



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
INCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## CONCEPT NOTE

### 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

*Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*

Orakai Songdo Park Hotel – Lily Hall (2nd Floor)

151 Technopark-ro, Songdo-dong, Yeonsu-gu

Incheon City, Republic of Korea

25 – 28 October 2022

#### Background

Established in 2011, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). UNOSD contributes to building, exchanging, and facilitating the use of knowledge in support of sustainable development.

One of UNOSD's flagship activities to fulfil this goal is the annual Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF), which normally gathers around a hundred people in Incheon City, South Korea at the end of October every year. However, due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the SDTF had to be held in virtual format over the last two years. This edition of the SDTF will be an opportunity for UNOSD to have direct contact again with its traditional international audience and it is with great delight that UNOSD announces that the Forum will be held in its original in person format.

As in most of previous editions of the SDTF, this year's Forum will follow the thread of the next High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/75/290 B](#) of 25 June 2021, decided that the 2023 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in July, will be held under the overarching theme *Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*. The SDTF will also feature the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be reviewed in-depth during the 2023 HLPF, namely SDGs 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. This edition of the SDTF will also strive to identify ways to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while taking into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all the SDGs as well as geopolitical tensions that have resulted in finance, fuel and food crises compounded by triple planetary crisis of climate change, air pollution and biodiversity loss.

In line with the abovementioned resolution [A/RES/75/290 B](#) and in support of its paragraph 17, the SDTF will also pay particular attention to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in countries in special

situations. Focus will especially be placed on the SDGs that will be reviewed during the 2023 HLPF as well as on their interlinkages, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, while also considering challenges faced by middle-income countries. In the same vein, the SDTF will seek the participation of, interaction between, and inputs from a wide range of policy makers and policy shapers, including experts, practitioners, academics, representatives of the national, subnational, regional and international organizations, the civil society and other stakeholders who will contribute to the strengthening of the science-policy interface.

### **Forum Objectives and Contents**

The overarching objective of this edition of the SDTF is closely linked to the 2023 HLPF, with the aim of offering a platform for capacity building, policy dialogue and knowledge sharing for accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels taking into account the current geopolitical context. The SDTF will aim to achieve a better understanding of successes, challenges, lessons learned, and good practices related to the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these and across all the SDGs and identify ways to accelerate the recovery from coronavirus disease through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Methodology**

The Forum will consist of several interrelated modules, each covering concepts and issues of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, in particular SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, as well as challenges and solutions regarding the swift recovery from COVID-19 through accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

It will consist of formal presentations by international experts, scholars, practitioners, and actors followed by Q&A and discussions. While most of the sessions will take place in plenary, group work and breakout sessions may also be used as needed. A half-day field trip to see different projects illustrating the Korean experience in implementing the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs is foreseen.

### **Target Audience**

The Forum aims to bring together an international audience composed of national government officials and experts responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, and of civil society and the private sector. The Forum will also be open to other non-government experts working in the areas of SDG implementation at the national, regional, and local levels. It will also welcome academia, youth, and other interested stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and integrated discussion on sustainable accelerated solutions for COVID-19 recovery and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals at all levels.

The Forum will especially promote and encourage participation of representatives from countries in special situations, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing

countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, most of which are also a part of UNOSD's priorities.

#### **Dates and time**

The Forum will take place in Incheon City from 25 to 28 October 2022.

#### **Theme**

As indicated above, the theme of the 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum will be *Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.*

#### **Language**

The Forum will be conducted in English only.

#### **Outputs and Follow-up**

The Forum will result in a communiqué —*the Incheon Communiqué*— summarizing the key messages which participants would like to convey to the international community regarding the successes, lessons learned and good practices they identified in relation to the implementation of the selected SDGs as well as the main theme of the Forum.

A Forum report documenting the presentations and discussions on the entire integrated agenda will also be produced.

In addition, a publication going well beyond *the Incheon Communiqué* and the Forum report will be produced during the weeks following the Forum. The latter will be composed of articles complementing, expanding and delving more deeply into the main topics explored and discussed during the 2022 SDTF in a more substantial and analytical manner. The publication will offer a reflection to the international community and the general public regarding the issues to be discussed during the 2023 HLPF.

Both *the Incheon Communiqué* and the 2022 SDTF Publication will be published and posted on UNOSD's Website.

#### **Organisers**

The 2022 SDTF is organized by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development ([UNOSD](#)) of UN DESA, Division for Sustainable Development Goals ([UN DESA-DSDG](#)), in collaboration with the Asia-Europe Foundation ([ASEF](#)).

#### **Agenda**

Updated versions of the agenda and additional information about the Forum can be found at: [https://unosd.un.org/events/2022\\_SDTF](https://unosd.un.org/events/2022_SDTF)