



# The Pact of the Future and HLPF

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## HOW TO REACH THE SDGS

# Summit of the Future, September 2024

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- SOTF was not a Summit on the SDGs – we had that in 2023.
- Its aim was to define ways to make a just, sustainable and more inclusive multilateral model of global governance:
- Pact for the Future, including:
  - Global Digital Compact
  - Pact for Future Generations
- But it agreed that in 2027, the SDG Summit of that year will come with options for a post-2030 agenda.
- And it underlined the will to reform the current “international financial architecture.” FFD4 conference in Seville Spain in July 2025.

# Summit of the Future: relevant outcomes

Chapter 1: Sustainable Development and Finance for Development

**Action 12:** We will plan for the future and strengthen our collective efforts to turbocharge the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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Chapter 3: STI and digital cooperation

**Action 33.** We will support the SG to strengthen the role of the UN in supporting international cooperation in STI.

Chapter 5: Transforming global governance

**Action 43.** We will strengthen ECOSOC to accelerate sustainable development.

# Summit of the Future: Action 12

Chapter 1: Sustainable Development and Finance for Development

**Action 12:** We will plan for the future and strengthen our collective efforts to turbocharge the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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31. We remain steadfastly focused and committed to achieving the SDGs, and by addressing existing, new and emerging challenges to sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.

We decide to:

(a) Significantly advance progress towards the 2030 Agenda including through strengthening the role of the HLPF.

(b) Invite the SDG Summit to consider in September 2027 how we will advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as a priority and at the centre of our work.

# Summit of the Future: Action 43

Chapter 5: Transforming global governance

**Action 43.** We will strengthen ECOSOC to accelerate sustainable development.

71. We commit to strengthening the work of the Economic and Social Council as a principal organ for [...]

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We decide to:

- (a) Strengthen cooperation between ECOSOC and Peacebuilding Commission
- (b) Facilitate more structured, meaningful and inclusive engagement of NGOs in consultative status
- (c) Support the ECOSOC Youth Forum
- (d) Explore options to revitalize CSW.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

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

## KEY CHALLENGES

# Eight years in, the narratives of the SDGs

### The glass is [more than] *half-empty*

- Only 17 percent of all targets are on track, one half little progress; and one third stalling or regressing - [link](#).
- By 2030, 575 million people will continue to live in poverty and 84 million children not in school
- More than half of the countries lack laws against discrimination of women
- Over 1 bn people live in slums
- Global temperatures will reach 1.5 degrees in 2035... or earlier.

### The glass is [perhaps] *half-full*

- Poverty has been reduced over the long term;
- Health: U5MR are down; life expectancies expand; there has been progress on AIDS, Covid-19, NCDs
- Education: more girls in school, illiteracy is down
- Global safe and sustainable energy use and Internet access is up
- We can make peace in the world.

## HLPF 2025 – “Solutions HLPF”

Theme:

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”

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SDGs to review in-depth:

- **Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- **Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



# 37 VNR presenters at the 2025 HLPF

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Number of Times Presenting/Region	2 <sup>nd</sup> time (11)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Time (22)	4 <sup>th</sup> Time (4)
<b>Africa (10)</b>	Angola, Seychelles, South Africa	Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Sudan	
<b>Asia Pacific (14)</b>	Kyrgyzstan, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand	Indonesia, Philippines, Qatar
<b>Eastern Europe (3)</b>	Bulgaria	Belarus, Czech Republic	
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean (6)</b>	Suriname	Bahamas, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Saint Lucia	Guatemala
<b>Western Europe and Other Groups (4)</b>	Israel, Malta	Finland, Germany	

## The VNRs: Some Numbers

**407** VNRs will have been conducted by July 2025

- 22 in 2016, 43 in 2017, 46 in 2018, 47 in 2019, 47 in 2020 42 in 2021, 44 in 2022, 39 in 2023, 36 in 2024, 37 in 2025

**190** countries plus the EU have presented VNRs

- **152** countries having conducted more than one VNR.

VNRs are considered a success story of the 2030 Agenda

Link to VNR Database: [hlpf.un.org/countries](http://hlpf.un.org/countries)

## VNRs at 10, 2016-2025

### Positives:

- 190 countries plus EU have done at least one VNR.
- 152 countries have done 2 VNRs or more.

### Negatives:

- 7 countries have not done any VNR.
- 38 more countries have done only one VNR.
- Of those, 22 have done their one VNR over five years ago

Global average: 2.13 VNR report per country so far

- Behind: Oceania (1.38), Caribbean (1.53), WEOG (1.83)
- Ahead: East and Southeast Asia (2.31), non-Caribbean ECLAC (3.25)

# SDG Implementation: What the VNRs do (or don't) tell us?

1. VNRs do show if and how much countries have aligned the SDGs to national plans and strategies
2. VNRs do show progress on the SDGs, irrespective of development status
3. VNRs do show activity at the national and subnational levels to achieve the SDGs
4. VNRs do show which goals and targets are least reported
5. VNRs do show countries have chosen to position and prioritize the SDGs
6. VNRs do show gaps and challenges to address systemic issues for transformative change

# SDG Implementation: What the VNRs do (or don't) tell us?

1. VNRs don't initiate change for the SDGs by themselves
2. VNRs don't show why SDGs are so much behind (just narrative, no analysis) (*Fukuda-Parr*)
3. VNRs don't include the views of civil society
4. VNRs don't show robust data figures over time
5. VNRs don't increase the means needed to achieve the SDGs
6. In other words, VNRs do not address the key obstacles to achieving the SDGs
7. VNRs don't show sufficiently what has been achieved since previous report
8. VNRs do not show gaps and challenges to address systemic issues for transformative change

# GSDR 2023 – How to accelerate progress

Six crucial areas where actions can have impacts across the SDGs:

1. Human well-being and capabilities
2. Sustainable and just economies
3. Sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns
4. Energy decarbonization with universal access
5. Urban and peri-urban development
6. The global environmental commons

Five “levers” that achieve the SDGs

1. governance
2. economy and finance
3. science and technology
4. individual and collective action
5. capacity building (added in 2023)

<https://sdgs.un.org/gsdr/gsdr2023>

See also Jeffrey Sachs: Six investment pathways to deliver the SDGs.

<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/six-transitions-investment-pathways-deliver-sdgs>

# Key hurdles in implementing the SDGs

- *Technical:* Data and Statistics
- *Financial:* Financing for Sustainable Development. “The money for the Goals is not there.”
- *Short-termism, distractions and new emerging crises:* COVID-19, war and conflict, politics of the day, weather events, intellectual diversions (“A.I. will ...”)
- *Big structural and systemic issues:* technology divide, access to markets; breaking the “growth paradigm.”
- *Dismissal of multilateralism* as a way to address national challenges collectively



Let's talk 😊