



2022 HLPF: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A focus on partnerships for environmental protection
and life on land.

by

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REMEMBER OUR WORLD



3 **THE
REPORT
THAT
SHOOK THE
WORLD ...**

**FOR A FEW
DAYS**

- **Intergovernmental Science-
Policy Platform on Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Services**

**IPBES
GLOBAL
ASSESSMENT
SUMMARY FOR
POLICYMAKERS
(PDF)**



Question of survival

A 1,800-page Global Assessment Report, compiled by a UN agency from more than 1,500 academic papers, says that the world's life support systems are in trouble. Here are the report's key findings:



Extinction

1 million species face the risk of extinction – many within decades

5,00,000 plants and animals currently have "insufficient habitat for long-term survival"

40% of amphibian species are threatened with extinction, along with **33%** of reef-forming corals and **33%** of marine mammals

- Loss of pollinators caused by intensive farming is putting **\$235-\$577 billion** worth of annual crop output at risk



Consumption

1/3rd of all land is used to make food

- Food cultivation uses **75%** of all fresh water on Earth

25% of man-made emissions come from agriculture, the vast majority of them from meat production

50% of all new agricultural land is taken from forests

93% of marine fish stocks are either overfished or fished to the limit of sustainability

One-third of all fishing is said to be illegal or unreported



Pollution

- Humans dump up to **400 million** tonnes of heavy metals, toxic sludge and other waste into oceans and rivers each year

75% of land, **40%** of oceans and **50%** of rivers "manifest severe impacts of degradation" from human activity

- Plastic production has increased **10-fold** since 1990

- Pollution from fertilizers has led to the formation of **400** low-oxygen 'dead zones' in coastal waters, covering more than **2,45,000 sq km**



Climate

5% of Earth's species are at risk of extinction if the temperature rises just **2°Celsius** – still within the targets of the Paris climate deal

- Business as usual is predicted to warm Earth **4.3°Celsius** by **2100**. Were that to happen, one-sixth of all species could be wiped out

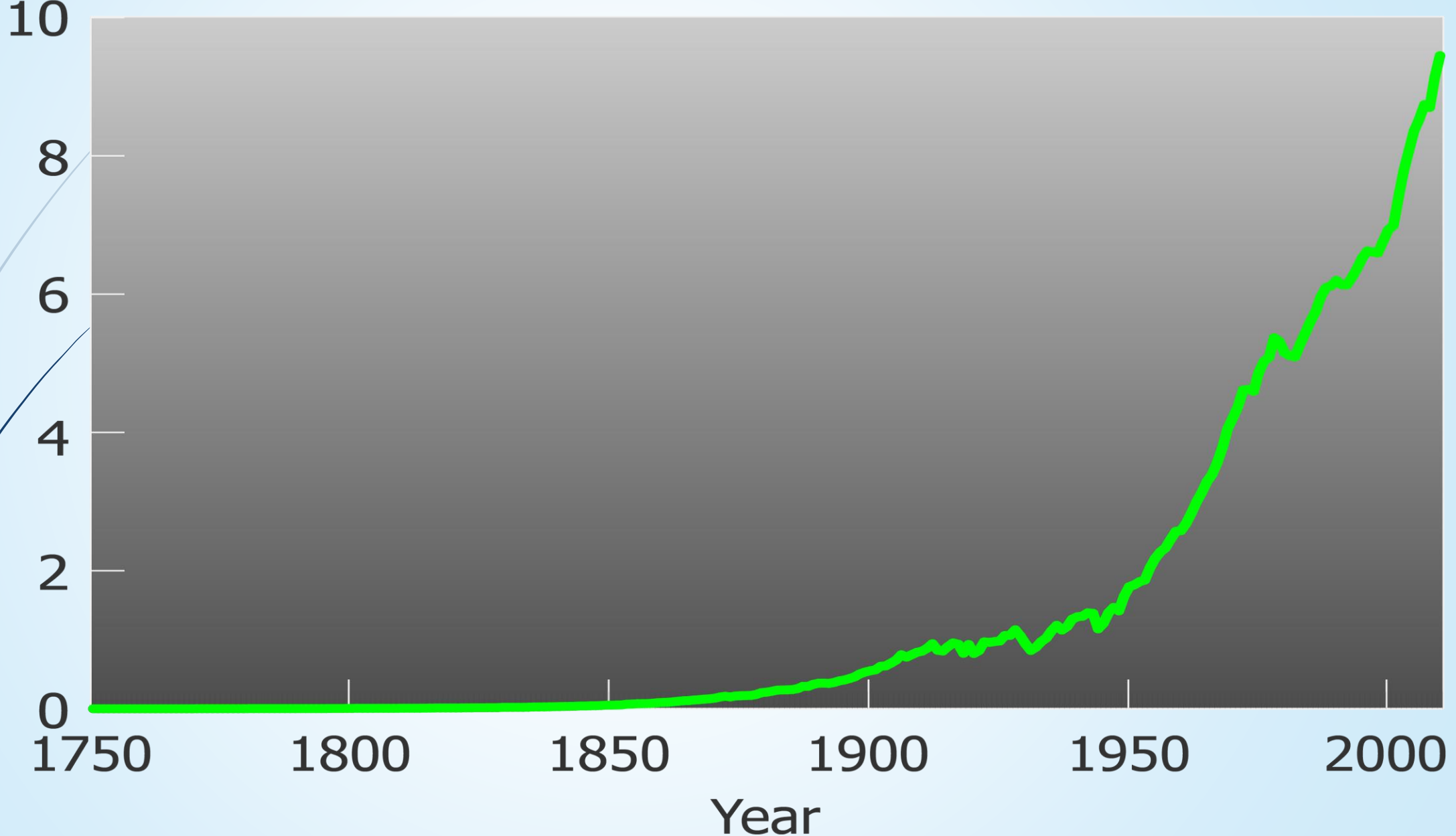
- Many of the policies that scientists hope could limit temperature rise by 2100 to **1.5°Celsius** would also help human beings to preserve biodiversity

Global Cumulative Fossil Fuel CO₂ Emissions

373 billion metric tons carbon released from 1751 to 2011

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Billion Metric Tons Carbon



UNEP speaks of three integrated crises

- ➡ **Loss of biodiversity – nature-based solutions and the Ache goals**
- ➡ **Climate change – turn to non-fossil fuel energy and economy**
- ➡ **Chemical and other type of dangerous pollution – cleaning up, recycle, use nature-based solutions**

The planet is sick and needs help...

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1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

9 OUR BASICS



We have a plan: “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

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- **WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE:** – more than 50 years of research and knowledge development on economic, social and environmental issues
- **WE HAVE THE TOOLS:** – we understand how the world is connected, and can organize any development according to sustainable development
- **WE HAVE THE MONEY:** – the cost is estimated to be between 5 and 7 trillion US dollars per year – ca 5-6 per cent of the worlds economic Gross Product
- **WE HAVE THE ANSWERS**
- **THE QUESTION IS:** are we willing to do what we have to do?



¹¹ The basic document is:

- ➡ **“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”(A/Res/70.1)**
- ➡ **The 17 SDGs are all part of this document**
- ➡ **169 targets, 230 indicators**

“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” consists of four parts:

**Preamble &
Declaration**

**17 Sustainable
Development
Goals (SDGs)**

**Means of
Implementation
& Global
Partnership**

**Follow-Up &
Review**

The Global 2030 SD Portfolio – expanding the knowledge

Agreed and operationalised

- The 17 SDGs with their 169 targets/2030 agenda
- The 232 review indicators (2016)
- Resolution 67/290 - HLPF
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- The Paris Climate Agreement (December 2015)
- The Sendai Outcome document, Disaster reduction
- The Samoa Pathway (SIDS agreement)
- Relevant work by UNDP, CBD and other UN institutions

To be followed

- World Data Forum, 23/25/27
- Annual HLPF reviews 2022 – review 23
- The Reviews, national, regional, global
- SDG High Level meeting, 23/27
- 2027 – a kick off process to replace the SDGs (?)
- Annual FfD forums
- UNEP Geo
- The UN Environment Assembly, every 2 years, UNEA
- The Global Sustainable Development Report 2019. Action decade
- UNGA resolutions on Sustainable Investment
- ECOSOC deliberations

WE
UNDERSTAND
THE
FOLLOWING



The Global Sustainable Development Report, GSDR, 2019 states: At the heart of the 2030 Agenda lies:

- ➡ “Countries’ greatest challenges in reaching the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda lie either with **improving human well-being** or with **excessive environmental** costs.
- ➡ “The world characterized by **interconnections** not just among natural systems, but also through increasing flows of goods, capital, people, and information that link the development of nations and regions from North to South, from global to local, and from today to tomorrow.
- ➡ **Actions in one country** or one specific territory may affect many others, and sometimes **leave negative footprints** across the entire planet.”

Even small changes can lead to major events with unforeseeable consequences, either positive or negative (GSDR).

- ➡ “These inter-relationships imply positive synergies but also complex trade-offs and tough political choices. When decision-makers operate in thematic silos, they often end up **maximizing immediate returns** within those silos, **while ignoring longer term consequences**, or impacts outside of their silos.
- ➡ “Therefore, transformations toward sustainable development will be **successful only** if they **holistically integrate all SDGs**, and if they are **backed by** an appropriate **understanding** of the **complex causal chains** which affect socioeconomic and environmental systems and of the **interlinkages across goals and targets**. Indeed, **these transformations** are the best possible way forward to manage our complex socio-economic and environmental systems as a whole.”

Stakeholder positions to the 2030 Agenda – I (source JG Strandenaes)

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	LOCAL	NATIONAL	REGIONAL	GLOBAL
INFLUENCE				
GOVERNMENT	High	High	High	High
BUSINESS	High	High	High	High
Civil Society And NGOs	High	High/ Lessening	Less	Little (?) (context dependent)
INTEREST				
GOVERNMENT	High to inconsistent	High to inconsistent	Inconsistent to High	Varies to High
BUSINESS	Less	High	Growing	Growing
Civil society And NGOs	Varies to High	Varies to High	Less (Context dependent)	Even less (Context dependent)

Stakeholder positions to the 2030 Agenda – II (source JG Strandenaes)

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	LOCAL	NATIONAL	REGIONAL	GLOBAL
ABILITY to implement				
GOVERNMENT	High	High	High	High
BUSINESS	High	High	High	High
Civil Society And NGOs	High /Varies	High /Varies	Less	Even less
PREPAREDNESS				
GOVERNMENT	Few	Varies to High	More	Varies
BUSINESS	Few	Growing	Growing	A few
Civil Society and NGOs	Growing	Growing	Few	Not really

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT PRIORITISED



Reporting reflects priorities, access to reporting involves governance- the Voluntary National Reviews, VNRs

- ➡ The UNDESA High Level Political Forum, HLPF, under UN ECOSOC is the global coordinating unit for the 2030 Agenda including the 17 SDGs.
- ➡ By the summer of 2022, more than 250 VNRs will have been delivered.

Reporting on progress: The UN Voluntary National Reports, VNRs, reflect a country's priority on sustainable development

- Every country has (had) one or another system to coordinate the 2030 Agenda. Some countries have **only established** such a system for the specific year they deliver their VNR- These VNRs are **low** on substance..
- Countries with a **holistic National Strategy for Sustainable Development** have **more** substance in their VNRs than countries with a strategy where **each line ministry** has been given a responsibility to deal with the SDG relevant to the work of that ministry
- **Countries with a holistic national strategy** for sustainable development and which **also** have a functional **multi-stakeholder consultation process**, have **more substance** in their VNRs than countries with merely a holistic national strategy for sustainable development dealt with by a body appointed by the authorities.

Sustainable Development has finally reached political legitimacy (the UN World Public Services Reports, 2018&19)

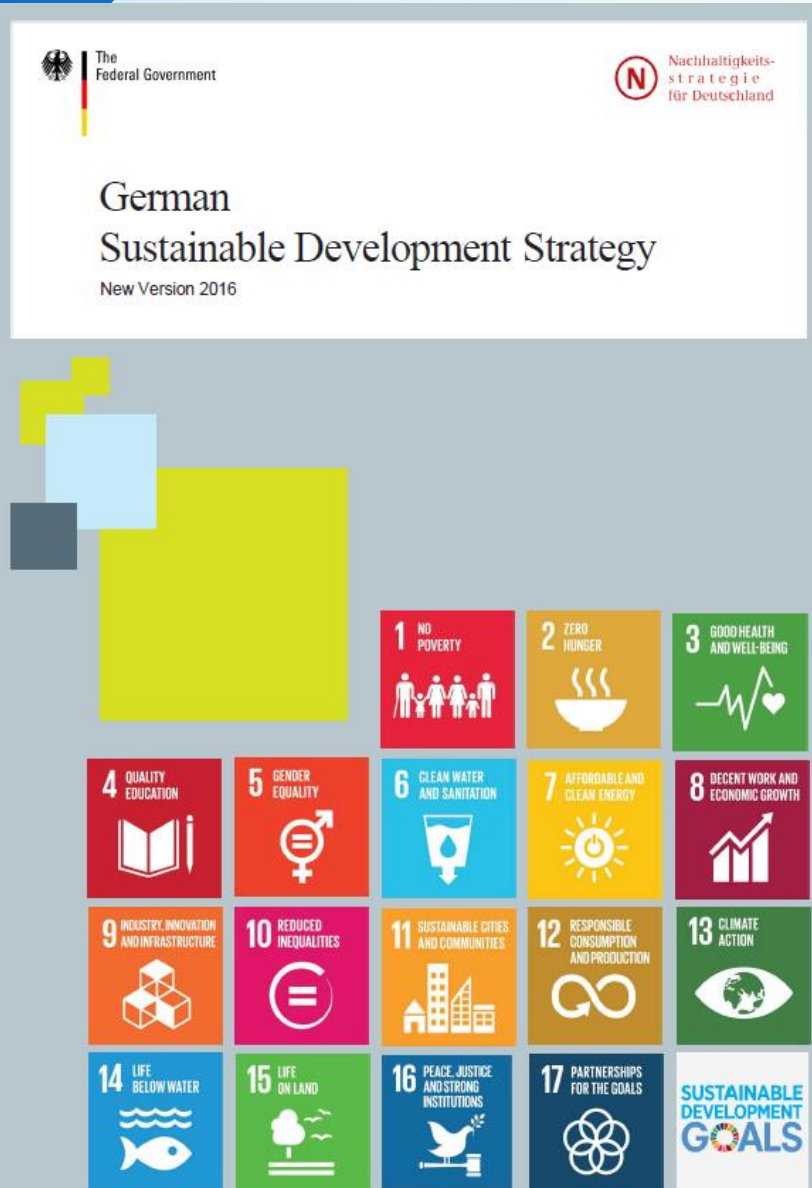
- ➡ But there is still a tendency to develop strategies along traditional development thinking, - which leads to one of two things:
 - 1** - Efforts are made to adapt development thinking to sustainable development, and tick the boxes for sustainability categories
 - 2** - Or develop two strategies, one based on traditional development thinking and one on sustainability - the SDGs.
- ➡ In both cases sustainable development is given lower priority

Chapter VII: Has anyone adopted the 2030 Agenda?



Germany has used the concept sustainability (Nachhaltigkeit) for more than 300 years

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- This requires economically efficient, socially balanced and environmentally sustainable development, **constrained only by the planetary boundaries of our Earth** together with the objective of a **life in dignity for everyone**
- The boundaries of our planet's resilience, as identified by an international team of scientists in 2009, define a **“safe operating space”**, within which development, global justice, prosperity and a “good life” can be achieved and permanently secured. According to this research, **humanity has already left the safe operating space with regard to the loss of biological diversity, the disruption of biogeochemical cycles of nitrogen and phosphorous, climate change and land-system change.**

Area 3. Raise the level of ambition for what Germany can achieve

- ➡ moving towards **zero net land degradation**;
- ➡ **reversing the trend on biodiversity losses** and realising the fundamental changes the dairy and meat industry and our diets need, similar to the scope of the Energie-wende;
- ➡ **phasing out fossil fuel and nuclear energy** generation and putting even more emphasis on driving a global change towards achieving sustainable energy for all;
- ➡ speeding up the drive towards **more circular consumption and production patterns**; and
- ➡ leading an **informed debate** on all dimensions of sustainable development.

**Asker
municipality
borders Oslo, the
capital of
Norway**





A global dimension in the municipality plan

A local authority is responsible for many tasks that contribute to sustainable development. Local authorities provide health services, education, housing policy, infrastructure, clean water and refuse collection and disposal. They manage land, housing, amenities and facilities, ensure a balance between urban and green spaces, and implement measures to reduce climate impact.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals bring a new dimension to local authority planning.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Develop a methodological tool and then choose targets with maximum impact

- ➡ The tool allowed a broad-based starting point and a thorough approach to all 17 SDGs.
- ➡ The SDGs constitute a whole, **but a developing municipality needs to prioritise.**
- ➡ For this reason, **a materiality assessment based** on the SDGs showed where we have the greatest opportunity to influence directly and the areas for which the municipality has, or should take, direct responsibility in the work to develop a healthy local community and offer adequate services to its residents.

Why has Asker become a (reasonably) successful SDG municipality? – because it has:

Developed an integrated SDG planning tool:

- Used all the 17 SDGs including the principles of the 2030 agenda and those of sustainable development in an integrated manner
- Used the 2030 agenda with the SDGs, targets and indicators as a planning tool

Anchored the SDGs/ 2030 agenda at top level backed by thorough knowledge

- Made sure that the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are explicitly anchored at the highest political level in the administration, the Mayor is an active spokesperson
- There is broad and strong support from all the political parties
- Those elected, the entire administration has learned and studied the SDGs

Why has Asker become a successful SDG municipality? – because it has:

Anchored the 2030 agenda and the SDG institutionally with a forward-looking plan

- The municipality has devised institutions to fit the 2030 agenda and not ‘pressed’ the 2030 agenda into existing institutions
- The municipality developed a vision for 2030, and used the 2030 agenda with the SDGs to develop a new long-term plan for the municipality to reach that vision, and then looked at the cost and resource necessity

Has involved the entire constituency and built on partnerships

- The municipality developed an outreach strategy to inform the entire constituency of the new municipality, the SDGs and their vision
- Used youth groups actively to inform the citizens, culminating in a youth SDG conference on the SDGs and the forward-looking municipality
- **BUT WHY NOT USE ALL THE 17 SDGs in the municipal plan?**

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GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS



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- ➡ Unless governments own intergovernmental processes, policies will never be taken seriously
- ➡ Unless people feel ownership with development, little – if anything - will be implemented

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- ➡ The implementation is based on partnerships between governments, private sector and the people
- ➡ Unless business can make a profit, they will not engage (there is an important difference in making a profit and maximizing profit)
- ➡ Are the interests of stakeholders and the challenges of governance compatible and are they conducive to implementing the 2030 agenda?

Governance, relevance and effective partnerships

DOES GOVERNANCE DIRECT REALITY?

- Monitoring development through indicators: (SDGs are point in case)
- Are the 230+ indicators relevant?
- Whose interests do they reflect?
 - The government/authorities?
 - Private sector?
 - The people?
- Who developed the indicators?
 - Governments?
 - Experts?
 - The people?

UNDERSTANDING GOVERNANCE

- On which values are the indicators based?
- Collective goods?
- The collective interest of all society?
- Monetary values such as profitability and the market?
- Environmental and social concerns?
- A rights based system?
- Do the governance systems today reflect the politics of our times, or should some governance principles be set in stone

Adapted from the
Stockholm
University, Centre
for Resilience



SDG 15 – full title:

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



SDG 15 has 12 targets and 26 indicators

SDG 17 has 19 targets and 44 indicators

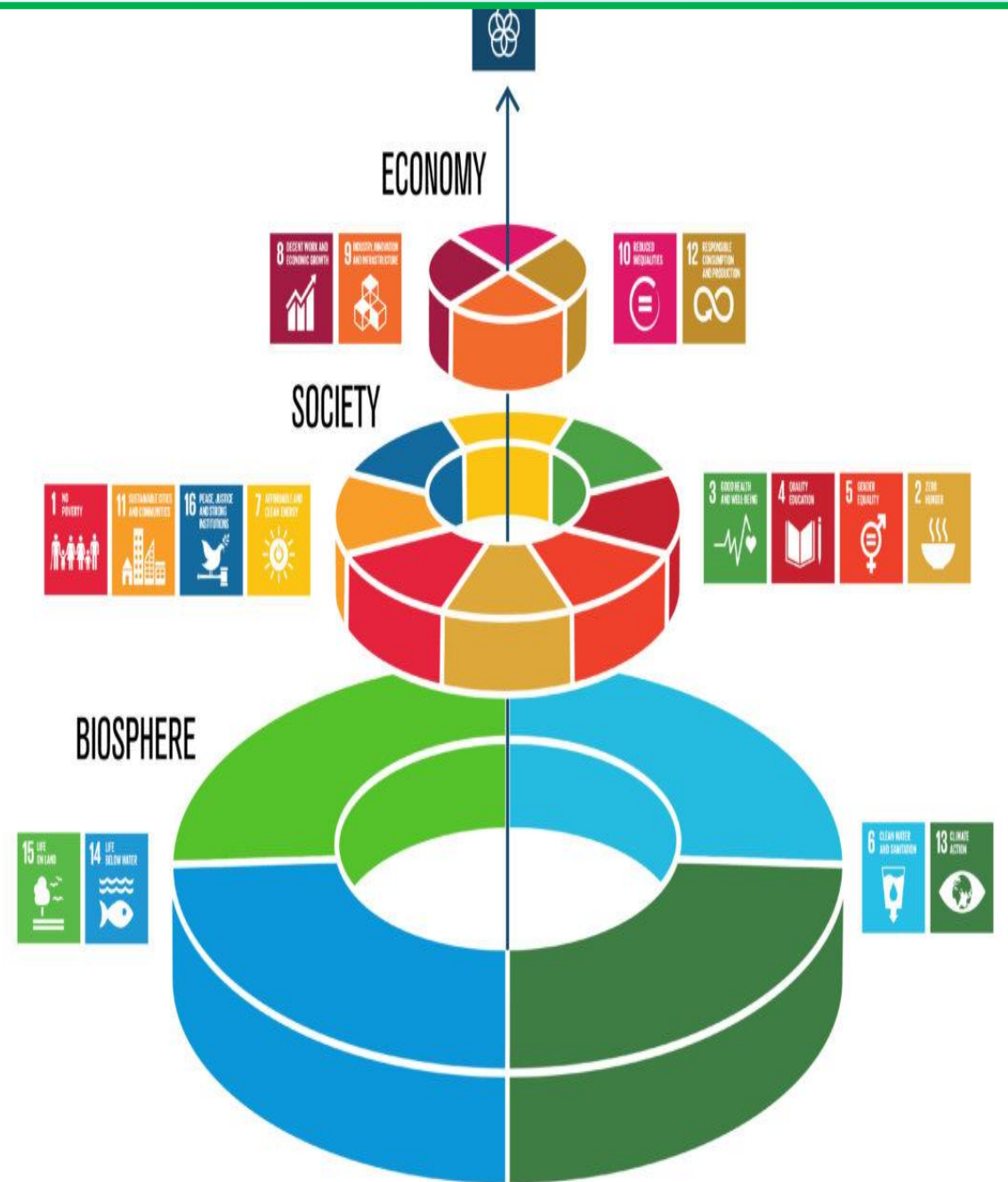
➡ In general –
strengthen all
environmental issues
from conservation to
restoration through
nature-based solutions

➡ Also contains

- ➡ Partnerships,
- ➡ technology,
- ➡ trade,
- ➡ capacity building
- ➡ systemic issues

Professor Rockström:

The lower level,
the biosphere, is
non-negotiable:
without nature
there is nothing



Tools and concepts are
available for all
stakeholders – the
SDGs can guide us



The World in 2050 – key transformational elements

the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna

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- ▶ DRAMATIC CHANGE IS NEEDED IN:
 - ▶ Substantial advances in human capacity
 - ▶ Responsible consumption and production
 - ▶ Decarbonize the energy system and provide affordable energy for all
 - ▶ Achieve nutritional food and clean water, safeguard the oceans and the biosphere
 - ▶ Transforming our cities
 - ▶ Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, the digital revolution
- ▶ Need a framing narrative for a transformation to sustainable futures
- ▶ Identify the transformation needs
- ▶ Quantify the timing and cost of transformation
- ▶ Identify measures including public awareness deliberation, social activism and democratic oversight of science and technology to overcome obstacles to change
- ▶ Solid governance measures

To accomplish all this, we need

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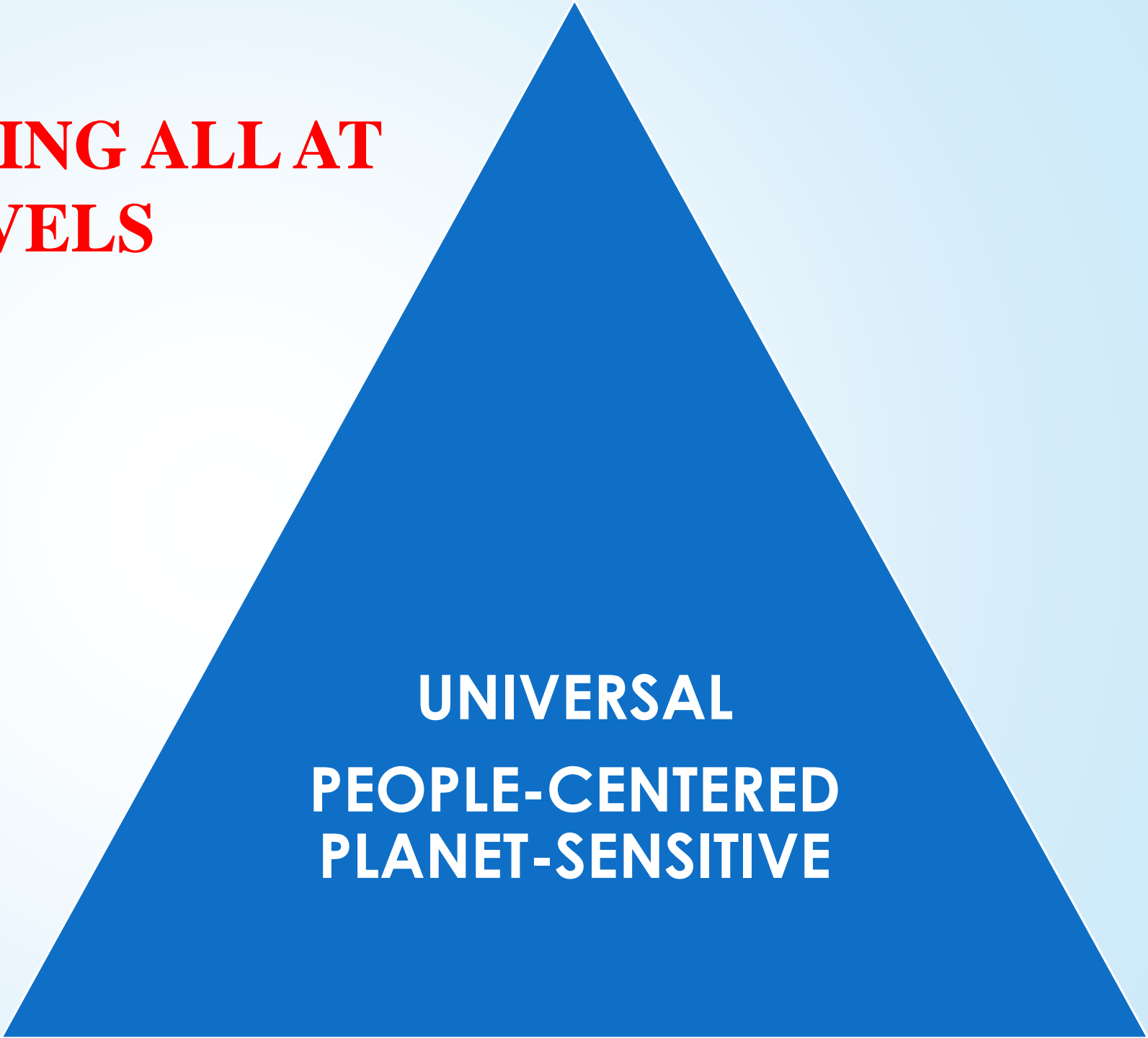
- A new conceptual thinking
- A new institutional architecture
- Strong and active governance structures, proper accountability systems, transparency elements, participatory processes and new due diligence approaches
- A new economic systemic thinking, circular economy is just the beginning
- **Effective and relevant governance must reflect the following 9-dimensional thinking**

HOLISTIC



**INTEGRATED
INTERLINKED
INDIVISIBLE**

TARGETING ALL AT ALL LEVELS

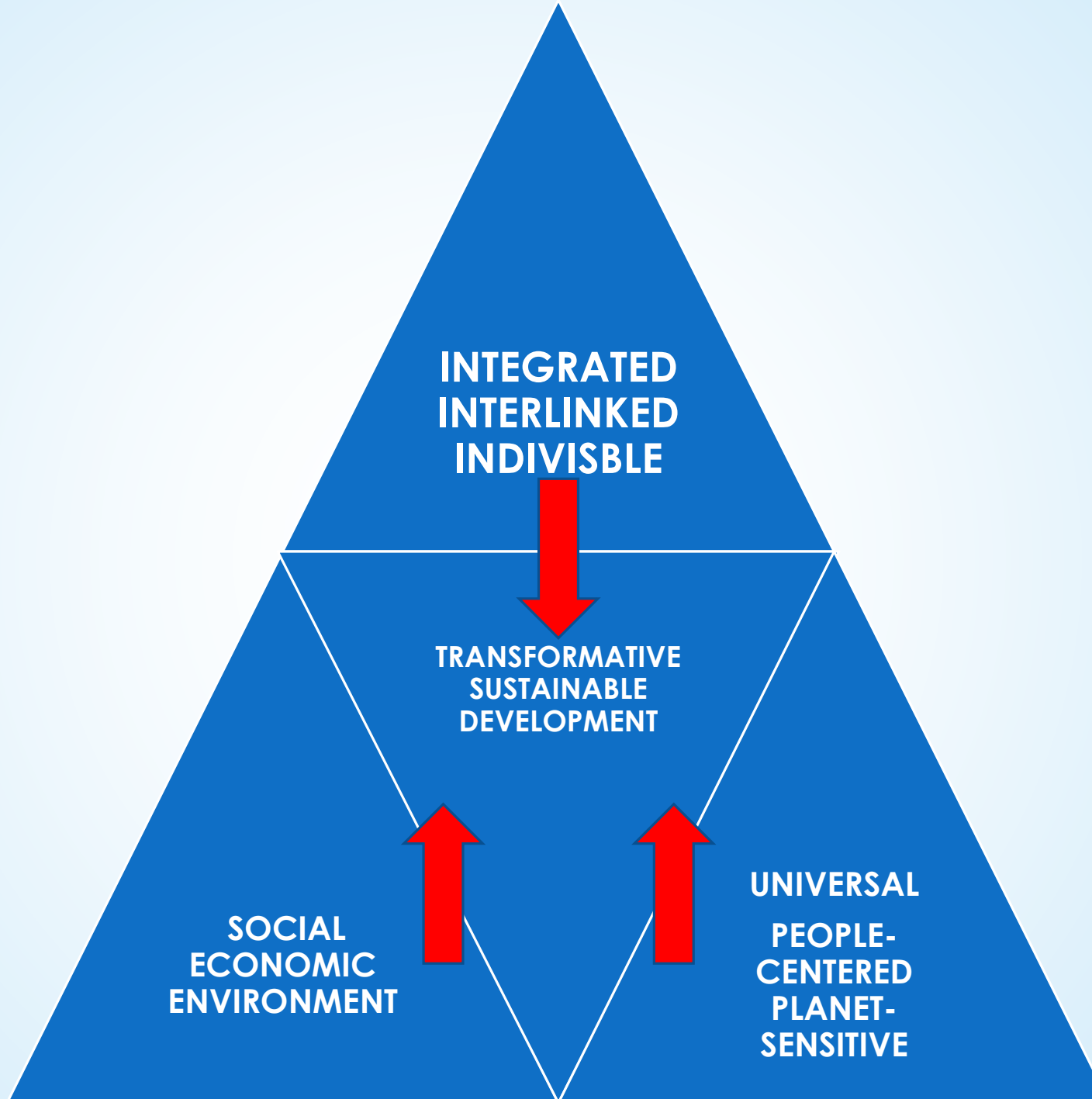


UNIVERSAL
PEOPLE-CENTERED
PLANET-SENSITIVE

THE THREE DIMENSIONS



**SOCIAL
ECONOMIC
ENVIRONMENT**



➡ Do no harm: focus on a few of the SDGs, but do no harm to any of the remaining ones

47 In conclusion



If we are resourceful, we allocate resources – if not, we fail.

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- ▶ “Doing more with less” and “business as usual” are not truisms, they are attitudes and approaches of disasters. We are faced with the biggest challenge in humanity’s existence – saving the globe. We cannot afford not to give our ideas adequate resources. We will never be able to calculate the cost of not doing enough. That cost will be astronomical or incalculable. Will you take the responsibility for such a disaster – or will we just leave the problems for our next generations – the youth of today and just leave everybody behind?

- 49 ➡ We have changed the world in a wrong direction by mistake
- ➡ We can save it and make it better by intent
- ➡ As a historian I can say we have come a long way in a short period of time
- ➡ As an environmentalist, I say – we have not come far enough
- ➡ Let us move forward, together, and build trust!

Optimism is the
fuel of heroes,
the enemy of
despair and the
creator of the
future.”





Thank you for listening to me

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