

Newsletter Issue# 15, October - December 2025
United Nations Office for Sustainable Development
Quarterly Newsletter



UNOSD

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) was established in 2011 as a technical arm of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

This issue will cover UNOSD's news, activities, and events from October to December 2024. The newsletter includes not only UNOSD news, but also other useful events, tools, and frameworks related to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).



The Year 2024 has been an incredible journey with all our partners and colleagues. Looking forward to Year 2025 with new opportunities, successes, and continued growth. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.



Groundwater Monitoring Training Programme for Timor-Leste and Ecuador

14 to 17 October 2024, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

Based on an assessment to analyse policy advisory needs for the Member States, UNOSD organized Groundwater Monitoring Training Programme for Timor-Leste and Ecuador to provide a tailor-made policy advisory service on groundwater.

The training was co-organized by UNOSD, UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (UNESCO i-WSSM), and the Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water) in collaboration with the National Planning Secretariat of Ecuador and the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation Regulation of Timor-Leste.

Groundwater officers from national institutions in Ecuador and Timor-Leste were invited to participate in the programme, which aimed to strengthen their groundwater management capacity to address their unique challenges and promote sustainable water resource management and protection.

The training provided a comprehensive understanding of groundwater, covering its role in addressing the water crisis, principles of groundwater flow, recharge, and hydraulic properties of aquifers. It included practical exercises in well hydraulics, aquifer testing, groundwater chemistry, and monitoring, as well as advanced topics like managed aquifer recharge, climate crisis impacts, and sustainable groundwater management.



2024 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

29 to 31 October 2024, Incheon, Republic of Korea

UNOSD organized the 2024 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF) from 29 to 31 October 2024 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The 2024 SDTF opened with a reflection on the outcomes of the Summit of the Future and the themes of the 2025 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), framing the Forum within the current international framework and the latest scientific thinking. In particular, the 2024 SDTF focused on SDG-3, 5, 8, 14 and 17, in line with the 2025 HLPF theme of 'Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind'.

The Forum gathered senior-level policymakers from national governments, experts from international organizations, and stakeholders from civil society, local communities, and academia. The country participants were mainly invited from developing countries, countries in special situations, particularly Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The Forum produced an outcome document with key messages in which the participants collectively contributed to convey messages to the international community regarding the successes, lessons learned and good practices related to the implementation of the selected SDGs as well as the main theme of the Forum.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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Side Events at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

11 to 22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

During COP29, UNOSD organized 2 side events at the SDG Pavilion hosted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Korea Pavilion hosted by the Government of Republic of Korea. UNOSD also held bilateral meetings with government representatives, experts from international organizations, and stakeholders across sectors to further foster its global engagements and partnerships.

SIDE EVENT #1 - "Ensuring Transparency and Integrity - Facilitating climate finance through strengthened GHG Inventories and transparency reporting"

14 November 2024, Korea Pavilion

The side event explored practical examples of how the transparency framework under Article 13 supports the accurate accounting, reporting, and verification needed for the effective functioning of carbon markets and cooperative approaches under Article 6 in developing countries. Panelists discussed how Article 13 includes provisions for capacity building, particularly for developing countries, to strengthen MRV, as public institutions need the technical capacity to generate, track, and report emission reductions and carbon credits. The side event was co-organized by UNOSD and Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center (GIR) of Korea and was supported by the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea.

SIDE EVENT #2 - "Tackling methane emissions and the waste crisis through data, evidence-based policy and finance"

18 November 2024, SDG Pavilion

The side event examined the interlinkages between climate change and solid waste management, with a focus on data and finance to advance evidence-based policy action. During the side event, UNOSD presented its new policy support initiative, developed in cooperation with the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), co-hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and in coordination with regional hub countries and partners, to strengthen waste-related data, national capacity and policy action. The side event was co-organized by UNOSD, the GGKP and co-hosted by the UNEP, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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Side Event at the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5)

25 November to 1 December 2024, Busan, Republic of Korea

UNOSD organized a side event during the Fifth Session of the INC-5 held in Busan, Republic of Korea on 26 November 2024 titled, "Waste Management and Circular Economy Policy Support System: Embracing Holistic Solutions beyond Plastics". The side event aimed to address the global challenge of plastic pollution, with a particular focus on supporting developing countries for national capacity, evidence-based policies and finance to implement a Global Plastics Treaty. Through collaborative dialogue, expert presentations, and panel discussion, this side event aims to strengthen awareness and collaborative action for data, financing, and policies critical for eliminating plastic pollution and advancing a circular economy in partner countries.

During the side event, a new collection of insight briefs was launched, highlighting key gaps—such as capacity-building needs, financial readiness, and policy frameworks—essential for treaty implementation. By addressing the hidden costs of plastic pollution, these briefs emphasized the importance of targeted development cooperation to empower countries to meet their treaty commitments and transition to sustainable practices. The side event was co-organized by UNOSD, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Global Plastic Action Partnership of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

During the INC-5, UNOSD operated an exhibition booth to promote its Policy Support System (PSS) on waste management and circular economy. The PSS is designed to support national governments in evaluating their progress and enabling environments at each stage of the waste lifecycle. In addition, the PSS is categorized into six key "policy assessment components": capacity, public governance, engagement, finance, monitoring, and status.

All the information and presentation materials of the event can be accessed [HERE](#).

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Training Workshop on Accelerating Circularity and Resource Efficiency in Integrated Solid Waste Management at National and Urban Levels

10 to 12 December 2024, Agadir, Morocco

UNOSD organized a training workshop on "Accelerating Circularity and Resource Efficiency in Integrated Solid Waste Management at National and Urban Levels" from 10 to 12 December 2024 in Agadir, Morocco. The workshop aimed to strengthen national and local capacities for formulating and implementing circular economy, resource circularity, and waste management policies to achieve zero waste and the SDGs by training key stakeholders engaged in the national formulation and implementation of the National Development Strategy, Sectoral Plans, Green recovery plans and the 2030 Agenda.

The workshop was built on the structure, methodology and outcome of the Training Workshop organized in Tangier, Morocco in November 2023. It was guided by the latest national and sectoral plans and strategies on circular economy and waste management implemented by the Government of Morocco.

As a result, the workshop contributed to enhancing the knowledge and skills of stakeholders in formulating and implementing circular economy and resource circularity policies with an objective to move towards resource efficient and zero waste societies that accelerate the SDGs, and to improving the knowledge and skills of local level participants from Agadir and Souss-Massa region on a just transition to a circular economy and resource circularity with a focus on key waste streams, advancements and innovations in waste management, and promoting circularity among sub-national and urban planning, policies and practices.

The workshop was co-organized by UN DESA, the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco), and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

Upcoming UNOSD Programmes and Events (January - March 2025)



High Level Retreat: Investing in ocean solutions-Towards a brighter future for the ocean

14 to 15 January 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

This workshop is co-organized by UNOSD and Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch (NRIB) of UN DESA. The workshop seeks to provide an informal yet substantive platform for principals of the

Communities of Actions (COAs), representatives of the co-hosts, and key stakeholders in sharing information on recent developments, exchanging updates on ocean-related processes and initiatives and its progress, prospects and synergies with UN Ocean Conference 3 (UNOC3), fostering interaction with stakeholders, practitioners and Voluntary Commitment (VC) holders, brainstorming pathways forward, and enhancing substantive preparations for the UNOC.



Workshop on Accelerating Progress on the Water-energy-food-ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa

4 to 6 March 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

UNOSD will organize the workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to present a mapping of inter-ministerial coordinating bodies, public governance mandates in line with the WEFE nexus, and existing barriers, challenges and solutions from the region. The workshop will further contribute to ongoing research to inform programming strategies to strengthen future policy responses and capacity development to accelerate progress on the nexus, including through policy action and climate finance, especially in vulnerable urban and rural areas.



2025 Executive Training Course (ETC) for Policymakers

18 to 21 March 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

UNOSD will organize the 2025 ETC in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 18 to 21 March 2025. The 2025 ETC will aim to enhance knowledge, skills, mindsets, and overall capacities of member states in implementing sustainable development planning, policymaking, and policy shaping through an integrated approach with a focus on aligning and integrating SDG planning and climate action through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including through a practical focus on investment, financing and data methods for integrated preparation and development of these instruments.



Webinar - Zero Waste Day

31 March 2025, Online

UNOSD will co-organize a webinar on Zero Waste Day with Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to address key challenges on achieving zero waste and promote the Policy Support System (PSS) on Waste Management and Circular Economy.

UN DESA Events & Publications



Substantive Report



2024 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF) Substantive Report

As a culmination of the 2024 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF), UNOSD produced a substantive report of the forum to summarize key messages and highlight outcomes. The 2024 SDTF supported the participants in acquiring a deeper understanding of the findings and recommendations outlined in the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), focusing on their application for the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17. The Forum facilitated peer-learning discussions on challenges and solutions and sharing success stories and lessons learned.

The full article can be found [HERE](#).

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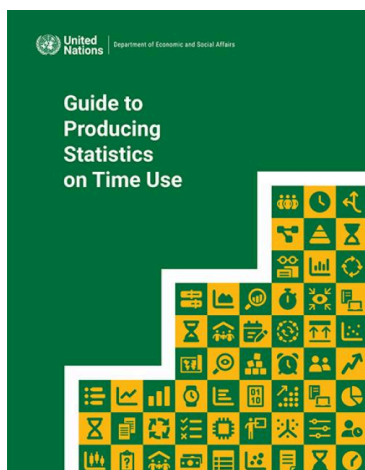


International Migration and Sustainable Development

This thirteenth edition of the United Nations E-Government Survey, released in 2024, provides a comprehensive assessment of the digital government landscape across all 193 Member States. The 2024 Survey highlights a significant upward trend in the development of digital government worldwide, with increased investment in resilient infrastructure and cutting-edge technologies.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

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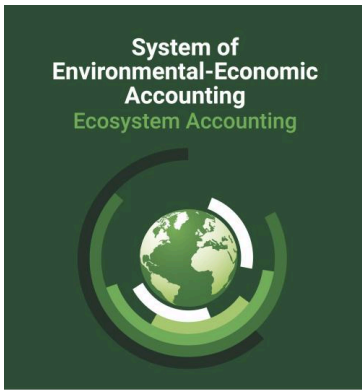


Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use

The updated Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use offers national statistical offices and policymakers practical recommendations and best practices for collecting, processing, analyzing, and disseminating time-use statistics. These statistics support research and inform policies on various topics, including unpaid work and non-market production, well-being, and gender equality.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

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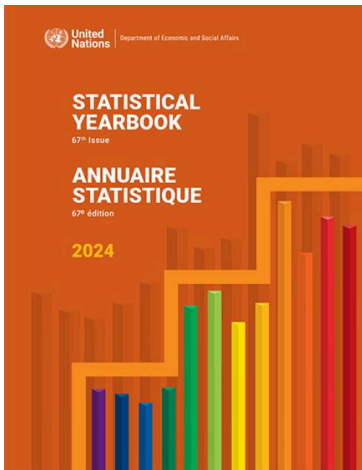


System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA)

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting —Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) constitutes an integrated and comprehensive statistical framework for organizing data about habitats and landscapes, measuring the ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets, and linking this information to economic and other human activity.

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

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Statistical Yearbook 2024

The Statistical Yearbook is an annual compilation of a wide range of international economic, social and environmental statistics on over 200 countries and areas, compiled from sources including UN agencies and other international, national and specialized organizations. The 2024 edition contains data available to the Statistics Division as of 31 July 2024 and presents them in 33 tables on topics such as science and technology.

The full article can be found [HERE](#).

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