

EWHA,  
THE FUTURE  
WE CREATE

2023

Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

**“2023 Global Sustainable Development Report”**

Eun Mee Kim

President

Ewha Womans University

October 16, 2023



## Table of Contents

- I. Introduction: SDGs and the GSDR
- II. 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)
- III. Highlights of 2023 GSDR
- IV. Calls to Action for the 2030 Agenda
- V. Conclusion



# I. Introduction:

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

### UN Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030): 2030 Agenda



### Global Sustainable Development Report (every 4 years, 2019-)

Independent Group of Scientists appointed by UN Secretary General

Assessment of SDGs based on Scientific Evidence and Science-Policy Interface

Policy Recommendations to UN SG & Member States

## II. 2019 GSDR



### *GSDR 2019: The Future is Now Science for Achieving Sustainable Development*



**UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres  
(September 10, 2019)**

# 1. 2019 Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)

## Co-Chairs



Endah Murniningtyas  
(Indonesia; Agriculture Economics, Environment, Indonesia Development)



Peter Messerli  
(Switzerland; Geography, Southeast Asia, and African ecosystems)



Wolfgang Lutz  
(Austria; Demographics; Population Forecasting, Environmental Interactions)



Jean-Pascal van Ypersele  
(Belgium; Physics, Climate and Environmental Science, Climate Change)



Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue  
(Cameroon; Sociology, Education, Social Change, Inequality)



Katherine Richardson  
(Denmark; Biology, Marine Biology, Biodiversity)



Eeva Furman  
(Finland; Environmental Policy, Biodiversity, Ecosystems)



# 1. 2019 Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)



Jean-Paul Moatti  
(France;  
Economics,  
Health Economics,  
HIV/AIDS)



Ernest Foli  
(Ghana;  
Forest ecology,  
rainforests, biostatistic)



David Smith  
(Jamaica; Ecosystem  
Conservation, Climate  
Change, and Disaster  
Risk Reduction)



Muhammad Saidam  
(Jordan; Climate  
Change,  
Rural water and  
sanitation systems)



Jurgis Staniskis  
(Lithuania;  
Environmental Engineering,  
Environmental Economics,  
Sustainable Development)



Gonzalo Hernández Licona  
(Mexico;  
Economics,  
Poverty Measurement,  
Economic Development,  
Welfare Policy Evaluation)



Eun Mee Kim  
(Republic of Korea;  
Sociology, East Asian  
Economic Development,  
International Development  
Cooperation)



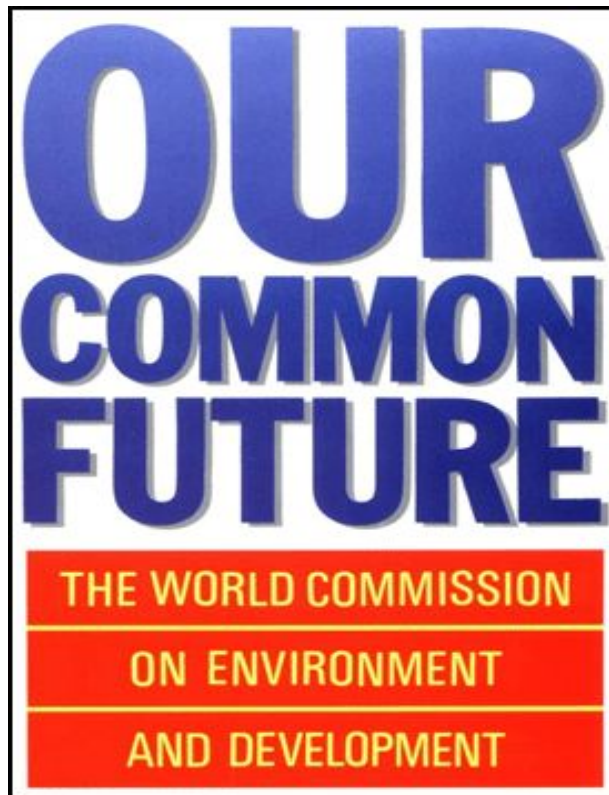
Amanda Glassman  
(The US;  
Health Sciences,  
Health Care Financing, Social  
Security, Maternal and Child  
Health)

## 2. Inspiration for GSDR

### The Brundtland Report (Our Common Future)

1987

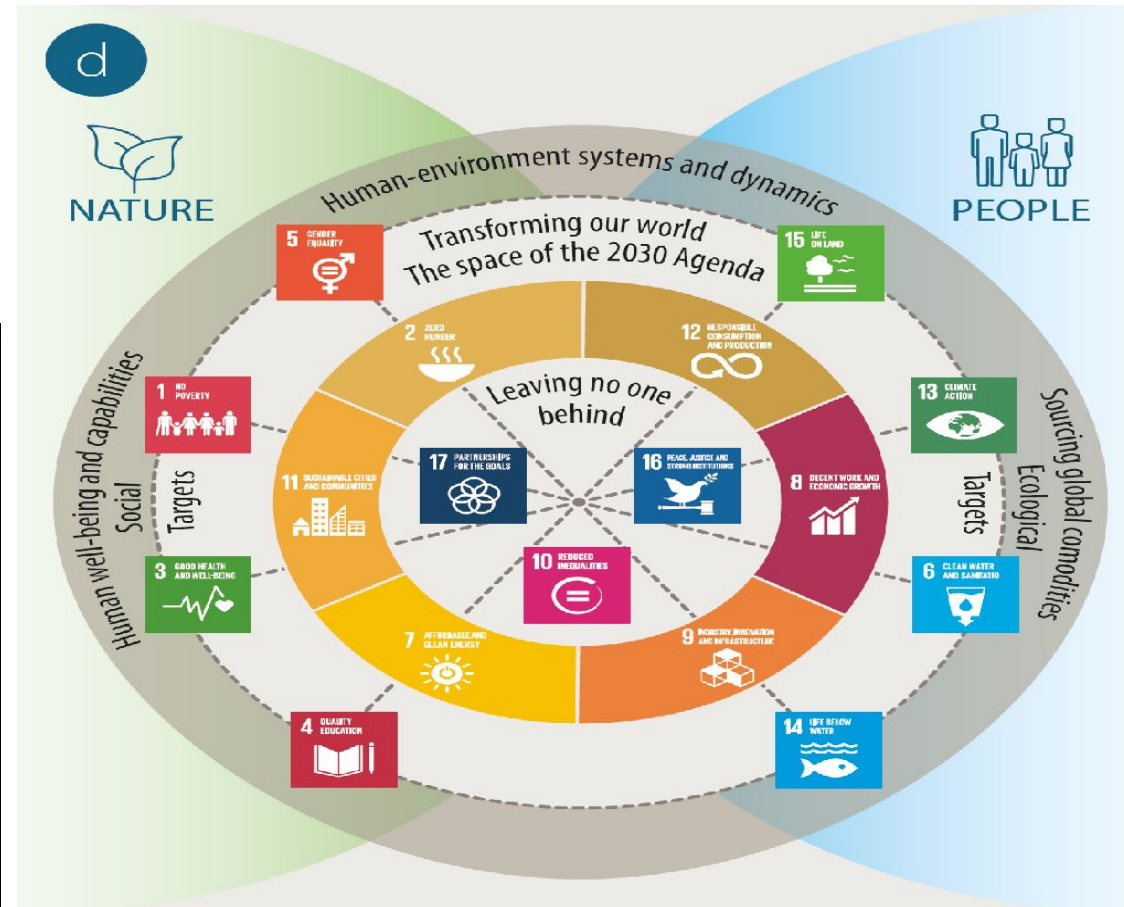
**Sustainable Development:  
Reconciling the Economy and  
the Environment**



### 2019 GSDR

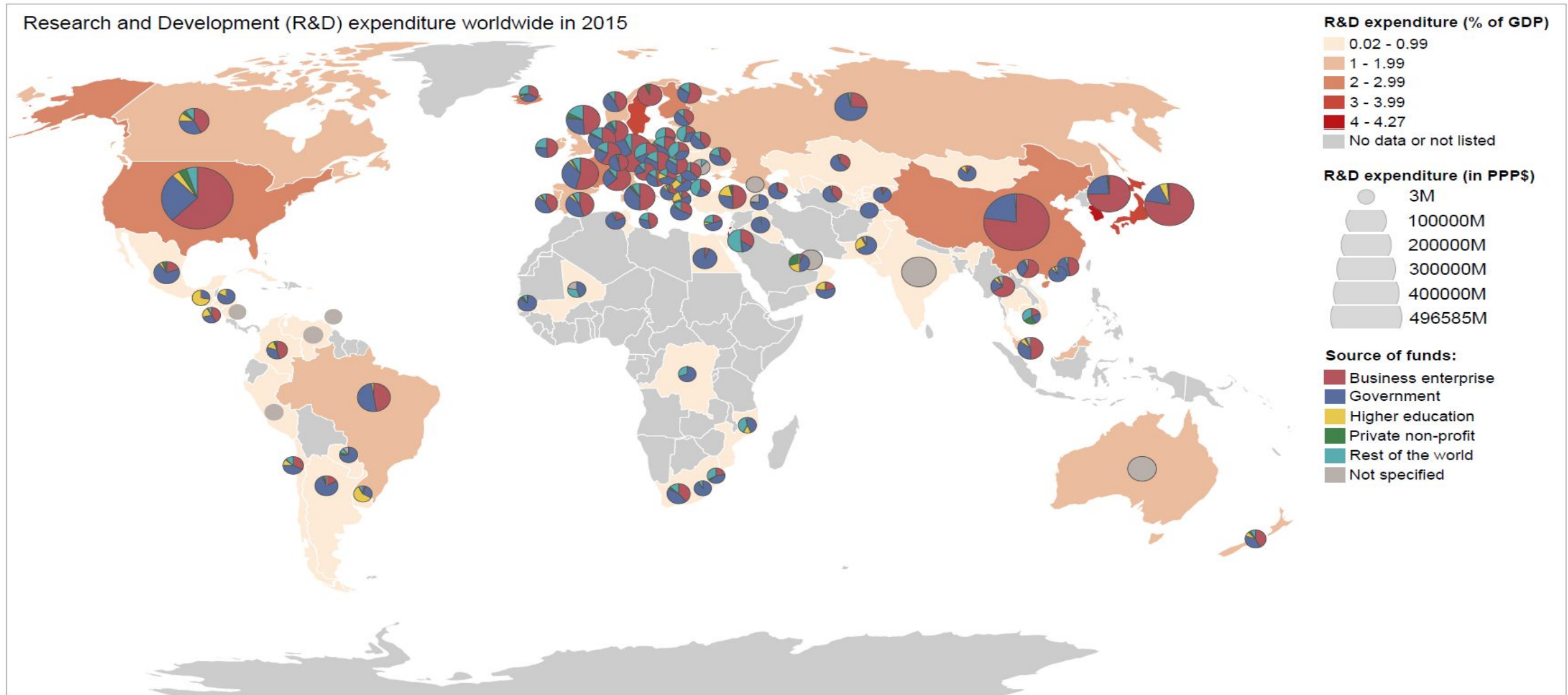
**Transformation for  
Sustainable  
Development:**

- Integrated Approach
- Tough Choices
- Intentional efforts
- **Little time left!**



# 3. Key Findings of 2019 GSDR

## (1) Meta Analysis: R&D Gap





## (2) Knowledge-based Transformations: From Boxes to Arrows – A Systems Perspective

**Principles of SDGs: Goals are  
Universal, Indivisible, and  
Integrated**

*Moving forward:*

- *address trade-offs*
- *harness co-benefits*
- *turn vicious- into  
virtuous cycles*



SDG-level interactions

SDGs    Targets    Interaction Details    References

From SDG: 2    To SDG: 15

**GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific** [Trade-offs]

UNEP. 2016. (p. xvii)

2.3 → 15.5  
ICSU Score -1: Constraining  
Asia and the Pacific

Ecosystems integrity and biodiversity are threatened throughout the region due to extensive agriculture, oil palm and rubber plantations, aquaculture and illegal wildlife trade

**Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services** [Trade-offs]

IPBES. 2019 (p. 8)

2.3 → 15.5  
ICSU Score -2: Counteracting

Furthermore, increases in the production of some of nature's contributions are linked to declines in others [...], which also affects people differentially [...]. For example, clearing of forest for conventional agriculture has increased the provision of food and feed (NCP 12) and other materials important for people (such as natural fibres, timber and ornamental flowers: NCP 13) but has reduced contributions as diverse as pollination (NCP 2), climate regulation (NCP 4), water quality regulation (NCP 7), opportunities for learning and inspiration (NCP 15) and the maintenance of options for the future (NCP 18).

**Chapter 5: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C** [Co-benefits]

IPCC. 2018. (p. 501)

2.3 → 15.5  
ICSU Score +1: Enabling

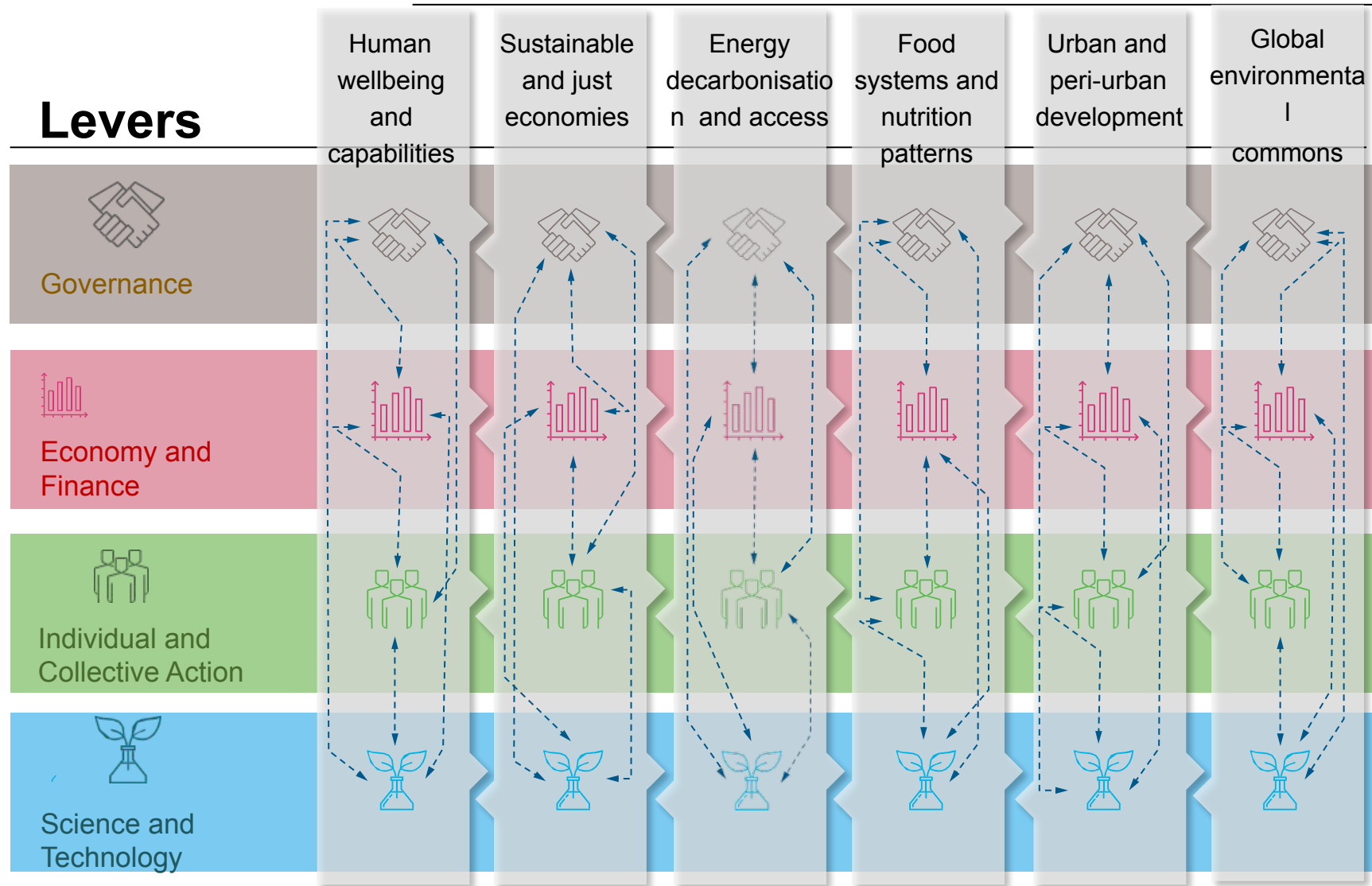
Land-based Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Soil Carbon Sequestration & Conservation of Biodiversity and Restoration of Land (15.1/15.5/15.9): Agricultural intensification can promote conservation of biological diversity by reducing deforestation, and by rehabilitation and restoration of biodiverse communities on previously developed farm or pasture land. However, planting monocultures on biodiversity hot spots can have adverse side-effects, reducing biodiversity. Genetically modified crops reduce demand for cultivated land. Adaptation of integrated landscape approaches can provide various ecosystem services. CSA enrich linkages across sectors including management of land and bioresources. Land sparing has the potential to be beneficial for biodiversity, including for many species of conservation concern, but benefits will depend strongly on the use of spared land. In addition, high yield farming involves trade-offs and is likely to be detrimental for wild species associated with farm land (Lamb et al., 2016).

Further material: Lybbert and Sumner, 2010; Behnassi et al., 2014; Harvey et al., 2014; IPCC, 2014; Lamb et al., 2016

Legend: [Red] Trade-offs, [Blue] Co-benefits

# (3) Entry Points for Transformation and Levers for Implementation of SDGs

## Entry Points for Transformation



- ❖ Six Systems for an Integrated Approach to SDGs Implementation
- ❖ Asia's and South Korea's strengths: Human capacity and capability - Education
- ❖ Examples of excellent practices in implementing the SDGs in Asia: SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10

# III. Highlights of 2023 GSDR



## *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report*

*Times of Crisis, Times of Change:  
Science for Accelerating  
Transformations to Sustainable  
Development”*

# 1. 2023 Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)

## Co-Chairs



Imme Scholz  
(Germany;  
Sociology,  
Sustainable  
Development)



J. Jaime Miranda  
(Peru;  
Medicine,  
Epidemiology,  
International Health)



Ambuj Sagar  
(India; International  
Policy, Science,  
Technology, and  
Innovation (STI),  
Development)



John Agard  
(Trinidad and  
Tobago; Ecology,  
environmental  
science)



Kaltham Al - Ghanim  
(Qatar; Sociology,  
Women's Studies)



Sergey N. Bobylev  
(Russian  
Federation;  
Environmental  
Economics,  
Sustainable  
Development)



Opha Pauline Dube  
(Botswana;  
Environmental Science,  
Climate Change,  
Environmental  
Resources)



# 1. 2023 Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)



Shirin Malekpour  
(Australia; Governance,  
Sustainable  
development, SDGs)



Jaime C. Montoya  
(Philippines; Medicine,  
Tropical Diseases,  
Infectious Diseases)



Jiahua Pan  
(China; Economics,  
Urban Environment,  
Climate Policy)



Åsa Persson  
(Sweden; Governance,  
Climate Change, SDGs)



Nancy Shackell  
(Canada; Marine  
Conservation,  
Biodiversity)



Ibrahima Hathie  
(Senegal; Agriculture,  
Climate Change, and  
Youth Employment)



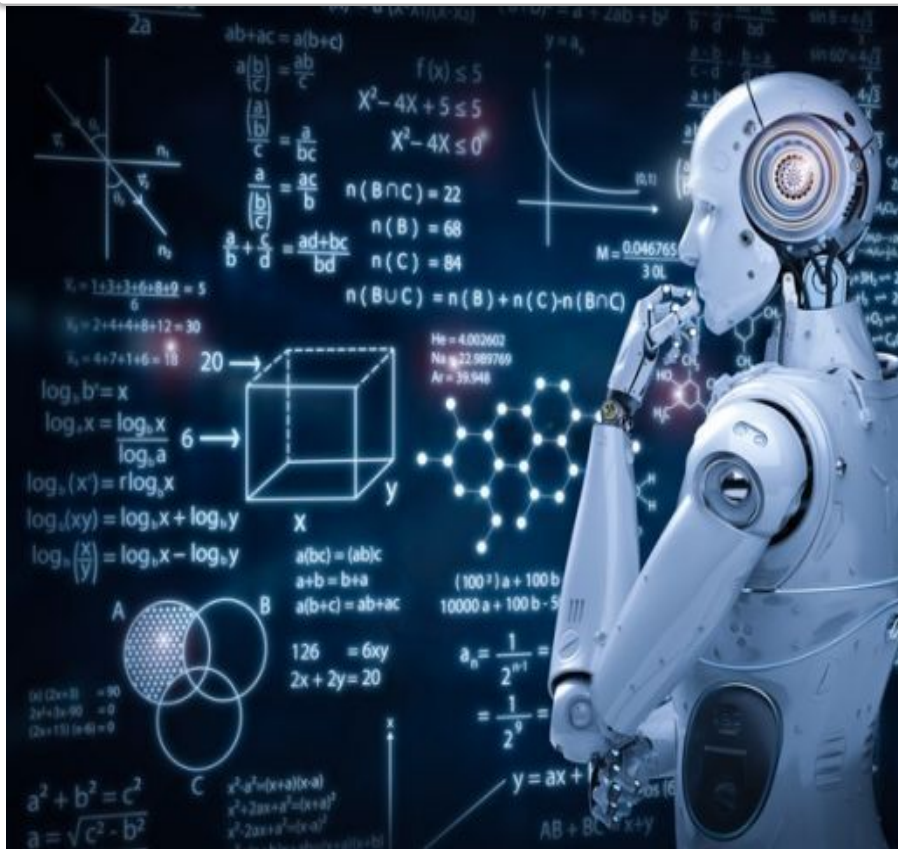
Norichika Kanie  
(Japan;  
Governance, SDGs)



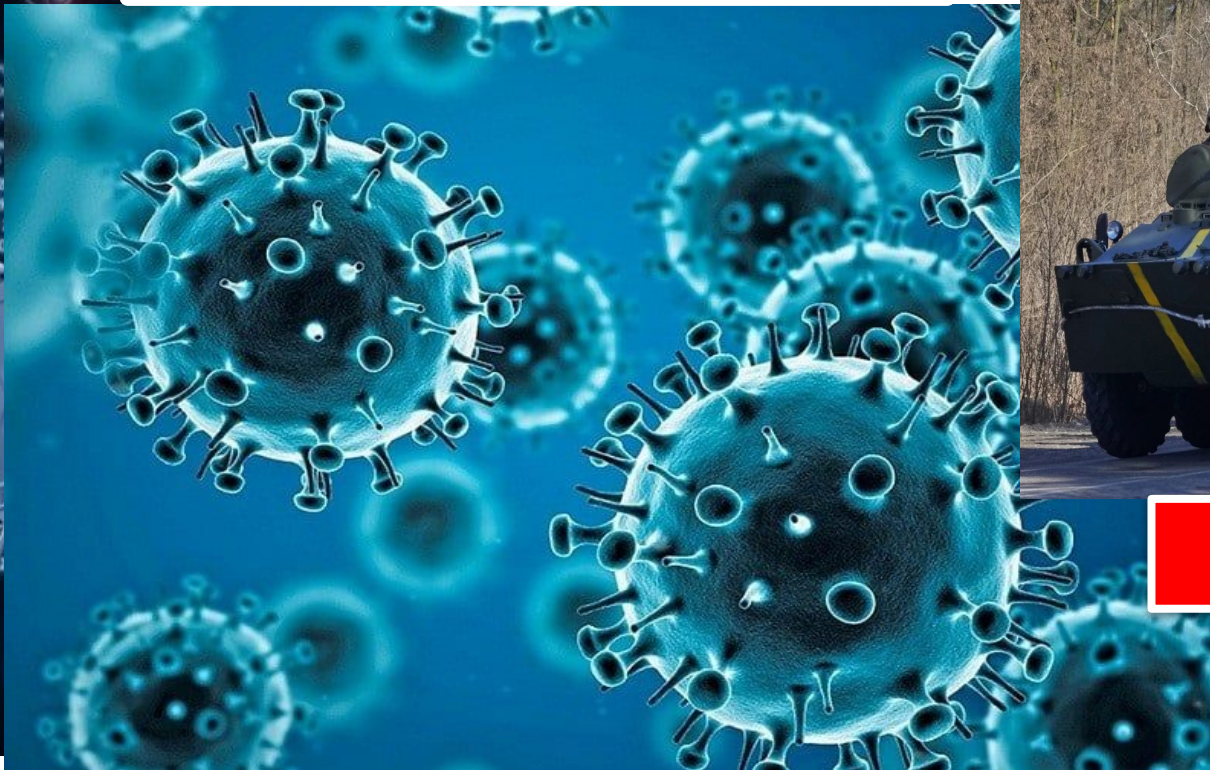
Nyovani Janet Madise  
(Malawi; SDGs,  
Inequality, African  
Society)

## 2. Global Challenges to SDGs since 2019 GSDR

### Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Transformation)



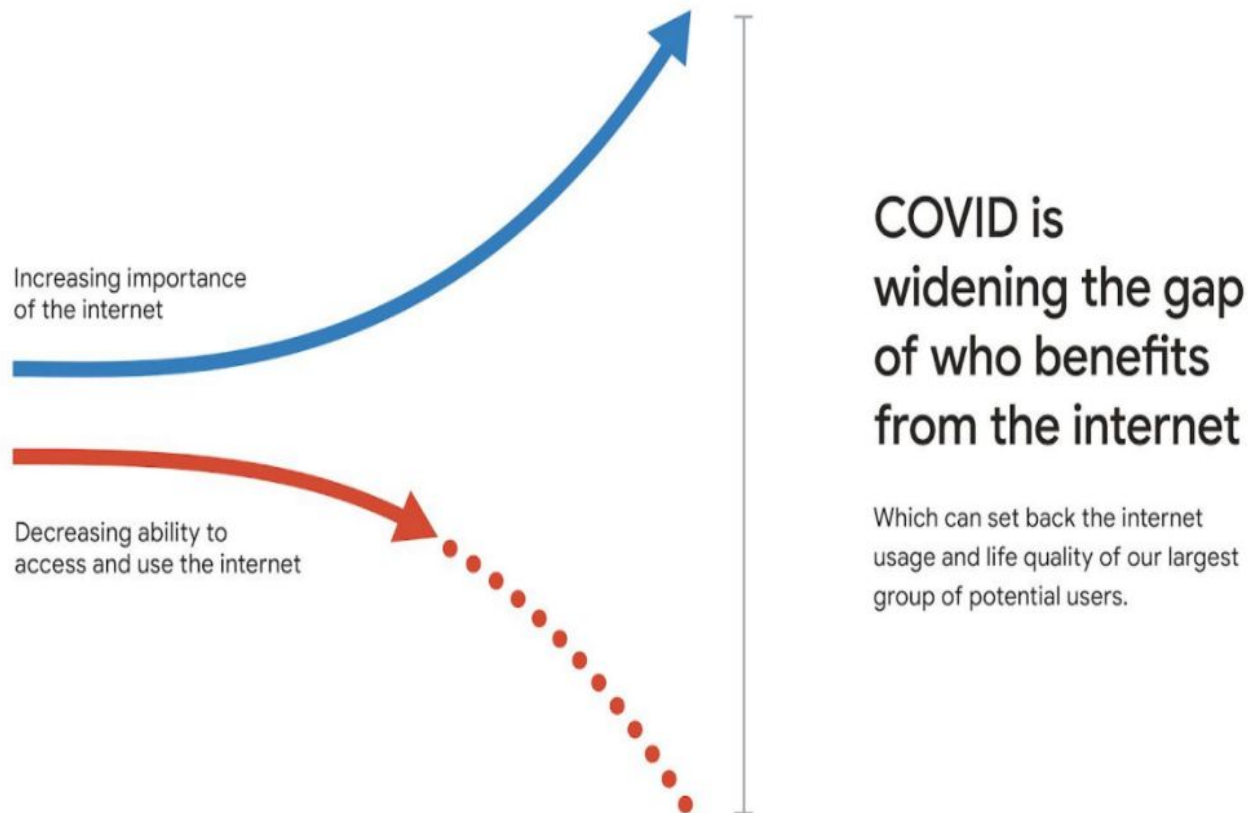
### COVID-19 Pandemic



### War

# (1) Fourth Industrial Revolution

## Widening Digital Divide



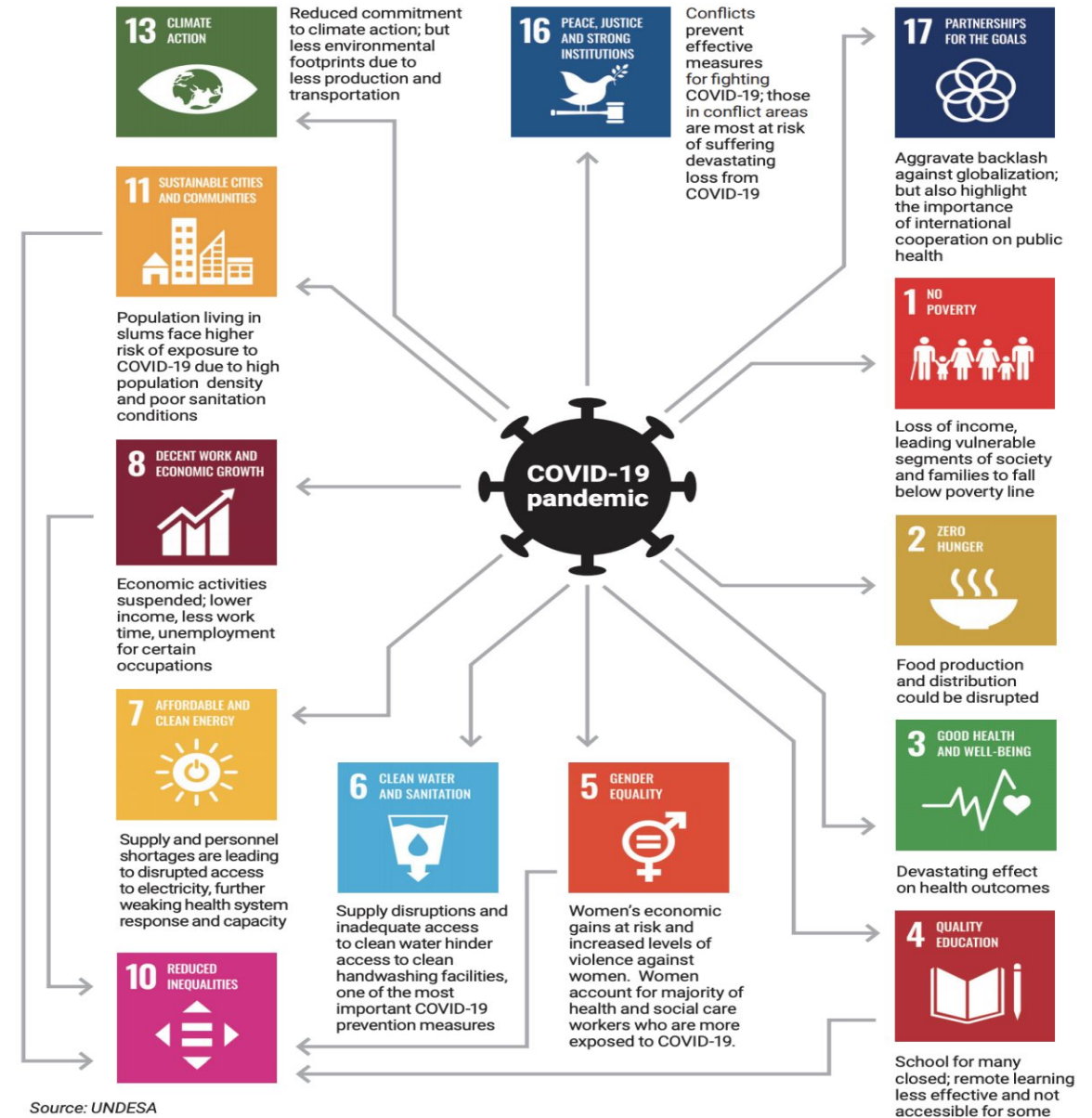
- Increase in digital consumer interactions: 20% (2008) → 38% (2019) → 58% (2020) (McKinsey & Co.)
- Price of internet usage:
  - Developed countries: 2% of GNI (Gross National Income) per month
  - Developing countries: 5-6 times that of developed countries
  - Example: Zimbabwe, 10.06% of GNI per capita for 1 GB
- Only 4 of 46 least developed countries (LDCs) have affordable internet (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal)
- Internet Connectivity: Internet access drops as wages fall in 2021 - a problem exacerbated by economic fragility of developing countries

Sources: Google Next Billion Users Initiative, Impact of COVID-19 on New Internet Users; McKinsey & Co.; UN Broadband Commission; International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Alliance for Affordable Internet

## (2) COVID-19 Pandemic

### COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted or even reversed the progress of sustainable development

- A prolonged global economic slowdown will adversely impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The pandemic affects all SDGs with a profound and mostly negative effect.
- The most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly, and informal workers will be hit the hardest.

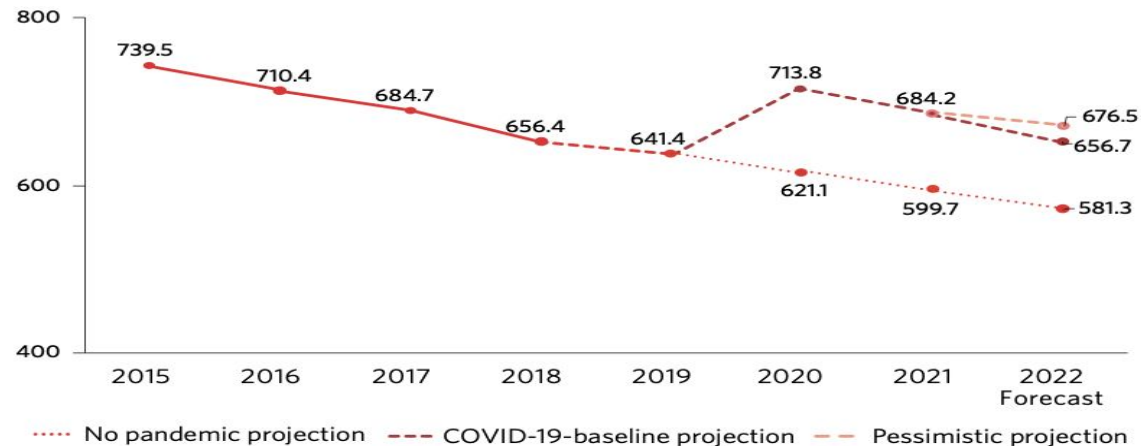




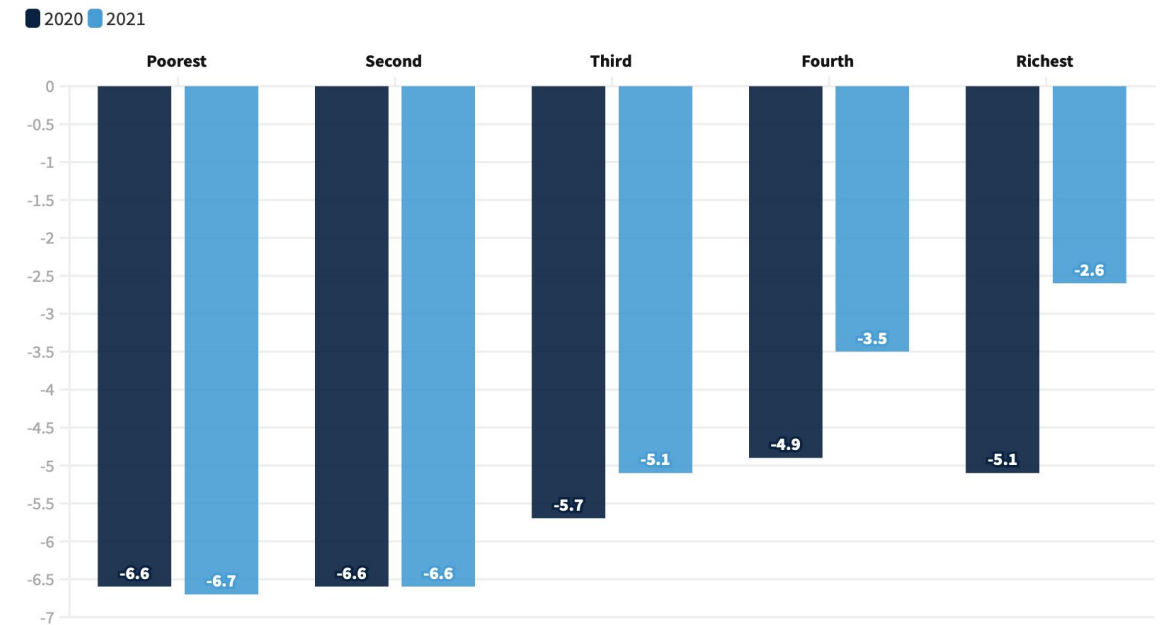
# Surge of Population in Extreme Poverty

- Population living in extreme poverty: MDGs 739.5 million (2015) □ 656.4 million (2018) □ **Surged to 713.8 million (2020)**
- SDGs’ “Leave No One Behind” to end extreme poverty: 3-4 years behind target
- Extreme Poverty: Living on less than \$1.90 a day

Number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day, 2015–2018, 2019–2022 projection before and after COVID-19 (millions)



Percent of income loss by global income quintile due to COVID-19



Source: Yonzan et al. (2021) • Compared to pre-pandemic projections.




The decline in income has translated into a sharp increase in global poverty. About 97 million more people are living on less than \$1.90 a day because of the pandemic, increasing the global poverty rate from 7.8 to 9.1 percent; 163 million more are living on less than \$5.50 a day. Globally, three to four years of progress toward ending extreme poverty are estimated to have been lost.

# Inequality Exacerbated: Gender Gap


**COVID-19 multiplied the workload at home and women are paying the price**

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**




**63%** of women saw increases in their time spent  
**59%** of men

**Unpaid domestic work**



**60%** of women saw increases in their time spent  
**54%** of men

**Unpaid care work**



**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

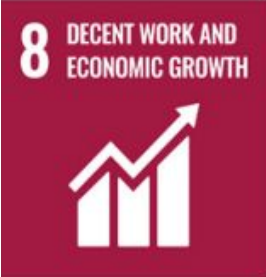
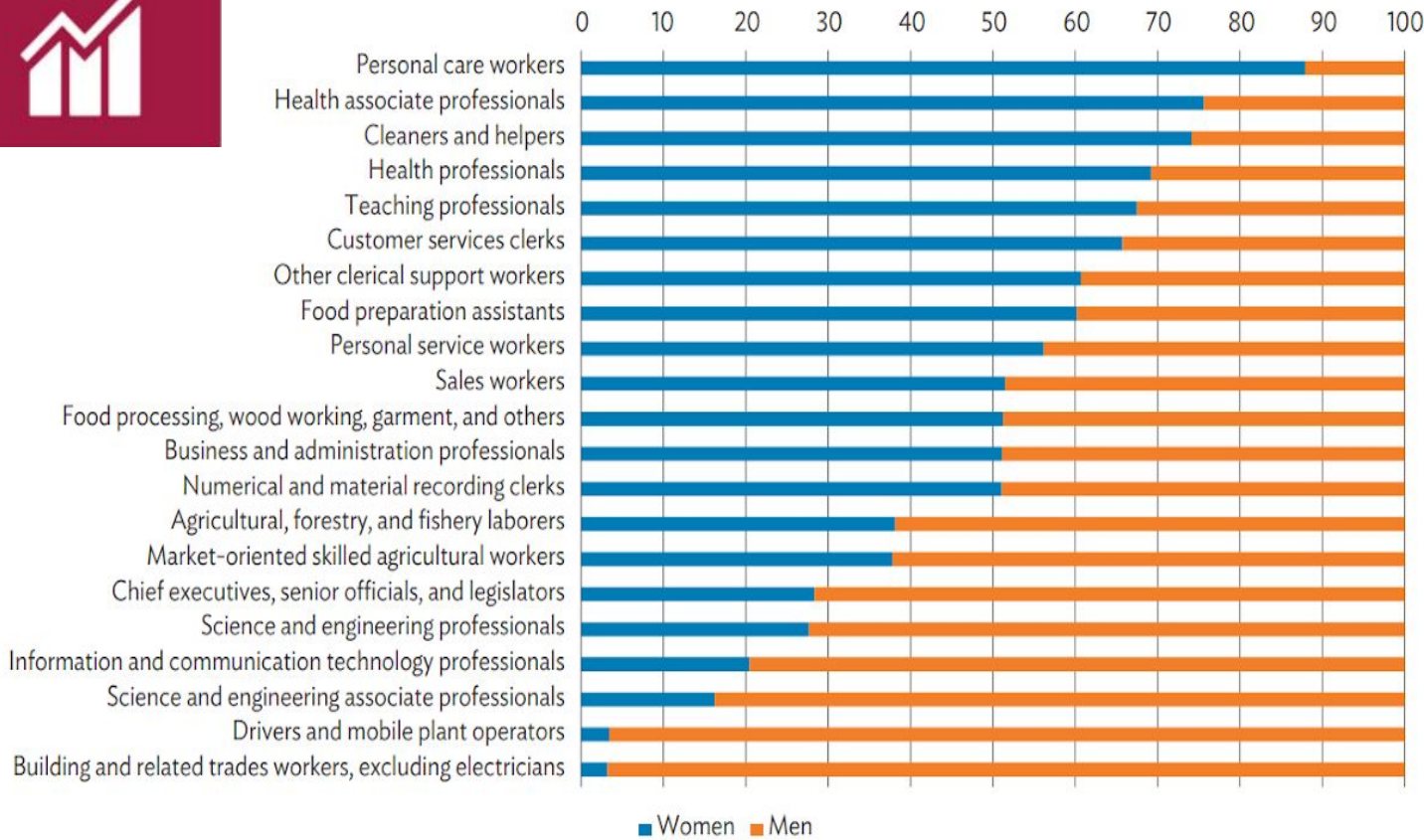


Figure 4: Employment by Sex and Selected Occupation (%)

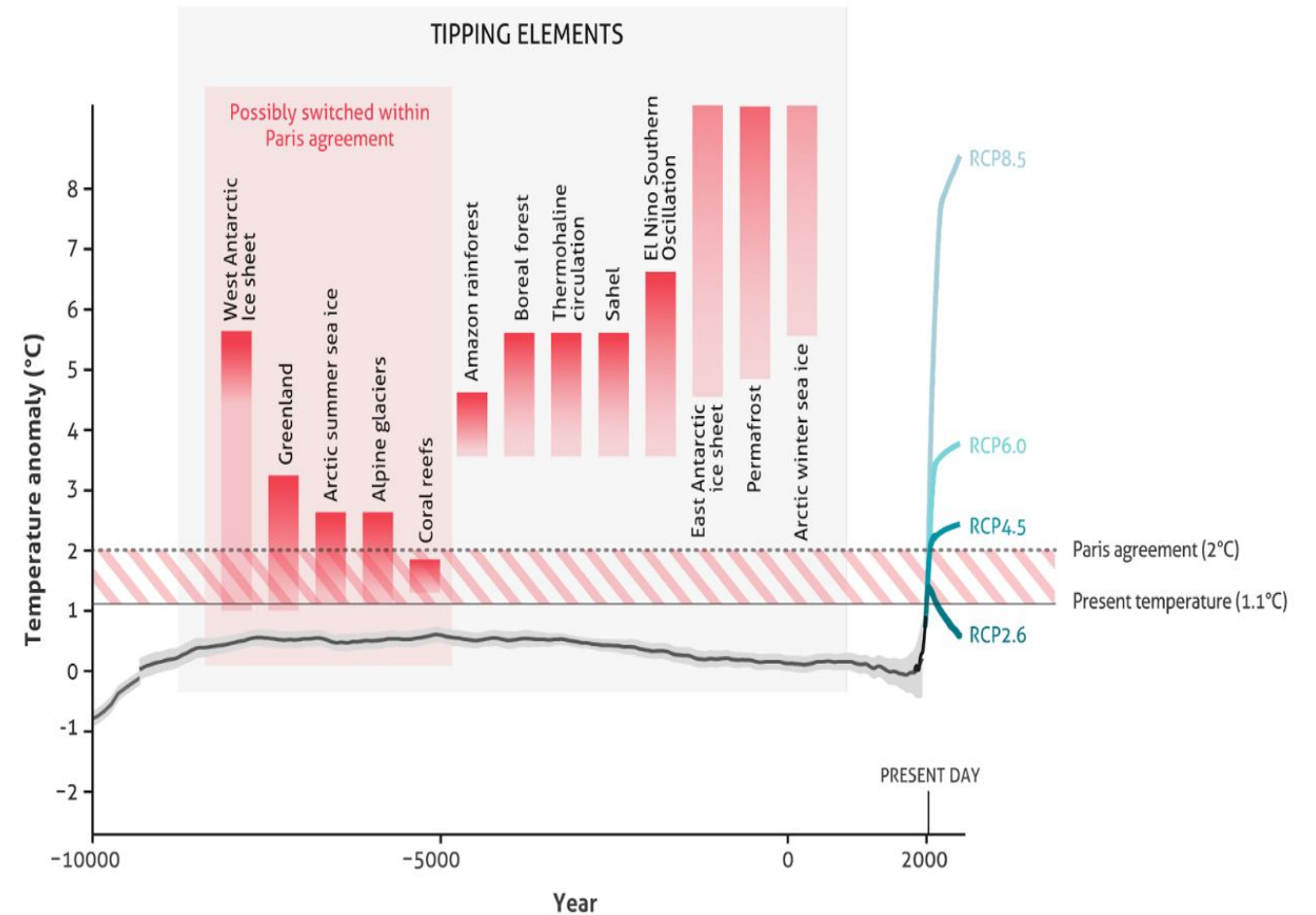


Source: UN Women

Source: International Labour Organization. ILOSTAT.  
<https://ilostat ilo.org/these-occupations-are-dominated-by-women/> in  
<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/economy/impact-of-covid-on-women.html>)

## (3) Climate Change

- Global average temperature rose at least 1°C (vs. pre-industrial times)
- Predicts 3°C increase by 2100
- Increase of natural disasters due to extreme weather
- Growing vulnerability to food and water security
- Climate change is expected to reduce global economic growth by 11-14% by 2050



Source: UN (2017) “The Climate Crisis – A Race We Can Win” <https://www.un.org/en/un75/climate-crisis-race-we-can-win>

Swiss Re Institute(2021) “The Economics of Climate Change”

<https://www.swissre.com/institute/research/topics-and-risk-dialogues/climate-and-natural-catastrophe-risk/expertise-publication-economics-of-climate-change.html>



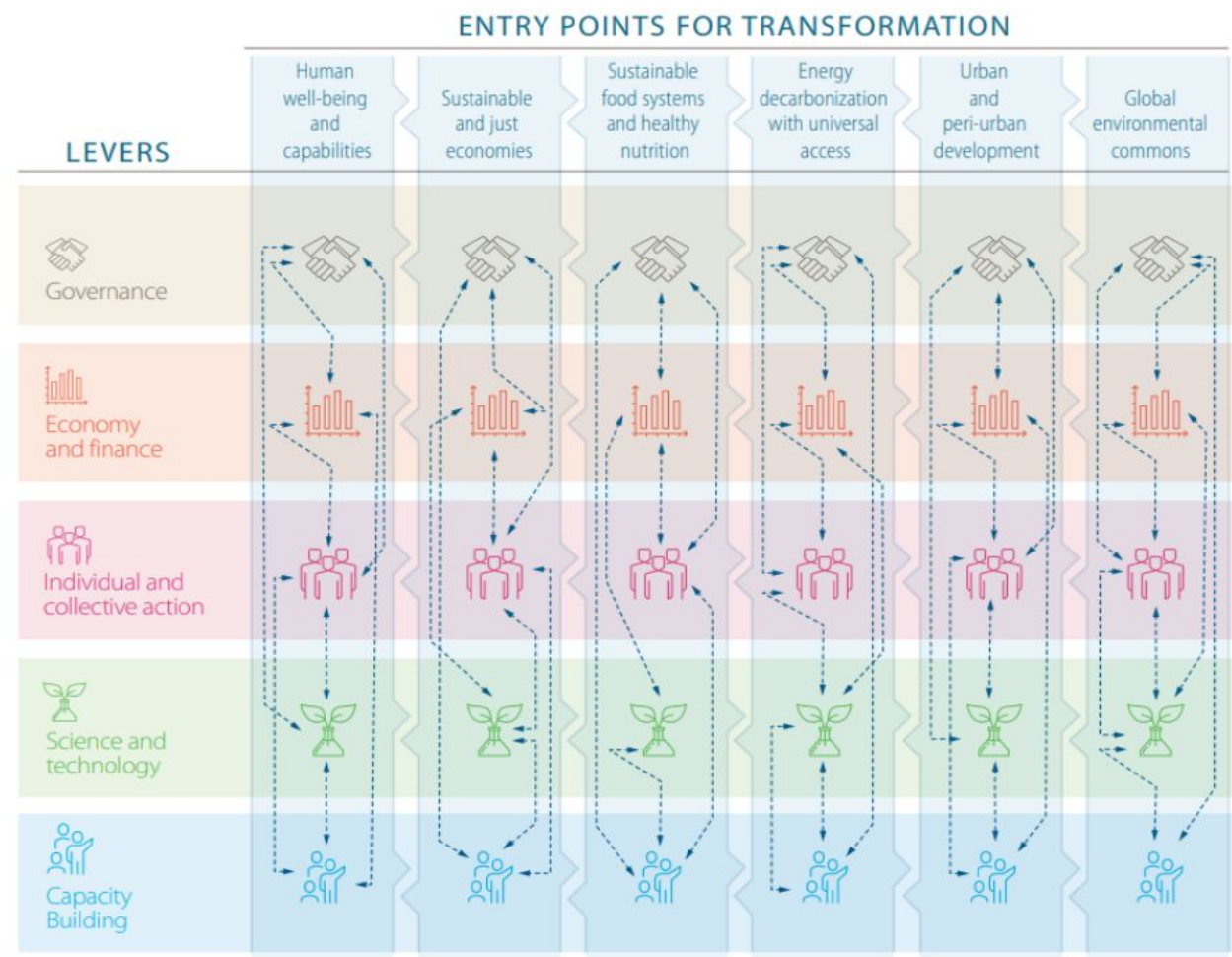
### 3. Key Findings of 2023 GSDR

#### (1) From 2019: Integrated and Coherent Approach to Transformation

##### Entry Points and Levers for Transformation:

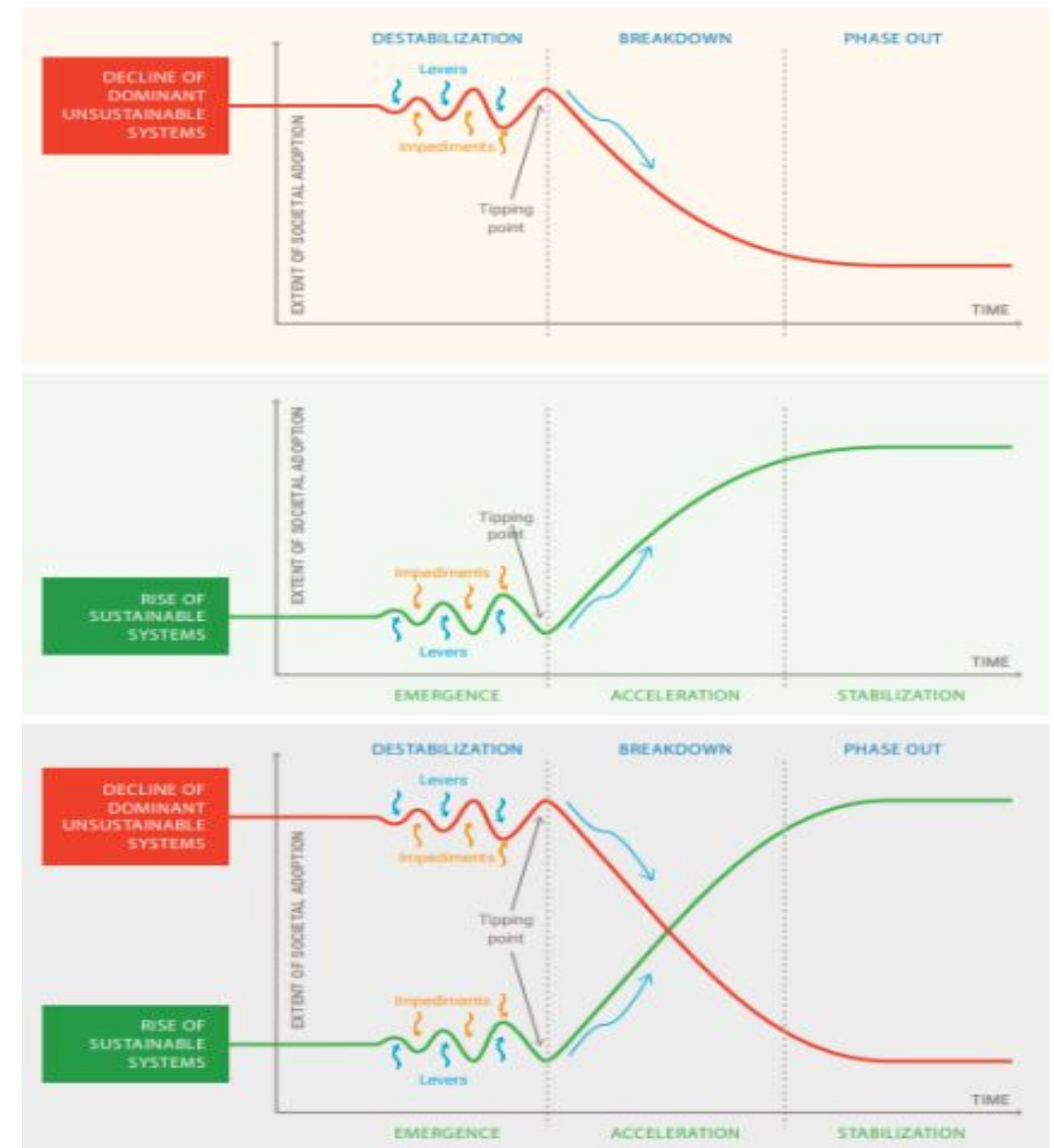
- Take an integrated and coherent approach to implementation to ensure that interventions target priority entry points for systems change
- Trade-offs are managed, and synergies are harnessed
- Entry Points for Transformation: (1) Governance, (2) Economy/Finance, (3) Science and Technology, (4) Individual and Collective Action, **[Added] (5) Capacity Building**

TRANSFORMATIONS TO THE SDGS: ENTRY POINTS AND LEVERS



## (2) Process of Change: S-Curve Transformation

1. **Emergence:** Innovative ideas slowly give rise to new technologies and practices
2. **Acceleration:** Innovations gain momentum  reach tipping points beyond which innovation is widely shared and adopted  leading to **rapid, non-linear growth**
3. **Stabilization:** Innovations embedded in daily life become the **New Normal**
  - Working in two directions: The rise in innovative technologies and practices aligned with the SDGs would be mirrored by a decline in unsustainable technologies, institutions and practices (Destabilization  Breakdown  **Phase-Out**)

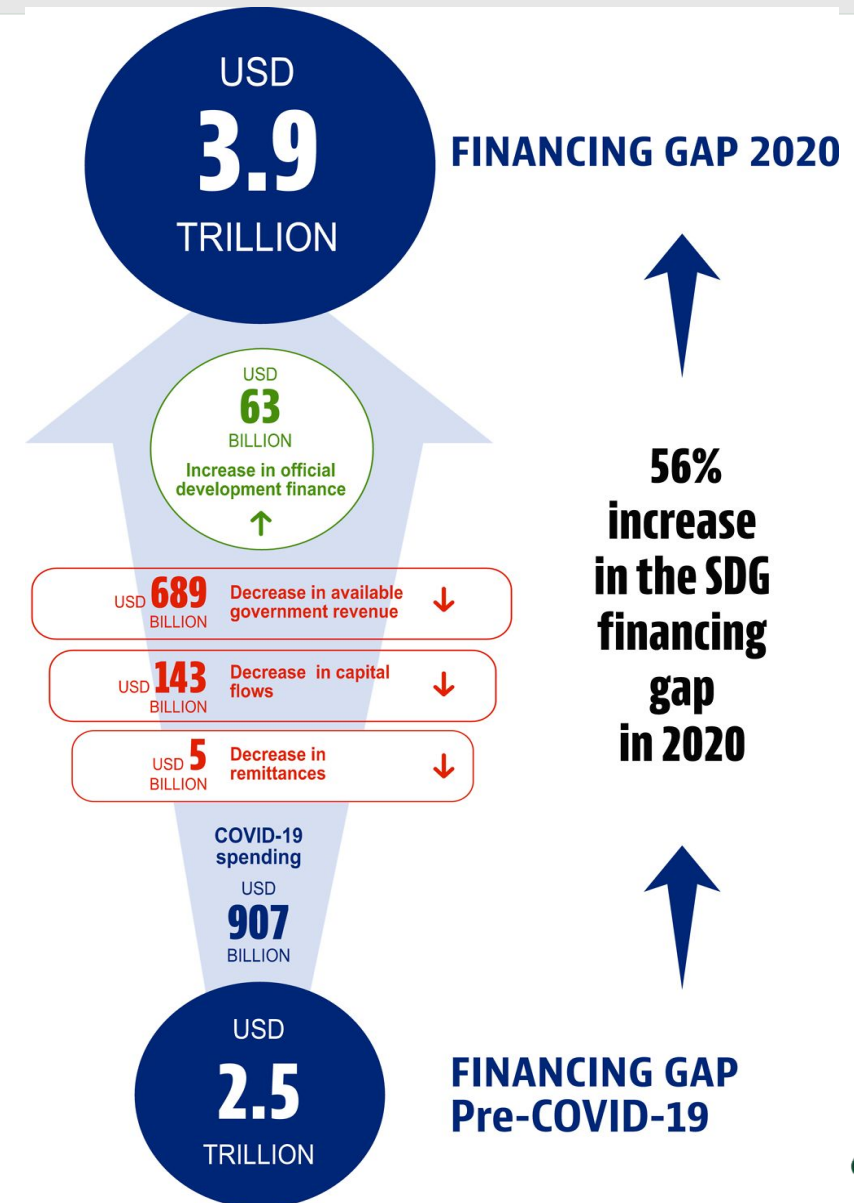


### (3) SDGs Financing: Need Innovation, Inclusion, and Partnership

- **SDGs Financing Gap** has increased by 56% due to the pandemic (USD 2.5 trillion) □ USD 3.9 trillion (2020)

#### Next Steps for Financing SDGs:

- Governments, multilateral development banks, private finance, philanthropists and others must support the **piloting, prototyping and commercialization of new knowledge**
- Establish strong mechanisms for **knowledge sharing** to address global challenges
- Invest in **empirical research**
- Ensure access to **science-based solutions**
- **SDGs bonds** to **support developing countries**



Source: OECD (2022)

Source: UN (2023) “Global Sustainable Development Report 2023”

## IV. Calls to Action for the 2030 Agenda

### Urgent call to action for SDGs with the recovery from the pandemic!

#### Multilateral Cooperation

- **Collective Efforts for North-South Cooperation**

#### Public-Private Coordination

- **NGOs; Private Enterprises; Academia; Government Organizations (GOs); Inter-Governmental Institutions**

#### Scientific Research and Technological Advancement

- **Multidisciplinary Research**
- **Evidence-based Reporting and Policy-Making**
- **Transparent Data Disclosure and Knowledge Sharing**

#### Capacity Building

- **Institutions**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Spillover of Know-How**

## V. Conclusion

1. **2019 □ 2023: Pandemic; Climate Change; War; Global Inequality**
2. **A Call for Deeper Multilateral Cooperation and Actions at All Levels!**
3. **Science for SDGs: Scientific and Technological Response to SDGs**
4. **Poverty & Inequality on the Rise □ From North-South Divide to North-South “Unite”: Economic Assistance and Capacity Building for the Global South (Developing Countries) to achieve the SDGs.**
5. **SDGs are Still Relevant; BUT, We Don’t Have Much Time Until 2030! We Must Work Together, Now, and Here!**



EWHA,  
THE FUTURE  
WE CREATE



**Thank you very much!**

