



United Nations

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2023 INCHEON COMMUNIQUÉ

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMATION FORUM, 16-19 OCTOBER 2023, INCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. The ninth annual Sustainable Development Transformations Forum (SDTF), convened by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, welcomed 80 representatives from members states of the United Nations system and institutions on sustainable development.
2. The SDTF delivered a prospective view of the 2024 High-level Political Forum's overarching theme of *Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions*. Among the key insights emerging from the 2023 SDTF were the following:
3. The results of the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) laid bare the urgency for transformative actions to accelerate progress toward the SDGs, against the backdrop of unprecedented global crises and uncertainty. Giving attention to the science-policy-society interface, the report's Independent Group of Scientists recommended six key entry points for transformation, including: (1) human wellbeing and capabilities; (2) sustainable and just economies; (3) sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition; (4) energy decarbonization and universal access; (5) urban and peri-urban development; and (6) the global environmental commons. Furthermore, the GSDR encouraged governments to use five levers to affect transformation in the entry points, namely: (i) *governance*; (ii) *economy and finance*; (iii) *science and technology*; (iv) *individual and collective action*; and (v) *capacity building*.
4. To accelerate progress on SDGs 1, 13, and 17, deliberations at the SDTF called for a focus on those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and multiple crises, so as to overcome poverty and become more resilient by: leveraging science, data, and information exchange; strengthening capacities of individuals and institutions for a whole-of-society approach; integrating climate, poverty, and resilience in policy and action; and enabling cross-sectoral action at the necessary scale to reduce vulnerability, inequality, and poverty.
5. The SDTF also emphasized a transition from conventional and industrial farming towards agroecologically based food systems as a means to accelerate progress on SDGs 2 and 17. This requires financing and capacity building for smallholder farmers to enhance their ability to transition towards agroecology approaches. Furthermore, SDTF discussions stressed that inclusive governance was necessary to ensure full participation of smallholder farmers, especially women and youth and that repurposing agricultural subsidies toward locally produced bio-inputs would accelerate the green transition, cultivate diversity and strengthen smallholder livelihoods.
6. In the context of accelerating progress on SDGs 13 and 17, and specifically relating to transformative actions on climate finance, reducing GHG emissions, and achieving inclusive growth, the SDTF emphasized the need to foster collaboration between the public and the private sector to address both mitigation and adaptation needs, especially for developing countries.
7. The role of nature-based solutions was also emphasized during the forum, as a cost-effective means for urban and peri-urban areas to enhance resilience to climate risks and reduce carbon emissions, while also realizing multiple benefits for community wellbeing.
8. SDTF deliberations also stressed the need for ongoing efforts to bridge data gaps and improve the availability and quality of data for all SDGs, necessitating international collaboration, capacity building, improved data collection and reporting systems, and data standardization efforts. Furthermore, strategic planning with a foresight approach was seen as a powerful tool to translate data into effective action towards the SDGs.
9. Finally, with a view to the *2024 Summit of the Future*, the SDTF discussed the Secretary General's eleven *Our Common Agenda Policy Briefs* and emphasized the importance of information integrity on digital platforms and meaningful youth engagement. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the *Pact for the Future* must come with political support and an effective international financial architecture to build resilience against persisting and emerging crises to leave no one behind.
10. The 2023 SDTF concluded on the importance of multi-lateralism for accelerated progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – our global blueprint for progress.