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## Welcome

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) was established in 2011 by the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Korea and is supported by the Republic of Korea Ministry of Environment, Incheon Metropolitan City, and Yonsei University.

The Office is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

DSDG acts as the Secretariat for SDGs, providing support and capacity building for the 17 SDGs. The Division contributes substantive analytical work on thematic issues of the SDGs to various intergovernmental processes on the 2030 Agenda, including those under the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the High-level Political Forum.



UNOSD was established specifically to support developing countries including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), as well as countries in special situations, in devising and implementing policies for sustainable development.

UNOSD delivers on its mandate by promoting synergies between researchers, capacity-building institutions, UN programmes, and other centers of expertise related to sustainable development.

Each year, UNOSD's small but highly dedicated and professional team works with partners to implement an extensive work programme for sustainable development, focused on:

Knowledge Exchange Capacity Building Research and Policy Advisory Services Partnerships

The Office is located in Yonsei University International Campus in the new district of Songdo, Incheon City, Republic of Korea – operating in the heart of a central player in sustainable development global governance and an emerging international hub of sustainable development research, implementation expertise, and policy making.



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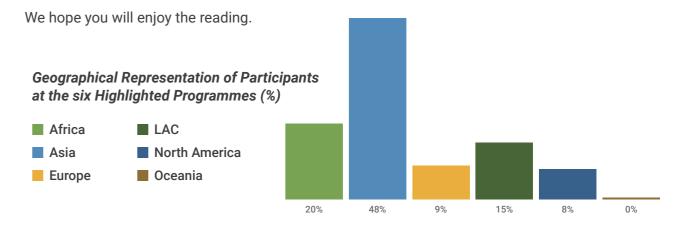
#### **UNOSD in 2020-21**

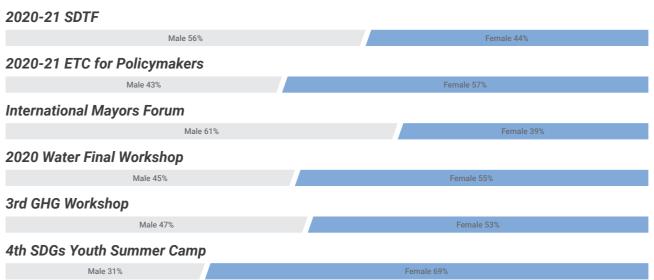
2020 was supposed to be another busy year of work programme implementation for UNOSD, filled with activities related to sustainable development. However, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic upended life and work as we know it. The crisis has served to underscore the urgent need for capacity-building in developing countries. To assist them in recovering from the pandemic and in achieving the SDGs throughout the Decade of Action, UNOSD stands firmly committed to working closely with relevant stakeholders in research and policy advising.

From April 2020 through March 2021, 15 activities were organized and supported by the Office, bringing together over 900 participants from all over the globe, representing governments, UN entities, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders devoted to sustainable development.

UNOSD's annual work plans are aligned with DSDG's objectives and goals. UNOSD supports DSDG's efforts in providing Member States substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their thematic focus areas, especially in the fields of water, energy, climate, and partnerships.

This publication illustrates some of the key work undertaken by UNOSD during the aforementioned period. As the publication is not an exhaustive survey of our activities and programmes, readers may visit us at our website, unosd.un.org, to read more about them.





## **The Office**

In the UN architecture, UNOSD is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

#### **The United Nations System UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS** SECRETARIAT COURT OF JUSTICE Subsidiary Organs Functional Commissions United Nations Office for Project International Civil Aviation Department of Management Main Committees Crime Prevention and Criminal Disarmament Commission Department of Political Affairs United Nations Relief and Works International Fund for Agricultural International Law Commission Population and Development Agency for Palestine Refugees Department of Public Information Development Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Science and Technology for in the Near East Standing committees and Development Social Developm International Labour Organization Department of Peacekeeping United Nations Entity for Gender Operations Equality and the Empowerment International Monetary Fund Funds and Programmes<sup>1</sup> United Nations Forum on Forests Department of Safety and Security International Maritime Organization United Nations Development Related Organizations Regional Commissions<sup>8</sup> Office for the Coordination of Programme Humanitarian Affairs CTBTO Preparatory Commissio ·UNCDF Economic Commission for Africa Union Preparatory Commission for the United Nations Capital Office for Disarmament Affairs Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-UNESCO Development Fund Ban Treaty Organization United Nations Educational Economic Commission for Europe Scientific and Cultural Organization Office of the United Nations High United Nations Volunteers International Atomic Energy Fconomic Commission for Latin United Nations Industrial Agency America and the Caribbean United Nations Environment Development Organization Office of Internal Oversight Services Programme International Criminal Court Economic and Social Commission World Tourism Organization Office of Legal Affairs for Asia and the Pacific United Nations Population Fund International Organization for **ESCWA** Migration Universal Postal Union Economic and Social Commission Office of the Special Adviser or United Nations Human Settlements Programme International Seabed Authority World Health Organization PRSO ITLOS Peacebuilding Support Office United Nations Children's Fund Other Bodies International Tribunal for the World Intellectual Property SRSG/CAAC Committee for Development Organization Office of the Special Representative World Food Programme of the Secretary-General for Committee of Experts on Public Organization for the Prohibition World Meteorological Organization Childeren and Ármed Conflict of Chemical Weapons WORLD BANK GROUP Committee on Non-Governmental Research and Training Office of the Special Representative Organizations World Trade Organization of the Secretary-General on Permanent Forum on Indigenous International Bank for United Nations Institute for Sexual Violence in Conflict Reconstruction and Disarmament Research Development SRSG/VAC Subsidiary Organs Office of the Special Representative UNITAR Joint United Nations Programme Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children United Nations Institute for on HIV/AIDS International Development International Tribunal for the Training and Research former Yugoslavia (ICTY) UNGEGN United Nations Group of Experts International Residual Mechanism United Nations Office for on Geographical Names International Finance for Criminal Tribunals College Disaster Risk Reduction Military Staff Committee UNODC1 Peacekeeping operations and Research and Training United Nations University political missions Departments and Offices<sup>9</sup> UNICRI and Crime United Nations Interregional Crime Standing committees and Other Entities and Justice Research Institute Executive Office of the United Nations Office at Geneva Secretary-General UN-OHRLLS nternational Trade Centre United Nations Research Institute Office of the High Representative Peacebuilding Commission (UN/WTO) Department of for the Least Developed Countries. Economic and Social Affairs UNCTAD1,8 Landlocked Developing Countries United Nations Conference on and Small Island Developing Specialized Agencies<sup>1,5</sup> Trade and Development Department of Field Support High-level Political Forum on Secretary-General Sustainable Development Food and Agriculture Organization Office of the United Nations DGACM United Nations Office at Nairobi High Commissioner for Department for General Assembly Refugees

- Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
   UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- 3 IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA)
- 4 WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and
- 5 Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (inter-governmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
   International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- 8 The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretaria
- 9 The Secretariat also includes the following offices. The Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, Office of Administration of Justice, and the Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

## **For Sustainable Development**

In 2015, all UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a blueprint for ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all by 2030. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals.

The 17 SDGs have 169 targets and are interlinked, meaning that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and so development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

The SDGs aim to be relevant to all countries - poor, rich, and middle-income - to promote prosperity while protecting the environment and tackling climate change. They have a strong focus on improving equity so that "no one is left behind."

The SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals that UN Member States signed in 2000 to achieve targets to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015.











FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SDGS.UN.ORG

> "Sustainable Development is more than a goal. it is our responsibility to our planet and future generations."

> > United Nations Secretary General Antonió Guterres



## **Sustainable Development Goals**



**Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere



**Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



**Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



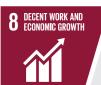
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



**Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



**Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



**Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



**Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



**Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



**Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



**Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



**Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

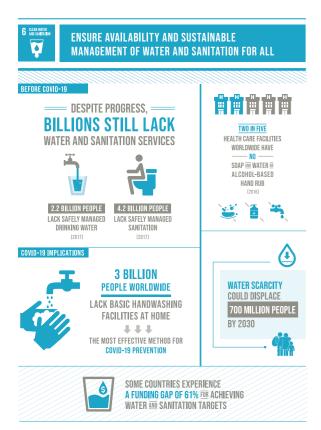


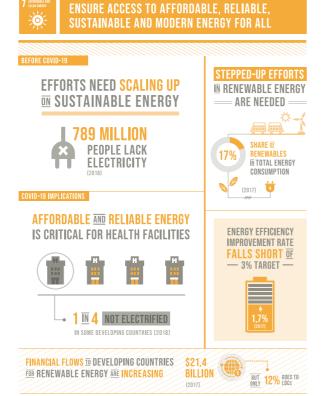
**Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

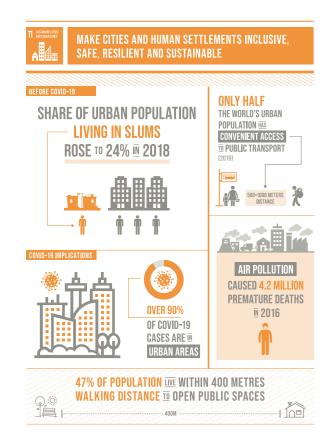


**Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

## **Overview of Some of the SDGs Indicators**

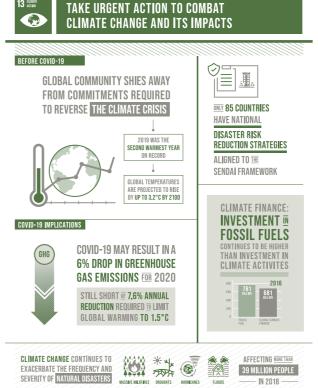


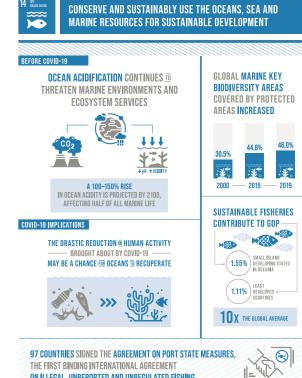




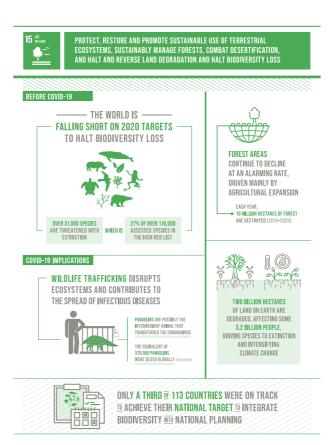


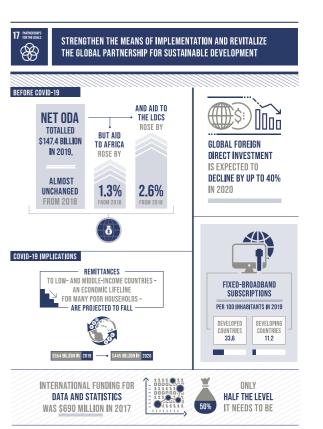
### **UNOSD Focuses on**





ON ILLEGAL. UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING





Source: UN Statistics Division/DESA

## **Highlights of the Year**

## 2020-21 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum 22-26 February 2021

Every year, UNOSD hosts the Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF) in Incheon, Korea with the objective of achieving a better understanding of successes, lessons, and specific mechanisms in order to initiate and foster the transformations needed to make our societies sustainable, resilient, prosperous, peaceful, and inclusive in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. This year, the 2020-21 SDTF was held online due to COVID-19.

This edition of the SDTF was also guided by the 2019 GSDR, particularly the 4 key levers of change to accelerate fundamental transformations toward sustainable development – Governance, Economy and Finance, Individual and Collective Action, and Science and Technology – while focusing on some of the unprecedented challenges the international community is facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The meeting resulted in the "Incheon Communiqué" which provided some thoughts on how to enhance mainstreaming and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Nearly 300 participants took part including representatives and experts of country governments, the United Nations system, UN agencies, NGOs, think tanks, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

## 2020-21 Executive Training for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs 22-26 March 2021

This year's Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ETC) was structured around the overarching theme of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) held 6-15 July 2021: "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the Decade of Action and delivery of sustainable development." The course explored 5 SDG themes that were reviewed during the 2021 HLPF.





The 2021-21 ETC focused on SDG 3 – good health and well-being, SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth, SDG 12 – responsible consumption and production, SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 17 – partnerships, particularly in the context of current challenges emanating from COVID-19. The ETC sought to identify potential solutions to support a swift recovery as well as accelerate the delivery of the SDGs in this Decade of Action.

The ETC virtually gathered more than 600 participants from central and sub-national governments, the United Nations system, UN agencies, NGOs, think tanks, academic institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.



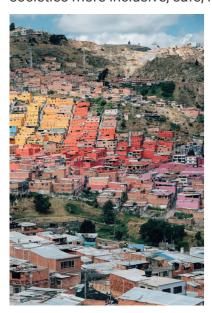
## 2020 International Mayors Forum 2 December 2020

The 2020 International Mayors Forum provided an online platform for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. It consisted in a series of 6 preparatory webinars (held every Thursday from 17 September through 29 October) building up to the official Forum on 2 December 2020.

Through presentations and discussions, the forum explored key aspects of implementing the SDGs, particularly Goal 11 – making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable – at the local level. Participants



sought to understand successes, lessons, and mechanisms that could propel efforts to make societies more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.





The forum gathered over 500 participants and engaged mayors and other sub-national government leaders and representatives, national institutions, academia and non-government experts, youth, and other interested stakeholders concerned with the local implementation of SDGs in UN Member States.



#### Water in the World We Want Phase 2 (2019-2020)

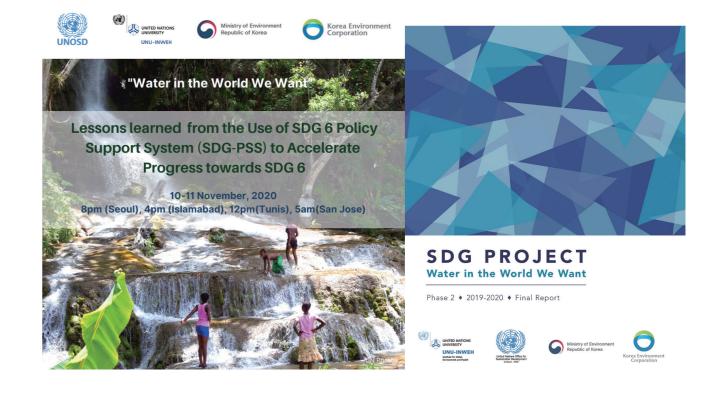
Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) by 2030 is expected to be a crucial milestone for countries in their journey towards sustainability, yet "ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" is a formidable global challenge. Many countries are still struggling to align their policies and implementation plans while lacking reliable evidence for SDG 6.

To address this, UNOSD, the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the Korean Ministry of Environment, and the Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco) together undertook the project Water in the World We Want Phase 2 (2019-2020), building on the successful completion of the first phase, Water in the World We Want: Policy Support System for water-related SDGs (2017-2018).

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to achieving the water-related SDGs by enabling national agencies and organizations to improve their evidence-based policies. The operational outcome was the introduction of the SDG Policy Support System (SDG-PSS), a secure online space hosted by UNU-INWEH that enables Government actors to collaboratively create better, dynamic, and evidence-based water-related policies.



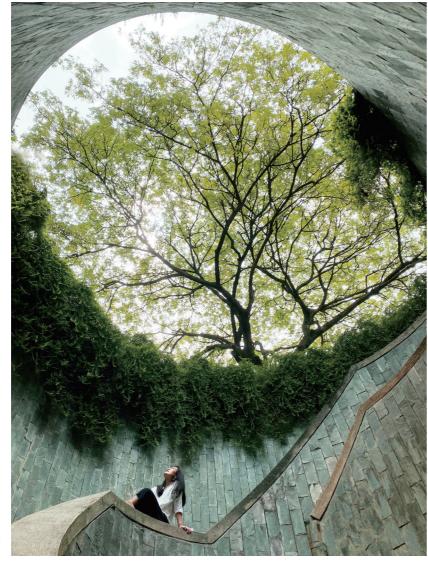
The second phase of the project concluded with a final workshop conducted virtually by UNOSD (10-11 November 2020) that promoted the SDG-PSS to Member States and shared lessons learned from the countries who participated in the Africa Regional Workshop in Tunis, Tunisia (July 2019), the Asia Regional Workshop in Daegu, Korea (September 2019), and the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Workshop in San Jose, Costa Rica (March 2020).



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Greenhouse Gas Inventory System Training Workshop 3-4 March 2021

2020 was one of the warmest years on record. Atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) hit a new record of 410.5 parts per million in 2019, and are expected to continue rising each year, according to the World Meteorological Organization. This is a stark reminder of the relentless pace of climate change and its impact on life around the globe. Action is urgently needed to save lives and livelihoods affected by COVID-19 and the climate emergency.

UNOSD virtually organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Greenhouse Gas Inventory System Training (3-4 March) in partnership with the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea. The workshop provided a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing through presentations and discussions on key aspects of







developing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and utilizing national greenhouse gas inventories for the implementation of SDG 13—taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Speakers were mainly from the Asia-Pacific region and included government officials and climate change experts, who highlighted the GHG inventory system and NDCs by sharing their knowledge and experiences.

### 4<sup>th</sup> SDGs Youth Summer Camp 10-21 August 2020

Actively engaging youth and shaping their knowledge, skills, and mindsets for sustainable development is vital to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and beyond, as they will be the political leaders, social and green entrepreneurs, and champions of change of tomorrow.

In this context, UNOSD has been working to raise youth awareness and develop their capacities for sustainable development. The SDG Youth Summer Camps are aimed at empowering youth leaders to think critically and get engaged in implementing the Global Goals. Over 150 youths benefited from these camps prior to 2020.

The 4<sup>th</sup> SDGs Youth Summer Camp, organized virtually with Yonsei University and the Korea Environment Corporation, was attended by 39 participants who learned to apply design thinking methodology to solve sustainable development issues in real life.

### **The Design Thinking process**



Source: Integrated Consulting Group. Design Thinking Methodology







## **Towards the Next Decade**

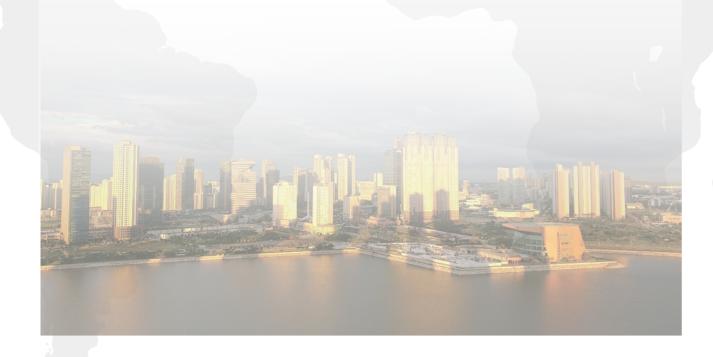
Since its inception, UNOSD has been delivering on its mandate by organizing expert group meetings, preparatory consultations, discussions, and training activities to equip policymakers with the knowledge and skills they need to design and implement sustainable development agendas. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the Office has concentrated its efforts on assisting national and sub-national authorities in implementing the SDGs and adhering to the principles of the 2030 Agenda.

UNOSD organizes capacity building workshops and knowledge exchange events that are particularly directed towards those most in need of such trainings and peer reviews.

Over its first decade of existence, UNOSD has earned the maturity, confidence, and expertise that positions it to continue fulfilling its mandate into the second phase. Specifically, the Office will:

- ◆ Compile, generate, and analyze data and information on the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development to help countries review common problems and take stock of policy options;
- Provide policy advisory support to developing countries tailored to their specific priorities, needs, and circumstances;
- Enhance the capacities of policymakers to integrate the 2030 Agenda into national plans and strategies as well as institutional capacities for the delivery of public goods and services;
- Monitor progress on the implementation of the SDGs;
- ◆ Develop policies, strategies, measures, and actions for expediting the achievement of the SDGs within the Decade of Action.

Looking forward, the Office remains committed to supporting governments and its stakeholders in advancing the Common Agenda throughout the second decade of UNOSD (2021-2030).



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#### **Collaborating partners of UNOSD**

UNOSD continues to strengthen existing partnerships and forges new ones with international organizations including the UN Office for Resident Coordinators, UNDP Country Offices, UN Country Teams, government and non-government organizations, academia, and civil societies.





























































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