



HIGH IMPACT
INITIATIVES



SEPTEMBER 2023

GLOBAL ACCELERATOR

The Global Accelerator on jobs and social protection for just transitions

HALFWAY TO 2030

High Impact Initiatives at SDG Action Weekend, 2023

The SDGs are essential but we are off track

World leaders made a historic global promise to secure the rights and well-being of all peoples when they adopted the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. This Agenda recognizes that collectively, we can deliver a better future for all. However, the Agenda is a promise, not a guarantee.

Over the past eight years, the world has seen unprecedented mobilization around the SDGs and we have made significant progress on some fronts, laying the critical foundations for our future success. However, now halfway to the 2030 deadline, we are not halfway there – in fact, we are only 15% of the way.

To keep the promise, we need a fundamental pivot

It will take more than rhetoric or increased attention to deliver the promise. We cannot stay wedded to current ways of working. Everything we do, in every corner of our world, will need to evolve for us to advance.

The fundamental pivot we need at the core of the 2030 Agenda demands that countries reorient economies, ways of working and mind-sets to ensure the rights and aspirations of all can be achieved while preserving our climate and natural environment.

This change will take everyone

In many ways, the foundations for transformation are right in front of us - the technical know-how, institutional infrastructure, global financial resources and proven programmes – but we need to channel these resources more effectively. This is the critical moment for political leadership and bold action from national governments; for the international community to come together in common purpose; and for all partners on the SDG journey to take their contribution to the next level. We start tomorrow, by accelerating what works today.

THE HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES AT SDG ACCELERATION DAY SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

As we look to the future, our goal is simple: to generate renewed momentum, strengthen political leadership and channel tangible, integrated and coordinated support behind national plans and priorities. As part of the global effort to meet this challenge, the United Nations development system is mobilizing behind 12 high impact initiatives which provide a platform to help take SDG progress to scale. This platform will enable us to learn, evolve and scale what works with greater coordination and collaboration. The platform cuts across three major areas: economic and social transitions, means of implementation, and a core aspect of the cross-cutting issue of gender equality.

- **Energy** Compacts: Scaling up ambition to deliver on SDG7
- Nature Driving Economic Transformation: Leveraging the power of **biodiversity and nature** to drive equitable economic progress
- **Food Systems** Transformation: Transforming food systems for a sustainable world without hunger
- Transforming **Education**: Learning to build a better future for all
- Global Accelerator: The Global Accelerator on **jobs and social protection** for just transitions
- **Digital** Public Infrastructure: Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs
- The SDG Stimulus: Scaling up long-term affordable **financing** for the SDGs
- Transforming **Trade**: Paradigm shift to boost economic development
- **Local2030** Coalition: Pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030
- FutureGov: Building **public sector capabilities** for the future
- Power of **Data**: Unlocking the data dividend for the SDGs
- Spotlight Initiative: To eliminate **violence against women and girls**

GLOBAL ACCELERATOR: VISION FOR IMPACT

Today, workers and their families are facing compounding crises, including wage losses from the COVID-19 pandemic, slow and uneven job recovery, and increases in the cost-of-living. In 2023, the global jobs gap is projected to stand at 453 million people¹. Four billion people are still excluded from social protection. The financing gap to achieve a social protection floor is USD 78 billion per year in low-income countries (15.9 per cent of low-income countries' GDP on average)². Workers are forced to accept lower quality and poorly paid jobs which lack employment security, further amplifying inequalities.

The Global Accelerator (GA) offers integrated solutions to tackle these crises – in turn facilitating the transition to a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy. By developing and implementing policies that strengthen institutions for social protection, decent jobs creation, skills development and support to enterprises, the GA facilitates just transitions³ towards formalization and low-carbon, care and digital economies, especially for youth and women. This will be supported through effective financing mechanisms including both public and private domestic investments, complemented by international financial support, with the aim of creating sufficient fiscal space for social investments. This High Impact Initiative will drive progress not only on SDG8, but across all SDGs.

OVERVIEW: GLOBAL ACCELERATOR

Implementation of the Global Accelerator started in September 2022 based on a strategy co-created by twelve UN agencies and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The Global Accelerator works closely with pathfinder countries to achieve three pillars:

1. **Pillar 1:** in-country implementation of integrated and coordinated employment and social protection policies that facilitate just transitions. These can take the form of combined policy packages on universal social protection, skills development, minimum wage, sustainable enterprises, sectoral policies, with their effective implementation in strategic sectors of the green, care, and digital economy.
2. **Pillar 2:** based on national financing frameworks, the mobilization of public and private domestic and international resources to invest in universal social protection and inclusive, environment- and gender-responsive employment interventions, generating high economic and social returns.
3. **Pillar 3:** improvement of multilateral cooperation on jobs and social protection for just transitions to provide more coordinated support for countries. National steering committees, with technical support from the UN agencies, will lead a whole of government approach, including co-creation of a roadmap and ensuring synergies among participating ministries, donors, development banks, private sector, social partners, and civil society.

The Global Accelerator (GA) offers three supporting mechanisms for pathfinder countries:

1. **GA Steering group:** A platform for governments, UN agencies, international financial institutions, social partners, and civil society to promote more and better SDG-aligned investments, underpinned by national policies guided by International Labour Standards to yield strong socio-economic dividends.
2. **Technical Support Facility:** A truly One UN mechanism including global coordination by ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, and UN WOMEN and national teams under UNRC leadership, which provides guidance to countries on the GA implementation, develops tools and methodologies, documents results and impact, and supports the GA Steering Group in its oversight functions.
3. **Funding mechanism for technical assistance:** The Joint SDG Fund and World Bank Rapid Social Response Adaptive and Dynamic Social Protection Program (RSR-ADSP) Trust Fund have created a funding mechanism with joint governance and two dedicated windows to finance UN/IFI support to the GA. This can supplement resources generated by pathfinder countries through budget reallocations and fiscal policy, and by the governments' partners, such as Public Development Banks and Multilateral Development Banks.

There is a growing momentum for the GA, and strong engagement with member states is ongoing. The value proposition of the GA, which proposes combined investments in jobs and social protection, resonates strongly with the current

global policy priorities and can help support the operationalization of the SDG Stimulus Plan.

At country level, the inter-ministerial structures that are being put in place to steer the design and implementation of the roadmaps together with social partners and the civil society reflect the commitment to break silos and promote a whole of society approach.

PLANS FOR THE 2023 SDG ACTION WEEKEND

The Global Accelerator session aims at further building the momentum and the level of political and financial support to the Global Accelerator by showcasing the multi-stakeholder engagement happening at global and country levels. It will demonstrate high-level political support and national commitments, as well as financial pledges, to the Global Accelerator country-level roadmaps prioritizing employment and social protection to facilitate just transitions.

ROADMAP TO 2030

Long-term plans will evolve as we learn and circumstances change, below is our current approach to acceleration through 2030 after SDG Action Weekend.

Timeline and deliverables for progress:

Implementation of the Global Accelerator started in September 2022 based on an [implementation strategy](#), co-created by 12 UN agencies and EOSG. Following SDG Action weekend, progress will accelerate towards the following milestones:

- **2023:** Launch GA Steering Group and First Call for proposals; finalize roadmaps and design GA implementation plans in eight countries
- **2024:** Mobilize \$20M and launch a Second Call for proposals, ensure Technical Support Facility is fully operational
- **2027:** Implement the Global Accelerator in at least 20 countries, with at least 15 case studies published
- **2030:** Implement the Global Accelerator and achieve institutional changes in at least 30 countries; \$120M invested through the Joint SDG Fund Window

Metrics for success:

The Global Accelerator Steering Group and Technical Support Facility will oversee the documentation, production and dissemination of results. The overall success of the Global Accelerator will be evaluated through:

- Number of countries with full implementation of the Global Accelerator roadmap
- Number of countries which show improvements in the KPIs of the Global Accelerator

Success on a country level will be evaluated through

nationally developed results frameworks, aligned with the global results framework of the Accelerator. These frameworks will measure:

- Percentage net increase in resources allocated directly to social protection and employment programmes
- Quantitative and percentage increase in decent jobs in targeted sectors
- Change in informal employment as a proportion of the total
- Number of persons and percentage increase in effective population coverage by social protection
- Number of persons and percentage of population with increased level of benefits
- Number of persons and percentage increase in legal coverage for social protection

Roles and responsibilities of partners:

- The **Global Accelerator Steering Group** will be composed of donor countries, ILO, other UN organizations, World Bank and other IFIs, pathfinder countries, social partners and civil society organizations. It will oversee the support for pathfinder countries, the development of knowledge products and the production and dissemination of results and evidence
- The **Technical Support Facility** is coordinated by ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WFP and UN WOMEN and provides guidance to countries on the GA implementation, develops tools and methodologies, documents results and impact, and supports the GA Steering Group in its oversight and steering functions.



For more information on the Global Accelerator, visit the [Global Accelerator website](#) or email contact@unglobalaccelerator.org
For an overview of the High Impact Initiatives, visit the [Transformative Actions](#) action tab on the [SDG Summit website](#)