



Press Release

Responding to cascading global crises, SDG Summit launches new phase of accelerated action on the Sustainable Development Goals

World leaders agree to take immediate action to unlock more and better financing for developing countries

New York, 18 September – Gathering at the SDG Summit on 18 to 19 September, world leaders agreed today to urgently step up their efforts to deliver [the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), our global roadmap out of crises, by 2030.

World leaders made an historic global promise to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet when they agreed to [the 2030 Agenda](#) and the 17 SDGs in 2015. However, at midpoint of SDG implementation, the SDGs are in peril. Tens of millions have fallen into poverty since 2020. Over 110 million people are forcibly displaced. Inequalities have worsened, strikingly so for women and girls. Many governments are forced to choose between debt payments and investing in healthcare and education. The climate emergency is wreaking havoc on lives and livelihoods. Developing countries and the world's most vulnerable people continue to bear the brunt of these crises.

"The SDGs aren't just a list of goals. They carry the hopes, dreams, rights and expectations of people everywhere," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "Yet today, only 15 per cent of the targets are on track. Many are going in reverse. Instead of leaving no one behind, we risk leaving the SDGs behind."

The Political Declaration

Leaders adopted a decisive, action-oriented [political declaration](#) at the Summit, highlighting their collective commitment to build a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous world by 2030. With a strong focus on the means of implementation, and in particular, on financing for development, the declaration acknowledges that without a quantum leap in investments to enable just and equitable energy, food, digital transitions, and a transformation in education and robust social protection in developing countries, the goals simply will not be met.

Additionally, the Declaration urges immediate action to deliver [an SDG Stimulus](#) proposed by the UN Secretary-General, which calls for a massive increase in financing for the achievement of the SDGs to the tune of \$500 billion each year. It also conveys strong support from all countries for a much-needed reform of the international financial architecture to better reflect today's global economy.

"I am deeply encouraged by the detailed and wide-ranging draft political declaration under consideration here today – especially its commitment to improving developing countries'

access to the fuel required for SDG progress: finance. This can be a game-changer in accelerating SDG progress,” stated the Secretary-General.

Global and National Commitments

Over 100 Countries will present national commitments to SDG Transformation that include priority transitions and areas for investment, setting national benchmarks for reducing poverty and inequalities by 2027 and strengthening institutional frameworks to support SDG progress. In addition to these national commitments, developed countries and other countries who have the capacity, are expected to make individual global commitments drawing on the Secretary-General’s proposal for an SDG Stimulus and broader means of implementation, such as fulfilling ODA commitments, suspending debt payments and agreeing on innovative finance mechanisms.

SDG Action Weekend

The SDGs cannot be delivered by governments alone. [The SDG Action Weekend](#) on 16 to 17 September gave an opportunity for over 3000 people from all sectors of society to outline their commitments to accelerate progress on the SDGs. The SDG Mobilization Day on Saturday 16 September saw business, civil society, science, local authorities and young people making meaningful contributions to SDG implementation.

The SDG Acceleration Day on 17 September highlighted [UN High-Impact Initiatives](#) that show that transformation is possible and will help to drive momentum for action on the ground in the coming years. The initiatives focus on six major transitions that will drive progress across the SDGs: i) Social Protection; ii) Energy; iii.) Education; iv) Food Systems; v) Digital Transformation; vi) Biodiversity and Nature, underpinned by greater financing and other supports, as well as action to advance gender equality.

About the Summit

The opening of the Summit featured statements by the President of the General Assembly Dennis Francis, UN Secretary-General António Guterres and President of the Economic and Social Council Paula Narvaéz.

The 2-day Summit will feature a short plenary segment to hear the actions and commitments delivered on behalf of groups of States. Six Leaders' Dialogues will allow Heads of State and Government to report on progress and set out concrete national commitments to SDG transformation.

SDG Media Zone, 18-22 September, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

[The SDG Media Zone](#) is a key feature of the UN General Assembly’s High-Level Week, bringing together world leaders, influencers, activists, experts, content creators and media partners to highlight actions and solutions in support of the SDGs. Organized by the UN Department of Global Communications, in collaboration with the PVBLIC Foundation, the Zone takes the conversation on advancing the 2030 Agenda into the public discourse through impactful in-depth interviews and conversations on global issues that matter to people everywhere. All sessions will livestream on [UN WebTV](#).

SDG Pavilion, 15-22 September

[The SDG Pavilion](#) is a beacon for the Sustainable Development Goals. It was created to mark the halfway point of the Goals. To use a sporting analogy, we are down at halftime. However, the good news is that any given match is won in the second half. Organized by the UN Office for Partnerships, in collaboration with Project Everyone, the SDG Pavilion will host

a series of Halftime Talks and a high level gathering of women leaders to mobilize the world to keep the promise of the SDGs. Sessions will be livestreamed on [UN WebTV](#).

Follow the SDG Summit

Please follow us on the SDG Summit, using the main hashtags: #GlobalGoals and #SDGs.

On Facebook: United Nations, Global GoalsUN, DESA, Sustainable Development

On Twitter: @UN, @GlobalGoalsUN, @UNDESA, @SustDev, @UN_Partnerships

For more additional information, please visit key links below:

[The SDG Summit 2023 website](#) and [SDG Summit Programme](#)

[The SDG Summit Media Corner](#)

[The SDG Action Weekend](#)

[High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly Snapshot](#)

[The Sustainable Development Goals Website](#)

Follow key events live on [UN WebTV](#).

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