The manufacturing industry’s recovery from COVID-19 remains incomplete and uneven. Global manufacturing growth slowed down to 3.3% in 2022, from 7.4% in 2021.

However, medium-high- and high-technology industries demonstrated robust growth rates, highlighting the importance of inclusive innovation and technology driving the achievements of the SDGs.

As of 2022, 95% of the world’s population was within reach of a mobile broadband network, but some areas remain underserved.
A GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT — AN OPEN, FREE AND SECURE DIGITAL FUTURE FOR ALL

The Secretary-General in his report Our Common Agenda, proposes a Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 through a technology track involving all stakeholders: governments, the United Nations system, the private sector (including tech companies), civil society, grass-roots organizations, academia, and individuals, including youth.

The Global Digital Compact is expected to "outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all". The Common Agenda report suggests issues that it might cover, including digital connectivity, avoiding Internet fragmentation, providing people with options as to how their data is used, application of human rights online, and promoting a trustworthy Internet by introducing accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content. Find out more here.

UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition is a multistakeholder alliance launched by ITU in close cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States (UNOHRLLS), and in line with the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. It fosters meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, with a focus on but not limited to hardest-to-connect communities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

- Through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), UNIDO partnered with ILO, UNDP, UNEP and UNITAR to support countries and regions in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability.

- As the custodian agency of six indicators on industry-related targets under SDG9, UNIDO publishes a biennial thematic report on Statistical Indicators of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization, which provides an analysis of global trends to track the progress towards achieving SDG9 targets.

- Through the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP), UNIDO supports Member States in achieving its industrial development goals, resting on multi-stakeholder partnerships led by the host governments, leveraging additional investment in selected priority sectors.

- Building on Digital Innovation Framework, ITU helps countries, cities and other communities and systems accelerate their digital transformation, stimulate ICT-centric innovative entrepreneurship, and foster vibrant small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

- UNCTAD as secretariat of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) collaborated with Chinese Academy of Science and implemented a technical assistance project in 12 developing countries, including 4 LDCs.

- ITU/WHO Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (FG-AI4H) aims to establish a standardized assessment framework for the evaluation of AI-based methods for health, diagnosis, triage or treatment decisions.

- UNIDO published a set of best practices, smart solutions and policy recommendations in the areas of women’s economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and leadership.

- ITU’s Smart Villages and Smart Islands project promotes a whole-of-government approach at community level strategically aligning the resources of all stakeholders (government, industry, development agencies, civil society, academia among others), and holistic response to SDG-related needs. ITU is collaborating with UNCDF, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, UNOPS, UNODC, OHCHR, the Joint SDG Fund, Asian Development Bank, Government of Australia – Ditrdca, national governments, the private sector (Huawei), among others.

For more information about UN system actions to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, visit