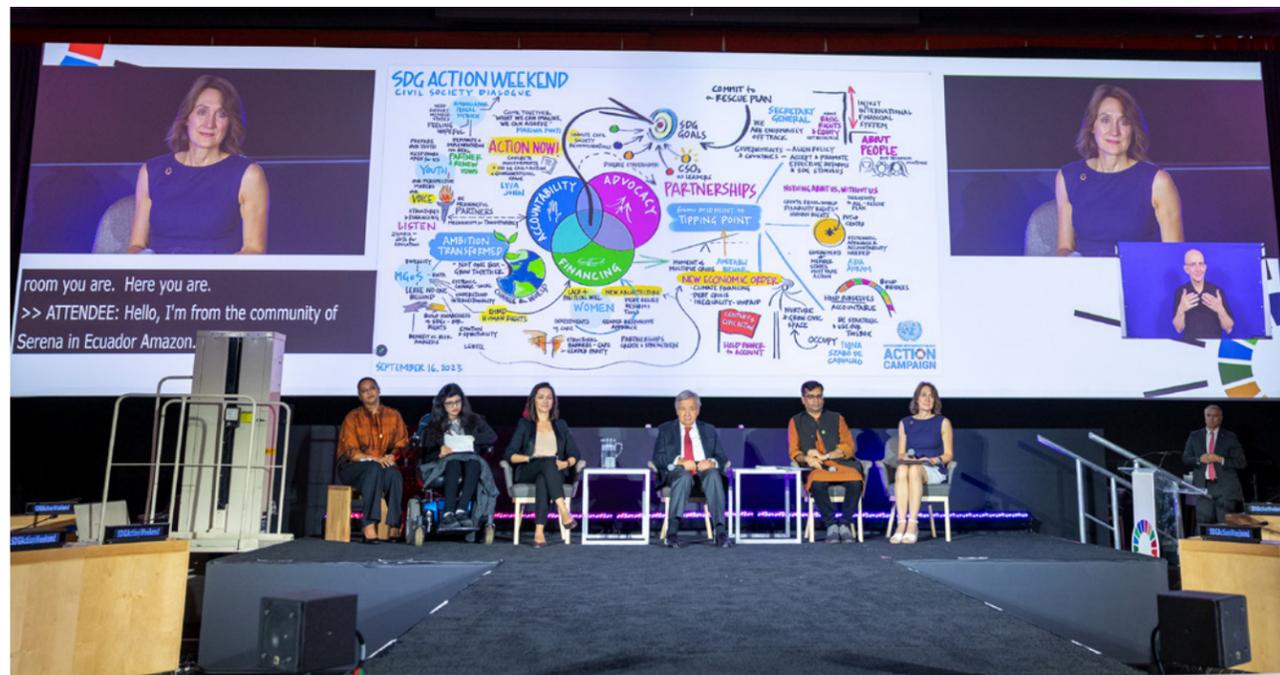
strengthened partnerships and local approaches. A comprehensive national partnership landscape assessment for Moldova was conducted, analysing challenges and opportunities to accelerate SDG implementation through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Department also collaborated with Partnerships2030 and the Global Forum on National SDG Advisory Bodies to raise awareness and develop enabling factors for multi-stakeholder partnerships through the SDG Partnership Symposium and the launch of the Unite to Ignite report.

UN DESA also further strengthened partnerships in support of SIDS development priorities, by organizing the

SIDS Partnership Symposium, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The symposium – held during the 2024 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development – gathered insights from SIDS stakeholders, explored ways to enhance partnerships on key SIDS priorities, and fostered peer learning for effective collaborations. In addition, the Department supported the organization of the “Partnering for the Planet” online course by St. George’s University, which engaged 468 participants from 74 countries to build capacity and demonstrate partnership principles for SDG support. The course covered modules on partnership approaches, including those related to health and climate adaptation.

Bringing business voices and impacts closer to intergovernmental deliberations

Building on collaborative relationships with major private sector umbrella organizations, UN DESA carved out spaces alongside important intergovernmental gatherings to shine a spotlight on the impact of the business



Secretary-General António Guterres (centre right) participates in the SDG Action Weekend Civil Society Dialogue at UN Headquarters in New York, in September 2023. | UN PHOTO/PAULO FILGUEIRAS



Bolaji Balogun, CEO of Chapel Hill Denham (centre left), Maria Fernanda Garza, Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (centre right), and Fabio Barbosa, CEO of Natura (far right), discussing leveraging points to accelerate SDG investments during the 2023 Private Sector Forum, in New York. | UN GLOBAL COMPACT

sector on SDG implementation. The Department collaborated with UN Global Compact and the International Chamber of Commerce on the 2023 Private Sector Forum, bringing together leading CEOs, investors, Heads of State and Government, senior UN leadership and civil society representatives for interactive discussion and to build alliances to turbocharge SDG implementation. UN DESA also continued to collaborate with International Organisation of Employers, World Business Council of Sustainable Development, and UN Global Compact to bring the annual SDG Global Business Forum to the special events programme of the High-level Political Forum in July. Considering the goals under in-depth review, the 2024 SDG Business Forum placed special emphasis on a just transition, poverty eradication and the future of work, as well as the corporate governance aspects of food systems transformation.

continued to deliver data, analysis and monitoring tools to inform the latest SDG progress, enabling policymakers and stakeholders to identify areas for targeted policy interventions.

In June 2024, UN DESA launched the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*, detailing the significant challenges the world is facing in making substantial strides towards achieving the SDGs based on the latest data and estimates. It features areas with setbacks while also showcasing where tangible progress has been made, for instance, in reducing global child mortality, preventing HIV infection, and access to energy and mobile broadband. The report also highlights where action must accelerate, particularly in critical areas undermining SDG progress – climate change, peace and security, and inequalities among and between countries.

Considerable progress has been made in improving internationally comparable data for SDG monitoring. In 2016, when the global indicator framework for the Goals and associated targets was initially adopted, only about one-third of indicators had good data coverage (that is, data were available for more than 50 per cent of countries), and 39 per cent of the indicators lacked internationally established methodologies or standards. As of June 2024, 68 per cent of indicators have good data coverage. Since 2020, all 231 indicators have had well-established and internationally agreed methodologies. Reliable trend data are available for 51 per cent of the indicators (at least two data points since 2015) in more than half of all countries.



Introducing the new UN Data Platform

The new UN Data Platform signifies a pivotal advancement in leveraging data for global progress. A collaborative effort between UN DESA and Google's Data Commons, it empowers policymakers, researchers, and the public, leveraging cutting-edge technology to provide easy access to authoritative data and information across the UN system. The Platform directly responds to the Secretary-General's Data Strategy and is informed by the Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics. Serving as a centralized hub for accessing official data and statistics collected by the entire UN system, this transformative initiative underscores the UN commitment to data-driven solutions. To showcase the Platform, UN DESA organized the UN 2.0 Week side event "Bringing Together UN System Data in One Place: Introducing the New UN Data Platform" in April 2024. The first phase of the project, "UN Data Commons for the SDGs," was launched at the 2023 SDG Summit and the UN Data Platform has since expanded to include WHO data, with plans for further integration of data across the UN system.

As the central coordinator of the global SDG indicator framework and monitoring process, UN DESA



Growth in the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians

In 2023, the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians – launched by UN DESA in October 2020 – grew to more than 3,100 members from over 180 countries and territories. The network provides capacity-building and encourages collaboration among peers and organizations working in different areas of statistics, data, and geospatial information. Since its launch, it has played a key role in improving the coordination within and among national statistical systems, United Nations country teams, and international and regional

organizations. 50 per cent of the network's members come from national statistical offices and governments, and 41 per cent from the UN System and other international organizations. During 2023, 15 Global Network webinars were organized on the platform, attracting 1,870 participants worldwide. Currently, there are 18 active topic-specific groups, with six new groups created during 2023.



Showcasing solutions and collaborations on climate and SDG synergy

The groundbreaking *First Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies* was launched in September 2023 by UN DESA and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report was prepared by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy – 14 renowned experts from diverse thematic and geographic backgrounds – and serves as a valuable tool for policymakers to advance synergies between climate action and the SDGs. Building on the findings of the first global report, a new 2024 edition was

launched during a special event at the HLPF in July 2024. This new report provides a roadmap for policymakers with concrete recommendations on realizing synergistic climate and SDG actions on the ground.

To accelerate action and build new partnerships, UN DESA hosted its fifth SDG Pavilion during COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Organized in collaboration with UNFCCC and DGC, this space hosted more than 80 panel discussions and fireside chats by more than 120 multi-stakeholder partners, including UN entities, Member States, academia, and youth groups. The Pavilion inauguration was attended by Dennis Francis, President of General Assembly; Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; and Daniele Violetti, Senior Director for Programmes Coordination at UNFCCC; and concluded with a heartfelt call to action from young representatives.

UN DESA also emphasized the importance of linking the climate and SDG agendas in various intergovernmental initiatives. In March 2024, the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 13 was co-convened by UN DESA and UNFCCC in Tokyo, hosted by the Ministry of the



Speakers discuss primary forests at the "Climate & Canopy: Amplifying Action for SDG 13 & 15 through Primary Forest Conservation" event at the SDG Pavilion. | UN DESA

Environment of Japan. More than 60 experts gathered to examine progress and contribute to the SDG 13 thematic review during the HLPF in July. UN DESA, with the UNFCCC, also hosted a side event during the 60th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn, Germany, in June, launching four thematic reports that inform the final 2024 edition of the Global Synergy Report. Meanwhile, UN DESA continued to support preparations for the Summit of the Future, COP29, and COP30, driving action and collaboration for the SDGs and addressing climate-related challenges. To build momentum for these upcoming events, UN DESA and UNFCCC organized the fifth Global Conference on Synergizing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, in September 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

of stakeholders to explore how the report could mobilize SDG acceleration in different regions and national contexts through a series of regional launches and operationalization workshops held in the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Brazil. The workshops strengthened the science-policy-society interface in support of science-based transitions towards the SDGs.



Accelerating forest-based climate actions for sustainable development

At COP28 in November 2023, UN DESA focused attention on forests through a series of high-impact events. These events brought together senior officials of Member States, heads and principals of member organizations from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and other stakeholders in support of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its Global Forest Goals, the SDGs, and the Paris Agreement. They highlighted the opportunities of the declaration of the Second Summit of the Three Basins, and the Belem Declaration, stressing the importance to accelerate forest-based climate actions, particularly through increasing forest finance and capacity-building for developing countries.



Strengthening the science-policy interface through GSDR dissemination

Building on the launch of the 2023 quadrennial *Global Sustainable Development Report* (GSDR) written by the Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, UN DESA brought together a wide range



Advancing the SDGs through evidence-based research and analysis

Convened by UN DESA, the UN Economist Network (UNEN) conducted research and organized events to assist Member States in shaping policies relevant to the SDGs. Throughout the year, UNEN prepared and disseminated policy research on the informal economy, taxation, and migration, presenting evidence-based actions to help accelerate the SDGs. UNEN organized a virtual HLPF side-event on the topic of “How can economists in UN system address the most pressing

challenges of the day?”. The event was chaired by Assistant Secretary-General Navid Hanif, with a keynote address by Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, and member of the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs (HLAB). UNEN also examined ways to strengthen strategic engagements between the UN and international financial institutions at the country level. The network facilitates collaboration among UN system experts on issues relevant to sustainable development, fostering a cross-cutting approach to actionable research and policy analysis.



Panellists discuss ways to halt and reverse deforestation at a high-level dialogue at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. | UN DESA