



## A RALLYING CRY TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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On 18-19 September 2023, world leaders gathered at the [SDG Summit](#) in New York for the mid-point review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the implementation of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Summit adopted a political declaration that provides a roadmap for putting the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by their 2030 deadline. The Summit was informed by the [2023 Global Sustainable Development Report](#) prepared by an independent group of scientists and the [2023 Special Edition of the SDG Progress Report](#) by the Secretary-General. More information about the 2023 SDG Summit is available on the website at: [un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023](https://un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023).

### **SDG Summit summary**

A total of 163 speakers took the floor during the Summit, including 57 heads of state/vice presidents, 30 heads of government, 58 deputy prime ministers and ministers, and 18 representatives of intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholders.

The Summit adopted by consensus a negotiated [political declaration](#) as an official outcome. The declaration stresses that the achievement of the SDGs is in peril, commits to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions and sets out areas where action is required. Member States clearly identified financing and reform of the financial institutions as key ingredients for success going forward. The declaration also commits to fully support the UN development system and looks forward to the Summit of the Future in 2024.

At the closing session of the Summit, Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, presented a [brief summary](#) of the Summit proceedings, highlighting many steps taken to accelerate SDG progress, including promoting key transitions in areas such as energy. Many leaders had underscored expanding social protection and improving education, stressing their commitment to leave no one behind. Significantly, many speakers had declared their support for the [Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus Plan](#). Several had called for climate finance, debt relief and long-term mission-oriented lending. Numerous calls had



also been made for reform of the existing international financial architecture. Unlocking private capital was a key avenue, including through de-risking private investment.

[Speaking at the closing](#), the UN Secretary-General called the outcome of the Summit a rescue plan for the planet. He outlined a “to-do” list, covering seven items, among them transforming support of the SDG Stimulus into real investments in developing countries, with over USD 500 billion per year for sustainable development, including through multilateral development banks and other mechanisms required. He also called for ensuring that the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank in October 2023 lead to an urgent additional re-channeling of USD 100 billion in Special Drawing Rights. In line with the political declaration, there is a need to reform the global financial architecture, with concrete proposals developed in time for next year’s Summit of the Future and the next Financing for Development Conference in 2025.

In his [closing remarks](#), the President of the General Assembly welcomed the new commitments that have been announced and the dynamic new modalities for cooperation. He urged all to act with a sense of urgency to deliver the promise that has been made in 2015 and its renewal in the SDG Summit.

## **SDG Action Weekend**

About 6,000 participants from across UN Member States, civil society, youth, local and regional governments and the private sector convened at UN Headquarters in New York for the [SDG Action Weekend](#) which took place on 16 and 17 September 2023. The Weekend featured seven stakeholder-led mobilization segments, 12 sessions centered around the [UN-led High Impact Initiatives](#), three special sessions and over [40 high-level side-events](#) organized by coalitions of governments, UN entities, international organizations and global stakeholder networks. The UN Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly and renowned development experts and activists spoke in the high-level opening and closing. The events focused on a wide range of topics, including financing for sustainable development, the means of implementation, leaving no one behind and thematic issues that illustrate the integrated nature of the SDGs.

To get an overview of the stakeholder engagement during the SDG Action Weekend, check out this [short film](#). To learn more about the weekend’s events and watch the available recordings, visit the [SDG Action Weekend webpage](#). You can read the United Nations Secretary-General's [opening statement](#) as well as the closing remarks by the rapporteurs for the [SDG Mobilization Day](#) and the [SDG Acceleration Day](#). Direct links to the featured mobilization and acceleration sessions are also provided below:

### **SDG Mobilization Day (Saturday, 16 September)**

- [Youth](#) | Torchbearers for the SDGs: Meaningful Youth Engagement & the 2030 Agenda
- [Women and Girls](#) | Towards a Rights-Centered Gender-Transformative Economy, Including a New International Financial Architecture
- [Major Groups & Other Stakeholders](#) | Breaking Down the Barriers to Leave No One Behind

- [Science & Academia](#) | Catalyzing Transformative Change: Science, Academia and the Journey to 2030
- [Local & Regional Governments](#) | Local and Regional Governments Forum: Action and Leadership from the Ground Up: Towards the Rescue Plan for People and the Planet
- [Civil Society](#) | Enhancing Advocacy, Financing and Accountability: Key Messages from Civil Society to the SDG Summit and Beyond
- [Private Sector](#) | Bridging the Financing Gap: Unleashing the Power of SMEs

### **SDG Acceleration Day (Sunday, 17 September)**

- [Energy Compacts](#)
- [Food Systems Transformation](#)
- [FutureGov](#)
- [Transforming Education](#)
- [Transforming4Trade](#)
- [Local2030 Coalition](#)
- [Power of Data](#)
- [Nature Driving Economic Transformation](#)
- [Global Accelerator](#)
- [Spotlight Initiative](#)
- [Digital Public Infrastructure](#)
- [The SDG Stimulus](#)

### **Acceleration Day Special Sessions (Sunday, 17 September)**

- [Advancing Sustainable Development in Complex Settings](#)
- [SDG Digital](#)
- [Generation Equality](#)

### **SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform**

Following the Secretary-General's call for the announcement of forward-looking commitments for SDG transformation at the Summit, an SDG Acceleration and Accountability Platform was set up by UN DESA, in collaboration with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, as a tool to help capture information about commitments and actions around the world to step up the ambition and implementation of the SDGs. For more information about the national commitments and acceleration actions, please visit the SDG Acceleration and Accountability Platform at [sdgs.un.org/SDGSummitActions](https://sdgs.un.org/SDGSummitActions).