



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the 2023 SDG Summit?

- [The SDG Summit](#) taking place on 18 and 19 September at UN Headquarters in New York and marks the mid-point of the implementation of [the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](#) and [its 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). It will provide an opportunity for world leaders to assess progress so far, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide leadership and guidance on the way forward to accelerate the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the remaining years towards 2030.
- The Summit will be a moment for the world to come together to accelerate commitments and transformation to respond to the urgency of poverty, climate change, recovery from COVID-19, and the need to pursue the fair and just path forward articulated by the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.
- The 2023 SDG Summit aims to demonstrate that an inclusive multilateralism continues to provide the best path forward for recovery from the COVID -19 pandemic and to provide global solutions to our common challenges and promote prosperity for all.
- The SDG Summit, which is the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, is mandated to take place every four years at the beginning of the session of the UN General Assembly.

### What is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, is the plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and aims to make our world more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and prosperous.
- The Agenda calls for a holistic and balanced approach that incorporates the three dimensions of sustainable development—social, economic and environmental—critical to ending poverty, reducing inequalities and combatting climate change and environmental degradation in order to achieve sustainable development.
- The Agenda and its 17 SDGs have been embraced by governments, businesses and community groups around the world as the organizing principles for efforts to end poverty, promote prosperity, better education, health and jobs, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic—while also protecting the environment and combatting climate change.
- The Agenda and the SDGs apply to all countries and aim to improve people's lives and prosperity on a healthy planet through partnership and peace. All countries, cities and the

multiple actors of the business sector and civil society are actively engaged in implementing the Agenda and pursuing the SDGs.

### **Why is the 2023 SDG Summit important?**

- The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs has mobilized global, regional and local action. However, at the mid-point of implementation before the target year of 2030, the Goals are off track.
- Poverty and hunger are rising. Given current trends, 575 million people (nearly 7% of the world's population) will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030 compared to 800 million in 2015 (or 10.8%). In 2015, 589 million people were experiencing hunger, and by 2021, that number had risen to 768 million. At the current rate of progress, renewables will remain a mere fraction of our energy supplies in 2030 while it could take another 25 years to halt deforestation.
- The 2023 SDG Summit will provide an opportunity to ramp up international commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, showcase areas of global progress and challenges and accelerate implementation and transaction. The Summit will help leverage progress in key areas to accelerate implementation process.
- The Summit will call on all countries and actors, including local authorities, the private sector, foundations, and philanthropic organizations, to pledge commitments to transformative measures for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and to build partnerships for further achievement at all levels.
- The Summit will also allow participants to share their experiences and best practices and provide access to tools that can accelerate implementation in an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable development.

### **What will be the outcome of the 2023 SDG Summit?**

- The SDG Summit will result in a Political Declaration by Heads of State and Government, which will provide political guidance on how to move forward and step up the pace of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- The Summit will also mobilize voluntary commitments for transformative measures to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which will be announced at the Summit and online.

### **Where do we stand halfway to 2030?**

- At the mid-way point to 2030, the SDGs are in deep trouble. A preliminary assessment of the roughly 140 targets with data show only about 12% are on track; close to half, though showing progress, are moderately or severely off track and some 30% have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline. The lack of SDG progress is universal, but it is abundantly clear that developing countries and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of our collective failure.

- Under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030 – and only about one third of countries will meet the target to halve national poverty levels. Shockingly, the world is back at hunger levels not seen since 2005 – and food prices remain higher in more countries than in the period from 2015-2019. On this current trajectory, it will take 286 years to close gender gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws. And in the area of education, the impacts of years of underinvestment and learning losses are such that by 2030, some 84 million children will be out of school and 300 million children or young people who attend school will leave unable to read and write.

### **Where, when and how will the 2023 SDG Summit happen?**

- The SDG Summit will take place on 18 and 19 September 2023 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Summit will be at the level of Heads of State and Heads of Government. The Chair of the Summit will be the President of the General Assembly at its 78<sup>th</sup> session.
- The SDG Summit will be one of the high-level events taking place during the high-level week of the General Assembly in September 2023, along with the general debate of the Assembly, the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the Ministerial meeting on the Summit of the Future, the Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit, the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage and other meetings.
- A range of events that complement the Summit aim to enhance global attention and action towards the implementation of the SDGs. These include special events on the margins of the Summit as well as meetings of civil society organizations.

### **What is sustainable development?**

- Simply put, sustainable development is about improving the lives of people everywhere, now and in the future, while protecting our natural environment.
- Poverty eradication, ending hunger, providing access to quality education and healthcare, promoting gender equality, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, addressing climate change and promoting economic development while protecting and managing the natural resource base are overarching objectives of sustainable development.
- Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.