



UNDP Inputs to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2025

(a) Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

[SDG 3]

The polycrisis has reversed years of progress in global health, with some regions still seeing declines in life expectancy. While digital, AI and scientific advances hold promise, they alone cannot drive greater health equity without rights-based governance to ensure universal access and address compounding health risks.

More than half the world's population still cannot access essential health services, while conflicts and the climate crisis drive disease risk, strain health systems, and deepen inequities. Economic downturns and rising debt are leading governments to cut health spending, threatening essential services, pandemic preparedness and efforts to get ahead of risks like antimicrobial resistance. The climate crisis is escalating burdens from infectious and non-communicable diseases, and contributing to worse mental health, while extreme weather events damage fragile health infrastructure. Geopolitical instability drives displacement, increasing disease risk and making it more difficult to provide care to vulnerable populations on the move.

Deepening systemic shifts including political polarization are weakening global health cooperation. Misinformation is eroding trust in health institutions, undermining vaccine uptake and pandemic response. Shrinking civic space and pushback against gender equality and human rights are limiting access to health services for marginalized groups. Uncertainty around major donor commitments poses a threat to sustaining hard-won gains and to global health financing and multilateral efforts.

[SDG 5]

The current context is marked by political polarization and renewed backlash that weakens the commitment of countries to the 2030 agenda and international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The concentration of wealth and existing debt distress in low-income countries may also limit UNDP's ability to advocate for financing

models that support universal social protection, expanded care systems or feminist economic agendas. The climate crisis, combined with declining trust in governments, reduced global consensus and multilateralism, and reduced investments in green transition, can limit UNDP's ability to address climate impacts on women, while ensuring their access to green jobs, finance and decision-making spaces. Growing geopolitical instability and conflicts disproportionately impact women, requiring UNDP to become more agile and knowledgeable in integrating gender equality across stabilization and crisis responses. Finally, allowing gender inequality to persist means continuing to constrain human development, tolerating systemic inefficiencies in how human capital is developed, and maintaining power structures that limit the flow of ideas, talent, and resources.

[SDG 8]

Since the last SDG8 review in 2019, progress on the twelve SDG8 targets has been slow and insufficient to meet the 2030 ambition, with persistent gaps showing no clear signs of narrowing. The global economy continues to face the compounding effects of multiple and interconnected crises, including the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, climate-related disruptions, and growing sovereign debt burdens in many developing economies. Global economic growth is projected to hold steady at 2.6% in 2024, before edging up to an average of 2.7% in 2025-26, well below the 3.1% average in the decade before COVID-19¹. Growth in LDCs remains particularly weak, projected at 4.4% in 2024 and 4.9% in 2025 - still far from the 7% target - after dropping to just 0.7% in 2020 due to the pandemic-induced shock. Economic productivity has also stagnated, with global GDP per worker growing at just 1.8% in 2024, a decline from over 3% before 2020².

Global unemployment has stabilized at 5% in 2024, down from a pandemic peak of 6.9% in 2020, yet disparities across regions and demographic groups remain stark. Youth unemployment, which surged to 14.8% in 2020, improved but remains high at 12.6% in 2024, particularly in upper-middle-income countries that continue to experience sluggish labour market recovery. The proportion of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET) stood at 20.4% in 2024, down from 23.8% in 2020, yet gender gaps persist—28.2% of young women remain NEET compared to 13.1% of young men³. Informal employment continues to dominate in many economies, affecting 58.2% of the global workforce in 2024, a marginal improvement from 62.7% in 2020⁴.

The impacts of recent crises are highly uneven across regions: in Africa, economic growth remains too weak to drive formal job creation, while in Europe, economic stagnation and high energy costs have slowed job generation despite stable unemployment. In Asia, most new green jobs have been concentrated in East Asia, leaving other regions behind, and in Latin America, persistently high youth unemployment limits workforce integration.

¹ WB, [Global Economic Prospects](#), June 2024

² ILO, [World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2025](#), January 2025

³ Ibid.

⁴ ILO, [Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A statistical update](#), March 2023

These challenges have also led to a significant decline in global human development. For the first time in 32 years, the Human Development Index (HDI) declined globally for two consecutive years, 2020 and 2021, effectively setting development progress back to 2016 levels⁵. While some countries have begun to recover, this rebound is uneven and partial, with many developing nations still struggling to return to pre-pandemic development levels.

[SDG 14]

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution continue to significantly undermine progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), still the least well-funded of the SDGs. The health of fisheries and coral reefs – essential for marine biodiversity – is threatened by rising sea temperatures, altered marine ecosystems and ocean acidification caused by climate change. Food security for millions is jeopardized by the resultant decline in fish populations. Coastal communities in SIDS and LDCs, often among the planet’s most vulnerable, face disproportionate risks from climate-related extreme weather events, undermining their resilience and compounding the socio-economic challenges that they face.

Overfishing and habitat destruction disrupt the balance of marine ecosystems, leading to biodiversity loss and the decline of key species. This undermines both marine health and the livelihoods of fishing communities and those who depend upon their catch – causing a cascade of effects that includes increased poverty and reduced access to basic resources. Inadequate SDG14 funding reduces capacity to put in place effective ocean conservation and management strategies, leaving marine ecosystems increasingly vulnerable.

Ocean pollution, and plastic waste and nutrient runoff in particular, is a further barrier to achieving SDG14. Marine life and ecosystems are threatened by polluted waters, bringing biodiversity loss and habitat degradation for many species. Marine debris damages wildlife but also undermines ocean-related tourism and recreation, key elements of sustainable ocean economies. Without substantial financial and political commitment to address the impact of the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, the targets of SDG14 are unlikely to be met by 2030.

[SDG 17]

Addressing today's complex challenges demands a holistic approach, integrated solutions and strong multi-stakeholder partnerships, emphasizing cooperation among governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations, including International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

UNDP helps advance systemic change at the country level by unlocking and aligning financing across all action areas of the Financing for Development agenda to expand the SDG policy space. INFFs serve as a vehicle for an integrated approach to financing for the SDGs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and priorities related to nature, biodiversity, resilience, and peace at the country level. Partnerships with IFIs are equally

⁵ UNDP, Human Development Report, “[Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World](#)”, September 2022

important and serve as "impact multipliers," offering technical expertise, large-scale financing, and risk mitigation, which enhance private sector investment opportunities.

Moreover, development assistance is crucial for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. According to the OECD Development Cooperation Report 2024, development cooperation providers rose to the challenge, achieving record levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) during the period from 2021 to 2023. Despite this, a closer examination reveals that an increasing proportion of aid is being allocated by donor nations for their domestic use and spent within their own borders.

While 2024 has brought forth complex challenges donor countries have made significant contributions to address urgent crises in regions such as Lebanon and Syria, along with increased support for climate change initiatives and health.

Nevertheless, several donor countries are grappling with domestic political instability, fiscal constraints, and competing priorities, particularly the rising demand for defense spending, which may limit available funding for international development. As a result, in the early months of 2025, numerous donors have announced cuts to their ODA.

This trend reflects a concerning policy shift away from poverty reduction efforts and towards the protection of strategic national interests, as evidenced by the growing prevalence of migration-focused ODA programs in many key markets.

(b) Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

[SDG 3]

- Scientific advances, including in mRNA technology, genomic sequencing and AI-driven diagnostics are reshaping healthcare. Long-acting injectable lenacapavir has the potential to revolutionize HIV prevention, with efforts underway to make it available in low-resource settings. New malaria vaccines could reduce cases by 75 percent, and GLP-1 therapies show promise for improving metabolic and cardiovascular health. Realizing their full impact requires ensuring global availability, affordability and equity of access, in a world where millions still die from preventable conditions.
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria exemplifies how evidence-based, well-governed investments can drive transformational health outcomes. Since its inception in 2002, it has saved approximately 65 million lives, reduced combined death rates from HIV, TB and malaria by 61 percent, and strengthened health systems while contributing to pandemic preparedness and response. The Global Fund advances equity and underscores the power of sustained, multisectoral partnerships in achieving global health goals, reinforcing economic stability and promoting gender equality.

[SDG 5]

UNDP recommends focusing on three key areas to deliver sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving SDG 5 and leaving no one behind:

- *Equal rights to economic resources and economic empowerment.* Programs that promote women's entrepreneurship, access to financial services, and improved livelihood opportunities are a game changer in the fight against multidimensional poverty. Supporting women in leadership roles and ensuring their participation in decision-making processes also contribute to gender equality. UNDP's flagship programme, Equanomics, aligns fiscal policy reforms with equality objectives based on examining public revenue and expenditure. UNDP works countries to initiate national reforms while also supporting a similar emphasis in local planning and budgeting.
- *Recognizing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work.* The acknowledgment of the economic value of unpaid care work is increasingly gaining traction. UNDP is supporting the development and expansion of integrated care systems across different regions.
- *Eliminating Violence.* UNDP supports countries to improve and implement laws, policies, action plans and other initiatives to stop violence against women. Efforts are focused on initiatives supporting countries towards greater protection for survivors and accountability within the justice system.

[SDG 14]

- UNDP actively supports the transition by SIDS and LDCs into sustainable “blue” ocean economies, providing inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions to governments seeking to develop sustainable ocean livelihoods that leave no one behind.
- UNDP is a sponsoring organization of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), a scientific advisory group that provides the UN with advice on marine environmental protection. GESAMP conducts and provides scientific and technical support to marine environmental assessments; advises on how to improve marine environmental monitoring, and works across the UN to coordinate and collaborate on marine environmental protection. UNDP supports governments on integrated, ecosystem-based ocean management approaches that consider the interconnectedness of marine ecosystems, using scientific models to balance ecological health with sustainable economic development. Training programmes enhance local communities' ability to use scientific tools and methodologies for sustainable ocean management.
- Social inclusion is an important component of sustainable ocean management. UNDP advocates for multi-stakeholder engagement in oceans governance and pollution reduction – including, for example, the role of the informal waste pickers whose efforts in many developing countries constitute a socially inclusive and cost-effective means of reducing the amount of plastic waste that makes its way into the ocean.
- Through its Ocean Promise, UNDP has committed to delivering at least 100 Ocean innovations by 2030, offering financial and mentorship resources to pilot blue economy

solutions that align with SDG14: this target is on track. Very often, UNDP's Ocean Innovation Challenge participants turn successfully to nature-based, scientific solutions to address environmental challenges impeding progress on SDG14.

(c) Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

[SDG 3+]

- *Climate-resilient and smart health systems.* Driven by political commitments like COP26 and COP28, climate-resilient health systems are advancing to safeguard well-being, drive equity and strengthen resilience to climate impacts. Green energy solutions such as replacing diesel with solar power are being integrated with stronger infrastructure, digital tools and capabilities, and early warning systems (e.g. for rapid response to climate-sensitive disease outbreaks). These innovations drive progress across multiple SDGs, ensuring stronger health systems that are future-ready. We must scale them up.
- *Digital health and AI solutions* can enhance access to care, improve pandemic preparedness and promote health equity. However, they also pose risks, including data privacy concerns, misinformation, and potential impacts on mental health. To maximize benefits, we need rights-based policies, interoperable and open standards, and investment in local digital ecosystems, with public-private partnerships addressing key challenges.
- *Inclusive governance.* Evidence-based laws, policies and regulatory measures are crucial for protecting health and rights. The UN, governments, civil society and most-affected populations are working together to create enabling legal environments for health, investing in the leadership and capacities of marginalized groups and people living with HIV to overcome barriers to care. Just as we capitalize on green and digital transitions, we need a governance transition to drive progress at scale.

[SDG 5]

To accelerate progress towards SDG 5, UNDP is implementing well-coordinated actions in key transitions:

- *Food Security.* Implementing sustainable agricultural practices and supporting smallholder farmers, particularly women, can enhance food security. Programs like Guatemala's National School Feeding Programme, which involves local producers, are effective in addressing food insecurity and supporting local economies. In Sierra Leone, grants, technical assistance and business development services transformed women-led enterprises and expanded operations into value-added sectors like baby food and cocoa products.

- *Energy Access and Affordability.* UNDP takes advantage of the links between clean energy and the empowerment of women. Clean energy can accelerate women's rights, and more rights can propel clean energy uptake. The organization supports initiatives that promote renewable energy sources and provide subsidies for low-income female headed households can help bridge the energy gap. In Mongolia, UNDP supported a transition from coal to solar-powered heaters focused on female-headed households and assisted the Ministry of Energy to implement its new Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan.
- *Digital Connectivity.* Enhancing digital infrastructure and ensuring affordable internet access can bridge the digital divide. Programs that provide digital skills training for women and girls can empower them to participate in the digital economy. In Armenia, to develop the National Employment Strategy 2024-2030, UNDP piloted a digital upskilling initiative for women that increased employability and digital participation.

[SDG 8]

- Employment is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty, yet millions of workers remain in low-paid, informal, or precarious jobs without access to social protection. Strengthening inclusive labour markets and employment protections is essential for reducing working poverty and economic insecurity. Integrated employment and social protection policies play a crucial role in ensuring that economic growth translates into broad-based poverty reduction. Expanding access to formal jobs, skills training, and entrepreneurship support enhances economic resilience and prevents vulnerable populations from falling deeper into poverty due to job loss or economic shocks, reinforcing SDG 1.
- The transition to clean energy is reshaping economies, requiring new skills, industries, and employment opportunities. As fossil fuel industries decline and renewable energy expands, integrating green job strategies into economic planning is essential. Investing in reskilling, upskilling, and social protection measures supports workers in adapting to new opportunities while strengthening economic resilience. Aligning energy transitions with employment policies contributes not only to SDG 7, but it also ensures economic inclusion and long-term sustainability.
- Advancements in digital technologies are transforming the world of work, creating both opportunities and challenges. Expanding internet access, digital skills programs, and remote work options helps to bridge existing gaps in employment and economic participation. Digitalization supports lifelong learning, AI-driven industries, and entrepreneurship, reinforcing quality education while enabling broader economic participation. However, disparities in digital access, affordability, and data protection continue to shape the inclusivity of this transition, requiring coordinated policy responses.

[SDG 14]

- The sustainable ocean economy transition for developing countries supports SDG 8 poverty reduction targets, and sustainable fisheries management – a key part of the “blue

economy” transition – also supports SDG 2 food security objectives by ensuring that reliable sources of nutrition are upheld in tandem with support for local economies. Integrated Coastal Zone Management also plays an important role in a country’s transition into a sustainable ocean economy, and the restoration of coastal ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs supports biodiversity and provides nature-based solutions to the impacts of climate change (SDG 13). Protection and preservation of marine biodiversity and coastal ecosystems also contribute to SDG 15.

- Support for deployment of renewable energy technologies – wind and solar in particular – in coastal and fishing communities will improve access to equitable and reliable energy (SDG 7) while reducing dependency on fossil fuels. Reduced reliance on fossil fuel energy will in turn enhance marine health and decrease ocean pollution (SDG 12). As part of a country’s transition to sustainable ocean economy, renewable energy uptake can also generate new livelihoods: stable, green jobs in renewable energy installation and maintenance (SDG 8).
- Digital innovation for sustainable fisheries and marine biodiversity enhances fishers and governments alike to protect biodiversity, promote transparency in fish supply chains and safeguard livelihoods as part of every sustainable ocean economy transition. Data-driven fisheries management enables fishing communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change (SDG 13) on fish stocks and marine health. New digital platforms and mobile applications facilitate data sharing: investment in digital connectivity (SDG 9); training and capacity development (SDG 4) on sustainable fisheries practice via digital tools builds communities’ understanding of their relevance to sustainable ocean livelihoods.

(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[SDG 3]

UNDP is deepening partnerships and mobilizing financing to build resilient, equitable systems for health that accelerate progress toward universal health coverage and sustainable development. That includes:

- Implementing large-scale health programmes that address pandemics, crises and inequalities. That includes strengthening policies, institutions and capacities across sectors, ensuring a coordinated, rights-based approach to health systems strengthening.
- strengthening rights- and evidence-based legal and policy environments to remove barriers to care, protect civic space and reduce population exposure to risk factors.
- scaling up digital and AI health solutions and Digital Public Infrastructure, including through South South, ensuring inclusive and rights-based digital transformation.

- driving integrated action at the climate, environment and health nexus, including by integrating health into national climate plans and multilateral financing, and partnering to scale up climate-resilient health systems.
- advancing pandemic preparedness by strengthening One Health approaches, enhancing pandemic surveillance and securing financing including to reduce zoonotic risks and improve crisis response.
- advancing domestic and innovative financing for health, including by supporting countries in strengthening health taxes, developing and implementing investment cases, and capitalizing on health-focused impact investment opportunities.

[SDG 5]

UNDP is undertaking several follow-up actions to support the implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future:

- **Strengthening Financing Mechanisms:** Ensuring that developing countries have access to financing for sustainable development projects. UNDP is helping countries leverage and align finance.
- **Promoting Policy Coherence:** Aligning national policies with the SDGs to ensure cohesive and integrated progress.
- **Enhancing Data Collection:** Improving data collection and monitoring to track progress and identify gaps in implementation.

[SDG 8]

- In alignment with the 2023 Political Declaration's emphasis on cohesive policymaking, UNDP provides technical assistance and policy advice to develop integrated national strategies that promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. By fostering inter-ministerial / inter-institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, these efforts aim to create an enabling environment for decent work opportunities.
- **Promoting Inclusive Economic Growth and Employment -** Following the 2024 Summit of the Future's adoption of the "Pact for the Future", UNDP is prioritizing initiatives that stimulate job creation and economic diversification. This includes supporting SMEs through access to finance and markets, fostering innovation, and facilitating skills development programmes tailored to labour market needs.
- **Leveraging Technological Innovation and Digital Transformation -** Recognizing the role of technology in economic development, UNDP supports countries in harnessing digital innovations to boost productivity and create new employment opportunities.
- In response to the call for social justice and equitable employment conditions, UNDP is working with governments to strengthen social protection systems. By promoting decent work standards, UNDP strives to reduce inequalities and empower vulnerable groups.

[SDG14]

- UNDP’s Ocean Promise prioritizes the development of integrated ocean governance frameworks that align with commitments made at the SDG Summit; and supports livelihoods as part of the sustainable ocean economy transition. UNDP supports governments seeking to build or enhance national policies that support sustainable ocean management, including through the establishment of marine protected areas and ecosystem-based management practices – with a focus where possible on nature-based solutions. UNDP helps build equitable, sustainable ocean livelihoods in SIDS and LDCs by addressing inequalities - ensuring that local communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth are actively involved in decision-making related to ocean resources and the development of sustainable ocean economies.
- UNDP is also enhancing efforts to promote data-driven decision-making in ocean governance and to boost multilateral cooperation in global ocean governance. UNDP is working to support ratification and implementation of the BBNJ “High Seas” Treaty to ensure that marine biodiversity is understood and protected, and that sustainable livelihoods in “large ocean states” are protected by access and benefit-sharing measures.
- UNDP is also working to mobilize new financial resources for SDG 14-related initiatives as called for in the HLPF Political Declaration – particularly resonant to SDG 14 as the least well-funded of the sustainable development goals. Efforts to leverage new financing in support of sustainable ocean livelihoods and the blue economies that underpin them include partnerships between governments, the private sector, development banks and international financial institutions. UNDP supports innovation in oceans financing: Indonesia’s groundbreaking Blue Bond was developed by the government of Indonesia in partnership with UNDP, HSBC Bank and Crédit Agricole, raising US\$150 million on issuance in May 2023.
- UNDP also supports governments to access climate finance in support of sustainable fisheries management, coastal ecosystem management and marine and coastal biodiversity, all of which are vital to sustainable ocean livelihood development.
- Through these actions in support of SDG 14 and related SDGs, UNDP is delivering on the objectives identified in the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and on the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, working towards a sustainable and equitably managed future for ocean biodiversity and sustainable blue economy livelihoods in SIDS and LDCs.

(e) Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

[SDG 3] Recommendations

- Recognizing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a foundation for sustainable development, commit to scaling up equitable, people-centered health systems,

ensuring that essential services, medicines, and technologies are accessible to all, particularly in crisis-affected and marginalized communities.

- Protect human rights and civic space in health systems by reaffirming commitments to removing legal and policy barriers to health services, ensuring non-discrimination in healthcare, and safeguarding civic space for communities and civil society organizations.
- Scale up the integration of health into climate action and financing, including NDCs and adaptation plans and by ensuring global climate financing mechanisms prioritize climate-resilient health systems.
- Ensure that the digital transformation leaves no one behind and does no harm by adopting inclusive, rights-based digital health strategies and combatting misinformation and data privacy risks.
- Strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response by investing in One Health approaches, equitable access to healthcare, and robust global governance frameworks, supported by sustainable financing and international solidarity.
- Improve health financing through greater resource allocation, more efficient spending, innovative solutions like health taxes, debt relief and sustained multilateral commitments that match the ambition of global health goals.

[SDG 3] key messages

- *Health drives sustainable development.* Health is an enabler and integrator of SDG progress. Strong systems for health reduce poverty and inequalities, fuel inclusive economic growth and strengthen resilience to crises. Health must be embedded in governance, climate action and financing frameworks to drive sustainable development.
- *Digital health must be a force for equity, not inequality.* Digital innovation can expand access to care, but poor governance, misinformation, and unequal access to technology threaten to deepen disparities. Global standards, human rights safeguards, and investments in digital infrastructure are essential to prevent exclusion and misuse.
- *Climate-health integration is urgent.* Health and the climate crisis are deeply linked but remain separated in policy, finance and action. It is crucial to integrate health into climate policies and commitments, scale up climate-resilient health systems and ensure adequate financing for addressing environmental health risks.
- *Health equity cannot be achieved without protecting civic space and human rights.* Health is undermined by discrimination, legal barriers, punitive laws and shrinking civic space. Governments must uphold human rights, remove punitive laws and policies, strengthen anti-discrimination measures and ensure broader civic engagement in health governance.
- *Financing for health must transform to meet the scale of global health needs.* Current funding levels are insufficient to address both immediate health challenges and systemic barriers to global health resilience. At the same time, rising debt and economic

instability are putting access to essential health services at risk for billions. Predictable, flexible financing is crucial to support both crisis response and long-term health system strengthening, alongside transformative financial reforms such as debt relief.

- *Global health security requires stronger multilateral action.* Pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and tackling threats like antimicrobial resistance, cannot be done in isolation. The world must strengthen international cooperation and solidarity, with concrete commitments and accountability around existing and new global agreements.
- *Misinformation is a direct threat to health and SDG progress.* The polluted information landscape undermines vaccine uptake, public trust and health system effectiveness. Governments must take coordinated action to combat misinformation, enhance digital and scientific literacy, and improve the effectiveness of public health communications.

[SDG 5] recommendations

For the 2025 HLPF Ministerial Declaration, UNDP recommends:

- *Prioritizing Gender Equality:* Emphasize the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of sustainable development and ensure that policies are inclusive and equitable.
- *Strengthening Partnerships with women's organizations:* Foster partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society, especially women's organizations, to leverage resources and expertise for achieving the SDG 5.

These recommendations and actions aim to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development and that progress towards the 2030 Agenda is inclusive and equitable.

[SDG 8] recommendations

- *Macroeconomic policies that support job creation should drive inclusive and sustainable growth.* Governments must foster a virtuous cycle where higher GDP per capita, productive employment, and universal social protection reinforce each other. Fiscal reforms, budget reallocations, and debt management should prioritize investments that generate decent jobs and strengthen social protection systems.
- *Sectoral diversification is crucial for job creation and reducing informal employment.* Growth models must go beyond GDP and prioritize full employment and structural transformation. Employment goals should be explicitly integrated into sectoral policies, ensuring that job creation is central to national development strategies.
- *Strengthening private sector engagement, particularly MSMEs, is essential for inclusive growth.* Despite their key role in job creation, MSMEs face productivity gaps and lack policy support. A holistic approach is needed, aligning policies across multiple domains and fostering social dialogue to translate productivity gains into more and better jobs.

- *Investing in skills development is key to structural transformation and employment.* Lifelong learning opportunities must be accessible to all, ensuring that workers can continuously adapt to labor market demands. Institutions should effectively link skills development with actual job opportunities to prevent mismatches between labor supply and demand.
- *Strengthening wage policies and tackling inequalities is critical for sustainable economic growth.* Wages and other labour incomes drive consumption and investment. Strong labor market institutions, collective bargaining, and social dialogue are essential to ensure that wage growth keeps pace with productivity gains. The promotion of living wages can help workers and their families achieve a decent standard of living.
- *Inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder coordination are key to effective employment and social protection policies.* Effective policy implementation requires strong collaboration across government institutions, the private sector and civil society, ensuring alignment between economic, labour market, and social protection strategies. Cross-sectoral coordination enhances policy coherence, maximizes resource efficiency, and supports integrated approaches that drive inclusive and sustainable development.

[SDG14] recommendations

- *Financing for Oceans, including innovative modalities like Blue Bonds, must increase to support the transition of LDCs and SIDS into sustainable ocean economies.* Governments must step up their commitment to SDG14, the least funded of the SDGs despite 3 billion people relying on the ocean for their livelihood. Increased funding in support of sustainable ocean livelihoods is overdue and essential.
- *The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement acknowledges the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS and LDCs and promotes equitable sharing of benefits derived from marine genetic resources. Governments must renew their commitment to ratification and entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement to protect biodiversity of the high seas, and to ensure equitable access and benefit sharing leave no one behind.*
- *Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing undermines the sustainable economic development of ocean economies, jeopardizing livelihoods in communities that depend on healthy fisheries for economic stability and food security. Governments must commit to the uptake of technologies that enable authorities to detect and deter IUU fishing.*
- *Marine pollution remains a significant risk to marine ecosystems and coastal tourism. Governments should consider further measures to promote circular economy practices to help minimize plastic production and encourage innovation in developing alternative materials; and to support governments in promoting community-based waste management initiatives.*

[SDG14] key messages

- SDG 14 remains the least funded of the SDGs, and yet 3 billion people rely on the ocean for their livelihood – most in least developed countries. Increased funding in support of sustainable ocean livelihoods is overdue and essential.
- UNDP helps countries to manage ocean resources sustainably and equitably and works to reduce poverty and inequality through ocean-based economic development. Integrated ecosystem-based management considers the interconnectedness of marine ecosystems, using scientific models to balance ecological health with human activities.
- Innovation plays a vital role in combating the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution on the oceans. UNDP's Ocean Promise is on track to deliver 100 ocean-related innovations by 2030, many drawing on nature-based solutions.

[SDG 17] recommendations

- In the current high-risk post-pandemic landscape, marked by a complex global financial environment and escalating debt levels, partnerships and multilateral institutions are essential for mobilizing resources to help countries achieve and maintain financial stability.
- There is an urgent need to broaden the focus and enhance the capabilities of multilateral development finance in response to emerging global challenges. This requires a deep reform of the multilateral architecture and associated processes.
- To effectively support this endeavor, it is vital to secure sufficient funding for the core strategic functions of multilateral organizations. This includes increasing core contributions to better balance core and earmarked funding for UN agencies.
- It is also crucial to safeguard the system's ability to support the poorest and most vulnerable populations. This entails assessing the allocative impact of reforms within multilateral organizations and increasing their concessional resources.
- Greater complementarity within multilateral aid portfolios by supporting research that informs reforms and programming should be exercised.
- Empower multilateral organizations to play a more significant role in creating an enabling environment for private investment at the country level, complementing the current emphasis on deploying financial instruments at the project level.
