

Shaping the Future of our World

XDGs 2045

WORLD
GOVERNMENTS
SUMMIT 2023

in collaboration with

SDGs IN
ACTION





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organizers of the SDGs in Action at the World Governments Summit (WGS) would like to thank the global leaders who took part in the SDGs in Action 2023, specifically the *XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of our World* event that took place on 14 February 2023. The event recognized the progress towards the SDGs and discussed key aspects of future global development agendas (under Chatham House Rules). Without your valuable insights and recommendations, this report would not have been possible. We are grateful for your utmost dedication and commitment to the 2030 Agenda and appreciate the sentiments to commence in developing the future global development agenda.

We further extend our appreciation to the leadership of the World Governments Summit, who provided us with the opportunity to bring together a global network of decision makers to explore challenges and opportunities that the 2030 Agenda present, and for the unique platform to shape the future of our world through global partnerships.

To the reader, thank you for your time and consideration. We hope that this report will inspire actions towards the SDGs, and consensus around the development of the next global development agenda.



We aim to develop a roadmap hand in hand and design a new agenda for sustainable development goals that is more ambitious and forward-looking beyond 2030. We believe in the importance of this new agenda being based on principles of cooperation, solidarity, and sustainability with all stakeholders, directed towards action, and inclusive for all. We are ready to work with all partners to build a new global development agenda for creating a better and more inclusive future.

Her Excellency

Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy

Minister of State for International Cooperation,
United Arab Emirates
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee
on Sustainable Development Goals





The SDGs serve as the central focus of the World Governments Summit's agenda. The summit is a unifying platform for governments, businesses, institutions, international organizations, academia, and civil society to come together and discuss the challenges and opportunities of the future. The World Governments Summit provides a space to foster and encourage the exchange of ideas, collaboration, and partnership building to accelerate the global goals beyond 2030.

His Excellency

Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama

Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications,
United Arab Emirates
Vice-Chair of the World Governments Summit





We are committed to the SDGs and believe in their importance in charting a roadmap for a better future for all. We recognize the significance of their continued development to make them more inclusive and adaptable to future requirements and changes.

These goals are not just about addressing today's challenges but also about building a better future for generations to come.

We aim to form a global team that will continue working tirelessly for the post-2030 era and serve as the driving force behind enhancing cooperation, communication, and coordination to achieve global development goals



His Excellency

Abdulla Nasser Lootah

Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for
Competitiveness and Knowledge Exchange
Vice Chair of the UAE Committee on Sustainable
Development Goals

TABLE OF CONTENTS

8	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
9	INTRODUCTION
10	Brief history of Global Development Agendas
10	XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of Our World
11	CHAPTER 1
	THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
12	Brief history of the 2030 Agenda
14	Commitment and progress towards the 2030 Agenda
16	Global status of the 2030 Agenda
20	CHAPTER 2
	XDGs 2045: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD
21	A future orientated global development agenda (key goals and objectives)
28	2024 to 2030: Establishing and driving XDGs 2045 – the next global development agenda
30	CHAPTER 3
	SDGS IN ACTION AT WORLD GOVERNMENTS SUMMIT
31	A platform to accelerate the 2030 Agenda
32	Laying the foundation for a high-level working plan
34	An avenue to design the next global development agenda (XDGs 2045: Beyond 2030)
36	CONCLUSION
38	Call to action
40	APPENDIX
41	List of abbreviations
42	The global status on SDGs
51	About the World Governments Summit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report will highlight the commitments, progress, and global status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and lay the foundation to commence in developing a post-2030 global development agenda. The report will also position a global platform to shape the future of our world.
- The world is facing unprecedented challenges, including the rise of artificial intelligence, limited sustainable investments and funding, education, climate change, poverty, and inequality.
- To address these challenges, the world requires renewed political will to continue driving forward towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and highly consider the initiation of a post-2030 global development agenda. The foundational layer of the future global development agenda should be based on lessons learned from developing the MDGs and SDGs and should be designed to address challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.
- In February 2023, the SDGs in Action at the World Governments Summit brought together global leaders from all sectors to discuss key challenges and opportunities our world face to address the SDGs and laid the foundation for a post-2030 global development agenda.
- Themed XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of our World, the event highlighted the importance of innovation, technology, leadership, and financing to create a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive world for all.
- The insights and recommendations shared by the discussants at the XDGs 2045 event will be essential in shaping the next global development agenda.
- An all-of-society approach is required to address SDGs and will be required in developing an inclusive future global development agenda. All-of-society has to be involved from the start to ensure awareness, engagement, and commitment to the future prosperity of our world.
- The United Arab Emirates, through its SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit platform, is committed to work with the United Nations and all-of-society to build the next global development agenda. The next SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit will take place in February 2024, and will see the official inauguration of the XDGs 2045 with the blessing from the United Nations.
- The World Governments Summit is a unique platform that unites global leaders from all sectors to explore innovative solutions to global challenges. It is well placed to commence in developing an action-orientated, futuristic, creative, and collective global development agenda.





Together, we can!

INTRODUCTION

Half-way towards 2030, the world recognizes and reconfirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By advancing policies and actions, strengthening national and subnational capacities, mobilizing resources, and transforming partnerships to achieve the SDGs, we can unite to address the unprecedented challenges of our world, including (but not limited to) the rise of artificial intelligence, limited sustainable investments, climate change, poverty, and inequality. To address these challenges, it is essential to continue driving forward towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and consider the initiation of a post-2030 global development agenda.

This report will highlight the commitments, progress, and global status towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the report will lay the foundation to commence in developing a post-2030 global development agenda and position a global platform to shape the future of our world.

Brief history of Global Development Agendas

The first global development agenda was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted by the United Nations in 2000. The MDGs, with its eight goals, aspired to reduce extreme poverty by half and accelerate improved global health and education. Although the MDGs are considered successful, it had limitations. The MDGs did not address climate change, nor focused on sustainable development. In response to these limitations, the United Nations commenced drafting the next global development agenda in 2012 through working member groups that were represented by all global regions.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the 2030 Agenda, serves as a global call to action to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity – by 2030. The SDGs, with its 17 goals, were adopted by all member states of the United Nations during a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda is more ambitious and far-reaching than the MDGs. The SDGs serve as a comprehensive plan to address challenges of our time without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their respective needs. Since the adoption in 2015, our world has seen an increase in international cooperation and will to address global challenges. However, the novel Coronavirus has strained progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of Our World

Acknowledging the global efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and countries' continued commitment to accelerate global prosperity and leaving no one behind, the world needs to commence in developing the next global development agenda. The SDGs in Action at the World Governments Summit 2023 brought together global leaders to discuss the future of global development agendas. Themed XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of Our world, the XDGs 2045 aim to anchor a futuristic angle by laying the foundation of a post-2030 global development agenda. With seven years towards 2030, the XDGs 2045 concept aim to develop an inclusive, multi-stakeholder, achievable, ambitious, sustainable, and a futuristic development agenda through a multi-prong approach:

- Accelerate SDG implementation by uniting the global community at the World Governments Summit, annually.
- Activate accelerator programs to address current and future global challenges.
- Shape the future of our world by bridging cross-sector multi-lateral needs and demands for an inclusive future for all.
- Utilize global experts across sectors to establish the foundation of the next global development agenda (XDGs 2045).
- Call to commence in developing the next global development agenda, utilizing the SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit platform as a foundation for future global prosperity.

CHAPTER 1

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Brief history of the 2030 Agenda

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds on the Millennium Development Goals, which were a set of eight goals that were adopted by the UN in 2000. The MDGs were considered successful in reducing poverty and improving health, but lacked addressing underlying challenges, climate factors, and financing of the MDGs.

The UN commenced in designing the 2030 Agenda in 2012, before inception in 2015¹:

- **2012:** Held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted the document titled "*The Future We Want*". The document called for a new set of sustainable development goals, replacing the MDGs. Rio+20, through "*The Future We Want*", established the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) – a centralized platform for annual follow-up and review of the SDGs.
- **2013-2014:** A process of negotiations was launched to develop the new sustainable development goals through the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development (OWG). The OWG's was composed of representatives from all UN Member States.
- **2015:** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all member states of the UN during the Sustainable Development Summit in New York City.

The 2030 Agenda is a set of 17 SDGs serving as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect our planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The SDGs are integrated, interconnected, and interlinked, by recognizing the importance of economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Ambitious in nature, the SDGs call for a unified transformation of our world's economy, environment, and society. A roadmap for a more sustainable and equitable world for all².



¹ Summit Charts New Era of Sustainable Development. (2015). United Nations Sustainable Development. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/09/summit-charts-new-era-of-sustainable-development-world-leaders-to-gavel-universal-agenda-to-transform-our-world-for-people-and-planet/>

² United Nations. (2023, June). Home - United Nations Sustainable Development. United Nations Sustainable Development. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

The High-Level Political Forum's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)³ serve as a follow-up and reviewing mechanism. The VNRs invite countries to voluntarily assess, review, and present their national progress made towards implementing the SDGs. It serves as an integral part of the reviewing process of the SDGs, where countries can share best practices, lessons learned, and challenges to implement the SDGs. VNRs serve as an important tool to promote and progress international cooperation through actions to achieve the SDGs. It further demonstrates countries' commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

The UN reviews the SDGs every four years to assess progress on the goals. During the first SDGs Summit, held in New York City from 25 to 27 September 2019, the UN collaborated with world leaders, representatives from civil society, and other stakeholders, to review the progress on the SDGs and to discuss acceleration plans towards achieving the goals by 2030. Progress towards the SDGs was uneven, with some goals having made significant progress whilst others were left behind.

During the UN General Assembly in September 2019, the UN adopted the Decade of Action⁴ that focusses on three areas:

1. **Financing:** Mobilizing financial resources to achieve the SDGs
2. **Technology:** Accelerating the development and deployment of new technologies that can help achieve the SDGs.
3. **Data:** Improving data availability and the use of data to track, monitor, and report progress towards the SDGs.

The Decade of Action called for global participation in achieving the SDGs, acknowledging the role governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals have in addressing and implementing the SDGs.

Marking the half-way point towards 2030, the second SDGs Summit takes place on 18 and 19 September 2023 in New York. It will mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs.



The SDGs were providing a vision, it's not an act, it's not exactly an action agenda or an operational framework. But I think a lot of organizations have done their homework when it comes to providing some more operational frameworks around this.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

³ Voluntary National Reviews. (n.d.). Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

⁴ Decade of Action - United Nations Sustainable Development. (2020, August 13). United Nations Sustainable Development. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

Commitment and progress towards the 2030 Agenda

Globally, stakeholders remain committed to the SDGs. With endorsements from a wide range of stakeholders, there is a growing global commitment to achieve the SDGs. Governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and individuals alike are driving the implementation in their respective fields.

These commitments are being demonstrated in several ways. Countries have adopted national development plans to implement the SDGs. For example, countries have set targets for achieving the goals, complemented by programs and policies to accelerate the implementation of the global goals. Countries are also heavily invested in data collection and analysis to track progress, whilst sharing best practices among one another to adopt in specific areas. Countries have further adopted multiple programs to engage whole-of-society to support the achievement of the SDGs, which helps in building a consensus and support at national levels. According to the UN HLPF, 341 voluntary national reviews has been conducted since the inception of the 2030 Agenda⁵, which showcase governments' commitment to the SDGs.

In addition to national commitments, global initiatives are on the uprise to support the implementation of the SDGs. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) established the OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI)⁶ that supports governments in using innovative tools and programs to improve public services and achieving the SDGs. OPSI provides governments with a wide range of services including sharing knowledge and best practices from around the world, providing technical assistance to governments seeking to implement innovative public sector reforms, and



I think to be honest as a society globally, we have to move past the point of making plans for plans. And this is what we've been doing now. We've been making plans for plans and we're not yet bringing together those plans into clear implementable outcomes.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

fostering global cooperation on public sector innovation.

On a large scale, the private sector is investing in sustainable practices by establishing sustainability strategies and diversifying their business models to provide products and services that support the global goals. Many private sector companies are aligning Environmental, Social,

⁵ Countries | High-Level Political Forum. (n.d.). <https://hlpf.un.org/countries>

⁶ Varazzani, C. (2023, June 30). Observatory of Public Sector Innovation. Observatory of Public Sector Innovation. <https://oecd-opsi.org/>

and Governance (ESG) models with the SDGs, as well as their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. The UN Global Compact⁷, a UN member states recognized voluntary initiative based on Chief Executive Officers' commitments to accelerate universal sustainable development and principles, provides guidance to more than 22,000 companies from 162 countries⁸.

Civil society supports the SDGs to raise awareness about the SDGs, and advocates for policies and programs that have the potential to accelerate the implementation of the global goals. Non-governmental organizations' roles are being supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP)⁹.

Academic institutions drive their commitment to the SDGs through research and development to address the challenges posed by the SDGs. Their research is of utmost importance to inform policymaking and the development of scalable solutions. In addition, academia collaborates with the SDG ecosystem to educate society, advocate for policies, and establish data collection methods.

Scientists are conducting research on various aspects of the SDGs and contribute to the achievement thereof by developing technologies that help the global community live more sustainably. Their work is essential in achieving a sustainable future for all, and specialized actions are taking place to (non-exhaustive) mitigate climate change, address pollution, improve food security and water efficiency, and drive new technologies to serve energy efficient systems.



Regardless of the what, show me the how. The 'how' has changed because now we do have corporate partners. And we do have asset managers and private equity firms and investment funds that are looking at sustainable development goals.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

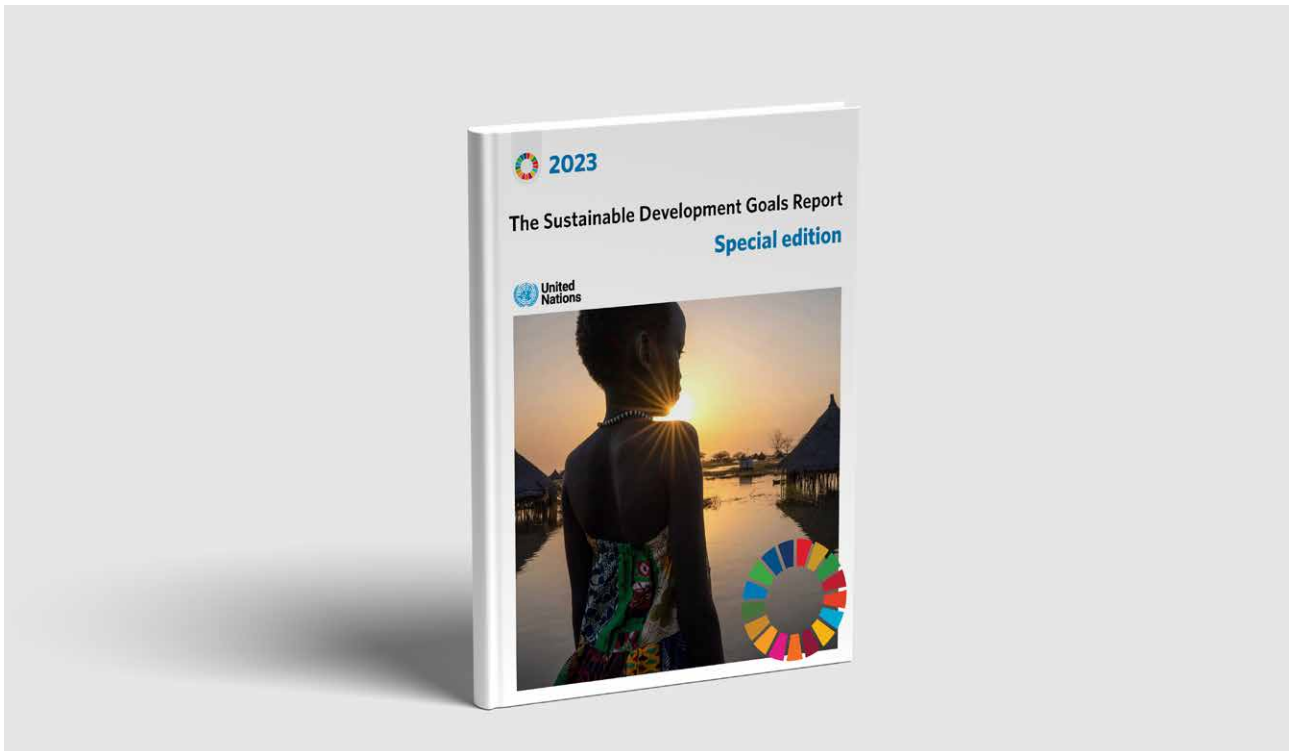
All of the above stakeholders create educational and awareness driven materials to support individuals to contribute to the SDGs. From being involved in outreach programs, making them aware of sustainable products, services, conserving energy, and reducing waste, individuals are prone to support the SDGs. Individuals are encouraged to hold governments and businesses accountable for their commitments to the SDGs, and their voices should be heard.

⁷ Making Global Goals Local Business | UN Global Compact. (n.d.).

⁸ Homepage | UN Global Compact. (2023, June 14). <https://unglobalcompact.org/>

⁹ Destination 2030: Accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals | United Nations Development Programme. (n.d.). UNDP. <https://www.undp.org/destination-2030-accelerating-progress-sustainable-development-goals>

Global status of the 2030 Agenda



In April 2023, the United Nations Secretary General released a special report titled ‘Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet’¹⁰. The report found that the world is off track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although there has been progress in some goals, progress against the majority of targets is slow or in some cases, regressing. With several major challenges over most recent years, the report highlights the urgent need for action. Actions that are bold and transformative, and diverting from business as usual to create opportunities that engages all sectors to drive opportunities for inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous lives for all.

The UN Secretary General identified five areas that require urgent actions by the global community to accelerate the progress towards the SDGs, followed by a strong call to action to convene during the SDGs Summit taking place in September 2023. The five identified areas are:

1. A call on Heads of State and Government to recommit taking urgent, accelerated, sustained and transformative actions to achieve the promise of the SDGs.
2. A call on governments to advance concrete, integrated, and targeted policies and actions that will eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, end war on nature, and advance the rights of women and girls.

¹⁰ Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet. (2023, April 27). UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. <https://hlpf.un.org/2023/documentation>

3. A call on governments to strengthen their national and subnational capacity, accountability, and public institutions to deliver accelerated progress towards achieving the SDGs.
4. A call on the international community to recommit to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to mobilize resources and investments for developing countries to achieve the SDGs.
5. A call on all Member States to continue strengthening the UN development system for it to be more effective and efficient in addressing SDG related gaps and weaknesses, and helping countries achieve the SDGs.

At the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the report provides an overview of the progress achieved under each SDG. A selection of targets was assessed mainly due to the incomplete and persistent challenges in securing data across all 169 targets. Closing data gaps will reap global benefits to advancing and achieving the SDGs.

The report complements the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022¹¹, published by the UN to provide an overview of the global status towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The world is facing a critical juncture. The report delivers critical messages to the global SDG ecosystem to reunite and build stronger, resilient, and effective partnerships to address global challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, global unrest, and climate change are stalling progress towards implementing the SDGs. These factors will have a devastating impact on people and the planet – and in essence future generations – if we do not act now.

The COVID-19 pandemic opened a Pandora's box to the world. The global disruption has had a significant impact across the SDGs, especially on data collection methods. National statistical offices (NSO) halted in-person data collection that led to a sharp decline in the availability of timely and accurate data that are essential to policymaking and decision-making. Although many NSOs diverted into non-traditional data sources and innovative ways to collect data, it is evident that information and communication technologies (ICT) are immature in global context. Investments in data and information infrastructures are key to ensure timely, high-quality, and disaggregated data, and to design urgent actions to realize the 2030 Agenda.



The SDGs don't have political constituencies. In our societies, it's very hard to address a fundamental transformation of human society if you haven't explained it to human society.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

¹¹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. (2022). In United Nations Statistical Division (ISBN: 978-92-1-101448-8). <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>

By reviewing both the special report by the UN Secretary General and The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, it is evident that the world is at a critical juncture. The whole of society requires a fundamental change and a common purpose that is inclusive. At the current pace, the world will find it challenging to achieve the SDGs. Key challenges that remain evident to progress and implement the 2030 Agenda includes (non-exhaustive):

- 1. Poverty:** The number of people living in poverty has increased since 2020, and the forecasts are not favorable to eradicate extreme poverty. COVID-19 reversed three decades of progress, with the number of people living in extreme poverty increasing for the first time in a generation. Given the current trends, 575 million people will still be in living in extreme poverty by 2030.
- 2. Gender equality:** Women and children are continuing to face discrimination at an alarming rate in many areas of life, including employment, health, and education. At the current rate of progress, it will take up to 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws, and 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace.
- 3. Inequality:** The increase in inequality, will hinder the progress of implementing the SDGs and leave people behind. Global inequality is likely to worsen with record number of people being forced to flee conflicts and economic hardships. Mid-2022 saw 1 in 251 people worldwide being refugees, the highest proportion ever documented.
- 4. Climate change:** Climate change is already impacting people and the planet, and with targets not being met, it will only worsen. This



Finance, technology, and leadership in implementation have been the difference between success and failure in MDGs, and they are today the difference between the success and failure of the SDGs.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

will have a dramatic impact on achieving the SDGs by 2030, which have been designed to protect the planet and its people. The current actions and plans to address climate change, are insufficient.

- 5. Conflict:** With global unrest, conflict poses a major threat to achieving the SDGs. With 1.4 billion people living in countries affected by conflict, it is deemed an obstacle that will impact the SDGs negatively.
- 6. Financing:** With a global lack of funding, financing is of key essence to implement the SDGs. However, with significant investments comes responsibility and accountability to those in power.



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- 7. Leadership:** Leadership, from governments to businesses, and others, requires full commitment and drive to implement the SDGs. Leaders should be held accountable for actions made that derive progress towards the SDGs.
- 8. Technology:** Technology can be a powerful tool to track, monitor, and report progress towards the SDGs. In addition, technology plays an important role in achieving the SDGs but requires everyone to have access to technology.
- 9. Statistical frameworks:** Statistical frameworks require a drastic change towards incorporating technology and non-traditional data to support global prosperity. The world requires innovation in data and statistics to support policymaking and decision making.



SDGs are very important, but whenever we talk about global goals, we should think about them from the humanity perspective.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

CHAPTER 2

XDGS 2045: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD



A future orientated global development agenda (key goals and objectives)

In September 2000, the historic MDGs was adopted as a global development plan during the United Nations General Assembly. The Declaration addressed 8 goals, including eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, promote gender equality, and empower women, and develop a global partnership for development. Fast-tracking to 2012, the RIO +20 conference launched the process to develop the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which built on the MDGs.

In September 2015, 193 UN Member States and world leaders gathered in New York at the UN Sustainable Development Summit to endorse the set of new SDGs for the next 15 years (2015 to 2030). The scope and ambition of the SDGs are greater than anything that the international community has ever attempted before, and rightly so. The SDGs aim to transform our world and leave no one behind, while also ensuring the future of our planet. The United Arab Emirates activated the Sustainable Development Goals with a first of its kind and dedicated event at the World Governments Summit Organization, SDGs in Action.

Acknowledging the global efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and countries' continued commitment to accelerate global prosperity and leaving no one behind, the SDGs in Action at the World Governments Summit 2023 brought global leaders to identify key aspects of future global development agendas. The global thought-leaders comprised of representatives from the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and financial institutions, through an action-packed



Social is the glue between everything else. Unless the people who are trying to address their needs believe that this is inclusive and equitable, nothing is going to get done with the environment or with the economy.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

discussion anchored to a post-2030 world. The discussion focused on three areas:

- **Social** - Investment in education, healthcare, and infrastructure is crucial for the sustainable, and future, development of any society.
- **Environment** - Addressing the pressing issues of climate change and environmental degradation is vital for the survival and well-being of current and future generations.
- **Economic** - A strong and sustainable economy is built on the foundation of robust investment, innovation, and a skilled workforce.

Themed **XDGs 2045: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD**, participants were encouraged to explore future challenges and opportunities, trending innovations, technologies, policies, and funding solutions to enhance global prosperity – starting with the SDGs and driving a foundational pillar to lay the foundation for the next global development agenda.

Deliberating in an invitation-only-closed-door setting, under Chatham House Rules, global leadership from countries, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations shared their views and commitments towards the SDGs and highlighted key considerations to set a foundation for a post-2030 global development agenda. The historical event inspired opportunities for a more prosperous world that is inclusive, equal, and just – beyond 2030. Leaders are committed to walk the talk and share innovative ideas to redesign the future of our world, and to utilize the SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit as a platform to shape the future and become synonymous with Rio+20 in developing a post-2030 global development agenda.

Given the global status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as suggested by the United Nations' The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, the platform encouraged the commencement to develop a post-2030 global development agenda. By learning from the MDGs and the SDGs, the world requires adequate time to develop the future global development agenda. Halfway to 2030 since the inception of the SDGs, the time to commence shaping the future of our world is now.

Taking Chatham House Rules into account, the following serves as a summary delivered by the discussants of the **XDGs 2045: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD**:

- The SDGs are not a final destination. It is a journey. The world is not giving up on the SDGs but shall use it as a building block to create a better future for all.
- The next global development agenda has to be forward-thinking and adaptable to change. Global leaders can learn the MDGs, the SDGs, and also from UN ESCWA and the African Union who are establishing long-term development agendas. These agendas recognize that the world is changing, and future-preparedness to address challenges and opportunities.
- Leadership, partnerships, financing, and accountability are key features to successfully implement the SDGs. They were key to the MDGs, they are key to the SDGs, and they will be key to future global development.
- Leadership is key to address and drive the implementation of global development agendas, complemented by data. Leadership should take ownership.
- The 'how' is more important than the 'what'. The world should focus on how to implement global development, rather than what needs to be implemented. Thematic priorities do not change much over time, but the 'how' has changed due to the rise of new actors.
- The world acknowledges the interconnectedness and interlinkages; however, the complex nature of the SDGs prevents the necessary understanding of the interactions between them – making it difficult to know exactly what the impacts are of accomplishing a target and its multiplier impact on others.
- The SDGs are far more complex than their predecessors, the MDGs. Fewer, more focused, indicators are required to track progress in an efficient and sufficient manner.
- The complexity of the SDGs drives poor results. Fewer goals can be implemented really well and is better than implementing many goals poorly.



The SDG architecture lacks the necessary statistical framework that allows us to support the direction that we are going. MDGs were fewer and they fulfilled themselves because of the emerging nations who have done better economically. MDGs encouraged us to form a far more complex agenda, but we did not build the foundation.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

- The world requires fewer goals, or a focused approach to specific SDGs, instead of solving everything.
- The current system of the world government is not inclusive enough. This is a major obstacle to achieving the SDGs and has to be addressed.
- World governments need to connect their political agreements and partnerships on SDGs to the grassroots efforts on the ground. There is a disconnect between country leaders and the needs of the people of the countries.
- The SDGs do not have a political constituency.

This makes it difficult to address fundamental transformation of our human society. Complementary to this, the SDGs are complex and with the lack of a constituency, the problems the world government are trying to solve are only getting larger and moving away from us.

- Globally, the SDGs lack data and the data that is available cannot be aggregated across projects. The 2030 Agenda should be simplified and distilled.
- The world requires a more robust statistical framework to support the implementation of the SDGs. The current SDG architecture lacks the statistical framework that allows the world to support the direction to achieve the goals.
- Whilst the SDGs are still relevant and the key focus, the world requires a more operational framework to address global challenges.
- Simplifying actions to address the goals will encourage people to do the right thing. Simple statistics and dashboards and simplifying processes can be incentives for larger actions.
- With many global developments plans running parallel to one another, it is of essence to align the future global development agenda with others.
- Many multilateral institutions are driving the SDGs; however, they should be more aligned in order to achieve the SDGs.
- Connecting local projects with global metrics can allow all sectors and stakeholders to track progress and make a real difference. The dots have to be connected to drive inclusive global development.
- Global challenges keep on emerging, therefore, the world needs to identify these new challenges as they emerge and simultaneously simplify the SDGs into actionable programs. The world needs to move past the point of making plans for plans and start implementing programs with clear outcomes.

- The role of technology in achieving the SDGs is exhilarating. However, technology has to be used in a way that respects human rights and dignity.
- Technology has to be used to achieve the SDGs, as knowledge can be duplicated and adopted, and it provides remote work opportunities to serve a global economy. Governments, and international organizations, should support and adopt technologies that drive sustainable development.
- The private sector needs to be involved in developing the next global development agenda, as this sector has resources, expertise, and reach to scale up solutions that have been proven to work.
- Countries have to be less protectionist and inward-looking, as it will negatively impact globalization and reduce access to markets. It will limit businesses to trade and operate internationally.
- Free trade supports global development and can help developing countries access new markets and technologies. This will lead to global economic growth and jobs creation.
- Rotational funds have to support sustainable investments and help achieve the SDGs, especially in small island developing states. Investments into coral restoration supports local gross domestic product (GDP) as it creates jobs and protects carbon sink. The SDGs remain the main framework for global development and should be used as the target for rotating funds.
- Financial systems will become more fragmented, which will make it challenging for businesses to raise capital for investments.
- Solutions to global challenges have to emphasize dignity and human rights as guiding principles for global cooperation. Guaranteeing human dignity for all is one of the most important goals for international cooperation.
- The world is required to act now. By taking action, data and definitions do not have to be perfect.
- Education is fundamental to each SDGs. Without knowledge and education, it will be challenging to implement the 2030 Agenda and progress in successful future global development agendas.
- The SDGs are not understood by the general public. In order to address a fundamental transformation of human society, the world requires education. World governments are required to explain and educate society about the global goals (and future development plans).
- Education and knowledge are key to achieving global development agendas, which includes education for young people as well as education and training for adults.
- Education is the most important investment for future generations. Technology today allows us to improve global education standards, and the world needs to focus on one universal language that can help people from different countries to communicate with each other.
- Education is important to prepare young people for the world's future. Embedding SDGs into curriculums, with a solution orientation rather than highlighting challenges, will help them from a youthful age to safeguard the planet. This educational model has to be cross cutting.
- To solve global challenges and pressing issues, the world needs to respond to current trends by creating jobs and investing in education. To prepare for the future, the world needs to develop new skills and technologies that can be done through cooperation and investment.
- Geo Spatial Information (GIS) systems can be used to educate society about all the global



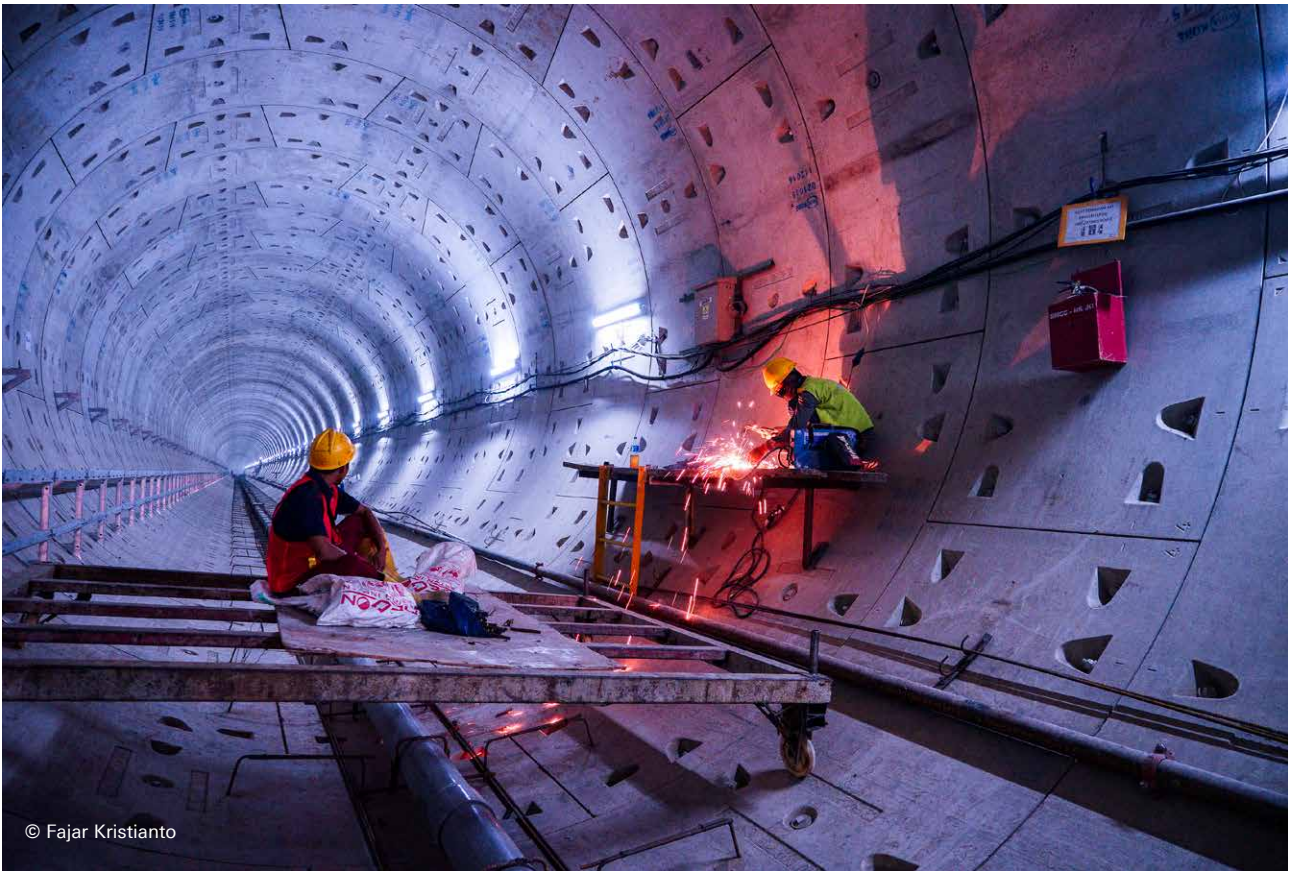
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goals. It can empower people and provide avenues for inclusion to global challenges.

- With the uprise of technology, job security is critical. The world should identify ways to ensure AI is used in a way that creates jobs. This will require investments in education and training, and developing new industries that can take advantage of AI technology.
- Digitalization is important to implement the SDGs and shape the future global development agenda. It can improve access to education, healthcare, and other essential services to developing countries whilst promoting economic growth and creating jobs.
- The digital and learning gap are two major challenges that have to be addressed in order to achieve the SDGs (and future global development agendas). Both these gaps are

preventing people from participating in the global economy. Although the digital economy is crucial to the global economy, seven out of ten children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read a straightforward text and will not be able to take advantage of the opportunities that digital economy offers. Digital and learning gaps also further create security risks due to the lack of education and skills, which can result in social unrest and instability.

- 2 billion people today have intermittent access to energy. Access to energy and digital are core for getting a decent living, and therefore the world needs to bring access to energy to everyone. It is essential for employment, entrepreneurship, and education. The disparity needs to be addressed to ensure inclusive energy distribution to the global society.



- Digital tools, training, and education are required to connect country leaders with people of their countries. This will support investment into training and education in order to upskill peoples' skills and their contribution to the SDGs.
- Basic information technology (IT) skills have to be embedded into everyone's lives, regardless of social status. The future of humanity highly depends on this, as IT has to be used to open educational doors to every person.
- Globally, the connection between the social, environmental, and economic spheres has to improve. The social sphere serves as glue between the three spheres.
- Global development agendas should be inclusive and avoid creating new divides between nations and people.
- Global leaders have to create an inclusive global development agenda that is meaningful, impactful, and purposeful to the world and the future of society, regardless of nationalities, resources, and wealth.
- The global population is growing. The world should find avenues to ensure affordable housing, especially in urban areas where housing costs are often high.
- Current funding mechanisms for development assistance are not sufficient and do not meet the needs of developing countries. Many factors are contributing to the insufficiency, including – but not limited to – limited resources of donor countries, and lack of coordination between funding agencies.
- To improve humanity, the world requires the creation of great jobs that can help shape future

global agendas. Creating 'great' jobs means meeting the emotional needs of employees – 80% of people in the workplace are either emotionally disconnected or miserable, which is equivalent to being unemployed.

- Technology provides multiple spheres to create jobs through the online services market. However, it is important to find ways to regulate the global online services market and provide adequate social benefits to the employees and decrease the gap between rich and poor. The regulations should include ways that ensure fair pay, social benefits, protect workers from discrimination and exploitation, regardless of their nationality.
- Technology will not eliminate jobs that people do not want to do. Many people are enjoying their work, but the challenge is the workplace. Leaders are required to listen to the needs of individuals and create a workplace that is respectful and dignified.
- GIS can be used to reach all age groups of society; however, it is important to embed digital skills into young people (considered digital natives) and equip them with the right tools to be the stewards of the planet and the future.
- Meaningful jobs are not about aligning people to a purpose or a mission. Meaningful jobs are about providing a respected environment where people can live their lives outside the workplace and have a decent living wage.
- Geopolitical tensions have to be addressed to avoid a more divided and conflict-ridden future for human society.
- The global economy will become more volatile and unpredictable in the future, causing less economic stability.
- Environmental sustainability requires sustainable solutions and infrastructure for the long run that will not be harmful. Policies are required, and infrastructure to deliver energy to constituents. The challenge remains to protect the environment and meet the needs of the growing population.
- Global instability is on the rise and it is driven by climate change and food insecurity. The world needs to take action to moderate the broader implications of these instabilities.
- Safe and sustainable energy systems have to be driven to support people who never had access to it, especially cultures and nations who are not responsible for climate change such as Tuvalu.
- In a defragmented world, international cooperation will become challenging, especially on international challenges such as climate change.
- GIS is a valuable resource to collect data and manage resources in a sustainable manner and can address many of the world's most pressing challenges including climate change.
- Businesses play a pivotal role in achieving the SDGs and shaping the future of global development. Businesses are taking ownership of climate goals, a positive outcome to the SDGs, but the world shall be careful about 'green bubbles' globally. Businesses should be held accountable for their commitments to reducing their environmental impact.
- Businesses can learn from their experience in customer journeys to address key challenges. This is similar to the SDGs. The world is required to serve its population by addressing key challenges in the most effective way, which can be obtained through looking at their experiences and 'customer journeys'.
- The roundtable discussants were excited to be part of the initial discussion to progress in developing an agenda that will address the future of our world, but firmly reconfirmed their commitment towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2024 to 2030: Establishing and driving XDGs 2045 – the next global development agenda

The SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit's **XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of our World** event drove a significant milestone in laying the foundation of a post-2030 global development agenda. The XDGs 2045 brought together global leaders from all sectors to discuss the key challenges and opportunities that our world will face in the coming years. Through the three-prong discussion, social, environmental, and economic, the global leaders highlighted the importance of innovation, technology, and policies to create a more prosperous and sustainable world for all.

Discussants acknowledged the importance and relevance of the SDGs and reconfirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda to create a better future for all. The discussants expressed their optimism to achieve the goals through strong political will and commitment from all stakeholders. XDGs 2045 further highlighted a number of challenges and opportunities that can support the achievement of the SDGs, and the Decade of Action. However, the event was a success in driving the importance of establishing a foundation for building the next global development agenda 7 years ahead of its time. By learning from the past and working together, the world can develop an inclusive global development agenda through cross-border-cross-sector partnerships.

Key takeaways from the XDGs 2045 event included the need for a more robust statistical framework, the importance of technology, the need for a more inclusive global development agenda, and the importance of education and addressing digital and learning gaps (all relevant to the current 2030 Agenda as well as future global development agendas).



We are not giving up on 2030. It is a building block that we are learning from and pushing beyond that in a fast-changing world.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.



The most important thing for the success of the future generations, I think, is the quality of education. It can be provided using modern tools.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

The discussants further addressed the need to educate society on global development agendas and awareness-raising campaigns to better understand the current SDGs and have an inclusive support from general public in designing the next global development agenda.

The XDGs 2045 event served as the foundation for the future global development agenda. The insights and recommendations shared by the discussants will be essential in shaping the next global development plan and to shape the future of our world. They reiterated their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and called for the creation of an inclusive global development agenda 2045 that is meaningful, impactful, and purposeful to the world and the future of society.

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We probably need fewer goals, simpler goals and we need goals that are aligned to the natural wood grain of innovation, particularly around the use of AI and computation.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

Chapter 3

CHAPTER 3

SDGS IN ACTION AT WORLD GOVERNMENTS SUMMIT



A platform to accelerate the 2030 Agenda

In September 2015, 193 United Nations Member States and world leaders came together in New York City for the UN Sustainable Development Summit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. At the summit, the member states and world leaders endorsed a set of 17 SDGs to guide global development from 2015 to 2030. The scope and ambition of the SDGs are greater than anything that the international community has ever attempted before, and rightly so. The SDGs aim to transform our world and leave no one behind, while also ensuring the future of our planet.

The United Arab Emirates activated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a first of its kind and dedicated ‘SDGs in Action’ platform at the World Governments Summit. The platform focusses on the importance of multilateral efforts in implementing the 17 SDGs. By uniting global leaders in a centralized place, outside the United Nations’ General Assembly and High-Level Political Forum, the SDGs in Action serve as an enabler, a shaper, and an innovative platform to exchange best practices, lay foundations for the future, and form bilateral and multilateral partnerships to accelerate global prosperity.

Since the inception of the ‘SDGs in Action’ at World Governments Summit in 2016, the SDGs in Action have become synonymous with innovation and accelerating positive impact towards the Global Goals. The platform launched multiple programs, including the Global Councils on SDGs (an interdisciplinary global network of decision makers and youth) to address global challenges through innovative projects, whitepapers, and initiatives, to accelerate the implementation of the Decade of Action.

Overview of the SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit:

- **2016:** The United Arab Emirates launched the ‘SDGs in Action’ at the World Governments Summit, to support the global implementation of the SDGs through innovation and partnerships. The SDGs in Action became an integral part of the WGS program, to drive the implementation and accelerate change throughout the years.
- **2017:** Under the theme ‘Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in achieving the SDGs’ brought together scientists, experts, government officials and other key stakeholders to identify STI driven solutions to accelerate the implementation of the goals.
- **2018:** SDGs in Action saw the launch of an interdisciplinary network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking and creativity in the implementation of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. The first cohort of 12 Global Councils on SDGs commenced on a 2-year journey, driving global impact and acceleration of the SDGs.
- **2019:** ‘Leadership for achieving the goals’ featured a combination of plenary sessions and Global Councils’ breakout sessions. It aimed to foster partnerships and cooperation among council members in their respective fields to support the implementation of specific goals.
- **2020:** The SDGs in Action took to a virtual event due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic. The first term of the Global Councils on SDGs concluded under the theme ‘SDGs Global Councils: Preparing for the Decade of Action’.
- **2021:** A soft launch of the second term of the Global Councils on SDGs, under the theme ‘Galvanizing the Global Acceleration of the

SDGs', saw 18 Councils commence with a diverse range of projects and whitepapers, driving a nexus model to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **2022 (January):** Expo2020 - Dubai's Global Goals thematic week saw the 'Decade of Action: Accelerate SDG Implementation' segment officially launch of the second cohort of the Global Councils on SDGs. Chairpersons have delivered interjections of the respective work plans to enhance the collaboration of interdisciplinary networks to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **2022 (March):** Themed 'Scaling New Heights for the Future of Humanity', the SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit 2022

scaled its impact through multi-purpose and cross border collaborations. Global leaders, including the President of the Seychelles, took part in an action-packed agenda that saw the deliverance of cross-knitting partnerships for a better future for all.

- **2023:** Themed 'Redesigning the Future of Our World: 2030 Principles and beyond', the SDGs in Action addressed fundamental challenges to implement the global goals and reshape the future of for generations to come through a diverse network of global leaders from public and private sectors, international organizations, non-government organizations, academia, and civil society. The historical event laid the foundation of building a report to commence in designing the next global development plan.

Laying the foundation for a high-level working plan

Establishing a high-level working plan is essential for the global community to achieve its goals. It will provide a roadmap for action, identify key global stakeholders, and outline resources that will be needed to drive an inclusive plan. In context of the XDGs 2045, the high-level working plan will be essential for ensuring the world's resources are used effectively whilst progressing the 2030 Agenda.

A number of key elements are required to lay a solid foundation for this high-level working plan. This includes identifying key stakeholders who will be involved in distinct phases, including government representatives, businesses, civil society organizations, and private sector. Complementing the identification of stakeholders is defining the goals and the objectives of the high-level working plan. The work plan has to be trackable and quantifiable, complemented by innovation through acceleration programs. Lastly,



Bottom line is we need to create jobs. I really believe in job creation. We need to find opportunity for these jobs creation because we have youth. And we have a lot of youth that we need to really invest, create jobs to make sure that they have jobs for the future..

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.



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resources have to be identified from inception to inauguration. This will include financial resources, human resources, technical expertise, and more.

The United Arab Emirates through the World Governments Summit, with the blessing of and collaboration with the United Nations, will lay the foundation to commence in designing and delivering the first official XDGs 2045 summit during the SDGs in Action at the World Governments Summit 2024. The high-level ambition of the XDGs 2045 summit in February 2024 is to establish high-level working plans to design the future of our world. The XDGs 2045 summit can serve as platform to reunite global leaders from every sector to deliberate an action orientated approach to redesigning the future of our world.

The importance of establishing a solid-global-driven foundation for a post 2030 development plan is of utmost importance to our and our future generations. Together, we can!



For me that learning gap that we now have, which is in low- and middle-income countries, seven out of 10 children that are age 10 cannot read a simple text. So, you Fast forward 10 years, they're not going to be part of this economy that you're talking about. And at current economic calculations, that's a \$21 trillion loss of potential income for those low- and middle-income countries.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

An avenue to design the next global development agenda (XDGs 2045: Beyond 2030)

The World Governments Summit (WGS) unites leaders from governments, businesses, academia, and civil society to discuss global challenges and solutions. Since 2013, the WGS brought together more than 1,550 speakers to shape the future of our world. It provides a platform for leaders to connect and collaborate on solutions to our world's most pressing challenges.

The WGS is a cornerstone for government innovation. Annually, the WGS hosts a number of events with themes tailored to global prosperity and recognizes global leaders who are making a significant contribution to global governance through the World Governments Summit Awards. WGS is also shaping the future of governments, and how it can be more effective in addressing global challenges through innovation, technology, leadership, and financing.

Within the WGS and bolstering its commitment to accelerate the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the *SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit* is well placed to in uniting global leaders to think creatively and collectively about the next global development agenda.

SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit takes place in the Emirate of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its geographical location ensures:

- **Strategic location:** United Arab Emirates, located at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, makes it a convenient place for people from all around the world to connect, deliberate, and accelerate global prosperity.



The word ‘government’ has been broadened to include everyone. Because when you hear about the World Governments Summit, the first thing that comes to mind is a meeting that will bring together the executive arms of various country’ governments. But we are thrilled to be here with a variety of stakeholders to discuss issues that are of key concern to this world.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

- **World-class infrastructure:** United Arab Emirates, with world-class airports, hotels, and transportation systems, can accommodate global leaders in a centralized platform to commence in developing an inclusive global development agenda.

- **Diverse population:** United Arab Emirates, with a diverse population of more than 200 nationalities, combines cultural aspects, mutual respect, safety, and security for citizens, residents, and visitors.
- **Sustainable development:** United Arab Emirates is a leader in sustainable development through its investments in renewable energy and green technologies, the advancement in space, gender balance commitments in public- and private sectors, and its continues support to global development through its official development assistance to other countries.
- **World Governments Summit:** Taking place on an annual basis in the Emirate of Dubai, the WGS serves to shape the future of government by uniting leaders from governments, businesses, and civil society to address global challenges. The WGS fosters collaboration between stakeholders and provides platforms for leaders to share ideas, collaborate on solutions, and discuss how governments can become more effective, resilient, and responsive to the needs of their citizens.
- **Affordability:** Dubai, compared to major global cities, is a relatively affordable place to visit.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Our world is at a critical juncture in its efforts to implement, accelerate, and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With a number of key challenges persisting, we need to address them through driven political will and an all-of-society approach. These challenges include poverty, gender equality, inequality, education, climate change, conflict, financing, leadership, technology, and statistical frameworks.

The evidence is clear. Every aspect of our society, including governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and individuals, have to come together to address these challenges. **The world requires a fundamental change and realignment with the future we want if we are to implement and achieve the SDGs successfully.**

With consistent renewal of global commitments to the 2030 Agenda, our world needs to recognize and acknowledge the importance of establishing a foundation for the future global development agenda. **The XDGs 2045: Shaping the future of world event at the SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit serves as a significant milestone for the foundation of a post-2030 agenda.** By bringing global leaders together from all sectors and around the world, the discussants acknowledged the importance and relevance of the SDGs and reconfirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The XDGs 2045 event highlighted a number of challenges that need to be addressed and opportunities that can accelerate the Decade of Action.

Whilst each global leader reconfirmed their commitment to the SDGs, **the consensus was that the world is in a good window period to commence in designing the post-2030 global development agenda 7 years ahead of its time.** By learning from the past, and working together



If there's a silver bullet to improving humanity, it's the creation of great jobs. 30% of what we do is rational, 70% of what we do is emotional. Human beings are not automatons. When they show up to work, they are very different and great leaders know exactly how to play to an individual strength.

Discussant during the XDGs 2045 event.

for the future, the world can reunite and develop an inclusive global development agenda through cross-border-cross-sector partnerships.

The insights and recommendations that have been shared within the XDGs 2045 event will be essential for the creation of an inclusive global development agenda 2045 that is meaningful, impactful, and purposeful to the world and the future of our society.

Call to action

The importance of establishing a solid, global-driven foundation for a post-2030 global development agenda is of utmost importance to the future of our world. Collectively, we need to address the future of our and our future generations by developing an agenda that will serve our needs and support the needs of our great-grandchildren. We need to be futuristic, ambitious, open to opportunities, honest, passionate, and accountable. Together, through an all-of-society approach, we can shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit set itself as a foundational pillar in shaping the future global development agenda in partnership with all-of-society.

The SDGs in Action calls on the United Nations to:

- Acknowledge the SDGs in Action at World Governments Summit as a key partner in shaping the future of our world by serving as an avenue to progress and commence in developing the future global development agenda.
- Partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future global agenda, from leadership to experts, and embed future global development dialogues into global forums across all United Nations departments.

The SDGs in Action calls on governments to:

- Provide strong political will and continuous commitment and international cooperation to the SDGs.
- Identify futuristic opportunities to leverage and include in global dialogues to progress SDGs.
- Express interest and partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future

global agenda, from leadership to experts, by being futuristic in their approach and prepared to shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action calls on the international organizations (apart from the United Nations) to:

- Continue providing leadership that advocates and addresses the SDGs through innovative solutions.
- Identify implementable and action driven solutions and provide funding for these projects and initiatives that are relevant to the SDGs.
- Express interest and partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future global agenda, from leadership to experts, by being futuristic in their approach and prepared to shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action calls on the private sector to:

- Invest and adopt sustainable business practices and share best practices with the world to address sustainable development.
- Work with governments and all-of-society to educate, elevate, and drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and identify future sector specific needs to develop an inclusive global agenda.
- Express interest and partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future global agenda, from leadership to experts, by being futuristic in their approach and prepared to shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action calls on the civil society to:

- Continue advocating for the SDGs and to teach the global population about the importance of global development agendas.
- Include the global population in shaping the future of our world and identifying the needs

of the future from a societal approach.

- Express interest and partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future global agenda, from leadership to experts, by being futuristic in their approach and prepared to shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action calls on the academia to:

- Conduct research on the SDGs and identify workable solutions to current and future global challenges in partnership with governments, private sectors, philanthropy, civil society.
- Shape the next generation of leaders who are committed to global development and prosperity.
- Express interest and partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future global agenda, from leadership to experts, by being futuristic in their approach and prepared to shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action calls on scientists to:

- Utilize expertise to develop new technologies and solutions to address the 2030 Agenda that will support future global development agendas.
- Disseminate research findings to policymakers and the public that will inspire decision making processes based on scientific findings.
- Establish partnerships among scientific groups and across sectors and governments to scale research with implementable actions to make a real difference in the world.

The SDGs in Action calls on youth to:

- Educate and involve yourselves, families, and friends in communities by volunteering your time to drive actions towards the implementation of the SDGs.
- Start youth-led organizations that work

towards accelerated actions to implement the SDGs.

- Participate in global discussions that will shape the future of our world. Your voice is of utmost importance to develop and design the future.

The SDGs in Action calls on the philanthropy to:

- Collaborate with all-of-society and fund projects that are driving implementable solutions to global challenges.
- Partner with governments, private sectors, international organizations, civil society, and academia to scale up successful SDG interventions.
- Express interest and partner with the SDGs in Action to drive the development of the future global agenda, from leadership to experts, by being futuristic in their approach and prepared to shape the future of our world.

The SDGs in Action calls on the individuals to:

- Make sustainable choices in your daily lives that will have a positive impact on our and our future generations.
- Advocate for the SDGs and educate fellow societal members about the SDGs and their importance to global prosperity.
- Take part in shaping the future global development agendas.

The future of our world depends on inclusive partnerships and collective actions by developing a global agenda that will serve all purposes of our global society. Together, we can!

APPENDIX



List of abbreviations

CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geo Spatial Information
GNI	Gross National Income
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IT	Information Technology
KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
NSO	National Statistical Offices
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
OPSI	Observatory of Public Sector Innovation
OWG	Open Working Group on Sustainable Development
PM2.5	Particulate Matter of 2.5
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VNR	Voluntary National Reviews
WGS	World Governments Summit

The global status on SDGs

(non-exhaustive list extracted from, and credit to, the United Nations Secretary General special edition report 2023 and the “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet” and “The Sustainable Development Report 2022”):



- By the end of 2022, nowcasting suggests 8.4% of the world’s population, or as many as 670 million people, could still be living in extreme poverty today.
- Given the current trends, 575 million people (nearly 7% of the world’s population) will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030.
- Only one third of countries will have halved their national poverty rates by 2030 from 2015.
- Global poverty was on the decline from 2015 to 2019, with the extreme poverty rate falling from 10.8% to 8.4%.
- COVID-19 caused a sharp increase in global poverty in 2020, with the extreme poverty rate rising to 9.3%.
- This reversed three years of steady gains and pushed an additional 90 million people into extreme poverty.
- Little progress has been made since 2020 in catching up to the pre-COVID trend.
- Forecasts for 2022 estimate that 75 million more people than expected prior to the pandemic will be living in extreme poverty.



- In 2015, 589 million people were experiencing hunger, and by 2022, that number had risen to 735 million.
- Projections show that, by 2030, more than 600 million people worldwide will still be facing hunger – 8% of the world’s population, the same as in 2015.
- Globally in 2022, an estimated 22.3% of children under the age of 5 (148.1 million) were affected by stunting.
- The world is off track to achieving zero hunger by 2030.
- The number of people going hungry and suffering from food insecurity has been on the rise since 2015.
- Nearly 1 in 3 (a staggering 2.4 billion individuals) were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021.
- To achieve the target of a 50% reduction in the number of stunted children by 2030, the annual rate of decline must increase by 2.2 the current rate



- 25 million children missed out on important routine immunization (one or more doses of DTP) services in 2021.
- The global maternal mortality ratio decreased from 227 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 223 in 2020, but is still over three times higher than the target of 70 maternal deaths by 2030.
- In 2021, 5 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday – down from 6.1 million in 2015.
- Globally, in 2015–2022, an estimated 86% of births were assisted by skilled health professionals, including medical doctors, nurses, and midwives. This was an increase from 77% in 2008–2014.
- Progress was also made in under-5 and neonatal mortality, though too many children are still dying.
- The global mortality rate of children under age 5 fell by 12% from 2015 to 2020 – from 43 to 38 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The UHC service coverage index improved from a global average of 45 out of 100 in 2000 to 64 in 2015, 67 in 2019, and 68 in 2021. (increased by 3 points since 2015)
- However, almost 1 billion people spent more than 10% of their household budget on out-of-pocket health expenses in 2019, and more than half a billion (around 381 million people) were pushed into extreme poverty due to these out-of-pocket payments in 2019.



- Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was already off-track to achieve its education targets.
- An estimated 84 million children and young people will still be out of school and an estimated 300 million students will still not have the basic numeracy and literacy skills they need to succeed in life.
- To deliver on Goal 4, education systems must be reimagined, and education financing must become a priority national investment.
- Education has become more accessible over the years, but inequalities in access persist among socioeconomic groups.
- In 2020, 3 out of 4 children attended some form of organized learning one year before the official primary school age.
- However, participation was highly unequal, with disparities found based on gender, urban or rural location, and household wealth.
- Basic school infrastructure is far from universal.
 - a. About one quarter of primary schools worldwide lacked access to electricity, drinking water and basic sanitation facilities in 2019–2020.
 - b. Only half of primary schools had computers and Internet access or facilities that were fully accessible, including for children with disabilities.



- At the current rate of progress, it will take up to:
 - a. 286 years to close the gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws.
 - b. 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace.
 - c. 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.
 - Half of the countries did not have quotas for women in the national parliament.
 - In 2018–2021, only 26% of countries had comprehensive systems in place to track public allocations for gender equality.
 - Globally, in 2000, 35% of ever-partnered women aged 15–49 have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner at least once in their lifetime, and 16 per cent were subjected to this form of violence within the past 12 months.
 - Today, nearly one in five young women (19 per cent) were married before the age of 18.
 - By 2030, up to 10 million more girls are likely to become child brides.
 - At least 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to female genital mutilation.
-



- Achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a six-fold increase in current global rates of progress on drinking water, a five-fold increase for sanitation and a three-fold increase for hygiene.
- Drinking water:
 - a. 2.2 billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water services in 2022.
 - b. 3.5 billion lacked safely managed sanitation services in 2022.
 - c. 2.2 billion lacked basic hygiene services in 2022.
 - d. The proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 69% in 2015 to 73% in 2022.
 - e. At the current rate of progress, the world will reach 67% coverage by 2030, missing the target and leaving 2.8 billion people without safely managed drinking water supplies.
- Sanitation:
 - a. From 2015 to 2022, the world population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 49% to 57%.
 - b. If historical rates of progress continue, the world will reach 67% coverage by 2030, leaving 2.8 billion people without access.
- Wetlands are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth. Over 85% of the planet's wetlands have been lost over the past 300 years.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



- Access to electricity and clean cooking fuels has improved in many parts of the world, but 675 million people are still not connected to those grids, and 2.3 billion still cook with unsafe and polluting fuels.
- The global population with access to electricity increased from 87% in 2015 to 91% in 2021.
- If current trends continue, only 92% of the world's population will have access to electricity in 2030, leaving 660 million people unserved.
- The share of renewables in total final energy consumption increased slightly to 19.1% in 2020 (2.4% higher than 2015)
- Total renewable energy consumption increased by 16% from 2015 to 2020.
- Global primary energy intensity improved from 4.96 to 4.63 megajoules per US dollar between 2015 and 2020. To meet the target, energy intensity improvements until 2030 will need to average 3.4% a year.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- Progress towards achieving Goal 8 has been challenging, and the world is far from reaching most of the targets.
- Global real GDP per capita increased by 5.2% in 2021 but is forecast to slow down to 2.2% in 2022 and 1.4% in 2023.
- Nearly one in four (23.5% or 289 million) young people were not in education, employment, or training in 2022.
- The number of children in child labor rose to 160 million worldwide in 2020.
- The global economy is slowly improving, but recovery remains fragile and uneven.
- In 2021, global output per worker rebounded sharply, rising by 3.2%. However, productivity in the least developed countries (LDCs) declined by 1.6%.
- In 2022, unemployment declined slightly to 5.7 %, which still translates to 28 million more unemployed persons in 2021 than in 2019.
- The proportion of the world's youth not engaged in either education, employment, or training increased from 22.2% in 2015-2019 to 23.5% in 2022, due to the pandemic. This represents an increase of almost (23.5) 20 million women and men aged 15 to 24.



- Global manufacturing employment returned to the pre-pandemic level in 2021, but the share of manufacturing employment in total employment continued to decline.
- The share of manufacturing employment in total employment fell from 14.3% in 2015 to 13.6% in 2021.
- Global carbon dioxide emissions from energy combustion and industrial processes grew by 0.9% in 2022 to a new all-time high of 36.8 billion tons.
- Nearly one in three jobs in manufacturing supply chains worldwide have been terminated, seen a reduction in working hours or pay, or been the target of other cutbacks.
- Global air passenger traffic recovered modestly in 2021 with 2.3 billion passengers, compared with 4.5 billion in 2019.
- Financial losses for the airline industry in 2021 were \$324 billion. Higher-technology manufacturing industries fared better than lower-tech industries during the pandemic. Most industries using medium and high technology have already returned to pre-pandemic production levels.



- Record numbers of people are being forced to flee conflicts and economic hardship. By the end of 2022, 1 in 233 people worldwide were refugees, the highest proportion ever documented.
- The ratio of refugees to every 100,000 people has risen to 398, an 87% increase from 2015.
- 5,895 people died fleeing their countries in 2021, surpassing pre-pandemic figures and making it the deadliest year on record for migrants since 2017.
- The number of refugees worldwide has reached a record high of 34.6 million. The rate of refugees per 100,000 people has increased by 44% since 2015.
- According to data from 49 countries and territories collected between 2017 and 2021, roughly one in five people have experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds prohibited under international human rights law.
- Among persons with disabilities, it is pervasive, with about one in six reporting personal experiences of discrimination.
- The labor share of income declined from 54.1% to 52.6% between 2014 and 2019. This decline is consistent with other related evidence going back to the 1970s.



- Nearly 1.1 billion people lived in slums or slum-like conditions in urban areas, with an additional 2 billion expected to live in slums or slum-like conditions over the next 30 years.
- In more than three quarters of the cities, less than 20% of their area is dedicated to open public spaces and streets, about half of the proportion recommended. On average, open public spaces account for a meagre 3.2% of urban land, about four times less than the share of land devoted to streets.
- In 2020, approximately 1 billion people (one in four urban dwellers) lived in slums or informal settlements. The majority (85%) of slum dwellers are concentrated in Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Air pollution poses a significant threat to human health worldwide.
- Mortality is attributed to exposure to fine particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM2.5) in diameter and other pollutants, which put people at increased risk of stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and lower respiratory infections.
- A record number of cities (over 6,000) in 117 countries are now monitoring air quality, double the number since 2015.
- In 2022, an average of 82% of municipal solid waste globally was being collected and 55% was being managed in controlled facilities.



- The world is seriously off track in its effort to halve per-capita food waste and losses by 2030.
- The percentage of food lost globally after harvest at the farm, transport, storage, wholesale, and processing levels is estimated at 13.2% in 2021, unchanged from 2016.
- In 2021, Governments spent an estimated \$732 billion on subsidies to coal, oil, and gas, against \$375 billion in 2020. This brings the subsidies back to pre-2015 levels.
- Domestic material consumption measures the total amount of materials directly used by an economy to meet the demands for goods and services from both within and outside a country.
- From 2000 to 2019, total DMC rose by 66% globally, amounting to 95.1 billion metric tons in 2019. That translates to 12.3 tons per person.
- Food insecurity is a global problem, with about 828 million people facing hunger in 2020. Food loss and waste are major contributors to food insecurity, with an estimated 17% of all food produced for human consumption lost or wasted each year.
- Food loss and waste have a significant environmental impact, accounting for 8 to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- In 2019, the world generated 53.6 million metric tons of e-waste. Only 17.4% of e-waste was recycled in 2019.



- The world is on the brink of a climate catastrophe. Current actions and plans to address the climate crisis are insufficient.
- The number of persons affected by disasters per 100,000 people rose from 1,198 between 2005 and 2015 to 2,113 between 2012 and 2021.
- The increase in global temperatures has already reached 1.1°C, due to increasing global greenhouse gas emissions, which reached record highs in 2020. Real-time data from 2021 show emissions continuing an upward trajectory.
- An analysis of 100 national curriculum frameworks reveals that nearly half (47%) do not mention climate change.
- The global annual mean temperature is projected to rise beyond 1.5 C° above pre-industrial over the coming century.
- In 2020, COVID-19 caused social and economic disruptions that will lower energy demand around the world. As a result, global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions declined by 5.2% in 2020.
- With the phasing out of COVID-related restrictions, demand for coal, oil, and gas increased. Consequently, energy-related CO₂ emissions for 2021 rose by 6%.
- Developed countries have jointly committed to mobilizing \$100 billion dollars per year by 2020, further extended to 2025, for climate action in developing countries
- The IPCC estimates that \$1.6trillion to \$3.8 trillion per year will be needed by 2030 to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.



- Ocean acidification is increasing and will continue to do so if carbon dioxide emissions do not stop rising.
- More than one third (35.4%) of global stocks were overfished in 2019.
- Only 1.1% of national research budgets were allocated for ocean science between 2013 and 2021.
- The ocean absorbs around one quarter of the world's annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, thereby mitigating climate change and alleviating its impacts. However, this process also alters the carbonate system and increases the acidity of the ocean, which is known as ocean acidification.
- Over the last two years, the number of observation stations reporting on ocean acidification has almost tripled, from 178 in 2021 to 539 in 2023.
- In 2021, more than 17 million metric tons of plastic entered the world's ocean. The volume of plastic pollution entering the ocean each year is expected to double or triple by 2040.
- Global fish stocks are under increasing threat from overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. More than a third (35.4%) of global stocks were overfished in 2019, up from 34.2% in 2017 and 10% in 1974.
- Sustainable fisheries play an important role in local economies and in food security. They accounted for about 0.10% of global GDP in 2019, a share that has not changed significantly since 2011.



- The world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.
- The trend in forest loss, land degradation, and the extinction of species is becoming worse.
- The world's forest area continues to decline, but at a slightly slower rate than in previous decades. The proportion of forests fell from 31.9% of total land area in 2000 to 31.2% in 2020, representing a net loss of almost 100 million hectares.
- Agricultural expansion is driving almost 90% of global deforestation, including 49.6% from expansion for cropland and 38.5% for livestock grazing.
- The world is making progress on implementing frameworks for the sustainable use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity has been ratified by 132 countries and the European Union.
- The risk of species extinction is increasing at a rate unprecedented in human history. The Red List Index, which measures the overall extinction risk of species in selected taxonomic groups, reveals a deterioration of 8.9% between 2003 and 2023.
- Protected areas are important for safeguarding key biodiversity areas (KBAs). The mean percentage coverage of KBAs by protected areas has increased from over one quarter in 2000 to nearly one half in 2021.
- Coverage is uneven, with four regions having mean coverage of less than 35% across marine, terrestrial, freshwater and mountain KBAs.



- One quarter of humanity lives in conflict-affected areas and, as of end-2022, more than 108 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide. 2.5 the number a decade ago.
- In 2022, around one in four children under 5 years of age had no officially recorded birth, and only half of the children under 5 in sub-Saharan Africa had their births registered.
- 15% of businesses face bribe requests by public officials based on data from 154 surveyed countries during 2006–2023.
- In 2021, the United Nations recorded 13,842 deaths associated with 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts. Among these deaths, 11,075 were civilians, and 1 in 8 were women or children.
- Human rights violations, including human trafficking and forced labor, have increased in conflict-affected countries, undermining international humanitarian law.
- Nearly 200,000 trafficking victims were detected worldwide between 2017 and 2022. But many more likely remained undetected.
- The world has spent \$349 billion on peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, and refugee support over the last decade.
- Feeling unsafe in public can erode one's sense of wellbeing and reduce trust and community engagement. About 69% of the world's population report feeling safe walking alone at night in the area in which they live. This proportion has remained stable from 2016 to 2021.
- Tracing is key to investigating and disclosing the origins of illegal firearms. Systematic implementation of tracing remains a challenge globally. Between 2016 and 2020, an average of 28% of seized weapons were reported as successfully traced.



- Official sustainable development grants passed the \$100 billion mark in 2020 and reached \$118 billion in 2021.
- In 2022, an estimated 66% of the world's population (5.3 billion) used the Internet, compared with 40% (3 billion) in 2015. There has been slower growth in the number of Internet users compared with at the height of the pandemic, meaning that without increased investment in infrastructure and digital skills, the aim of connecting everyone by 2030 will remain elusive.
- In 2022, 156 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation compliant with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- Net official development assistance (ODA) flows by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) members amounted to \$206 billion in 2021, an increase of 15.3% in real terms from 2020. This level of ODA represented 0.37% of donors' combined gross national income (GNI), reaching a new peak. However, it still fell short of the 0.7% target, and is not enough to enable developing countries to get back on track in meeting the SDGs targets.
- Timely and high-quality data are critical for decision-making in development, especially during the pandemic. The number of countries with national statistical plans increased from 132 in 2020 to 150 in 2021.
- Excluding a significant rise in funding for health data, funding received for other statistical activities that are considered fundamental declined by 20%. Funding for data specific to the SDGs, such as gender data and climate data, declined even more than that in 2020.
- The Internet has become vital for working, learning, accessing basic services and keeping in touch. The number of Internet users has accelerated during the pandemic, from 4.1 billion in 2019 to 4.9 billion in 2021, to 5.3 billion in 2022.
- In LDCs, fixed broadband remains a privilege of the few, with only 1.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.

Note to reader: The above summary captures highlights of United Nations Secretary General special edition report, “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet” and The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Please revert to the two respective reports for further context and analysis.

About the World Governments Summit

The World Governments Summit Organization is a global, neutral, non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments. The Summit, in its various activities, explores the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.

Since its inception in 2013, the Summit has championed the mission of shaping future governments and creating a better future for humanity. The past editions of the Summit have successfully established a new model to collaborate on an international playing field to inspire and enable the next generation of governments.

Governments that place the wellbeing of the people at the heart of their efforts to achieve progressive development and contribute to the journey of human advancement.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum established the World Government Summit in 2013 to serve as a global knowledge exchange program for governments. The Summit endeavors to usher thought leaders – policymakers, businesses, and civil society – into the future by showcasing cutting-edge government innovation and service excellence.

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38,000+

Attendees



25,000+

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1550+

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80+

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40+

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