With world facing unprecedented global crises, UN convenes Forum to urgently scale up action on the Sustainable Development Goals

Curtain Raiser Press briefing
Friday 7 July 2023, 1:00 pm EDT
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The war in Ukraine, rising food prices and a worsening climate emergency have upended the global economy and are threatening decades of development progress. Against this backdrop, countries will join business leaders, civil society representatives, policymakers, and international organizations at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at UN Headquarters in New York on 10 to 19 July to urgently set the world on track to delivering the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At midpoint of implementation, the SDGs—the rescue plan for people and planet—are in jeopardy. Ten of millions have fallen into poverty. Inequalities have worsened, strikingly so for women and girls. More people are being denied healthcare and education and the world is back at hunger levels not seen since 2005.

This year’s Forum will be an opportunity to review progress, address shared challenges, showcase successes, and identify measures to mobilize action on the SDGs. It will also be a key contributor to the SDG Summit on 18-19 September, the defining moment for world leaders to deliver the breakthroughs needed to achieve the Goals.

Key Findings
The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition will be featured at the opening day of the HLPF on 10 July. The report presents a sobering picture of the SDGs, sounding the alarm on the considerable gaps and challenges ahead, while highlighting the urgent need to accelerate progress on the Goals.

Curtain Raiser press briefing
WHAT: Curtain-raiser press briefing on the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
WHO: Her Excellency Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the UN Economic and Social Council
WHEN: Friday 7 July 2023, 1:00 pm EDT
WHERE: Press Briefing Room S-237 or watch live on UN WebTV
Hashtags: #GlobalGoals, #HLPF
Forum Background
The Forum will include a three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF from 17 to 19 July, as part of the High-level Segment of the Council. The final day of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will conclude on 20 July.

At the ministerial segment, 39 countries and the European Union will present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), sharing their experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned as they take action to achieve the Goals. Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, more than 188 countries have participated in the VNRs.

The Forum will review in depth Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation; SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy; SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities; and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals and their linkages to other Goals. The Forum will also draw attention to the importance of financing SDG implementation and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, leveraging science, technology and innovation for a science-driven recovery and driving transformation at the local level.

Special Events:
In addition to over 200 side-events and an online exhibit, featuring Member States, the UN system and Civil Society, there will be several special events, including:

- The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition - A High-Level Event "Call to Action" (10 July)
- SDG Learning, Training and Practice Workshops (10-14 July)
- Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report and the SDG7 Policy Briefs (11 July)
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report (12 July)
- Local and Regional Governments Forum (12 July)
- Local2030 Coalition Special Event (12 July)
- Science Day - Evidence-based strategies for SDG Acceleration (15 July)
- Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference (16 July)
- Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Global Forum (17 July)
- SDG 6 & Water Action Agenda Special Event (17 July)
- 2023 SDG Global Business Forum (18 July)
- Parliamentary Forum (18 July)

For more information on all special events and side events, see https://hlpf.un.org/2023/other-events

For more information on the Forum, please visit:
- High-Level Political Forum: https://hlpf.un.org/2023
- Programme: https://hlpf.un.org/2023/programme
The SDG Summit 2023

World leaders will gather at the UN Headquarters in New York on 18 to 19 September 2023 for the SDG Summit to reaffirm their collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The upcoming Summit is expected to generate transformative, accelerated actions to achieve the Goals by 2030. It will culminate in a political declaration.

Media contacts:
Sharon Birch | UN Department of Global Communications | E: birchs@un.org
Paul Simon | UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs | E: simonp@un.org
Helen Rosengren | UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs | E: roengrenh@un.org