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HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2023



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Table of Contents



03	Introduction
05	SDG 6 Water & Sanitation
09	SDG 7 Affordable & Clean Energy
13	SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
17	SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities
21	SDG 17 Partnerships For The Goals
25	Interlinkages and Coherence Contributors

Introduction



2023 marks the halfway point of the Sustainable Development Agenda. This broad multilateral commitment reflects a laudable attempt to change the paradigm of financing and governance to achieve prosperity, peace, a sustainable world and well-being for people, environment and other living species.

A move toward inclusive and equitable policies would rectify historical wrongs that have placed humans, animals, and Mother Earth at risk. However, due to failures to address structural injustices and a hesitancy by many governments to take ambitious and transformative action, the world is not on track to implement Agenda 2030. Therefore definition of a post 2030 Agenda based on an anticipated scenario of progress on the SDGs by 2030 should be incorporated into the process now.

The UN Secretary-General has repeatedly called attention to the mutually reinforcing crises pushing the SDGs out of reach. The rise of undemocratic governments opposing human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and the oppression of investigative journalism, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and human and environmental rights defenders has undermined the basic objectives of the SDGs. The triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, in conjunction with rapid unplanned urbanization, threaten the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Besides insufficient efforts to implement the SDGs, Agenda 2030 must contend with an ongoing pandemic prolonged by vaccine inequality; the potential for future pandemics exacerbated by ecological overshoot and a failure to manage the relationship between humans, animals and nature; the crisis of yet another war threatening global efforts toward peace; and growing economic inequality around the globe.

In this context, we call for the following:

- SDG 6: A focus on drivers of water scarcity, accessibility and pollution with attention to finance, technology, equitable water rights, nature-based solutions, waste treatment, community leadership, women's participation, and Indigenous knowledge.
- SDG 7: A just, inclusive transition to affordable, clean, nature-sensitive renewable energy with financing for deploying green energy technologies globally, including LMICs.
- SDG 9: Green jobs, resilient infrastructure and inclusive, sustainable, accountable industrialization with special attention to vulnerable populations.
- SDG 11: Urban, social and environmental determinants of well-being, including safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable food, housing, water and energy services; health services; and transportation.
- SDG 17: Commitment to achieving truly inclusive partnerships with NGOs, and cross-sectoral collaboration which eliminates silos and moves toward systemic solutions.

Looking towards the SDG Summit in September, we further call for:

- A six year roadmap to SDG implementation by 2030, including milestones and a schedule of deliverables which ensure concrete commitments and financing.
- An action plan to move beyond GDP and transform our economic systems to serve the wellbeing of people and the planet, including a commitment to green economies with sustainable production and consumption, care and education at its heart.
- Development of a global framework to maintain ecological integrity, strengthen national and international environmental law and achieve all UNEA resolutions in a fully integrated manner, as well as the implementation of a One Health approach to safeguard against future pandemic risk.
- Inclusion of NGOs, including voices from the Global South, in truly intersectoral, inclusive partnerships.
- Leadership and commitment for a post-2030 Agenda and accompanying Action Plan that recognizes regional needs, priorities and capacities based on a culturally sensitive, fair and inclusive negotiation process.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





How should governments implement this SDG and related targets?

2023 has seen the first UN Water Conference in 50 years, which concluded with over 700 voluntary commitments and billions of dollars committed in funding. However, preliminary analyses suggest that the ambition of these commitments is not sufficient and must be scaled up to address current water and sanitation gaps, along with the climate shocks on water. The rate of progress needs to be four times faster to achieve just the first two targets alone within SDG6, access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

At the multilateral level, partnerships for the Water Action Agenda must be expanded, diversified and scaled up. Some sectors have historically been excluded from the discussions, such as animal, which leads to blind spots and suboptimal solutions. Investments must also be made in the management of agriculture, including in water retention, land management, ecosystem restoration, and in transitioning to regenerative agriculture. A rights-based approach should be adopted to water provision and governance, with access to a reliable and affordable source of clean, safe water.

Water is a global common good and sometimes transboundary, that everyone must have access to for different purposes. Water policies must prioritize the sustainable management of resources, confronting ongoing crises including pollution and climate change. This includes ensuring that water and sanitation facilities around the world are funded to be climate resilient. We encourage governments to work with bodies, including the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, to redefine the way water is valued and governed for the common good.

At the national level, Governments should create an enabling framework for SDG 6 and then complement them with adequate financing, governance and infrastructure, working closely with civil society and communities. States should inclusively engage at the community level, considering the needs of a diverse group of stakeholders including indigenous peoples, by developing public-community partnerships. Governments must also consider the needs of women, who comprise of 70% of the world's healthcare workers, making the lack of WASH in healthcare facilities an issue of women's right to health and safety.

Above all, governments should highlight that many of the other SDGs cannot be achieved without sanitation and water for all and invest in eradicating this solvable problem.



What structural obstacles hinder the implementation of this SDG (at local, national, regional, and/or global levels)?

Locally, the barriers are contextual, and extensive consultation and collaborative work with communities on the ground is required. These are, however, rooted in a lack of funding caused by investment shortfalls for those activities at all levels. Inefficient and inadequate targeted investment is also leading to funding not reaching the most vulnerable communities, made worse by the lack of disaggregated data to identify the most vulnerable groups.



At the national level, lack of political will and commitment often hinders progress, with this reflecting policy at a global level. Poor coordination between ministries in donor countries leads to water and sanitation being excluded from key conversations on health, environment, agriculture and climate, whilst ineffective community engagement within partner countries leads to SDG6 not being reflected in national health, agriculture, environment and climate plans. Furthermore, national governments must address the discrimination made on the basis of gender, descent and class, breaking down societal barriers which keep people away from accessing these resources.

At all levels, scientific evidence is important but Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices have to be considered as part of the solution. Water governance has historically been dominated by the water user for profit and must also be improved with effective collaboration and accountability frameworks, considering unsustainable water use for economic profit as a major structural obstacle.

A lack of infrastructure, including lack of wastewater treatment, poor solid waste management and destructive environmental practices, may contribute to poor water quality, and the lack of a coupled sustainable water management of surface and groundwater represent an obstacle for water storage and efficient use. Major investments need to be made in biological and decentralized treatment of wastewater, and human waste. On agricultural infrastructure, with increasing food insecurity, farmers have resorted to the use of agrochemicals to boost production, leading to soil impoverishment, freshwater scarcity and water pollution.



What role can civil society play in achieving this SDG?

Civil society can act as a bridge between governments and communities, leading the way in breaking the silo mentality and structures around water provisions, making CSO engagement, and funding, necessary for the design and implementation of public policies. CSOs can assist with monitoring progress, and calling out failings, holding governments accountable for their successes and failures.

Civil society can develop advocacy capacities of communities, facilitate access to nature-based and community management as well as indigenous knowledge that may be hidden below the radar of governments and multilateral agencies. Similarly, community leadership and governance of water resources in an equitable, participatory manner can be strengthened by civil society ensuring inclusive governance mechanisms.

It is important to note that civil society is not a homogenous group. Care must be taken to ensure that all relevant actors are involved, without dominance by those with greatest capacity and resources.



How does this SDG support or connect with other goals in the 2030 Agenda? With specific targets of other international frameworks?

Water is essential for life and as such it links to all SDGs, including goals on zero hunger (water is needed to grow and prepare food), health (clean water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene, especially in healthcare facilities), gender equality (women and girls are primary providers of water to the household), education (often girls are out of school because they don't have proper menstrual hygiene facilities), climate (restoring the water cycle to stop environmental crises and build resilient infrastructure will contribute to global adaptation and mitigation climate goals).



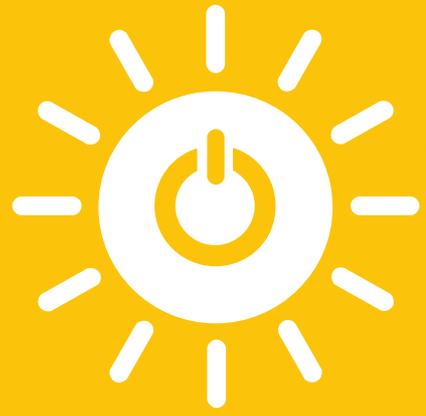
Are there emerging issues related to this SDG that should be noted?

The world is still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. Open defecation, water reservoirs and water treatment (or lack thereof) continue to be one of the major sources of infectious disease, including zoonotic spillover from animals to humans. One Health is a useful framework that can be applied to water. In a world where 50% of the population still lack access to proper sanitation and wastewater management, unified action is needed to protect the health of ecosystems, as well as the health of all species, from water-borne disease.

Climate change is also aggravating the water crisis, and populations in water-scarce areas will face food insecurity. Flooding will also demand adaptation such as climate-resilient water provision and sanitation. Further contamination of water sources is also on the rise. Pollution from plastics, agricultural products and extractive industries must be strongly regulated.

Interlinkages of crises have to be identified and inter sectorial approaches are needed in order to build sustainable management of our resources that will ensure quality of life for all (including all species) and everywhere.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





How should governments implement this SDG and related targets?

Governments have a unique opportunity to recommit to Agenda2030 through concerted and verifiable efforts to achieve SDG7. With renewable energy technology becoming more affordable, governments can support SDG7 through regulations, incentives, and tariff reductions. This includes commitments to phase out coal-fired power plants and promoting renewable energy in sectors like healthcare and education. Achieving SDG7 requires collaboration with various stakeholders such as local communities, ministries, regional bodies, industry, philanthropy, and multinationals.

All people suffer the consequences of unsustainable energy use, as does non-human life and the environment. Historically, the implementation of clean energy strategies has depended on governments' authorization and control fueled by private investment and focused on economic benefits and immediately quantifiable impacts such as power plant emissions and water quality to the exclusion of other externalities. It is crucial for governments and stakeholders to consider downstream issues like battery disposal, recycling, and biodiversity loss during project planning. As the world transitions to cleaner, renewable energy, careful environmental consciousness, monitoring, and refinement are essential to mitigate harmful effects and positively contribute to biodiversity.

In the Global South, the use of solid fuels and kerosene for cooking and lighting poses health risks, particularly for women and children due to indoor air pollution. However, the transition to cleaner fuel sources largely lags behind goals and commitments due to infrastructure and financing challenges as well as cultural practices and norms. To encourage this transition, cost reduction, education, and incentives are necessary. This shift can alleviate the burden of unpaid work on women and children, allowing them more time for education and income-generating activities.

Oil and gas extraction, coal-fired power plants, and large-scale renewable energy projects contribute to biodiversity loss. For instance, large scale power facilities can attract and incinerate insects and birds en masse. Wind turbines cause high rates of bird and bat deaths, and when installed offshore can destroy habitat and disrupt migrations of marine species. Hydropower alters ecosystems both upstream and downstream. Expansion of cropland to provide biofuel drives deforestation worldwide. Supporting infrastructure such as roads and electrical equipment further fragments habitat and multiplies the overall spatial footprint of power stations.

Positively, renewable energy projects when designed with environmental consciousness can mitigate harmful effects and enhance biodiversity. For example, combining solar panels with green roofs in urban settings creates habitat and enhances ecosystem services. Strategies like turning off wind turbines during migration periods and incorporating fish-friendly features in hydropower dams can reduce wildlife mortality. Utilizing agricultural and food waste for bioenergy can help avoid deforestation. Maintaining native vegetation and promoting second-generation food crops also reduce biodiversity loss from biofuel production.



When implementing SDG7, governments should adopt a holistic view of environmental sustainability, incorporating biodiversity considerations. Best practices can be gathered globally through the UN, with input from local authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs). Prizes and awards can motivate participation and innovation in sustainable energy practices, ensuring a global pool of knowledge.



What structural obstacles hinder the implementation of this SDG (at local, national, regional, and/or global levels)?

The market-based approach to energy access has historically neglected the recognition of energy access as a key enabler of social goods like poverty reduction, health, education, and women's empowerment. Governments traditionally support energy markets, leading to substantial subsidies for oil and gas. Shifting policy frameworks to support renewable energy as a driver of development and security is crucial in implementing SDG7.

Unforeseen adverse consequences can impede the adoption of new sustainable energy approaches. For instance, infrastructural businesses may be reluctant to give up profitable practices despite environmental and social damage. Laws and policies favoring large energy companies can hinder community efforts for clean energy and sustainable practices, indicating the need for better governance and reduced private sector influence.

Biodiversity has often been neglected in energy policies compared to climate and pollution concerns. Guidelines and empirical data assessing biodiversity impacts of renewable energy are limited. Governments must support multidisciplinary research to quantify biodiversity impacts throughout the project lifecycle, both for well-established and novel energy technologies and address legal complexities such as private energy company lands and alignment of certification standards for clean energy with current scientific knowledge.



What role can civil society play in achieving this SDG?

CSOs can lead by example and manage their energy consumption sustainably, setting a positive example for society. Incorporating SDG7 into current and future projects is essential while emphasizing the sustainable energy lens in implementation and project communication. CSOs with local presence, can engage stakeholders in design and implementation of public policies, share best practices, and monitor and report on project impacts. They can act as watchdogs, holding projects accountable for environmental damage. CSOs together with the scientific community can develop and improve guidelines and resources for measuring the impacts of energy projects on species and ecosystems, incorporate technologies and other tools for predicting, moni-



toring, and mitigating the impacts of energy production. They can continue to encourage UN Member States to take sustainable energy use seriously, implement legislation to promote truly sustainable energy production, support ongoing research and evaluation efforts, and educate the public on local sustainable solutions.



How does this SDG support or connect with other goals in the 2030 Agenda? With specific targets of other international frameworks?

Energy is a driving force for globalization and sustainable energy production and use is essential for achieving any of the SDGs. SDG7 must be implemented synergistically with SDGs 14 and 15 to account for biodiversity impacts. Bioenergy should align with SDGs 2 and 12 by avoiding competition with food production and utilizing food waste for biofuel. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework highlights the interlinkages of biodiversity and climate, emphasizing the need to minimize negative impacts and foster positive contributions of climate action on biodiversity. SDG 7 also contributes to SDG 1 by redirecting household income spent on non-renewable fuel towards other essential needs, and to SDG 3 by improving health and safety outcomes through the use of solar systems in clinics and healthcare facilities.



Are there emerging issues related to this SDG that should be noted?

While the carbon markets have been heralded as an important enabler of the just energy transition, caution must be exercised so that polluters are held responsible. Besides ensuring that clean energy transitions minimize harms and maximize benefits to biodiversity, it is also important to ensure that biodiversity concerns aren't misused in defense of fossil fuels. For example, preserving rainforest habitat for carbon offsetting purposes should not be exaggerated or used as a substitute for reducing net environmental harm. Monitoring and accountability should be applied to both the renewable and traditional energy sectors to avoid "greenwashing", false solutions and techno fixes and ensure truly positive outcomes for climate and biodiversity.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE





How should governments implement this SDG and related targets?

Governments must adopt a global citizenship mindset that recognizes the interdependence of all nations and ecosystems. This shift requires promoting innovation that addresses the ecological overshoot caused by humanity and fosters sustainability. Post-pandemic recovery should prioritize collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of effective technologies and practices.

Governments can play a crucial role in promoting sustainability in cities by allocating funds, providing incentives, and implementing regulatory requirements that favor resilient and sustainable infrastructures. This includes embracing bioclimatic design principles to maximize the use of natural light and ventilation, utilizing sustainable construction materials, integrating solar panels for renewable energy generation, implementing water recycling systems, and ensuring an overall focus on people's wellbeing.

Sustainable mobility, urban agriculture, emerging food technologies such as plant-based meat alternatives, precision fermentation, and cell-cultured meat, and non-animal testing methods in biomedical research are key areas where governments can drive innovation towards sustainable development.



What structural obstacles hinder the implementation of this SDG (at local, national, regional, and/or global levels)?

Limited financial resources pose a significant obstacle, as sustainable construction often incurs higher costs compared to traditional methods. Additionally, many countries face a shortage of trained engineers and technicians in fields like energy, environment, and information technologies. The World Economic Forum's 2021 "Global Competitiveness Report" reveals that Latin American countries scored an average of 3.3 out of 7, highlighting significant gaps in technical skill availability.

Institutions resist innovative practices due to biases favoring familiar methods, hindering research and development in emerging technologies. Additionally, the lack of support for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education hampers recruitment from marginalized groups, while restrictive regulatory processes limit the adoption of alternative scientific research methods.



What role can civil society play in achieving this SDG?

Scientists affiliated with Civil Society organizations (CSOs) contribute to the development and evaluation of emerging technologies, such as food and biomedical technologies showcasing their sustainability benefits. CSOs act as watchdogs for trans-



parency and accountability, driving campaigns to promote sustainable practices and behavioral changes. They also engage in revitalization projects, gathering people's needs and opinions and offering adequate and sustainable solutions for their communities. Additionally, CSOs raise awareness and educate about the importance of sustainable infrastructure and technological innovation for economic and social development, with educators playing a crucial role in promoting science, technology, and engineering careers and fostering cultures of innovation.



How does this SDG support or connect with other goals in the 2030 Agenda? With specific targets of other international frameworks?

SDG 9 aligns with other goals in the 2030 Agenda by promoting new educational models, including virtual platforms and digital tools, enhancing access to online education which improve the quality and efficiency of education (SDG 4). It supports inclusive industrialization, sustainable urban transport, and resilient infrastructure, contributing to SDG 11 and targeting 9.1 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which focuses on strengthening resilience to disasters. Innovative food technologies address SDG 2 by improving access to nutritious and safe food and reducing food waste (SDG 12). Biomedical technologies improve healthcare access (SDG 3) and contribute to SDG 5 for women and girls. Collaboration among business, governments, and civil society, as promoted in SDG 17, facilitates knowledge sharing and resource utilization for common goals. It also has indirect benefits to SDG 6, by improving the efficient use of water resources and reducing water pollution, and SDG 8 by generating jobs in agriculture and improving its efficiency.



Are there emerging issues related to this SDG that should be noted?

Globally, the low representation of women in engineering and science fields hinders gender equality and quality education. According to UNESCO, in 2019, women accounted for only 28% of science researchers worldwide and in 2020 the International Telecommunication Union's data showed, only 18% of university students in information and communication technology (ICT) careers were women. Encouraging STEM education can address this issue and empower women worldwide.

The equitable access to information and benefit sharing becomes crucial as new technologies emerge, avoiding knowledge privatization and promoting audit rights to bridge inequality gaps. For instance, 52.4% of patent applications filed worldwide come from high-income countries, while low- and middle-income countries account for only 8.9% and 38.7%, respectively. Additionally, the gradual introduction of new technologies and solutions, especially in the most vulnerable communities is an issue. It



is important to ensure that knowledge and innovative solutions are available to all and shared in an open and accessible manner to avoid widening inequality gaps.

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents opportunities and challenges, revolutionizing infrastructure development while raising concerns about ethics, job displacement, and unequal access. Insufficient budgeting for Research and Development globally requires policy review, and incentivizing local innovators is vital for scaling their solutions globally.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES





How should governments implement this SDG and related targets?

National governments should acknowledge the metropolitan fact and support the implementation of specific institutional arrangements to make cities more accessible through investment in public transportation, public facilities and social/affordable housing. It is essential that attention be paid to the dimension of existing inequalities in cities, which prevent these from being spaces of universal access. Women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are affected differently by urban policies or the lack of them, and this becomes even more serious when one observes the racial profile, very evident in different regions of the world. Recognizing inequalities is the first step to combating them.

By creating green and wild spaces in and around cities for sustainable food production, urban agriculture, recreation and environmental education to foster community and a sense of belonging through sustainable community projects. Likewise, the creation of ecological corridors can enhance local biodiversity and promote the conservation of native species. Similarly, the creation of parks is important to improve people's quality of life by providing a place for outdoor recreation and exercise. School gardens can be a valuable tool for teaching children about the importance of sustainable agriculture and environmental education, especially ecological overshoot and the impact of a rapidly growing population on earth's capacity.

On the other hand, it is necessary to implement policies and careful urban planning that allow for sustainable growth of cities and prevent the expansion of cities from conflicting with SDG15 (life on land) or with the "30 by 30 plan" of the Global Biodiversity Framework. This may include policies such as Zero Land Take, circular economy and Zero GHG Emission; the adoption of sustainable design and construction techniques; the protection of green areas and the promotion of biodiversity in urban areas. For this, it is necessary to promote local youth consultations and encourage the creation of digital platforms that allow civil society to express its most urgent needs in terms of sustainable development in the communities.



What structural obstacles hinder the implementation of this SDG (at local, national, regional, and/or global levels)?

The lack of adequate monitoring and evaluation of projects aligned with SDG 11 makes it difficult to measure progress and adjust strategies accordingly. In addition, budgets earmarked for this goal are often poorly designed and insufficient. In many parts of the world, only a small portion of government projects are aligned with SDG 11 targets. This share could be greater if development financing mechanisms had greater decision-making participation on the part of the countries of the Global South, which are the destination of resources, but are not always able to match financing projects to their most urgent needs.

11 Sustainable cities & communities



Moreover, the absence of environmental awareness limits the transition to more sustainable cities and the adoption of more environmentally friendly practices. This is largely due to the lack of land-use planning programs. There is also a shortage of collaboration between the different actors involved in the implementation of SDG 11, as well as a lack of citizen participation in decision-making processes. Thus, international cooperation, including the transfer of technology and knowledge, is often limited by trade and intellectual property barriers. Publicly accessible spaces (eg. museums, libraries, community and youth centres) can provide opportunities for people to contribute to the development of their communities, supporting SDG 11 and other SDGs, but are threatened by under-funding and in many cases from political interference.

Finally, the lack of knowledge and awareness of the SDG 11 targets makes it difficult to engage community and municipal developers, as they may not be aware of their benefits. This can be especially relevant for architects and urban planners, as the inclusion of green areas and the use of sustainable materials in building construction may not be a priority.



What role can civil society play in achieving this SDG?

Civil society monitors and is able to assess progress in implementing SDG 11 primarily at the local level. It was civil society that developed, for example, the Sustainable Cities Development Index - Brazil, which allows the monitoring of all 5570 cities in that country in the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, based on a set of 100 indicators, and it is a good practice recognized by the UN in accelerating the Agenda. In addition, civil society also makes recommendations to improve sustainable policies and practices, prioritizing the needs and demands of their communities and seeking to communicate them to decision makers.

Civil society provides training, awareness-raising and educational courses on topics related to SDG 11 such as: building methods utilizing eco-friendly and repurposed materials, standards and regulations for sustainable construction, case studies and examples of sustainable construction practices across various regions, installation of renewable energy systems, etc. On the other hand, it promotes and raises awareness on the adoption of the humanistic and sustainable approach in the urban planning and development of communities, encouraging local sustainable practices and protecting cultural heritage.

It also contributes to risk prevention and the implementation of local actions, such as the recovery of green areas and the promotion of sustainable mobility through volunteer groups and community initiatives. Civil society contributes to building a culture of sustainability by raising awareness and educating the population on the objectives and principles of sustainable development and promoting the adoption of more responsible and sustainable practices and lifestyles.

Civil society organizations are fundamental partners in SDG implementation across global and local levels. In terms of adequate housing and upgrading of informal settlements, civil society organizations can facilitate, ensuring that residents are at the center of housing decision-making processes through meaningful and empowered participation. Co-decision mechanisms with the civil society should be strengthened at the national, regional and local levels to make planning, design, programming and operation aligned with social needs.



How does this SDG support or connect with other goals in the 2030 Agenda? With specific targets of other international frameworks?

In terms of biodiversity, aspects of SDG 11 relate to SDG 15, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, especially Goal 1 on spatial planning and Goal 12 on biodiversity-inclusive urbanization. It also links to the UNEA Nexus Resolution on Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development and the Quadripartite Alliance's One Health Joint Action Plan (2022).

In addition, SDG 11 links to SDG 1 and SDG 8, as access to housing, sustainable transport and urban planning can contribute to job creation and poverty reduction. Reducing air and noise pollution, as well as promoting physical activity through the design of accessible and safe public spaces, are linked to SDG 3. Gender-sensitive urban planning is related to SDG 5, and the implementation of resilient infrastructure and the use of advanced technology are related to SDG 9 and SDG 13.

Finally, SDG 11 is also linked to international initiatives such as the New Urban Agenda, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Cities Network, among others, reflecting the importance of collaboration and working together to achieve sustainable cities and communities worldwide.



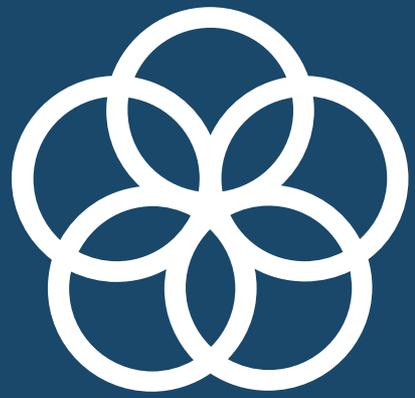
Are there emerging issues related to this SDG that should be noted?

Investing in adequate housing in informal settlements can generate a direct impact of as much as 10.5% increase in GDP per capita and it can add up to 2.4 years of life on average around the world.

The lack of public and green spaces in densely populated urban areas limits access to recreation and sports areas, negatively affecting people's health and emotional well-being. On the other hand, inadequate management of natural resources in cities affects long-term sustainability. For example, in Mexico, the degradation of natural resources in the state of Oaxaca has led to the emigration of many of its inhabitants, especially young people. And furthermore, according to a report by the Mexican Ministry of the Interior, in 2020 there were 12,935 intentional homicides in the country, many of which are related to disputes over natural resources, such as land and water.

Thus, there is an increase in the price of housing and the gentrification of urban areas, due to the increased use of platforms such as Airbnb that have led to the eviction of people, negatively affecting the social and cultural diversity of cities, preventing people from having access to affordable and adequate housing. In cities such as New York and Barcelona, the proliferation of Airbnb has contributed to the increase in housing prices from 7% to 19% between 2013 and 2016 and, to the concentration of properties in the hands of a small number of hosts.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





How should governments implement this SDG and related targets?

Governments must allocate capital effectively and establish partnerships to support the transition to sustainable development. They should prioritize learning and multi-sectoral programs for social and economic change and for investment opportunities in sustainable technologies and health care. Clear, measurable, and systemic policies with proper evaluations at all levels and sectors are essential for a successful transition toward sustainable development.

Transparency, accountability, and the support of innovative technologies and financing mechanisms are crucial in both the development and implementation of programs. Governments should encourage the adoption of multi sectoral collaboration practices with all stakeholders with governments serving as coordinating mechanisms. For instance, adopting a collaborative, multi-sectoral One Health approach is crucial in protecting people from future zoonotic pandemics, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 crisis.

Corporate accountability reports and multisectoral evaluations track progress towards the 2030 Agenda. To ensure access to basic rights such as universal healthcare and education, a universal basic income may be necessary. States and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) should take measures to effectively engage companies, international financial institutions, and communities in the implementation of global agendas while demanding transparency and credibility in their contributions.



What structural obstacles hinder the implementation of this SDG (at local, national, regional, and/or global levels)?

Insufficient political will and commitment to foster inclusive partnerships hinder progress. The silo approach to development creates barriers to cross-sectoral collaboration, excluding certain sectors and marginalized groups like animal welfare, women, youth, and indigenous peoples. Financial barriers faced by grassroots communities and indigenous populations need to be addressed by public development banks to leverage their contributions.

Knowledge inequality on sustainable development's importance and impact poses a hurdle to creating partnerships among stakeholders, especially at the local level where limited awareness of the SDGs hampers civil society participation initiatives to further the implementation of the Goals. Fragmented coordination and lack of opportunities for collaboration at the national level with non-governmental actors result in non-inclusive projects with limited accountability and sustainability.

Among existing efforts, structural obstacles such as lack of coordination mechanisms, and competing interests hinder effective collaboration among stakeholders, resulting in duplication of efforts, lack of coherence in strategies and actions, thereby minimising impact. Transparency and accountability regarding SDG progress remain a major obstacle, as inconsistent and inaccessible information makes monitoring difficult. The



The accountability mechanisms in place may not facilitate stakeholder intervention or hold actors accountable for their commitments and actions.



What role can civil society play in achieving this SDG?

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in achieving SDG 17 by collaborating closely with states, providing knowledge and solutions for social needs, and supporting policy implementation. They actively participate in decision-making processes through public consultations and proposal submissions. CSOs monitor and follow up on SDG 17's implementation, advocating for international cooperation and effective partnerships among diverse actors. CSOs mobilize public support, raise awareness, and exert public pressure to prioritize SDG 17 and related goals. They have a role in promoting international cooperation and building partnerships between different actors, promoting inclusion and diversity especially involving those at the grassroots, local communities and stakeholders in the decision-making process, by providing platforms, building capacity, and sharing knowledge. They support organizations working on SDG 17 implementation projects and can support awareness raising on the need for the wider society to think globally rather than nationally. CSOs also advocate for transparency, accountability, and citizen oversight in managing public resources.



How does this SDG support or connect with other goals in the 2030 Agenda? With specific targets of other international frameworks?

SDG 17, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and connects with other goals by fostering cooperation and bridging development gaps. It aims to unite stakeholders, including business, civil society, and institutions, to work towards a common vision.

The UN System and Entities coordinate efforts globally, implementing partnerships and addressing key challenges at all levels through Regional Collaborative Platforms. SDG 17 contributes to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement by promoting technology transfer (target 13.a), access to finance for climate change mitigation (target 13.b) and strengthening national capacities (target 13.c).

As we approach the midterm of the timeframe and strive to "build back better," corporate accountability for progress towards the 2030 agenda becomes increasingly crucial. Empowering affected states and intergovernmental organizations to engage businesses and individuals as global citizens across social, political, and economic dimensions is of utmost importance.



Are there emerging issues related to this SDG that should be noted?

The COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession have exacerbated economic inequality and joblessness, weakening international cooperation around SDG 17. Despite progress in financing sustainable development, there is still a significant resource gap.

Increased trade protectionism resulting from the ongoing trade war between the United States and China has hindered international cooperation. Government repression and restrictions on freedom of association and expression impede civil society participation.

According to the organisation CIVICUS[2] 87% of the world's population live in countries with restrictions on freedom of association and expression. At the same time, the lack of transparency in the policies and operations of large multinational corporations, such as Facebook and Google, has led to a decline in trust in these companies and undermined collaboration in key areas, such as technology and innovation.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war have affected donor priorities in Europe, leading to potential underfunding or cancellation of SDG projects in the Global South. Similarly, political and military conflicts in countries like Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan have undermined cooperation and diminished confidence in multilateral collaboration, diverting focus from global challenges.

Interlinkages and Coherence



Humanity is rapidly approaching a number of crucially important tipping points and crossing over several planetary boundaries that are already undercutting and destroying our planet's ecological integrity and making it increasingly difficult to achieve most of the SDGs under review this year. It should be recognized that all of the 17 SDGs are directly interrelated, and that it is only by addressing them in a synergistic, mutually reinforcing manner that we will be able to achieve any of them. For example, human populations as well as animals, plants, and ecosystems (both wild and domestic) are all entirely dependent upon water. Our production and use of both food and energy directly impact the availability of water resources and contribute to global heating and climate change, as do the infrastructure, spatial distribution, and activities of human settlements.

Many of the cross-cutting issues impacting multiple SDGs under review concern humans' interface with nature and animals, including climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and animal welfare. Human relationships with non-human life have been destabilized by the political economy of concession and finance (extraction, exploitation, expropriation) as the basis for human development, and power relations as the engine of political and social dispute. Accounting for the health, welfare, and well-being of ecosystems and animals, including by mainstreaming the One Health approach, can lead to gains in clean water provision (SDG 6), human health and safety in urban areas (SDG 11), and innovation in areas such as food production and research (SDG 9).

Climate disruption is strongly related to SDG 7, as energy production and consumption (SDG 12) are leading contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and an area with high potential for transformative change. Therefore, direct investment in changing the energy matrix is crucial. SDG 6 is also heavily impacted by the climate crisis, whereas innovation and partnerships as per SDGs 9, 11, and 17 are indispensable components toward mitigating global climate disaster, as well as the biodiversity crisis. Ecosystem health is closely interrelated with water availability (SDG 6), while sustainable urban planning is essential to minimize habitat destruction and human-wildlife conflict (SDG 11). Strategies to reduce emissions from energy production (SDG 7) must account for negative externalities on biological and social diversity to ensure sustainable outcomes.

Human rights and social equity issues (SDG 10) are also closely intertwined with multiple of the SDGs under review. Efforts to increase water availability (SDG 6) and promote industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9) must account for the specific needs of women, girls, and gender minorities (SDG 5) to ensure equitable outcomes. Greater investment in education and outreach (SDG 4), and lifting of barriers to information access, is critical for achieving any of the SDGs.



Strategies to address interlinkages between the SDGs

Public policies aligned with the SDGs need to be implemented to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In preparing for the SDG Summit, we recommend calling for strengthened regulation of corporate accountability and to meaningfully include all economic sectors – public, private and non-governmental actors – performance in the SDG review processes. We also encourage the rapid reduction of fossil fuel subsidies and a renewed commitment to leaving no one behind.

Addressing the interlinkages between the SDGs will take a concerted collaborative and inclusive effort of all sectors and disciplines. Silos and lack of meaningful collaboration have hindered the SDGs for too long. In particular, marginalised sections of society must be included in the dialogue and decision making, including youth, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, people living in poverty, elders and women. Increased attention is needed to other historically neglected issues including animal welfare, One Health, the rights of Mother Earth and biodiversity.

In particular, it is vital to address the current financing for development paradigm. The 2030 Agenda is a reflection of a development model that did not account for the negative effects of their activities. Insufficient regulation of both private and public sector activities exposed the planet to the risks of excess (extraction, production, consumption etc.) The 2022 IATF-produced Financing for Sustainable Development Report recognised “the need to make private business more accountable for its impact on sustainable development and develop innovative financial mechanisms to support sustainable business models”. In WBA’s 2022 Social Baseline Assessment, which looks at the 1,000 most influential companies globally on their contributions to social transformation, only 1% of them meet the majority of the fundamental expectations of socially responsible business conduct, such as paying workers a living wage, carrying out human rights due diligence, and responsible lobbying.

There is an urgent need to create innovative financial mechanisms to support projects created and implemented by civil society organizations around the world. Civil society has proven its worth as the most dedicated sector to the implementation of the SDGs through its advocacy agenda and information work, yet in policy spaces continues to be seen only as a monitoring organism, and is seldom considered as a recipient for financing with high sustainable Return On Investment (ROI). It is essential to change this perception and follow up with financial strategies for increasing CSOS’ impact, including through public and private capital allocation. Civil society networks and well-connected regional organizations should be particular priorities for investment.

A Global Framework for strengthening the implementation of multi-jurisdictional environmental legislation, as advocated by civil society groups during the UNEP+50 negotiations, would ensure integration of environmental considerations across different sectors. The integrity of our planetary ecosystem is essential and provides one of the nodes upon which all SDGs are connected. Solutions also needed to consider the positive and negative externalities of implementation in relation to gender and human rights in the current context of social challenges and high inequalities.

An urgent need, as agreed by all during the VIII Financing for Development Forum, is to start the process and meaningfully engage in the reform of the International Financial Institutions – IMF and BIRD –, and Public Development Banks, including MDBs and NDBs. Only through financial institutions aligned with the SDGs can the 2030 Agenda be realistically implemented. Meanwhile, financing of the brown economy through PDBs, particularly the fossil fuel industry, must be put to an end.

Civil society is, without a doubt, the best positioned stakeholder to be able to support and assist local and regional implementation efforts currently regarded as being too small scale. In fact, what is necessary is to leverage capital to amplify the work that has already been proven in pilot projects. Most effective ecosystem conservation projects, for instance, start as small efforts against hegemonic violently destructive forces, and only after success against all odds, are they recognized as essential to the region. Furthermore, the most effective economic agents to practice and move forward biodiversity conservation and recovery are the Indigenous and original populations of such territories.



Opportunities for coordination with other international frameworks

The 2030 Agenda is the overarching umbrella that covers and includes the content of all existing UN-based treaties. It is essential that governments and the international community implement all of the sustainability-related agreements and processes in a fully integrated and mutually supportive manner. The SDGs addressed in 2023 need to be implemented synergistically along with all efforts to achieve the results of the World Water Conference, the UNFCCC COP28, the Plastics Treaty, the High Seas Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity, resolutions of the UN Environmental Assembly, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and all efforts to transition to regenerative agriculture.

Noting the “interlinked and indivisible” nature of the 2030 Agenda and the imperative to leave no one behind, we call on the global community to implement a holistic, coherent, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder approach to all decisions and actions in the process of implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships are critical to gaining the comprehensive perspectives, expertise and resources necessary to this work. So, too, is the empowerment of all members of civil society. Working together, we can achieve these aims by 2030.

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