

Shaping a new era for our globe: Sustainable Development Goals (sdgs) of United Nations

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The United Nations, founded in 1945, is currently made up of 193 Member States, and its work is guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.¹ The UN's evolution has mirrored the rapid changes in our world over time. The present worldwide scenario of sluggish economic expansion, social disparities, and environmental deterioration poses unparalleled challenges for the international community. We stand amidst an era of transformation: persisting with past patterns of production, energy, and consumption is no longer feasible.² To meet these challenges, in 2015, Seventeen interconnected goals, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formulated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as an integral component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to act as a mutual strategy guiding peace and prosperity for both humanity and the planet, spanning the present and the future (Figure 1).³



Figure1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations⁴

This agenda aimed to craft a new global development framework, supplanting the Millennium Development Goals, which completed in 2015. These goals were officially outlined and embraced in a UNGA resolution recognized as the 2030 Agenda (Agenda 2030). The UNGA resolution made more operationalized the SDGs by outlining precise targets for every goal and establishing indicators for tracking progress. While the majority of these targets aim for fulfillment by 2030. The core of the SDGs lies in prioritizing sustainability, highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic dimensions within sustainable development (Figure 2).⁵

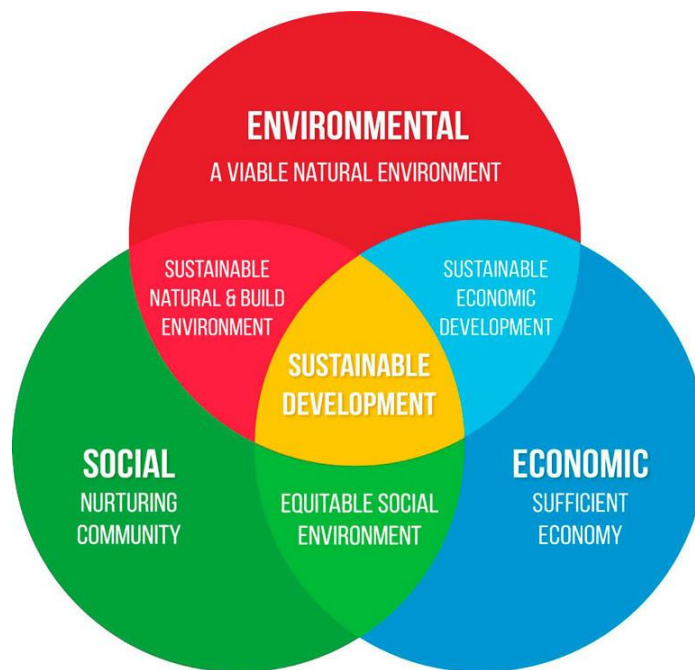


Figure 2. Representation of the balance our economic, environmental and social needs by sustainable developments⁶

The list of 17 SDGs with their targets⁷

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere-This goal has five targets, which are eradicating extreme poverty, halving overall poverty rates, establishing social protection systems, guaranteeing equitable rights to ownership, basic services, technology, and economic resources, as well as fostering resilience against environmental, economic, and social disasters by 2030.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture- The five objective targets encompass: terminating hunger and enhancing food accessibility; eradicating all types of malnutrition; bolstering agricultural

productivity; establishing sustainable food production systems and robust agricultural practices; and promoting the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed, and domesticated animals through investments, research, and technology.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages- The nine targets of goal 3 are Lowering maternal mortality rates, eliminating all avoidable deaths in children under five years old, combatting communicable diseases, decreasing mortality linked to non-communicable diseases and advocating mental health, preventing and addressing substance abuse, diminishing injuries and fatalities from road accidents, ensuring widespread access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, family planning, and education, attaining comprehensive health coverage for all, reducing diseases and fatalities caused by hazardous chemicals and pollution, executing the WHO framework convention on tobacco control, backing research, development, and global access to affordable vaccines and medications, amplifying health financing and supporting healthcare workers in developing nations and enhancing early warning systems for global health threats

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning- The seven objectives encompass: accessible primary and secondary education without cost barriers; equitable access to high-quality pre-primary education; affordable technical, vocational, and higher education; a rise in individuals equipped with pertinent skills for financial prosperity; eradication of all forms of discrimination in education; universal attainment of literacy and numeracy; and education geared towards sustainable development and fostering global citizenship.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls- The different targets include eradicating all types of discrimination against women and girls globally, putting an end to violence and exploitation faced by women and girls, eliminating harmful practices including child, early, and forced marriages, as well as female genital mutilation, elevating the recognition of unpaid care work and encouraging shared domestic responsibilities, guaranteeing complete involvement of women in leadership roles and decision-making processes, ensuring universal access to reproductive rights and healthcare for all.

Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all- The six objectives encompass: Ensuring safe and cost-effective drinking water, eradicating open defecation and ensuring access to sanitation and hygiene, enhancing water quality, wastewater treatment, and safe reuse practices, boosting water-use efficiency and guaranteeing freshwater resources, enacting Integrated

Water Resources Management (IWRM), and safeguarding and rejuvenating water-related ecosystems.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all- There are five targets set for achievement by 2030 within this goal.[53] Monitoring progress toward these targets involves assessing six indicators.[53] Among these targets, three are outcome-oriented: Ensuring universal access to modern energy, elevating the global proportion of renewable energy sources, and doubling the advancement in energy efficiency.

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all- The different targets for SDG 8 are: sustainable economic growth; diversification, innovation, and enhancement of economic productivity, advocacy for policies fostering job creation and expanding enterprises, enhancement of resource efficiency in consumption and production, achieving full employment and securing equitable wages, fostering youth employment, education, and training, eradication of modern slavery, trafficking, and child labor, upholding labor rights and ensuring safe work environments, encouraging beneficial and sustainable tourism and ensuring universal access to banking, insurance, and financial services.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation- The five targets serve as outcome objectives, which are fostering the development of sustainable, resilient, and inclusive infrastructures; advocating for inclusive and sustainable industrialization; expanding access to financial services and markets; modernizing all industries and infrastructures to prioritize sustainability; and advancing research while enhancing industrial technologies.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries- The seven targets represent outcome objectives: diminishing income inequalities; advocating for universal social, economic, and political inclusion; guaranteeing equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination; embracing fiscal and social policies that advance equality; refining the regulation of global financial markets and institutions; amplifying representation for developing countries in financial institutions; and establishing responsible, well-managed migration policies.

Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable- The seven outlined outcome targets encompass ensuring safe and affordable housing, establishing affordable and sustainable transportation systems, promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development,[64] safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage, mitigating the adverse

effects of natural disasters, curbing the environmental impacts of cities, and facilitating access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns- The eight targets serve as outcome objectives, aiming to: implement the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; attain sustainable management and efficient utilization of natural resources; halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels, alongside reductions in food losses throughout production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses; achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes across their life cycles; curtail waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse; encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices; advocate for sustainable public procurement practices; and ensure widespread access to relevant information and awareness for sustainable development.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts- SDG 13 has three main targets set for attainment by 2030, addressing diverse facets of climate action. They are focusing on: reinforcing resilience and adaptability to climate-related disasters; integrating climate change measures into policies and planning frameworks; and fostering knowledge and capacity to effectively address climate change.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources- The initial seven targets serve as outcome objectives: lessening marine pollution; safeguarding and rehabilitating ecosystems; mitigating ocean acidification; promoting sustainable fishing practices; preserving coastal and marine areas; discontinuing subsidies that exacerbate overfishing; and amplifying the economic advantages derived from the sustainable utilization of marine resources.

Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss- The nine outcome targets encompass: Preserving and rejuvenating terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems; halting deforestation and reviving degraded forests; halting desertification and restoring degraded land; guaranteeing the conservation of mountain ecosystems and safeguarding biodiversity and natural habitats; safeguarding access to genetic resources and ensuring equitable sharing of benefits; eradicating poaching and trafficking of protected species; preventing the spread of invasive alien species in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; and incorporating ecosystem and biodiversity considerations into governmental planning.

Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies- SDG 16 consists of ten outcome targets aimed at: diminishing violence; shielding children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and violence; advocating for the rule of law and guaranteeing equitable access to justice; combating organized crime and curbing illicit financial and arms flows, notably reducing corruption and bribery; establishing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions; fostering responsive, inclusive, and representative decision-making; reinforcing engagement in global governance; facilitating universal legal identity; ensuring public access to information and safeguarding fundamental freedoms.

Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development- The Goal comprises 17 targets slated for achievement by 2030, categorized into five sections: finance, technology, capacity building, trade, and systemic issues.

In conclusion, This Agenda encapsulates the anticipations, ambitions, and foremost concerns of the global community for the next 15 years. It stands as a transformative Agenda, spotlighting equality and dignity as paramount, and advocates for an evolution in our developmental approach while upholding environmental integrity.

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