

ENVISIONING 2045:

Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development

Post 2030 Agenda:
Paving the way forward

**XDGs
2045**

**WORLD
GOVERNMENTS
SUMMIT 2025**

in collaboration with

**SDGs IN
ACTION**



اللجنة الوطنية
للمتابعة المستدامة
National Committee
on Sustainable Development Goals





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We extend our sincere gratitude to the global leaders and experts who contributed their invaluable insights during the two XDGs 2045 roundtables in 2025 organized by the UAE SDGs National Committee Secretariate:

1. XDGs High-Level Roundtable held on January 15, 2025, during the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.
2. XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable held on February 11, 2025, during the SDGs in Action Forum at World Governments Summit.

Conducted under Chatham House Rules, these critical dialogues provided thoughtful reflections on SDG achievements and offered visionary perspectives essential for shaping future global development agendas. Your contributions have significantly enriched this report.

We also recognize and extend our appreciation to the instrumental role of the SDGs in Action Forum at World Governments Summit, and the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in creating unique platforms where global decision-makers can collaborate effectively, enabling robust exploration of challenges and opportunities inherent in the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

We thank all individuals who contributed their time and insights to the XDGs 2045 Global Survey that serves as a pillar of global consultation.

Finally, thank you to our readers for your engagement. We hope the insights presented here inspire meaningful actions toward a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive global future.



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Transforming the future
demands more than
vision, it demands
action. To accelerate
progress toward 2045,
we must unite around
effective solutions and
partnerships that move
from dialogue to delivery.



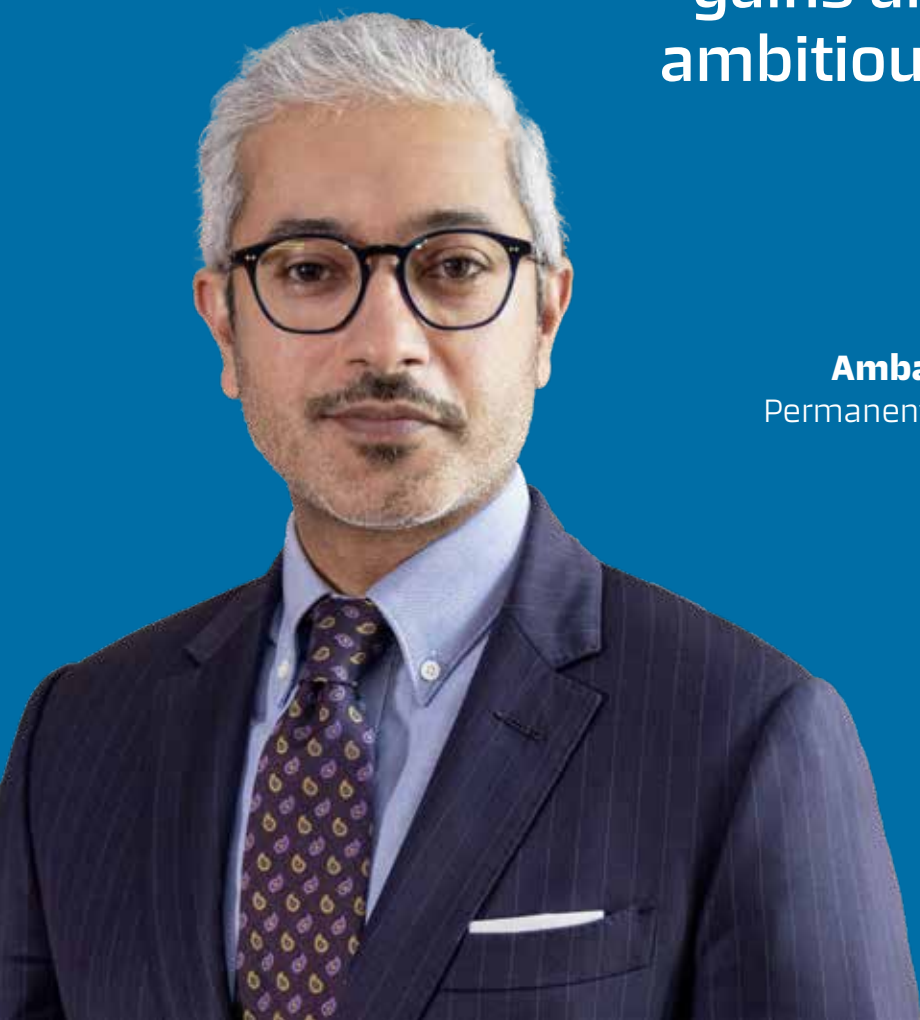
His Excellency

Abdulla Nasser Lootah

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



As we reflect on the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future, the UAE has convened leading thinkers to help chart a way forward that builds on hard-won gains and shapes a more ambitious, future-focused agenda for 2045.



His Excellency

Ambassador Mohamed Abushahab

Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Envisioning 2045: Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development

The upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), taking place in September 2025, marks the 10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While celebrating a decade of unified global ambition, this milestone underscores an urgent reality: only five years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With only five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, the global community must intensify efforts to fulfill the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, this urgency drives the critical need to proactively begin shaping the post-2030 development framework, referred to as the XDGs 2045, the next generation of yet-to-be-defined global goals. Recognizing this important moment, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has led global efforts since 2023, championing strategic dialogues and collaborative action through the SDGs in Action at the World Governments Summit (WGS) to support the foundational blocks of the XDGs 2045.

The 2025 edition, themed "Envisioning 2045: Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development", further amplified this dialogue, highlighting strategic foresight, collaborative innovation, and transformative technology as essential pathways toward a just, sustainable, and prosperous future.

Why XDGs 2045?

Despite sizable efforts, the SDGs continue to face challenges from persistent inequalities, technological disparities, and climate warnings. As highlighted in the UN Secretary-General's SDG progress report (April 2024), the SDGs are 17% on track, around half show minimal to moderate progress, while over one-third of the indicators have stalled or regressed. The Pact for the Future, adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future, underscores the urgent need for renewed multilateral collaboration, stronger commitments, and transformative actions to bridge these gaps. The XDGs 2045 initiative serves as a call to action to the global community to remain committed to the 2030 Agenda, and an urgent activation point to commence in developing the next generation of development goals. The XDGs 2045 should be visionary, agile, innovative, inclusive, proactive and tailored to address emerging global realities in every region.

This report summarizes key insights and strategic recommendations from a high-level ministerial roundtable held during the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW, January 2025) and the WGS (February 2025). While the ADSW session focused on transformative solutions within global energy systems, the WGS ministerial roundtable presented extensive insights across multiple sectors, including but not limited to, innovation, partnerships, and digital inclusion.

Key Strategic Insights

The discussions through both roundtables built on three thematic pillars, with high-level insights following the pillar:

- **Visionary Perspectives:** Leaders underlined the pressing need for proactive planning, resilient leadership structures, and new development indicators that look beyond GDP to include sustainability and equality.
- **Collaborative Pathways:** Participants advocated for stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms, as well as more alignment across governments, private sectors, international organizations, NGOs, and civil society in order to scale high-impact solutions.
- **Transformative Innovations:** Frontier technologies such as AI, blockchain, digital finance, and advanced renewable energies emerged as essential drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth, provided they are ethically managed and made universally accessible.

The Time to Act, is Now

The XDGs 2045 initiative represents an urgent call to action to reshape our collective future by initiating early thinking around the next generation of global development goals. This effort complements the 2030 Agenda, which remains the central and unfinished global priority. While the formal process to define the post-2030 agenda is not expected to begin until 2027, proactive dialogue today ensures that future frameworks are informed by current gaps, evolving realities, and the lessons of SDG implementation. To succeed, the whole of society has to commit to unified actions towards global prosperity – beyond 2030. It is a call to action to all leaders to actively shape our common future, for the better good of humanity and our planet.



INTRODUCTION

Envisioning 2045: Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development

As the world approaches the 2030 milestone for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there has never been a greater need to develop an innovative and forward-thinking development agenda. The transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) marked a significant shift toward a more integrated, universal, and inclusive development agenda anchored in the principles of sustainability, leaving no one behind, and addressing the interconnected nature of global challenges.

However, persistent data gaps – highlighted in the United Nations Secretary-General's 2024 report – together with widening inequalities, escalating climate risks, and rapid technological shifts, underscore the need to begin envisioning a more agile, future-oriented framework beyond 2030.

Recognizing this opportunity, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is actively contributing to international discussions about the next phase of development. Through the World Governments Summit (WGS) and Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), the UAE has brought together thought leaders, political leaders, and industry professionals to rethink, reimagine, and reshape the future of global development.

In early 2025, the UAE convened two key high-level roundtables under the theme of "Envisioning 2045: Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development," in order to build on the momentum achieved in 2023, to advocate and accelerate global discussions to commence in developing the next-generation global development goals, named XDGs 2045.

The ADSW High-Level Roundtable (January 2025) focused on energy transformation, highlighting the importance of frontier innovations in ensuring a sustainable and equitable energy future. Additionally, the WGS Ministerial Roundtable (February 2025) adopted a broader, cross-sectoral perspective, emphasizing innovation, multi-stakeholder partnerships, digital transformation, and inclusive socio-economic development.

Together, these two sessions followed a similar structured approach around three common thematic areas:

- **Visionary Perspectives** – Envisioning a Sustainable and Inclusive Future by 2045
Shaping a future driven by foresight, innovation, and bold strategies for sustainable and inclusive development.
- **Collaborative Pathways** – Strengthening Global Partnerships and Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration
Uniting governments, businesses, and civil society to scale impactful solutions through shared responsibility and cooperation.
- **Transformative Innovations** – Harnessing Innovations for Sustainable Development
Leveraging breakthrough innovations to accelerate progress and redefine the future of sustainable development.



This report highlights the significant outcomes, recommendations, and strategic imperatives that emerged from those discussions. It emphasizes the critical need for proactive policies, ethical leadership, and innovative financing mechanisms to promote global resilience. The XDGs 2045 initiative serves as a foundational block for shaping an inclusive, future-proof development agenda, responding to rising problems while unlocking new possibilities for shared prosperity.

Both roundtables were held under Chatham House Rules, which encouraged open discussion about emerging challenges and strategic vision. The discussions highlighted a shared commitment to reforming global development frameworks, ensuring that policies, investments, and leadership structures are adaptable to a changing environment. This report is a call to action, inviting governments, international organizations, private sector leaders, and civil society to help shape a resilient, open to everyone, and innovation-driven future by 2045.

XDGs 2045 IN FOCUS

World Governments Summit: XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable at SDGs In Action

The XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable at the World Governments Summit's SDGs in Action 2025 brought together more than 20 ministers and 20 leaders from the private sector, international organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations, and others, to discuss and share their visions for the next generation of global development goals. Built around three thematic areas, Visionary Perspectives, Collaborative Pathways, and Transformative Innovations, the leaders discussed broad approaches that integrate foresight into leadership, strengthen global partnerships, and harness technology for sustainable development for the 'now' that transcends beyond 2030 towards 2045.

About WGS:

The World Governments Summit is a worldwide non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments. The WGS explores the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve humanity's universal challenges. The SDGs in Action Forum, inaugurated at the 2016 WGS, serves as host to the XDGs 2045 initiative.





SECTION 1
VISIONARY PERSPECTIVES

**Envisioning a Sustainable and
Inclusive Energy Future by 2045**

1.1

The Urgency for a Resilient Development Agenda

Global leaders acknowledged the slow progress on the 2030 Agenda, with just 17% of SDGs achieved (SDGs Progress Report, 2024). The participants emphasized the need to move beyond the current – whilst remaining committed to the SDGs – towards developing a proactive, agile, and strategic 2045 Agenda.

A key concern raised was the absence of forward-thinking organizational structures that could withstand external shocks such as economic downturns, pandemics, and climate crises. The importance of integrating foresight techniques and scenario planning into national and international policies was widely recognized.



We need to rethink how we approach global challenges, because we cannot achieve different results by thinking in the same way.

—
Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045
Ministerial Roundtable

1.2

Leadership and Policy Adaptation for Sustainable Growth

One of the most important parts of achieving a sustainable future is connecting national ambitions with quantifiable, contextual, and practical development goals. Discussions under-scored the need for effective leadership in shaping policies that contribute to economic diversity, resilience, and sustainable growth.

Several important concerns emerged as to how leadership should evolve in the following decades:

- Proactive governance involves anticipating disruptions and designing agile policies, rather than reacting to disasters.
- Diversifying economies proves essential for reducing reliance on limited resources and external fluctuations.
- While many governments set goals that are ambitious, a lack of infrastructure and policy frameworks often limits their successful execution, resulting in the difference between vision and implementation.

Participants highlighted the need for development models that are agile enough to adapt to shifts in geopolitics, environmental pressures, emerging technologies, and rising global conflict. Discussions underscored that future models of leadership should prioritize economic resilience, inclusive policymaking, environmental stewardship, and the integration of conflict prevention and resolution as essential enablers of sustainable development.



Empathy should be at the center of global leadership. Without it, we fail to create inclusive solutions for 2045.

—
Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045
Ministerial Roundtable

1.3 Resilient Societies in an Era of Uncertainty

Climate change, demographic transitions, and rising urbanization are all causing significant changes in the planet. These transformations will require enabling the creation of resilient societies that are capable of thriving in the face of uncertainty.

Key insights on building resilient societies included:

- Prioritize investments in climate adaptation and mitigation, resilient infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and urban planning.
- Policymakers should develop equitable economic systems that foster financial stability and equal access to resources for all citizens, reducing wealth disparities that contribute to societal instability.
- To promote social cohesiveness, future development policies should include members of marginalized communities, such as youth, women, indigenous peoples, people of determination, and low-income individuals, in their design and decision-making processes.

Participants also emphasized the necessity of international cooperation to build resilience, as no country can effectively tackle these difficulties alone. While national policies are important, international support, information sharing, and capacity-building programs are critical in developing societies that are resilient.



"The future belongs to those who innovate beyond their present constraints. 2045 will not wait for slow movers."

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable



1.4

Rethinking Global Development Metrics

A repeated subject was the ineffectiveness of the current measurement tools used for SDG tracking. Many participants noted that existing indicators fail to account for the various contextual issues that different countries face, for instance small island states, developing economies, and highly urbanized regions.

Key insights on improving development indicators:

- AI and big data developments enable real-time policy monitoring, which promotes dynamic development tracking and timely responses.
- Development indicators must be adapted to national and regional environments, as a one-size-fits-all approach disregards various socioeconomic and environmental realities.
- True development goes beyond GDP and includes critical measures like sustainability, equity, and digital inclusion.



We have too many frameworks, too many agreements, and yet less concrete achievements. We need alignment, not dilution.”

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

Participants recognized that until there is a fundamental transformation in how development success is defined, policies will continue to fall short of meeting the actual needs of various populations. This implies moving from rigid universal indicators to adaptable and context-sensitive principles.

1.5

The Roadmap to 2045

Looking ahead, achieving a sustainable and inclusive world by 2045 would need a comprehensive, multilayered approach.

The discussion focused on several essential actions:

- Incorporating foresight planning and systems thinking into government initiatives to anticipate disruptions and navigate long-term transitions.
- Prioritizing resilience in national policy through climate adaptation, economic diversification, inclusive policies, and digital literacy.
- Redefining global development indicators to better represent the complexity of modern economies and cultures.
- Improving national ownership of global agendas through domestic policy integration and localized implementation.



The journey to 2045 is not simply an extension of our current trajectory, but a leap into a future where advanced technologies and global equity are the norm.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

SECTION 2
COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS

**Strengthening Global Partnerships
and Multi-Stakeholder
Collaboration**

2.1

From Fragmentation to Collective Action

Participants highlighted that in face of mounting global risks, a growing emphasis on national security and self-interest has limited the potential of multilateral cooperation. Rebalancing national priorities with a renewed commitment to shared progress is critical to advancing sustainable development.

Key concerns raised include:

- Several global forums and organizations fail to generate effective cooperation due to conflicting geopolitical and economic interests undermining multilateral efforts.
- Development initiatives remain disconnected because organizations, governments, and business enterprises continue operating individually rather than together (lack of data sharing and inefficiencies in processes).
- Official Development Assistance (ODA), financial and technical assistance remains unevenly distributed, leaving vulnerable nations without necessary support.



We need to work together, work together nationally, work together regionally, and work together internationally.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

To strengthen collaboration and accelerate international cooperation, development must be redefined as a shared obligation rather than a competition. Countries and organizations must renew their commitment to partnerships that are transparent, equitable, and purposeful.

2.2

Transformative Partnerships for Sustainable Progress

Despite the scale of today's challenges, high-impact partnerships have proven that coordinated action can drive systemic and lasting change. Several important features characterize effective, scalable, and reproducible partnership models:

- Sustainable development is best achieved when governments, business, academics, civil society, and international organizations collaborate in a coordinated and inclusive manner.
- Addressing local and regional challenges through tailored programs leads to greater sustainability and impact than broad, one-size-fits-all global initiatives.
- Instead of relying on short-term aid, public-private partnerships, knowledge exchange, impact investing, and blended finance are among the most effective ways to create long-term sustainable resilience.
- Empowering communities and nations require collaborative efforts that prioritize capacity building, innovation, and accessibility to technology and resources.



No single nation can achieve the XDGs alone, alliances between governments, businesses, and communities will define the next 20 years.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

Sustainable development is contingent on inclusive, adaptive partnerships that combine the strengths of governments, businesses, international organizations, and civil society. These relationships foster creativity, resilience, and long-term impact by focusing on localized solutions, sustainable finance, and community empowerment.

2.3

Building Knowledge and Capacity for Sustainable Growth

A constant topic throughout the discussions was that financial support alone is insufficient; leadership experience, technological competence, and institutional capacity-building are all equally important for sustainable development.

Priority areas for enhancing capacity-building efforts:

- Rather than reacting to crises, governments should adopt policy innovation initiatives that improve their ability to anticipate and mitigate future challenges.
- Building capacities in cutting-edge digital, AI, and green technology is critical for developing nations in order to accelerate their sustainable growth.
- Responsible leadership creates adaptable and high-impact policies using real-time data and evidence-based decision-making.
- Bridging the skill gap through collaborative training programs promotes an innovative and agile workforce ready for future challenges.

Building knowledge and capacity is crucial for sustainable development and resilience. Proactive policy innovation, fair access to new technology, data-driven governance, and cross-sector skill development enable governments to address global challenges. Long-term success requires leadership, expertise, and adaptability in addition to financial resources.



We need policies that prioritize climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to ensure that developing nations lead, not just follow, the green transition.

—
Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045
Ministerial Roundtable



2.4

Leveraging the Private Sector as a Development Partner

To strengthen the global development ecosystem, the XDGs 2045 agenda should create structured mechanisms for integrating private sector expertise, financing, and innovation into policymaking and implementation processes, recognizing businesses as essential partners in advancing sustainable and inclusive growth.

Key areas where private sector engagement is crucial:

- Businesses must take the lead in narrowing the digital divide by expanding AI and digital transformation while making sure that technical developments promote sustainable prosperity and benefit all nations equally.
- The future of resilient economies and sustainable development depends on channeling private capital to climate action, infrastructure, and impact-driven initiatives.
- The future of corporate sustainability is dependent on companies incorporating ESG principles (Sustainability Corporate Frameworks) and the XDGs 2045 into their key strategy for sustainable growth.
- Achieving future-ready economies entails strategic industry-government partnerships in which the private sector works with governments to develop innovative policies for economic and social development.



We need policies that prioritize climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to ensure that developing nations lead, not just follow, the green transition.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

Businesses are essential to economic growth, innovation, and sustainability. To move forward, the development of the XDGs 2045 must include the private sector and set the foundation to utilize expertise, funding, and innovation. Priorities include bridging the digital gap, increasing impact investment, implementing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards, and promoting industry-government relationships. Regulatory changes, incentives, and accountability are critical for balancing commercial expansion with sustainable development.

2.5

Policy Coordination for Maximum Impact

A key obstacle to effective collaboration is a lack of alignment across international, national, and local development policies. Greater coordination is required to ensure that funds, policies, and resources are directed for ideal impact.

Critical steps for improving policy coordination:

- Countries can play a key role in shaping the XDGs 2045 by gradually aligning their national priorities with emerging global development goals, helping ensure coherence and long-term consistency in development.
- Cross-sectoral development partnerships are essential for simplifying regulatory frameworks and avoiding duplicated activities by governments, businesses, and civil society.
- Improved access to development data and impact assessments promotes accountability as well as transparency, resulting in more effective global progress.
- Permanent global and regional policy forums integrate multistakeholder partnership and enable proactive solutions to emerging challenges.



We need financing structures that are not just about capital but about long-term, inclusive, and sustainable investment in people.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

Greater alignment between international, national, and local policies can strengthen collaboration and improve development outcomes. Integrating the XDGs 2045 into national planning, encouraging cross-sector partnerships, enhancing data transparency, and creating inclusive policy platforms can help transform scattered efforts into more coordinated and impactful action.



SECTION 3
TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATIONS

**Harnessing Innovations for
Sustainable Development**

3.1

Innovation as a Driving Force for the post 2030-Agenda

The next phase of global development will be defined by pioneering innovations, ranging from solutions powered by AI and green technology to digital finance and renewing economies. The discussion stressed that technology should no longer be viewed as a secondary tool, but rather as the primary engine of future development. Key considerations for integrating innovation into the XDGs 2045 framework:

- AI and digital transformation foster inclusive economic growth. Their integration into national strategies is key to scaling new opportunities and diversification of economies.
- The impact of technological innovation on climate change, healthcare, and global food security is reshaping the 20th century practices. These tools offer scalable solutions to long-standing global challenges.
- Regulatory frameworks enable responsible innovation while reducing risks. These frameworks should evolve with emerging technologies to ensure safety, trust, and positive impact throughout deployment.

Digital inclusion ensures equal access to the benefits of innovation. Bridging digital gaps should remain a core development priority for all



We need policies that prioritize climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to ensure that developing nations lead, not just follow, the green transition.

–

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

nations. To fully realize the potential of innovation, governments and international organizations must adopt policies that ensure equal access of emerging technologies, overcome digital gaps, and promote ethical AI development.

3.2

AI and Digital Transformation as Catalysts for Progress

AI, automation, and big data analytics are reshaping economies, governance models, and public service delivery. However, unequal access to these technologies risks deepening existing socioeconomic divides, particularly in underserved regions and vulnerable communities.

Key pathways AI and digital transformation can support sustainable development:

- AI-powered decision-making can improve public sector efficiency, including policy effectiveness, service delivery, and crisis response.
- AI and predictive analytics can improve healthcare innovation, including early illness diagnosis, customized therapy, and rural access.
- AI-powered individualized learning may bridge school gaps and enhance skill development for future job markets.
- Predictive modeling, through AI in climate resilience, may help with catastrophe response, agricultural optimization, and sustainable resource management.
- Inclusive AI development requires collaboration between governments, private sector, academia, and international organizations to enable inclusive development and implementation of AI features that do not reinforce current inequities.



We cannot afford to leave AI adoption to market forces alone. Governments must ensure AI benefits society as a whole, not just the privileged few.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

In order to encourage responsible AI implementation, clear mechanisms for governance and global regulatory structures must be implemented. These need to find and achieve a balance between innovation, privacy, security, and ethics.

3.3

Closing the Digital Divide and Building Inclusive Technological Ecosystems

While digital transformation provides multiple possibilities, many individuals remain disconnected from the digital economy due to insufficient infrastructure, financial challenges, and digital literacy gaps.

Key actions required to close the digital divide:

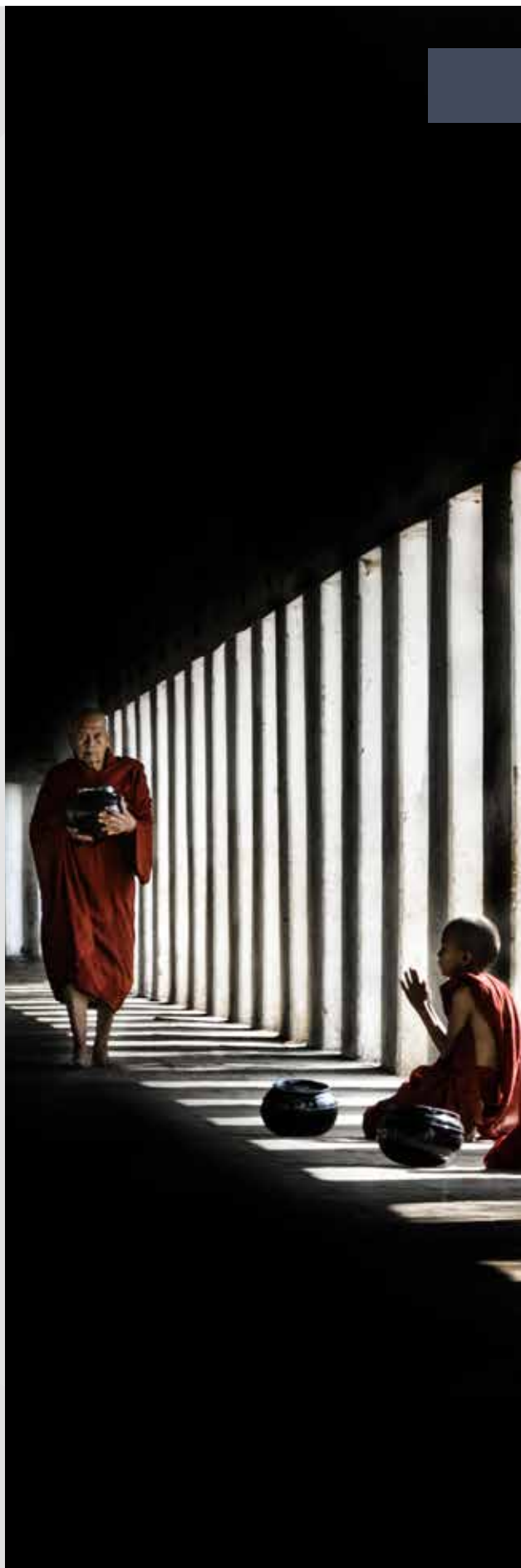
- Prioritize and improve digital – and energy – infrastructure in underserved areas through investments in broadband expansion, 5G networks, and low-cost internet solutions.
- Promote digital literacy and workforce readiness through large-upskilling and reskilling initiatives funded by governments and private sectors to prepare workforces for empowered AI economies.
- Ensure universal access to digital public services requires creating e-government platforms, digital ID systems, and mobile financial services available to all all-of-society.
- Foster equitable AI adoption by emphasizing the inclusion of technologies that will drive benefits to underserved communities, rather than to leaving these communities behind.

The success of the XDGs 2045 will be determined by whether technology improvements benefit all communities or increase inequality in society.



If we want a world where AI and automation create jobs instead of eliminating them, we must start investing in digital education today.

—
Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable



3.4

Renewable Energy and Climate Innovations for a Sustainable Future

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges to future development. To ensure long-term environmental sustainability, the world must accelerate the transition to green energy and climate-resilient solutions.

Key considerations for the climate and energy sector:

- Next-generation renewable solutions, such as solar, wind, hydrogen, and energy storage, hold the key to reshaping the global energy environment.
- Advancing carbon capture and regeneration technologies should be prioritized as a means to reduce atmospheric carbon and strengthen climate resilience. AI-powered environmental monitoring will transform climate action by utilizing predictive analytics to detect trends, promote conservation, and more effective disaster response.
- To ensure sustainability, agriculture and food security must be transformed through AI-driven precision farming, lab-grown proteins, and climate-resilient crops.
- The shift to a circular economy requires immediate action by businesses and governments to expand zero-waste solutions, sustainable manufacturing, and resource reuse.



Renewable energy is not just an option; it is a necessity for sustainable development beyond 2030.

–

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable

Many of these innovations are already taking place in various countries. However, this highlights the importance of knowledge sharing and capacity building to prevent future disparities. To have a significant impact, these technologies must be supported by robust regulatory frameworks, financing solutions, and international cooperation. The global energy transition is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redesign systems around social equity from sourcing and recycling critical minerals to the benefits derived from clean energy jobs and infrastructure.

3.5

The Future of Work: Emerging Trends Shaping the Workforce

The workforce in 2045 will be substantially different from now. Automation, artificial intelligence, and emergent sectors will have an impact on the global labor market, demanding new educational methods and economic policies to prepare for these developments.

Key areas of focus for future workforce readiness:

- Future-ready economies are dependent on comprehensive reskilling and upskilling initiatives that provide individuals with digital and sustainability skills.
- To ensure ethical AI integration into labor markets, governments must establish clear regulations that regulate AI-human collaboration in the workplace.
- A resilient workforce requires universal basic services that protect against losses in employment through social protection systems and inclusive policies.
- In a hyperconnected world, governments, businesses, and individuals must embrace remote work and digital economies in order to increase global talent mobility and economic opportunities.

The XDGs 2045 offer a pathway to transform automation from a disruptive force into a strategic asset by linking education reform and economic policy with the rapid evolution of AI.



AI will either be the great equalizer or the biggest force of inequality—those who understand how to use AI will take the jobs of those who don't.

—

Participant during the WGS XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable



XDGs 2045 IN FOCUS

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2025: XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable (Energy Focused)

The XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable, organized during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, focused on the global energy transition using the same structured framework, Visionary Perspectives, Collaborative Pathways, and Transformative Innovations, with a particular focus on sustainable and inclusive energy systems. The session emphasized called for urgent action to scale next-generation energy technologies, deepen multilateral partnerships, and empower leadership that can drive equitable and sustainable energy access worldwide by 2045.

About ADSW:

Hosted by the UAE and its clean energy leader Masdar, ADSW stands at the intersection of technology, policy, and investment, to advance inclusive social, economic, and environmental progress.

For more than 15 years, ADSW has convened decision-makers from government, the private sector and civil society to foster multistakeholder collaboration, drive widescale systemic change, and shape the next era of global sustainability.

Standing at the nexus of new thinking and action, ADSW facilitates knowledge sharing and collective action through initiatives, dialogues, and thought leadership, providing cross-sector collaboration and impactful solutions.





SECTION 1
VISIONARY PERSPECTIVES

**Envisioning a Sustainable and
Inclusive Energy Future by 2045**

1.1

Rethinking the Global Energy Landscape Beyond 2030

The global energy transition must move beyond incremental progress to meet future demands. While current efforts focus on decarbonization, efficiency, and renewables, they fall short of ensuring long-term sustainability, equity, and resilience. A future-oriented energy vision must embrace breakthrough technologies, AI, and next-generation materials to drive a more inclusive and transformative global energy system by 2045.

Key themes that emerged from the discussion included:

- The necessity of embedding forward-thinking energy policy into global frameworks that extend beyond short-term national commitments.
- AI and advanced technology serve an important role in optimizing energy systems, providing predictive analytics, and increasing efficiency.
- The need for an all-encompassing strategy that enables equitable access to breakthrough energy technologies in all regions.
- The significance of long-term financial models for derisking investment in high-potential, high-impact energy innovations.



We must also be very clear and very honest in recognizing the urgency that we need to build a very solid foundation for what we know lies beyond.

—

Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

The conclusion underscored the need to shift from policy-level adjustments to a fundamental redesign of global energy systems, enabled by technological breakthroughs and strengthened public-private partnerships.

1.2

XDGs 2045: A Visionary Framework for Energy Transformation

The XDGs 2045 initiative was described as a forward-thinking method that asks global stakeholders to rethink the future of sustainable development, and within the context of this specific roundtable the energy sector. This initiative is intended to move beyond the existing development framework, acknowledging that the post-2030 world will require significant modifications in how energy is generated, delivered, and used.

The discussion highlighted that the present renewable energy trajectory must be supported by disruptive innovations in developing industries to ensure that:

- Global energy demand is addressed without increasing socioeconomic inequality.
- New energy solutions are adaptable to a variety of geographical and economic environments.
- The shift to sustainable energy is economically feasible for all countries, regardless of present resource dependence.

Participants noted that governments, businesses, and research institutions must increase investment in breakthrough energy solutions such as AI-powered smart grids, sustainable nuclear



The energy future we imagine today must serve as a foundation for a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable world for decades to.

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045
High-Level Roundtable

breakthroughs, and zero-carbon synthetic fuels. These developments are essential for creating a balanced, decentralized, and resilient global energy system by 2045.

1.3

Aligning 2045 Energy Strategies with Sustainability and Resilience

To ensure a sustainable and resilient energy landscape in 2045, long-term policy planning must include economic, technological, and social factors. This requires a forward-thinking vision that combines innovation and stability, provides fair access to clean energy, and promotes resilience to global uncertainties.

The discussion addressed the important demands for developing future-ready energy strategies:

- Future-ready energy strategies must include agile policies that allow for innovative solutions while maintaining economic stability.
- An equitable energy transition requires investments in infrastructure, digital technologies, and policies that ensure universal renewable energy adoption while leaving no country behind.
- Building resilient energy systems that may withstand climate, geopolitical, and economic risks is critical to improving global energy security.

Achieving a sustainable and resilient energy future by 2045 requires forward-thinking policies, equitable investment, and solid infrastructure.



We must accelerate the move from discussion to action, from theory to execution, because by 2030, we will have already lost too much ground.

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045
High-Level Roundtable

Future-ready initiatives must encourage innovation while maintaining economic stability, equality, and resilience to global challenges. By integrating energy policy with sustainability and security, we can establish a stable, inclusive, and future-proof energy environment.

1.4

Overcoming Barriers to Achieving a Sustainable Energy Future

Despite global optimism for renewable energy transitions, a number of structural and systemic challenges threaten to slow down development. Addressing these challenges requires deliberate efforts, ensuring that policies, investments, and technology are consistent with a long-term, inclusive energy vision.

Participants recognized the following significant challenges to achieving an ambitious 2045 energy vision:

- To enhance effectiveness and accelerate technological adoption, we must overcome fragmented policy approaches with global energy plans and regulatory integration.
- Equitable access to advanced energy technology necessitates financial and technical assistance for developing nations to adopt next-generation solutions.
- Modernizing energy systems calls for updating policies and infrastructure to support decentralized, AI-powered solutions.
- To transform the energy environment, investment strategies must shift away from short-term, low-risk initiatives and toward high-impact, high-risk technologies.

Unlocking a sustainable energy future involves global policy cooperation, financial and technical assistance for developing countries, regulatory modernization, and a move toward high-impact investments. By encouraging collaboration among governments, industry, and investors, we may accelerate the adoption of next-generation energy solutions and create a more robust, equitable, and AI-powered energy environment.



Without a forward-looking strategy, even the most advanced economies will struggle to remain relevant in the next 25 years

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

SECTION 2
COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS

**Strengthening Global Partnerships
for an Inclusive and Resilient
Energy Future**

21

The Need for Enhanced Global Cooperation in Energy Transition

The energy transition represents not only a technological shift, but a structural transformation that requires reimagining how governments, the private sector, and multilateral institutions work together to deliver sustainable outcomes. While progress has been made in expanding renewable energy use, the global landscape remains fragmented, with nations and sectors progressing at varying rates toward decarbonization.

The discussion highlighted three critical areas where enhanced collaboration is necessary:

- Aligning national energy policy with global frameworks is crucial for reducing inefficiencies and accelerated implementation.
- Bridging financial and infrastructure gaps is essential for nations in the Global South to successfully implement sustainable energy technology.
- Scaling renewable energy solutions requires more investment in international energy infrastructure and enhanced international cooperation.

Achieving a successful energy transition requires coordinated efforts from governments, businesses, and international organizations. Aligning national policies with global frameworks, closing financial



We must ensure that no one is left behind. Inclusion must remain at the heart of every plan and every action.

–

Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

and infrastructure gaps, and increasing renewable energy through international partnerships are fundamental. Increasing international cooperation could accelerate decarbonization and advance a more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable energy future.

2.2

The Role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Advancing Energy Transition

Governments alone cannot drive energy transitions at the required pace and scale to satisfy global sustainability goals. The private sector is essential to advancing investment, innovation, and clean energy implementation. Businesses can help governments develop a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive energy future by utilizing their technology expertise, financial resources, and operational efficiency.

Key enablers of PPPs in advancing the energy transition:

- Clean energy implementation may be accelerated by using private sector expertise in energy storage, AI-powered grid management, and large-scale infrastructure.
- Blended financing methods, which derisk private investments with funds from the government, are critical for improving financial viability and addressing the funding gap for developing energy technologies.
- To enhance technical resilience, research and development in low-carbon energy solutions must be driven through strong public-private partnerships.
- An equitable transition requires businesses to swiftly reskill their workforces and ensure that fossil fuel-dependent communities do not fall behind.



We must ensure that no one is left behind. Inclusion must remain at the heart of every plan and every action.

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045
High-Level Roundtable

Maximizing the positive impact of public-private partnerships requires a supportive regulatory environment, well-structured incentives, along with transparent accountability systems. Governments have to develop regulations that support long-term private sector engagement, and firms must commit to sustainable investments and employee development. PPPs have the potential to accelerate the global transition to a cleaner, more resilient future by encouraging partnership, innovation, and equal energy access.

2.3

Advancing Multilateral Energy Governance for a Sustainable Future

The transition to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable energy future requires an effective global leadership approach that harmonizes regulations, coordinates climate funding, and promotes technology sharing. However, current multilateral partnerships are frequently challenging and bureaucratic, restricting their capacity to respond quickly to energy transition demands.

Key areas where multilateral institutions must take a stronger leadership role include:

- To provide investors with confidence and long-term stability, unified energy transition roadmaps must be developed by integrating national energy goals with a global framework.
- Cross-border power grids, hydrogen trade corridors, and shared energy storage networks are examples of regional energy integration initiatives that can be expanded.
- Enforcing fair and equitable policies regarding energy ensures that no nation encounters a disproportionate amount of energy transition costs by establishing a reasonable and balanced financial framework.
- Transparency in climate financing requires accurate accountability measures for tracking the distribution and utilization of international climate funding.

Strengthening multilateral energy governance is essential for accelerating the global energy transition while providing equity investments,



This transition demands forward-thinking leadership, both cross-sector collaboration and innovative financing models that bring revolutionary ideas to life.

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045
High-Level Roundtable

resilience, and sustainability. By reducing regulatory fragmentation, scaling up climate finance, and fostering cross-border energy cooperation, international institutions can unlock systems-level change and accelerate the shift toward resilient, sustainable energy systems. A coordinated approach which integrates national initiatives into an overall global plan would offer the stability and investor confidence required to enable long-term development.

2.4 Unlocking Capital for Global Energy Transition

The discussion emphasized the importance of revolutionary finance methods that go beyond conventional approaches and provide funds for high-impact, scalable energy solutions.

Barriers in energy financing today include:

- Risk-averse investment strategies favor established technologies over emerging ones.
- Developing nations face limited access to cost-effective funding while transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- Short-term financing focuses on low-risk rewards over long-term effects.

Proposed solutions to finance the energy transition:

- Blended finance models must utilize funding from the government to reduce the risk of private investments, therefore accelerating high-impact energy projects.
- To attract institutional capital, global green investment frameworks must set clear rules for climate-focused initiatives.
- Scaling sovereign and corporate green bonds are essential for funding large-scale projects using climate-linked financial instruments.
- Advancing energy transition insurance models will reduce risks and encourage investment in next-generation energy solutions.

Financing the global energy transition needs bold, innovative financial organizations that manage risk, release institutional resources, and increase investment in developing energy technology.



Blended finance models combining public, private, and philanthropic funding can unlock large-scale investments in renewables and infrastructure.

–

Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

Overcoming present limitations requires a transition from short-term, risk-averse financing to strategic, long-term solutions that prioritize sustainability and impact. Using blended finance, green investment frameworks, government and business green bonds, and energy transition insurance, stakeholders may speed up the deployment of high-impact energy projects. Aligning financial incentives with climate goals is critical to achieving an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable energy future.

2.5

Overcoming Challenges to Cross-Border Energy Collaboration

While regional energy integration is gaining traction, considerable challenges remain preventing effective cross-border collaboration. Regulatory misalignment impacts energy exchanges, old-fashioned infrastructure restricts the capability for large-scale renewable energy flows, and political and economic uncertainty limits long-term investments in energy-sharing agreements. Addressing these issues is essential for realizing the full potential of international energy cooperation.

The discussion identified a number of challenges that remain and hinder international cooperation:

- Regulatory discord among national policy affects cross-border energy exchanges.
- Many countries have infrastructure difficulties due to outdated networks that cannot manage large-scale clean energy flows.
- Political and economic uncertainty limits long-term investment in energy-sharing agreements.

The discussion suggested:

- Forming Energy Transition Partnerships amongst nations with similar clean energy ambitions to enhance regional and global partnerships.
- Creating Common Regulatory Standards for seamless cross-border energy trade.
- Creating Energy Security Frameworks to ensure consistent and dependable access to clean energy in different environments.



We must also be very clear and honest in recognizing the urgency that we need to build a very solid foundation for what lies beyond 2030.

–

Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

To strengthen cross-border energy collaboration, regulations must be harmonized, infrastructure upgraded, and investment environments stable. Nations may accelerate clean energy integration and secure a more effective, connected energy future by incorporating Energy Transition Partnerships, implementing Common Regulatory Standards, and creating Energy Security Frameworks.



SECTION 3
TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATIONS

**Harnessing Innovations for
a Sustainable Energy Future**

3.1

The Role of Innovation in Shaping the Energy Landscape of 2045

Emerging technologies will transform energy production, distribution, and consumption, powering the global energy system forward. While development in renewable energy has increased, the next phase of the transition must incorporate innovative technologies that go beyond present solutions.

The discussion highlighted the importance of multi-dimensional sustainable energy innovation, including not just technological developments but also regulatory frameworks, financial models, and digital leadership, to ensure that these innovations are scalable, equitable, and resilient.

Key themes that emerged included:

- AI and automation will enhance energy efficiency, forecasting, and consumption patterns.
- Advanced nuclear, hydrogen-based systems, and molecular technologies are redefining how energy is produced, stored, and distributed.
- Blockchain supports decentralized energy systems by enabling transparent, real-time energy exchange and improved grid efficiency.
- Circular economy principles can ensure zero-waste infrastructure for energy generation, storage, and product design.
- Smart materials and modular redesigns reduce energy demands across both production and consumption cycles.



We must also be very clear and very honest in recognizing the urgency that we need to build a very solid foundation for what we know lies beyond.

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

Integrating disruptive technologies into the energy transition calls for a comprehensive plan that incorporates innovation with regulatory, financial, and digital advancements. AI, blockchain, next-generation energy sources, and circular economy concepts are capable of helping the global energy system become more efficient, decentralized, and resilient. Scaling those concepts will be critical for creating a sustainable and future-ready energy industry.

3.2

AI and Digital Transformation as Catalysts for Sustainable Energy

AI and digital technologies are already transforming energy networks, infrastructure, and market dynamics. By 2045, AI-powered governance and automation will be vital elements of energy planning, usage optimization, and emissions monitoring.

Key opportunities presented by AI and digital transformation include:

- AI-powered smart grids transform energy management by optimizing demand, reducing costs, and balancing supply in real time.
- Predictive analytics transforms energy forecasting by utilizing artificial intelligence to predict shifts and ensure grid stability.
- AI-powered storage solutions increase energy efficiency and long-term sustainability by utilizing advanced battery and hydrogen systems.
- Blockchain-based peer-to-peer energy trading allows both consumers and businesses to effortlessly exchange surplus energy in a decentralized system.

AI and digital technologies are transforming energy systems, improving networks, and increasing market efficiency. By 2045, AI-powered management and automation will be vital to energy planning, real-time optimization, and



This transition demands forward-thinking leadership, both cross-sector collaboration and innovative financing models that bring revolutionary ideas to life.

—
Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

reductions in emissions. Smart AI-driven grids, predictive analytics for grid stability, intelligent energy storage, and blockchain-based peer-to-peer exchange are all exciting possibilities. To fully realize these benefits, regulatory structures must change to ensure transparency, security, and equal access to digital energy solutions.

3.3

Next-Generation Energy Technologies

The global energy environment is experiencing a fundamental shift, driven by technological innovations that promise cleaner, more efficient, and greener energy solutions. From nuclear fusion and modular reactors to green hydrogen ecosystems, molecular energy breakthroughs, and bioengineered fuels, the next generation of energy systems will change the way the world generates, stores, and uses electricity. Investing in these breakthroughs is critical for lowering carbon emissions, improving energy security, and hastening the transition to a more robust and sustainable energy system.

The discussion highlighted key innovations that will drive the future energy transition:

- Future energy systems will be based on enhanced nuclear and fusion technology, with modular reactors and fusion breakthroughs providing clean, efficient baseload electricity.
- Green hydrogen has the potential to transform energy storage, transportation, and industrial uses, demanding significant investments in cost reduction and infrastructure.
- Molecular energy developments might transform energy efficiency and transmission by harnessing nano- and molecular-scale technologies.
- A transition to carbon-neutral synthetic fuels and bioengineered energy sources might help decarbonize aviation and heavy industries, lowering dependency on conventional hydrocarbons.



Imagine what could come next—quantum energy bonds or international accelerator funds unlocking breakthroughs once people thought impossible.

—

Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

In order to achieve a carbon-neutral future, industry and government officials have to advocate for the fast development and implementation of these breakthrough energy solutions. Advanced nuclear and fusion technologies, green hydrogen, molecular energy systems, and bioengineered fuels offer the key to decarbonizing critical sectors while maintaining energy dependability and efficiency. By encouraging innovation, investing in infrastructure, and enacting forward-thinking regulations, the world can realize the full promise of these new technologies and drive a sustainable energy revolution.

3.4

Revolutionizing the Grid: The Future of Energy Storage and Decentralization

One of the most important challenges in the renewable energy transition is storage and distribution efficiency. The future energy grid must be decentralized, autonomous, and able to adapt, allowing for efficient energy storage and distribution on demand.

Innovations that will shape future energy storage and decentralization include:

- Next-generation battery technologies enable faster charging, more capacity, and reduced environmental impact.
- Utilize hydrogen storage and fuel cells to offset seasonal changes in energy production.
- Decentralized grid networks use AI and blockchain for safe, real-time energy exchange.
- Superconducting transmission technologies reduce energy loss over long distances.

The continued development of energy storage and decentralization are essential to a reliable and adaptable power grid. Battery technologies, hydrogen storage, AI-driven decentralized networks, and superconducting transmission will transform how energy is stored, delivered, and used. By adopting these advances, the energy industry can increase efficiency, reduce waste, and build a more dependable, self-sufficient grid that fulfills the needs of a sustainable future.



We need to think about the role of energy storage in securing a sustainable energy future.

—

Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable



3.5

Overcoming Barriers to Scaling Transformative Energy Innovations

Transformative energy technologies have the potential to transform global power systems by increasing efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. However, scaling these inventions remains an important challenge due to legislative constraints, expensive initial expenses, market resistance, and limited investment incentives. Addressing these challenges is critical for accelerating the transition to cleaner, more modern energy solutions and offering universal support.

Key challenges that have been discussed include:

- Regulatory uncertainty delays the approval and implementation of new energy models.
- High initial costs restrict large-scale commercialization of emerging technologies.
- Market opposition and old infrastructure are obstacles to innovative energy solutions.
- The lack of incentives for early adoption limits private sector investment in next-generation energy.

Unlocking the full potential of transformational energy innovations will need decisive action from governments, industry leaders and finance institutions. Regulatory improvements will need to expedite approvals, investment risks must be reduced, and customized incentives must be



As we align global efforts to meet the 2030 Agenda, we must also prepare for energy systems that go beyond today's blueprints, requiring agile governance and regulatory adaptation.

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Participant during the ADSW XDGs 2045 High-Level Roundtable

implemented to encourage early adoption. By creating a more favorable environment, the world could accelerate the adoption of next-generation energy solutions, resulting in a more sustainable and resilient future.

High-Level Comparison Analysis of 2023, 2024, and 2025 XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtables

The XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtables for 2023, 2024, and 2025 emphasized global leadership and strategic thinking on SDGs. While all sessions stressed the importance of developing a forward-thinking, inclusive, and sustainable global development agenda beyond 2030, each offered distinct topics and insights reflecting evolving global priorities.



2023 Outcomes

Shaping the Future of Our World

Focus Areas

The discussion focused on social investments, environmental sustainability, and economic growth as a basis for global development goals beyond 2030.

Key Insights

The discussions highlighted the complexity of SDGs and the need for fewer, more focused targets to enhance implementation. Leadership, collaborations, and new finance solutions were underlined as key factors in boosting global prosperity.

Implementation Challenges

The complex nature of the SDGs limits understanding of interconnected targets, underlining the need for simplicity to assess progress more effectively.

2024 Outcomes

Navigating the Future of Our World

Focus Areas

The discussions included cultural heritage, Indigenous knowledge, technological inclusion, and crisis management, among additional topics.

Key Insights

The focus was on practical execution, expanding targets beyond 2030, and improving measurement and accountability. Policies must be adaptable and resilient in order to achieve long-term development.

Implementation Challenges

Additional implementation challenges, like bridging the digital gap, resolving economic inequities, and boosting renewable energy programs, have been identified as crucial for future agendas.

2025 Outcomes

Envisioning Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development

Focus Areas

The discussions expanded to cover transformative innovations, energy transitions, governance foresight, strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships, and equitable digital transformation.

Key Insights

Emphasis was placed on the urgency of embedding long-term foresight and resilience into national and global agendas, creating stronger public-private collaborations, and accelerating the adoption of innovative technological solutions. The discussions underlined the critical role of equitable access and ethical governance frameworks in shaping a just and sustainable future.

Implementation Challenges

Recognized implementation challenges include aligning diverse national strategies with global development priorities, ensuring equitable technological access, securing transformative investments for frontier innovations, and overcoming fragmented global cooperation through enhanced regional and international partnerships.

Key Differences Between the Three Years of XDGs 2045

Area of Difference	2023	2024	2025
Global Development Focus	Established foundational goals; simplified and streamlined SDGs for clearer implementation.	Shifted to practical execution and adaptive policies responding to emerging global challenges.	Emphasized long-term foresight, transformative innovation, resilience, and strengthened partnerships.
Technological Integration	Technology is primarily supportive (education, employment, SDG enhancement).	Advanced technology integration (AI, big data, IoT) emphasized inclusivity and accessibility.	Ethical governance and holistic integration of frontier technologies for sustainability, resilience, and equity.
Engagement & Inclusion	High-level leadership and global-to-local community engagement; predominantly top-down.	Expanded engagement to include youth, marginalized groups, and cultural sensitivity; grassroots approach.	Embedded equity and representation across stakeholders, ensuring equitable technological access and multi-sectoral inclusivity.
Challenges & Solutions	Complexity of SDGs led to advocacy for fewer, clearer goals to enhance implementation.	Broader emerging issues (digital divide, economic disparities, renewable energy, crisis management).	Comprehensive systemic challenges (ethical technology use, equitable digital transformation, resilient and just energy transitions) with transformative, cross-sector solutions.

Consistent Themes Across the XDGs 2045 Roundtables (2023–2025)

Over the three years of XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtables, several core themes emerged consistently, reflecting their importance as fundamental pillars for the global development agenda beyond 2030.

Global Collaboration and Sustainable Partnerships

Consistent across all three roundtables was the recognition that achieving long-term global sustainability requires cohesive and effective partnerships. Each year emphasized the essential role of international cooperation, multilateral alignment, and resource pooling among governments, private entities, and international organizations to address global challenges at scale.

Economic Resilience through Innovation and Inclusion

Economic sustainability and resilience remained central, with a continual emphasis on innovation, strategic investments, and workforce development as critical pathways to achieving long-term growth and prosperity. Discussions consistently recognized the need to align economic strategies with equitable opportunities, ensuring that future economic systems benefit all segments of society.

Urgency of Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability

Addressing climate change and environmental concerns continued to be prominently featured. Participants repeatedly highlighted the need to prioritize climate resilience, integrated environmental governance, and sustainable resource management as foundational components for future development frameworks. The importance of proactively embedding environmental considerations into policy formulation at all levels was consistently emphasized.

Leadership, Accountability, and Effective Governance

Leadership and accountability emerged as vital recurring themes, highlighting the essential role of clear governance, transparent measurement, and rigorous accountability mechanisms. Participants consistently stressed the importance of robust institutional frameworks, ethical governance, and inclusive policy processes as fundamental for successful implementation of future-oriented development goals.

Transformative Innovation and Inclusive Digital Integration

A notable addition in recent discussions, particularly prominent in 2024 and 2025, was the recognition of emerging technologies—including AI, blockchain, digital innovation, and frontier energy solutions—as central drivers of sustainable development. These roundtables underlined the imperative of inclusive, ethical, and responsible deployment of technological innovations, ensuring equitable access and preventing widening global disparities.

Long-term Strategic Foresight and Adaptive Planning (2025 addition)

Distinctively highlighted in 2025, participants underscored the necessity of long-term foresight, strategic scenario planning, and adaptive policy frameworks as essential components for anticipating and responding effectively to future challenges. Leaders stressed the importance of embedding resilience into governance systems, advocating for flexible strategies that allow continuous adjustments to emerging global developments.

Collectively, the three-year dialogue emphasized the need for integrated, visionary, and co-llaborative actions. While foundational themes from 2023 and 2024 continued to underpin discussions, the 2025 roundtable expanded further into long-term strategic foresight and emphasized more explicitly the central role of transformative innovations and comprehensive planning.

XDGs 2045 GLOBAL SURVEY

The XDGs 2045 Global Survey was launched to capture diverse, authentic perspectives from individuals around the world. The purpose of the survey was to gather insights to complement this report as a foundational approach driven through global consultation from individuals from more than 50 countries. All responses were submitted anonymously, with respondents voluntarily sharing their perspectives.

The survey invites a global reflection on how the development agenda should evolve beyond 2030, amplifying voices that often go unheard, and identifying ideas that challenge conventional approaches. The survey consisted of demographic questions and a mixture of Likert-scale and multiple-choice questions across the main themes of this report, and in alignment with the roundtables (visionary perspectives, collaborative pathways, and transformative innovations).

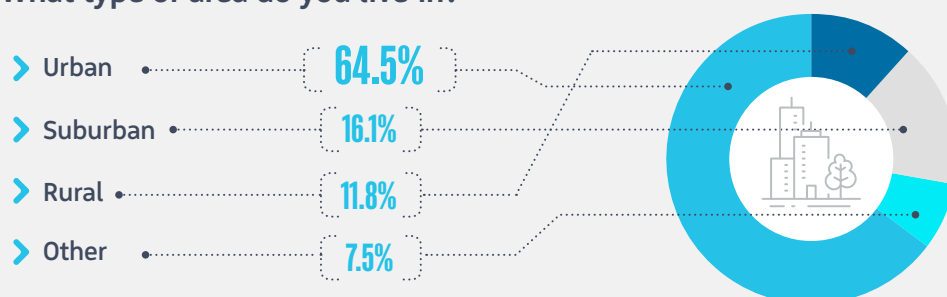




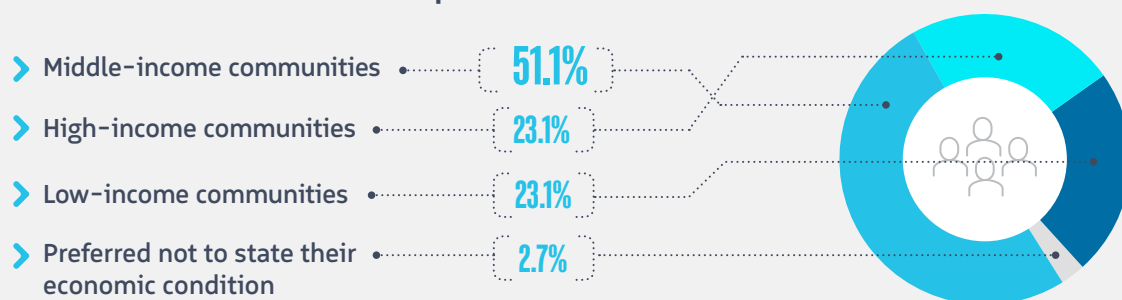
Findings and analysis of the XDGs 2045 Global Survey:

Demographically, the survey received responses from more than 50 countries. The respondents are representative of a diverse range of communities, including:

What type of area do you live in?



The economic conditions of respondents also varied from



The largest age group who participated in the survey was between ages 25 and 34 (29.3%), followed by ages 35 to 44 (28.7%). The survey received a majority of male respondents at 56.7%, with 41.7% females.

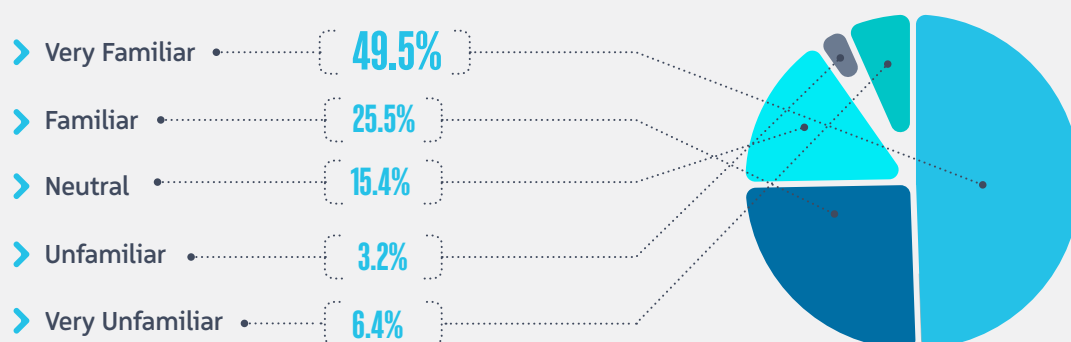
What is your age group?



Occupation status among respondents was broad with responses from public sector (33%), private sector and self-employed respondents (34.6%), students (7.7%). The majority of respondents had a postgraduate degree (45.3%), followed by respondents with university degrees (41.4%).

Through a Likert-scale, respondents were asked about their familiarity with the SDGs. The majority of the respondents are very familiar with the SDGs (49.5%), 25.5% were somewhat familiar with the SDGs, with 6.4% not familiar with the SDGs.

How familiar are you with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?



Visionary Perspectives

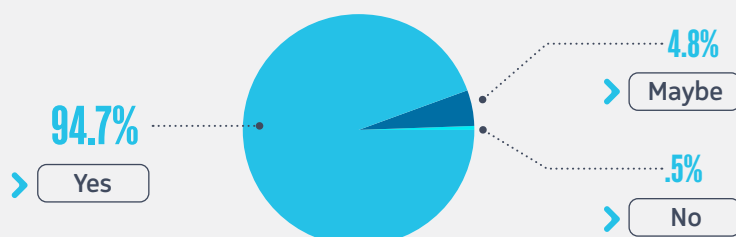
This section of the survey had four (4) questions. Two (2) closed-ended questions, one (1) question was in form of a Likert-scale, and one (1) checkbox question.

Question 1:

Should the world redefine progress beyond economic growth to include well-being, sustainability, digitalization, and resilience? (Closed-ended question.)

94.7% of respondents support redefining progress to go beyond economic growth, integrating well-being, sustainability, digitalization, and resilience into global development priorities. Only 4.8% opposed the idea, while 0.5% were undecided—underscoring a broad global consensus on the need to update traditional development metrics.

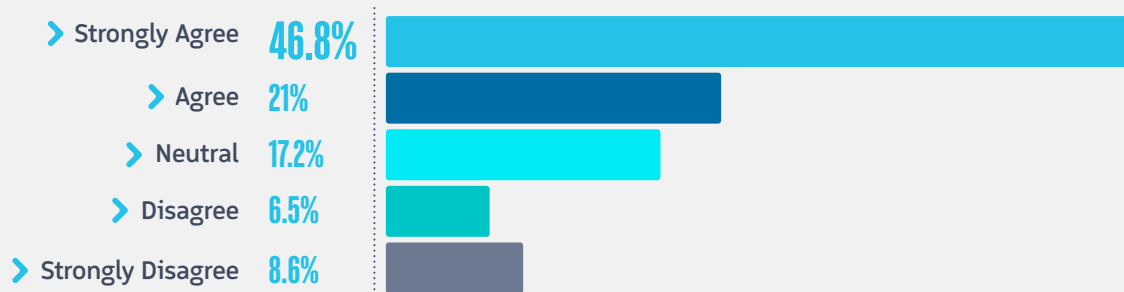
Should the world redefine progress beyond economic growth to include well-being, sustainability, digitalization, and resilience?



Question 2:

Should the next global development agenda be more adaptable and agile, region-specific goals rather than a universal set of targets? (Likert-scale question. 1 = Strongly Disagree, and 5 = Strongly Agree.)

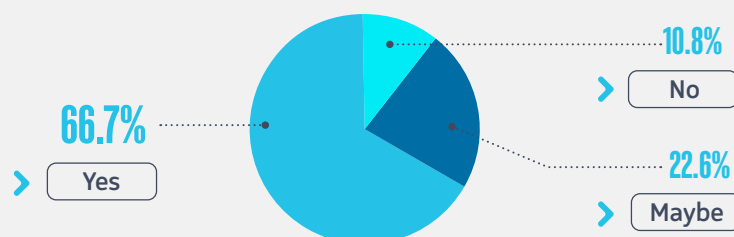
A combined 67.8% of respondents support making the next global development agenda more adaptable and region-specific, moving away from a strictly universal framework. Nearly half (46.8%) strongly agreed, reflecting a strong call for development goals that reflect local realities and priorities. While 17.2% remained neutral, 15.1% expressed disagreement, indicating that while there is clear majority support, some remain cautious about diverging from universal benchmarks.

**Question 3:**

Would a focus on fewer, more achievable goals drive greater global progress by 2045? (Closed-ended question.)

Two-thirds (66.7%) of respondents believe that focusing on fewer, more achievable goals would lead to greater global progress by 2045. This reflects a strong preference for clarity, prioritization, and measurable outcomes in future frameworks.

While 22.6% were uncertain and 10.8% disagreed, the overall results suggest that streamlining goals could enhance focus and implementation.



Question 2:

What is the biggest challenge your community or country faces today that must be addressed globally by 2045?

(Checkbox question. Options included Climate change and environmental degradation; Economic inequality and poverty; Lack of access to quality education; Inadequate healthcare systems; Food insecurity and hunger; Rapid urbanization and housing shortages; Water scarcity and poor sanitation; Social inequality and discrimination; Unemployment and underemployment; Political instability and governance issues; and Lack of infrastructure (e.g., transportation, energy)).

Respondents were asked to select the issue they believe has the greatest long-term global relevance. The top five responses are as follows:

Climate change and environmental degradation (68.6%)

The most frequently cited challenge, reflecting widespread concern over the worsening impacts of climate change on ecosystems, livelihoods, and long-term sustainability.

Economic inequality and poverty (47.3%)

A significant proportion of respondents highlighted persistent disparities in wealth and opportunity as a key barrier to equitable development.

Unemployment and underemployment (38.3%)

Many identified job insecurity and lack of decent work as growing concerns, particularly for youth and marginalized populations.

Food insecurity and hunger (29.3%)

Access to adequate nutrition remains a pressing issue in many regions, linked closely to climate volatility and disrupted food systems.

Inadequate healthcare systems / Political instability and governance issues (25.0%)

Tied in fifth place, these responses underscore how weak health systems and governance challenges continue to impact resilience and public trust.

These findings point to an urgent need for integrated, multi-sectoral approaches that connect economic, environmental, and institutional priorities at the global level.

Climate change and environmental degradation



Economic inequality and poverty



Unemployment and underemployment



Food security and hunger



Inadequate healthcare systems / Political instability and governance issues



Political instability and governance issues



Lack of access to quality



Water scarcity and poor sanitation



Rapid urbanization and housing



Lack of infrastructure



Social inequality and discrimination



Other



Collaborative Pathways

This section of the survey had four (4) questions. Two (2) Likert-scale questions, one (1) closed-ended question, and one (1) checkbox question.

Question 1:

Do international institutions and governments truly listen to and act on the needs of local communities? (Likert-scale question. 1 = Strongly Disagree, and 5 = Strongly Agree)

The data reveals a clear trust deficit in international institutions and governments when it comes to addressing local needs. Only 13.4% strongly believe these entities are responsive, and just 29.4% expressed any level of agreement.

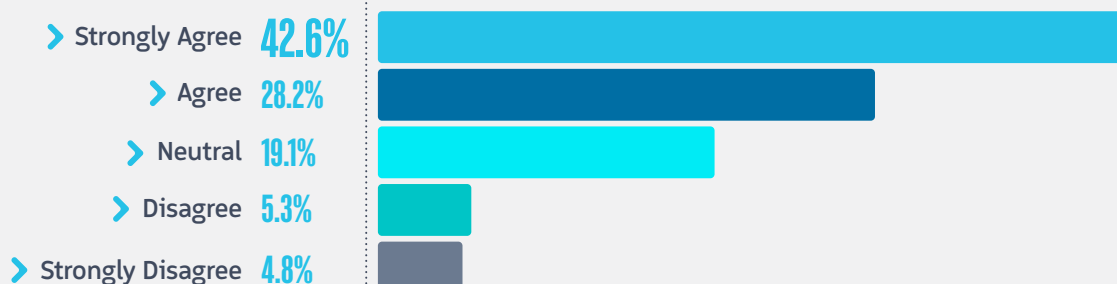
In contrast, over a third (35.3%) disagreed, with nearly one in five (19.3%) strongly rejecting the idea that institutions listen and act. The high neutral response (35.3%) signals skepticism or uncertainty, underscoring the urgent need for visible, community-driven action to rebuild trust and relevance at the local level.



Question 2:

Do you think global development frameworks should prioritize an all-of-society approach rather than relying mainly on government action? (Likert-scale question. 1 = Strongly Disagree, and 5 = Strongly Agree)

There is strong global support for shifting to an all-of-society approach in development. Over 70% of respondents agreed that global frameworks should move beyond government-led action, with 42.6% strongly supporting this shift. Only 10% opposed the idea, while 19.1% remained neutral, indicating that multi-stakeholder collaboration is widely seen as essential for achieving meaningful, lasting progress.

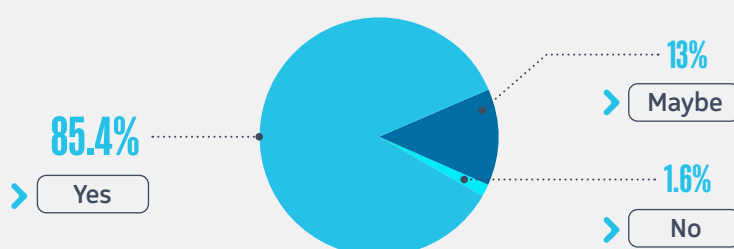


Question 3:

Would inclusive decision-making make you more engaged in global development?

(Closed-ended question.)

A decisive 85.4% of respondents stated that inclusive decision-making would make them more engaged in global development. This strong result signals that participation drives ownership, and that people are far more likely to contribute when they feel their voice counts. With only 1.6% expressing disinterest, the message is clear: future frameworks must be designed with people, not just for them.

**Question 4:**

How can people, governments, and organizations work better together to address this challenge?

(Checkbox question. Options included Building stronger international partnerships; Promoting community-driven solutions; Enhancing public-private collaborations; Strengthening global governance and accountability; Investing in education and capacity building; Sharing technological innovations and resources; Supporting grassroots initiatives; Encouraging inclusive decision-making processes; Mobilizing funding and investments for sustainable development; Increasing transparency and anti-corruption efforts.)

Respondents were asked to select the most effective approaches for improving collective action. The top five responses are as follows:

Promoting community-driven solutions (58.0%)

The most selected option, indicating a strong belief that sustainable impact begins at the local level through context-specific and inclusive approaches.

Mobilizing funding and investments for sustainable development (43.1%)

Respondents emphasized the importance of financial commitment to scale solutions and close resource gaps, particularly in underserved regions.

Building stronger international partnerships (41.0%)

There is clear support for enhanced international cooperation to address cross-border challenges and share knowledge and resources.

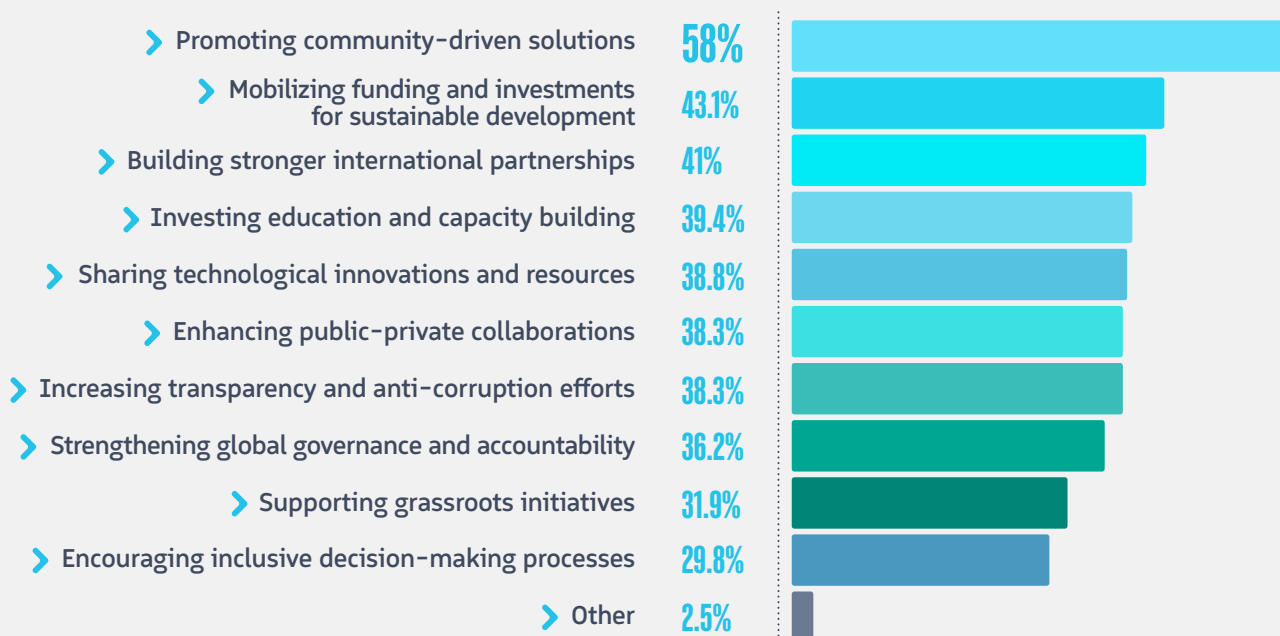
Investing in education and capacity building (39.4%)

Many identified human capital development as central to strengthening institutional effectiveness and long-term resilience.

Sharing technological innovations and resources (38.8%)

Technology is seen as a critical enabler for accelerating development, provided access is equitable and contextually relevant.

These responses highlight a shift toward localized leadership, coupled with the need for global solidarity, investment, and innovation-sharing to effectively tackle global challenges.



Visionary Perspectives

This section of the survey had three (3) questions in total. One (1) closed-ended question, one (1) Likert-scale question, and one (1) checkbox question.

Question 1:

Is the world investing enough in breakthrough innovations to solve major global challenges?
(Closed-ended question.)

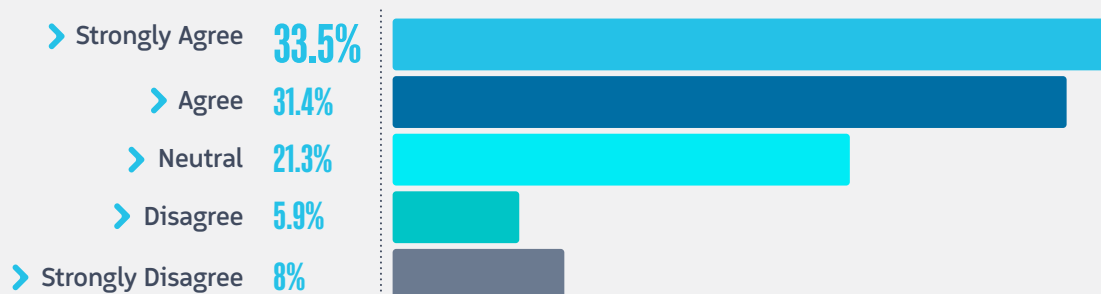
A majority (52.1%) believe the world is not investing enough in breakthrough innovations to address major global challenges.

Only one in three respondents said current investment levels are sufficient, while 14.9% were uncertain. These findings suggest growing concern that innovation is not being adequately prioritized or funded, despite its critical role in shaping future solutions.

Question 2:

Will AI and digitalization have a bigger impact on global development than traditional policies and reforms? (Likert-scale question. 1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree)

Nearly two-thirds (64.9%) of respondents believe AI and digitalization will have a greater impact on global development than traditional policies and reforms. With 33.5% strongly agreeing and 31.4% agreeing, the data reflects growing confidence in the transformative potential of technology. Only 13.9% disagreed, while 21.3% remained neutral, highlighting a clear shift in perception toward digital solutions as primary drivers of future progress.

**Question 3:**

What breakthrough idea, technology, or innovation could change the world for the better by 2045?

(Checkbox question. Options included Renewable energy technologies (e.g., solar, wind, green hydrogen); Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning applications; Advanced healthcare innovations (e.g., telemedicine, biotech); Circular economy solutions (e.g., waste-to-resource technologies); Water desalination and purification systems; Digital education platforms and tools; Blockchain for transparency and accountability; Smart cities and sustainable urban planning; Climate-resilient agriculture technologies; Space exploration and its applications.)

Respondents were asked to select the most transformative innovation they believe will shape a better future. The top five responses are as follows:

Renewable energy technologies (58.5%)

Topping the list, respondents see solar, wind, and green hydrogen as essential to decarbonizing energy systems and mitigating climate change.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning applications (55.9%)

AI is viewed as a powerful tool for improving decision-making, efficiency, and innovation across multiple sectors.

Circular Economy solutions (49.5%)

A significant number of respondents support shifting toward sustainable production and consumption models that reduce waste and resource dependency.

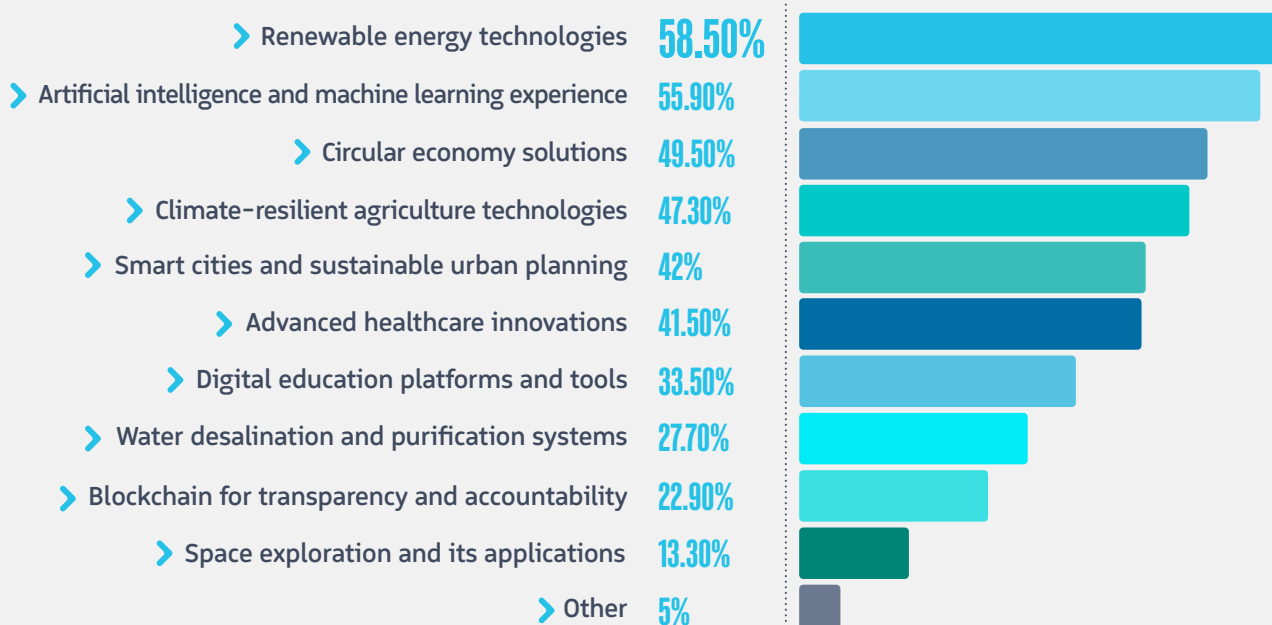
Climate-resilient agriculture technologies (47.3%)

There is strong recognition of the need for innovation in agriculture to ensure food security amid rising climate risks.

Advanced healthcare innovations (41.5%)

Technologies such as biotech and telemedicine are seen as critical to improving access, efficiency, and outcomes in health systems globally.

The findings underscore a future shaped by clean energy, intelligent systems, sustainable practices, and inclusive access to transformative technologies.



Comparison Between XDGs 2045 Roundtables (WGS and ADSW) and XDGs 2045 Global Survey

OVERVIEW

The 2025 edition of the XDGs 2045 initiative was conceptualized by two complimentary inputs: high-level Roundtables held during the WGS and ADSW, and a Global Survey that gathered mass perspectives from more than 50 countries. This comparison examines the priorities, insights, and areas of debate among government officials, institutional leaders, and the global society.

Shared Priorities and Alignment

Throughout both the Roundtables and the Survey, multiple consistent themes emerged:

Climate Action is a top priority.

Both roundtables identified climate change and environmental degradation as a significant global challenge to be fully addressed by 2045. This was echoed in the survey (68.6%), and was reinforced by Roundtable discussion on urgent energy transitions, circular economies, and climate innovation.

Redefining Development Metrics.

There was a broad consensus on moving beyond GDP to assess actual development. Survey respondents (94.7%) favored combining well-being, sustainability, and resilience, whereas Roundtable participants stressed context-sensitive, adaptive indicators.

Inclusive and contextualized frameworks

Both parties agreed on the need to move away from one-size-fits-all development methods. Two-thirds of those who took the survey (67.8%) called for more region-specific methods, reiterating Roundtable concerns of global indicators that overlook national priorities.

The central role of innovation

Technology plays a crucial role in innovation. Participants in the survey chose renewable energy and AI as the most impactful breakthroughs, while Roundtables emphasized AI-powered governance, digital transformation, and innovation ecosystems.

Community-driven and multi-stakeholder solutions

Promoting community-driven solutions (58.0%) and inclusive decision-making (85.4%) were the most important priorities among survey respondents. It supports Roundtable recommendations emphasize bottom-up leadership, public-private partnerships, and public inclusion.

Divided opinions from the Roundtables and Global Survey

While united in multiple ways, certain areas emphasize the divide between global leaders and global community perspectives.

Trust in institutions

Only 13.4% of the survey participants strongly agree that international institutions and governments are paying attention to local concerns, despite discussions about the importance of resilient governance during the roundtable. This indicates a gap between trust and expectations of efficient operation.

Leadership Focus versus Public Priorities

Roundtables focused on foresight, leadership agility, and proactive governance. Meanwhile, the public prioritized immediate challenges such as unemployment (38.3%) and food insecurity (29.3%), which received less attention in the roundtables.

Investment in innovation

Survey results indicate that people are concerned about the lack of investment in emerging technologies (52.1%). Roundtables believed that innovation will be promoted and supported through partnerships and improvements in regulations.

Private Sector Engagement

Roundtable discussions highlighted the private sector as a crucial partner. While respondents to the survey supported public-private partnership (38.3%), they emphasized community-driven solutions (58%) and investment in education and capacity building (39.4%) as essential drivers of success.

Perception of impact pathways

Roundtables emphasized structural transformation, regulatory coherence, and macro-level cooperation. The survey respondents preferred localized initiatives, practical assistance, and evident service improvements.



Table: Alignment and difference between Roundtables and Global Survey results

Theme	Aligned Priorities	Gaps / Different Views	Opportunities
Climate Change & Sustainability	Top priority in both forums	None	Joint climate action initiatives can build trust and accelerate innovation adoption.
Development Metrics	Agreement to move beyond GDP and static indicators	None	Co-create new metrics with local actors to improve policy relevance and community ownership.
Innovation & Technology	High value placed on AI, renewables, and digital transformation	Public doubts about the adequacy of current investment levels	Establish participatory innovation funds and public-private tech partnerships.
Inclusive Development Frameworks	Shared support for region-specific and context-aware goals	None	Use regional dialogues to shape adaptable global targets.
Role of Communities	Both stress local leadership and grassroots inclusion	Public places more emphasis on this than institutions	Formalize local participation channels in national planning and global reporting processes.
Trust in Institutions	Institutions advocate resilience and reform	The public expresses low trust and doubts responsiveness	Increase transparency, feedback loops, and local engagement to rebuild institutional credibility.
Leadership Models	Emphasis on agile, forward-thinking governance at Roundtables	Public prioritizes direct needs like jobs and food security	Blend long-term foresight with immediate service delivery commitments.
Public-Private Partnerships	Seen as essential by Roundtables and moderately supported in the Survey	Public gives greater weight to grassroots and educational initiatives	Develop community-integrated PPP models focused on education, jobs, and basic services.
Global Collaboration	Both supports strengthened multilateralism and international cooperation	Survey notes fragmentation and inequitable access	Regional alliances and South-South cooperation can help close gaps in global partnership delivery.

XDGs 2045 | Global Survey

The XDGs 2045 Roundtables and Global Survey show substantial consensus on essential global challenges such as climate change, innovation, inclusiveness, and development redefinition. However, noticeable discrepancies persist in reviews of institutional performance, funding sufficiency, and priority emphasis. In order to bring global leadership into alignment with society expectations for 2045, more inclusive policies, approaches that involve everyone, and transparent communication are required.

These differences present a significant opportunity: to develop the next generation global development agenda with direct community engagement, ensuring that they are not just visionary but also trustworthy, localized, and impact-driven. Women and girls, alongside other marginalized groups, must be fully included in shaping this agenda to reflect the realities and aspirations of all. The XDGs 2045 can serve as an agenda for rebuilding trust, rebalancing global narratives, and aligning governmental goals with public interests.



SDGs In Action at World Governments Summit

Since launching the "SDGs in Action" initiative at the World Governments Summit (WGS) in 2016, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has consistently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to accelerating global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovation, partnerships, and strategic foresight. Initially designed to drive global implementation and collaborative action, SDGs in Action have evolved into an influential platform integral to the WGS agenda.

In 2017, the initiative underscored the critical role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in achieving the SDGs, convening global experts and policymakers to identify actionable STI-driven solutions. By 2018, this vision expanded through the launch of the Global Councils on SDGs, a network fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and creative problem-solving aimed at accelerating the SDGs. The 2019 forum further solidified this approach, focusing explicitly on "Leadership for achieving the goals," enhancing cooperation among international experts and stakeholders to translate commitments into concrete results.

Adapting swiftly to global challenges, the 2020 SDGs in Action shifted to a virtual platform, concluding the first term of the Global Councils on SDGs under the theme "Preparing for the Decade of Action." In 2021, the UAE initiated the second term of the Global Councils, championing an integrated nexus model under the theme "Galvanizing the Global Acceleration of the SDGs." The official launch of this second cohort took place in January 2022 during Expo2020 Dubai's Global Goals thematic week, reaffirming commitments to interdisciplinary networks for accelerated SDG implementation. In March 2022, under the theme "Scaling New Heights for the Future of Humanity," the forum catalyzed impactful multi-sector and cross-border partnerships, engaging global leaders to enhance collaborative action.

Recognizing the critical need for a forward-looking global agenda, the UAE proactively introduced the XDGs 2045 initiative at the 2023 edition of the SDGs in Action, themed "Redesigning the Future of Our World: 2030 Principles and Beyond." This session laid foundational work for the next generation of global development goals, reflecting the UAE's visionary leadership. Complementing this, a special edition held during COP 28, "Future Forward: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Change," specifically engaged and empowered youth, emphasizing their critical role in sustainable development beyond 2030.

Building upon this momentum, the 2024 forum, under the theme "XDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World," continued to advance actionable strategies and strengthened international collaboration for a post-2030 development framework.

The 2025 SDGs in Action Forum at WGS, themed "Envisioning 2045: Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development," aligned strategically with the 2025 United Nations High-Level Political Forum theme, "Advancing sustainable and inclusive solutions for leaving no one behind." By embedding a forward-thinking mindset, the UAE positioned itself at the forefront of global dialogue, proactively urging the international community and the United Nations to formulate the next generation of development goals, the XDGs 2045. The UAE's Government Experience Exchange Office (GEEO) played a crucial role by actively facilitating global knowledge-sharing and best practices. Through consistent innovation, strategic collaboration, and sustained global leadership, the UAE continued to catalyze transformative actions, creating a clear and inclusive blueprint to guide the world's sustainable development toward 2045 and beyond.



Calls to Action

The transition from SDGs to XDGs 2045 deserves bold, forward-thinking action. We must move beyond small siloed advances and commit to revamping global development frameworks to address future challenges. This is more than just expediting the SDGs; it is also establishing the foundations for an entirely different kind of development, one that is agile, modern, adaptable, inclusive, and future-ready.

Redefining Global Development Goals for 2045

- **Move Beyond one-size-fits-all Indicators:** Develop global ideals with regional adaptability.
- **Shift Beyond GDP as a Measure of Progress:** Develop new indicators that consider resilience, well-being, and digital equity.
- **Adopt a Whole-of-Society Approach:** Ensure that governments, businesses, and communities – including women and girls, youth, indigenous peoples, and other underrepresented groups – work together to create the future development agenda.
- **Create future-ready policy frameworks:** Create flexible, scenario-based guidelines that can respond to emerging disruptions.
- **Initiate informal dialogues on the post-2030 agenda:** Encourage early engagement to shape future priorities, while accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Future-Proofing Economies and Societies.

- **Prioritize AI and Emerging Technologies for Public Good:** Ensure that AI, blockchain, and digital transformation promote fairness rather than exacerbate disparities.
- **Redesign Workforce Strategies for the Next 20 Years:** Invest in future skills, automation-ready employment, and lifelong learning ecosystems.
- **Restructure economic models for sustainability.** Transition to circular, regenerative, and climate-neutral economies.
- **Strengthen Global Resilience Mechanisms:** Create institutional frameworks that are capable of enduring pandemics, extreme weather events, and technology disruptions.



Advancing Collaborative Global Leadership for 2045

- Create a Global XDGs 2045 Leadership Model: Establish a global structure that will drive development beyond 2030, inclusive of international organizations, governments, private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, philanthropy, civil society, and youth.
- Harmonize International Regulations for the Future Economy: Establish consistent policies on AI governance, digital privacy, and financial inclusion.
- Expand Public-Private Development Partnerships: Collaborate on innovative business models to solve future sustainability challenges.
- Enable new global investment strategies: Develop long-term funding mechanisms for resilient infrastructure and social inclusion.

Transforming Human and Planetary Development for the Next Period.

- Revolutionize climate adaptation strategies: Move from mitigation to deep resilience planning for climate-affected areas.
- Rethink Resource Management for a Population of Over 9 Billion: Create innovative models for food, water, and energy security.
- Leverage space, biotechnology, and AI for development: Integrate groundbreaking scientific discoveries into global development frameworks.
- Design the cities of the future: Scale smart, net-zero, and inclusive urbanization models to 2045.

A global commitment to the next development agenda.

The world must begin preparing for the post-2030 agenda by reflecting on lessons learned and identifying emerging priorities. While the formal process is expected to begin in 2027, early dialogue and forward-looking thinking are essential to ensure that the next global framework builds on the 2030 Agenda and responds to evolving global challenges.

The international community must shift from reactive responses to proactive, long-term development strategies. This is a defining moment to shape a future grounded in sustainability, innovation, and equality... principles that are essential to advancing inclusive global prosperity.

The future starts now.

Conclusion

Shaping The Future Beyond 2030

The transition from the SDGs to the XDGs 2045 is more than just an evolution; it is a fundamental transformation. The discussions held during the World Governments Summit and Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2025 highlighted an essential reality: despite immense developments the global development environment remains fragmented, reactive, and vulnerable to rising challenges. The future development agenda should be proactive, innovative, flexible, and resilient, capable of addressing challenges we cannot foresee.

The XDGs 2045 initiative calls on the global community to redefine development, rethink leadership, and future-proof economies and societies. It demands redesigning and transition from short-term growth cycles to long-term, systemic transformation, one that incorporates strategic foresight, equality, and sustainability into every decision we make today.

The Road to 2045: A Bold and Collective Responsibility

- Governments must incorporate foresight into policymaking by connecting national strategies with future-ready administrative structures.
- Businesses must become co-architects of sustainable development, integrating AI, circular economies, and responsible innovation.

International organizations must begin drawing on lessons from SDG implementation to inform the eventual transition to the post-2030 agenda, ensuring future development frameworks remain relevant and inclusive. Communities and people, especially women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, must be empowered as change agents to ensure no one is left behind in the next phase of global development. A defining moment in global leadership.

History will assess our era not by how skillfully we kept the existing status quo, but by how boldly we helped shape the future. The decisions made today will define the world of 2045, where human well-being, digital inclusion, and environmental sustainability must guide global progress.

This is our opportunity to act. The post-2030 agenda must become more than a vision. It must evolve into a global effort driven by innovation, inclusion, and a commitment to leave no one behind.

APPENDICES

ADSW	Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week
AI	Artificial Intelligence
COP 28	28th Conference of the Parties (UN Climate Summit)
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEE0	Government Experience Exchange Office
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IoT	Internet of Things
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
R&D	Research and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
WGS	World Governments Summit
XDGs	Next-Generation Development Goals

Author

Christiaan Coetzee

Freelance Consultant



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