

Newsletter Issue #16, January - March 2025  
**United Nations Office for Sustainable Development**  
Quarterly Newsletter



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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 January to March 2025. 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).

## UNOSD Highlights



## Investing in Ocean Solutions: Towards a Brighter Future for the Ocean High Level Retreat

14 to 15 January 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), with the support from UNOSD, organized a high-level retreat, "Investing in Ocean Solutions: Towards a Brighter Future for the Ocean", Incheon, Republic of Korea. The retreat was designed to fully integrate the Communities of Ocean Action (COAs), established following the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, into the substantive preparations for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice (UNOC3).

Bringing together leaders of the COAs, representatives of the UNOC3 co-hosts, and other experts and key stakeholders, the high-level retreat addressed ocean-related processes and initiatives, links with other processes including SIDS and water and sanitation, strategies to build a robust coalition for a successful and action-oriented UNOC3, and key substantive priorities for UNOC3. The retreat was attended by H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, (Samoa), Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Conference Secretary-General of SIDS4 and UNOC3, and Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.



## Workshop on Accelerating Progress on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) in Sub-Saharan Africa

4 to 6 March 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The Workshop on Accelerating Progress on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa was co-organized by UNOSD, UNESCO, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) of UNEP from 4 to 6 March 2025 in Addis Ababa at the UN ECA Conference Centre.

The WEFE Nexus workshop highlighted success cases, assessed persistent barriers and gaps for accelerated progress, and shared how African countries can leverage transformative transitions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, particularly food systems, energy access, affordability, and addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The programme also identified gaps between urban-rural progress, including success stories and co-benefits with a WEFE nexus through potential proposals and scale-up projects. During the workshop, the Member States and key institutions each developed action plans based on the lessons learned and success shared to measure outcomes from the workshop and ensure more accelerated implementation and local progress identifying leverage points for action.

The workshop gathered nearly 70 participants consisting of policymakers and stakeholders from civil society, youth, academia, and private sector as well as the inter-ministerial representatives and national focal points from Sub-Saharan African countries designated for WEFE nexus or SDG coordination.

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

### Event Page



## 14th Steering Committee Meeting

7 March 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

UNOSD held the 14th Steering Committee Meeting on 7 March 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as a back-to-back meeting with the Workshop on Accelerating Progress on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa. During the meeting, UNOSD presented a comprehensive review of the achievements in 2024 as well as planned activities for 2025.

The steering committee members discussed ways and approaches to continue streamlining UNOSD work with DESA priorities while supporting the environmental pillar of sustainable development and the SDGs. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Incheon Metropolitan City, and UN DESA.



## 2025 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

18 to 22 March 2025, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Recognizing the intertwined nature of sustainable development and climate action and understanding the need to ensure maximum efficiency in the achievement of the twin goals of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, UNOSD, in partnership with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has been leading initiatives to foster synergies and co-benefits between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement through the Climate Action and SDGs Synergies Platform from 18 to 22 March 2025 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

The main objective of the 2025 Executive Training Course for Policymakers is to enhance the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and overall capacities of member states in implementing sustainable development and climate planning, policymaking, and policy shaping through an integrated approach. The training course strengthened practical knowledge and skills for aligning SDGs and climate action in national planning, through a holistic and practical approach that focuses on coherent policy implementation, knowledge and data governance, and integrated financing, facilitated the exchange of practices and case studies among policymakers to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of national planning and policy on sustainable development and climate action, and fostered peer-to-peer collaboration and partnership-building across government agencies and departments to ensure evidence-based policymaking and reporting.

The training course was attended by senior national government officials from developing countries who are responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as those working on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

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

Event Page





## Scoping Mission to Comoros on waste management-related issues

8 to 13 March 2025, Moroni, Comoros

UNOSD conducted a scoping mission to Comoros from 8 to 13 March 2025 in Moroni, Comoros to explore waste management situations in Comoros. During the mission, UNOSD aimed to identify critical challenges that the country face in waste management sector, provide recommendations based on observations and stakeholder discussions, and identify pathways for implementation of proposed solutions in a practical and sustainable manner.

UNOSD met with H.E. President Azali Assoumani of Comoros who expressed his commitment to transforming Comoros as the second Green Country in Africa, highlighting the importance of training, youth engagement, and tangible impact. In addition, UNOSD conducted high-level meetings with representatives and officials from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Interior, Decentralization, Territorial Administration, National Institute of Statistics and Demographic Studies (INSEED), National Agency for Waste Management (ANGD), City of Moroni, Mitsamihouli Town, UN Country Team, NGOs, and other key stakeholders.

The stakeholders agreed that the time is right for action, with high-level political commitment and a clear national vision for sustainable waste management and circular economy development. In addition, the stakeholders strongly emphasised the need to move from strategy to action, calling for fast-track implementation pathways and structured coordination.

## Upcoming UNOSD Programmes and Events (April - June 2025)



### Eastern Africa Workshop on Waste Management and Circular Economy

1 to 3 April 2025, Antananarivo, Madagascar

UNOSD will conduct the Eastern African regional workshop on waste management and circular economy from 1 to 3 April 2025 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. This sub-regional workshop seeks to enhance foundational knowledge on waste management and resource circularity while promoting evidence-based practices and tools to address critical barriers in the region.

The workshop is co-organized by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Madagascar, the Government of the Republic of Madagascar (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, MEDD), the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



## African Regional Workshop on Policy Support System (PSS) on Water and Sanitation - Phase 4

28 to April 2025, Dakar, Senegal

UNOSD will host the African Regional Workshop on SDG-6 Policy Support System (PSS) from 28 to 30 April 2025 in Dakar, Senegal with UNU-INWEH and other partners. The workshop aims to take stock of the work undertaken by the project and lessons learned to facilitate more significant impact of SDG-6 PSS during its fourth phase, discuss ways to ensure the extended use of SDG-6 PSS, and address challenges in accelerating the achievement of SDG 6.



## Regional Workshop on Policy Support System (PSS) for Waste Management and Circular Economy

14 to 16 May 2025, Sao Paulo, Brazil

UNOSD will organize the Regional Workshop on Policy Support System for Waste Management and Circular Economy and an accelerated session at the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF 2025) from 14 to 16 May 2025 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The workshop will be held in collaboration with UN ECLAC and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB/IBD).

The workshop aims to enhance the Member States' knowledge on waste management and resource circularity and strengthen data collection, monitoring, and evidence-based decision-making.



## Scoping Mission to Kyrgyz Republic for air pollution-related issues

27 to 29 May 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

UNOSD will conduct a scoping mission to Kyrgyz Republic from 27 to 29 May 2025 to organize high-level and working-level interviews with government officials to identify key issues and recommendations for tackling air pollution issues in Kyrgyz Republic. UNOSD will also meet with the UN Country Team and UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyz Republic to ensure coherent and realistic plan of action in place.





## Side Event at the World Environment Day

5 June 2025, Jeju, Republic of Korea

As the 2025 World Environment Day is being hosted by the Republic of Korea, UNOSD will organize an expert group meeting and a side event related to waste management and plastic pollution on 5 June 2025 in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.

## UN DESA Events & Publications

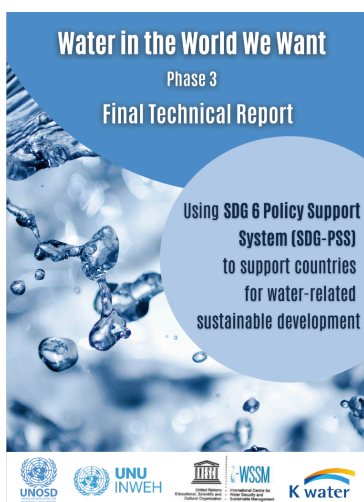


### 2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Substantive Report

Following the 2024 Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNOSD produced a substantive report of the training course which summarizes key messages and outcomes. The course focused on the theme of aligning SDG planning and NDCs in order to ensure that member states are able to avoid siloed approaches, understand tradeoffs and identify and utilize co-benefits.

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

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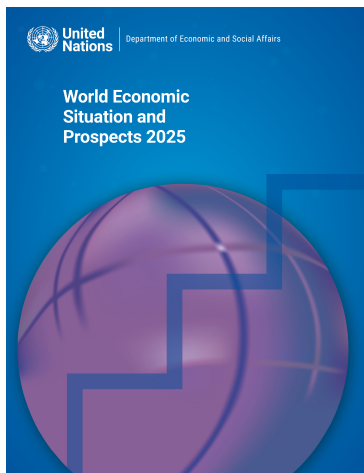
### Water in the World We Want Phase 3 Final Technical Report

Following the completion of Phase 3 (2021-2024) of the project “Water in the World We Want”, a final technical report has been prepared by UNU-INWEH in collaboration with UNOSD. The technical reports presents the results of phase 3 of the Project, during which project partners continued to organize regional workshops to engage more countries, promote multinational collaboration, and ensure knowledge exchange for effective use of the tool, based on the learning from previous phase that strengthening regional partnerships is critical for the Project’s success.

During this phase, 31 more countries joined the Project, totaling 65 countries that joined project-led workshops. Reports of Phase 1([insert as hyperlink](#)) and Phase 2([insert hyperlink](#)) are also available.

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

[Read More](#)

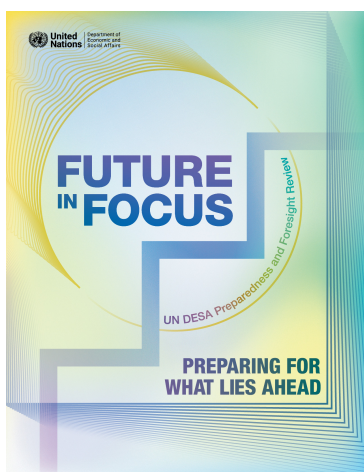


## World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025

Global economic growth is projected to remain at 2.8 per cent in 2025, unchanged from 2024, according to the United Nations flagship report, World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2025. The report notes that lower inflation and ongoing monetary easing in many economies could provide a modest boost to global economic activity in 2025 and highlights the potential of critical minerals for the energy transition—such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements—and also for accelerating progress towards the SDGs in many countries.

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

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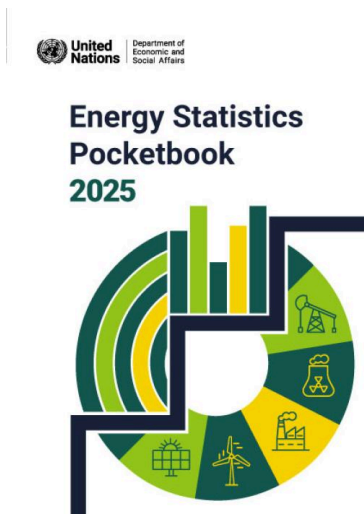


## Future in Focus: Preparing for What Lies Ahead

This review of UN DESA's foresight and preparedness efforts shows how the Department's economic and demographic forecasts, capacity development programmes, and work towards accelerating an inclusive and just transition help governments and people make strategic choices to shape and prepare for the future they want.

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

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## 2025 Energy Statistics Pocketbook

The 2025 Energy Statistics Pocketbook publication is the eighth in a series of pocketbook compilations on energy statistics designed to highlight the availability of data on various aspects of energy production, transformation and use and its linkages to other key statistics. The information in this publication is primarily based on the energy data available in the 2022 editions of the Energy Statistics Yearbook, the Energy Balances, and the Electricity Profiles.

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

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Website: <https://unosd.un.org/>  
Email : [unosd@un.org](mailto:unosd@un.org)



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