



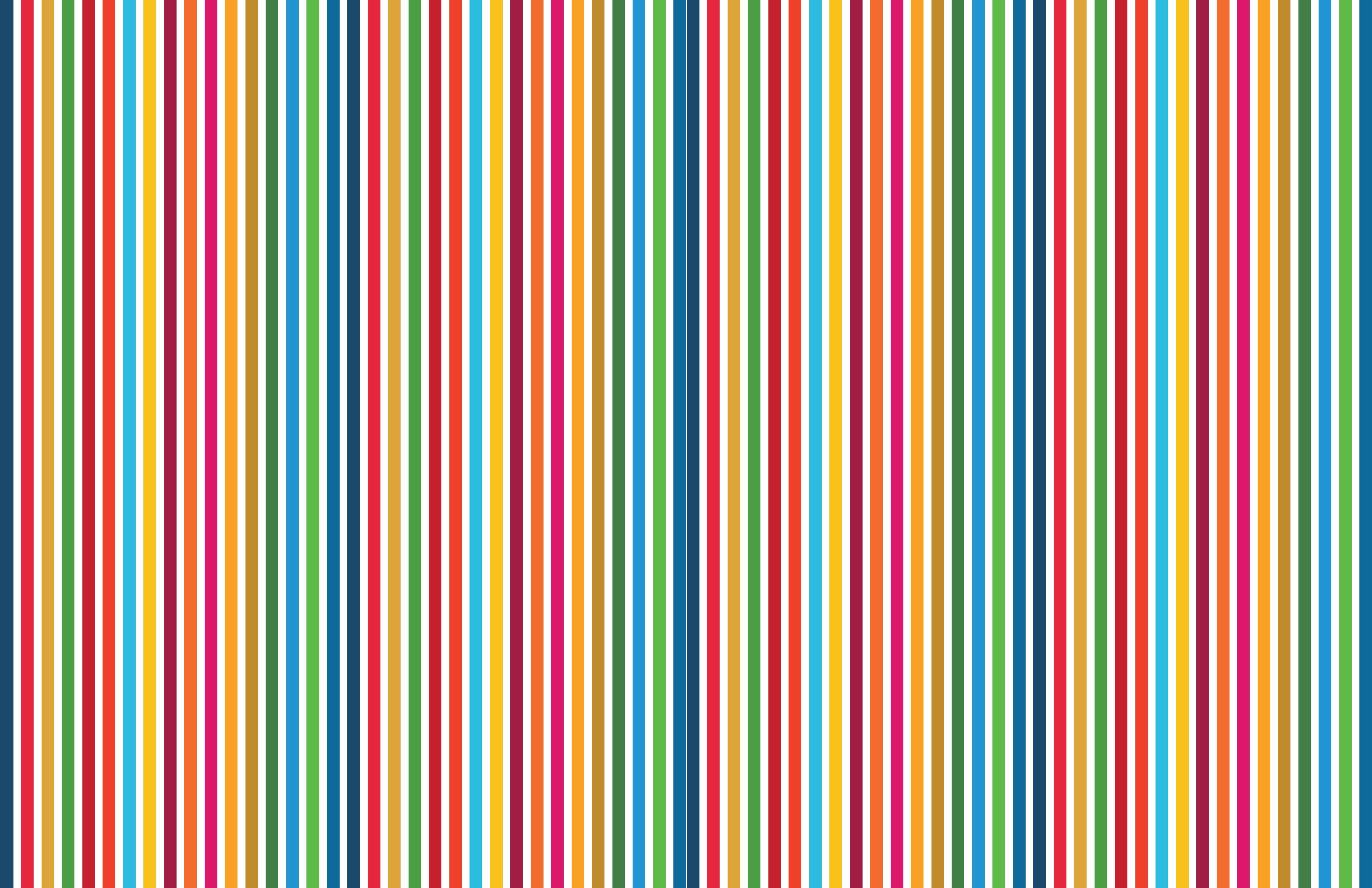
SDG PAVILION REPORT

2023

#ImagineWinning

United Nations Office for Partnerships





SDG PAVILION

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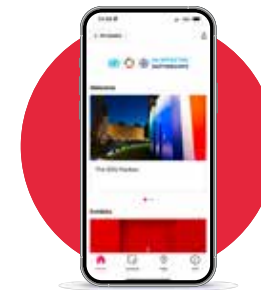
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PREFACE



Amina J. Mohammed
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
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The SDG Pavilion helped mobilize the world to keep the promise of the 2030 Agenda at the Summit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The news has not been good. A trifecta of conflict, climate, and the COVID-19 pandemic have conspired to erode many of the gains we had been making toward achieving the Goals. However, dwelling on these setbacks and on the negative news risks making this lack of progress a self-fulfilling prophecy. As world leaders arrived in New York for the General Assembly High Level Week, we needed a symbol of our resolve to redouble our efforts for success over the next seven years. We can win in the second half.

The Pavilion played a critical role. It was a work of art in itself that unmistakably highlighted the SDG

logo, but it also showcased art that helped visualize the task ahead. Beyond this, it also served as a special meeting place where people – diplomats, government officials, NGO’s, youth leaders, private sector and academics – could debate the way to move forward.

The SDG Pavilion’s success also underscored the United Nations’ unparalleled convening power, bringing together a diverse array of global stakeholders to collaborate and innovate for a sustainable future.

But the work of the Pavilion endures, and this report is not only a reminder of what transpired at the Pavilion, it showcases the people and solutions that will guide us as we accelerate implementation of the Goals.

The last mile to delivering on the 2030 Agenda will require a collective effort and leadership to ensure we meet the hopes and aspirations that leave no one behind.

FOREWORD



Annemarie Hou
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS

You really could not miss the SDG Pavilion if you were anywhere near the United Nations for High-Level week in September 2023.

The SDG Pavilion, based on the SDG logo, was created to be a bright beacon of hope for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit at the 78th UN General Assembly.

On one level, we really need to ensure a global focus on the SDGs, because action needs to be significantly ramped up over the next seven years to successfully achieve the Goals.

But there is another side of the story that must not be forgotten—the question of how all actors can help move progress forward. The SDGs are still achievable, yet the lackluster results so far often suggest that the world might have moved on. Fortunately, world leaders attending the General Assembly continued to

voice support for the Global Goals and reiterated that the SDGs remain the best plan and best hope for peace and prosperity.

The SDG Pavilion was a collaboration of stakeholders, who brought their considerable talents to make it come to life as an art exhibition and convening space for compelling SDG programming.

The Pavilion itself was a co-creation between the UN Office for Partnerships and Project Everyone.

We’d like to thank Member States for their support and leadership - Barbados, Canada, Ghana, Ireland and Qatar.

The creative mindset of Es Devlin, SDG Advocate Richard Curtis and Kate Garvey and the Project Everyone team were invaluable.

And a special thank you to our fiduciary partners at the UN Foundation led by Elizabeth Cousens and the New York team of Sofia Borges.”

We are grateful to have worked with so many teams at the United Nations and partners from around the world - fully committed to winning with the SDGs in the second half. You’ll read more about their efforts in the pages ahead.

The SDGs can only succeed through partnerships, through working with each other. It was always envisioned that partnerships would be the key

ingredient for success on the SDGs. SDG Goal #17 calls for strengthening the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development.

During the course of the Summit and the General Assembly General Debate world leaders focused on the big picture. But meetings in the General Assembly are highly formalized, and it is often difficult for many non-state actors to be heard.

The SDG Pavilion afforded youth activists, NGOs, and academics the freedom to mingle with each other, and also with officials from delegations and international organizations. It was a place where all these non-governmental actors—and those from government—could present, ask questions, and creatively pursue the conversation and action.

It was just that different kind of setting where we heard calls from Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley for a total revamp of finance for development to give developing countries a chance. And we heard Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau call for the decarbonization of global energy supply. It was also a place where women leaders could inspire a new generation to advance women’s leadership and SDG Goal #5.

The SDG Pavilion brought out increased engagement and partnership, and we will need still more. But it is a step toward the fulfillment of the SDGs, and the future we need and want.

INTRODUCTION

SDG PAVILION

15 | FRIDAY

SDG Press Briefing

Democracy for Climate Justice

16 | SATURDAY

Film Screening: *The Agreement*

17 | SUNDAY

SDG Advocates

Ribbon Cutting

28 | MONDAY

SDGs at Halftime

Women Rise Lunch

Halftime Show

19 | TUESDAY

Elevating Education

Financing the SDGs

20 | WEDNESDAY

AI and Innovation

Climate Justice

Green Transition

Carbon Pricing

21 | THURSDAY

SDG Action Zone

Health and Hope

22 | FRIDAY

17 Rooms

In 2015 world leaders from 193 countries unanimously adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda declaring that, “We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda.”

But only seven years later, those words sound very faint as the world faces one crisis after another. A global pandemic, wars, increasing climate impacts, and unconstitutional changes in government, are all feeding a growing pessimism.

With the world on track to meet only 15% of the Goals United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, “Unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda will become an epitaph for a world that might have been.”

A turnaround or breakthrough is needed. The world needs a halftime talk. With the prognosis for the Goals becoming increasingly gloomy, it is time to change the narrative. It is time to try something different. It is time to think differently. It is time to #ImagineWinning.”

At the 2023 United Nations General Assembly, attended by a record 130 world leaders and close to

6000 stakeholders, the Sustainable Development Goals were at the forefront, both at the SDG Summit and in the General Debate.

The two-day SDG Summit resulted in a political declaration that reaffirmed the commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. “The 2030 Agenda remains our overarching roadmap for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. We will act with urgency to realize its vision as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, leaving no one behind.”

Notably, countries agreed that the achievement of the SDGs is in peril. “At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we are alarmed that the progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline. Our world is currently facing numerous crises. Years of sustainable development gains are being reversed. Millions of people have fallen into poverty, hunger, and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, humanitarian needs are rising, and the impacts of climate change more pronounced. This has led to increased inequality exacerbated by weakened international solidarity and a shortfall of trust to jointly overcome these crises.”

But the discussions on how to move forward were not confined to only the official proceedings. A space

was needed outside the formal halls of the United Nations where people could just talk, whether they were world leaders, government officials, experts, community leaders or students.

This was the idea behind the SDG Pavilion, aimed to coincide with the UN’s 2023 High-Level Week. While the Summit itself was intended to focus global attention on the need to redouble efforts to achieve the Goals, another element was needed— an element that could bring life, inspiration, and inclusivity to a movement that could make the Goals happen over the next seven years.

“This is a moment of solidarity for our global village at our global Town Hall—the United Nations,” said Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

The idea was not to replicate the proceedings at the SDG Summit or the proceedings in the General Debate which would take place in the General Assembly Hall, or any of the other 100 stakeholder meetings that were taking place, but rather, to provide a place to look deeper at solutions that were essential for unlocking progress across the 17 Goals. And the discussions in the SDG Pavilion were not only for those in attendance, but to also engage people everywhere in the themes under consideration, that included finance, women’s leadership, climate justice, democracy, harnessing

artificial intelligence, food, and health.

For one week, people—from world leaders to students—came together to discuss how to flip the script on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at half-time, and to lay out plans to move forward through a collaborative mix of panel discussions, lightning talks, performances, and films.

The SDG Pavilion convened 130 speakers with 35 hours of programming. Some 2100 people attended programmes in the SDG Pavilion, while more than 115 000 people engaged with the website and 3.2 million on social media.

The United Nations Office for Partnerships worked with Project Everyone, a not-for-profit communications agency co-founded by SDG Advocate and screenwriter Richard Curtis, in collaboration with artist Es Devlin, to create the SDG Pavilion, a unique convening space and art installation.

The SDG Pavilion was constructed on the North Lawn of the United Nations Headquarters during High-level Week to engage the participants and serve as a beacon of hope. Based on the brightly colored SDG logo, the SDG Pavilion featured 17 doors representing the 17 Goals. Behind each door was an exhibit prepared by a collaboration of artists.

“THIS IS A MOMENT OF SOLIDARITY FOR OUR GLOBAL VILLAGE AT OUR GLOBAL TOWN HALL—THE UNITED NATIONS.”

Amina Mohammed
UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Participants quickly found the SDG Pavilion a unique space. The trees were real and worked to create a forest. Part of artist Es Devlin’s design was to engage participants and show “our innate entanglement with the rest of the biosphere.”

The SDG Pavilion brought a new dimension to the global effort to achieve the SDGs. This report aims to capture the SDG Pavilion experience—the richness of the discussions in the SDG Pavilion and the renewed commitment by its participants to redouble their efforts to see the goals and targets of the SDGs realized in the second half.

130

SPEAKERS CONVENED AT
THE SDG PAVILION

35

HOURS OF PROGRAMMING

21000

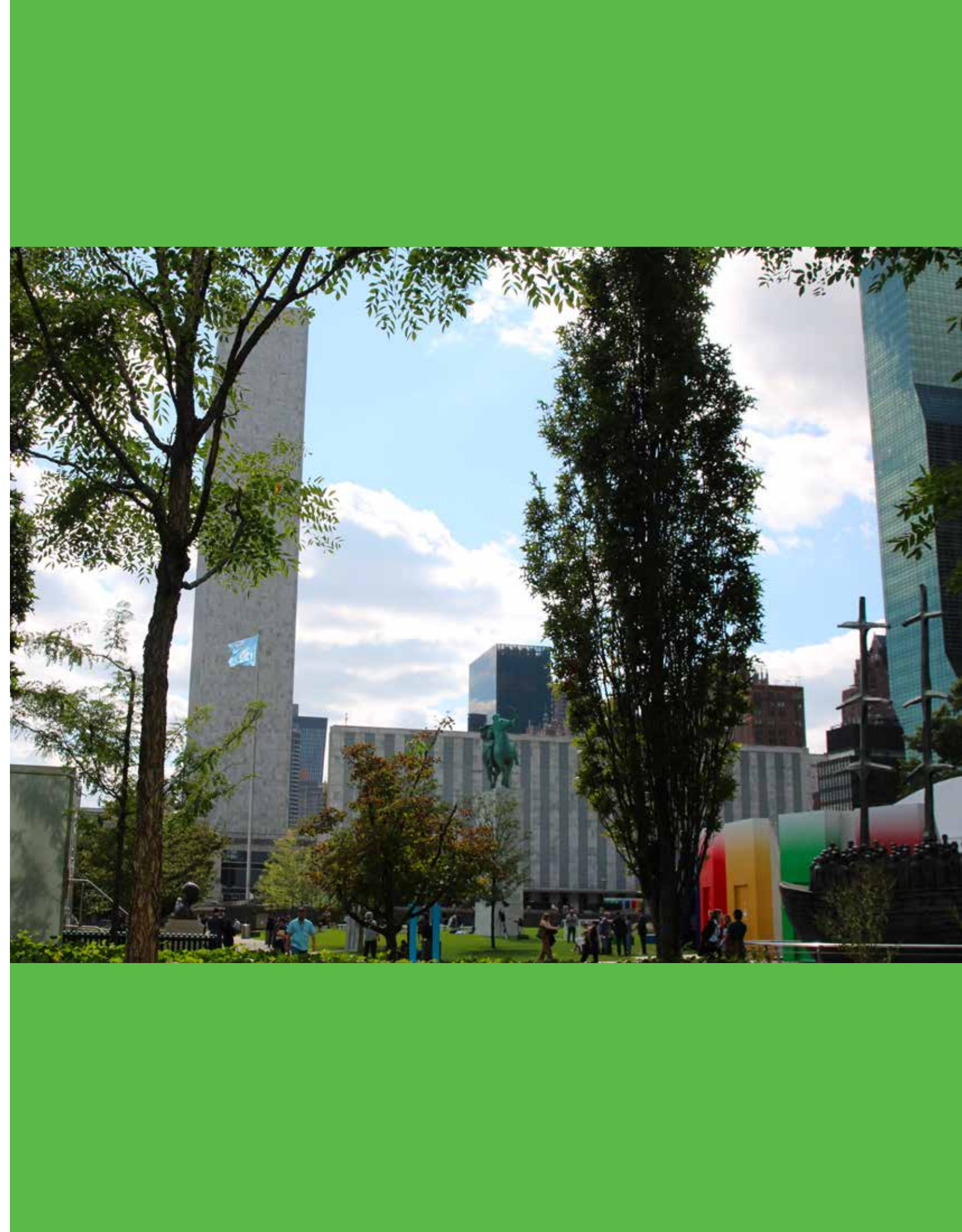
PEOPLE ATTENDED
PROGRAMMES IN THE PAVILION

4.5

MILLION ENGAGED
WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

232 000

PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH THE WEBSITE





“The SDGs are the universally-agreed road map to bridge economic and geopolitical divides; restore trust and rebuild solidarity. Failure to make progress means inequalities will continue to deepen, increasing the risk of a fragmented, two-speed world. No country can afford to see the 2030 Agenda fail.”

António Guterres

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

FRIDAY
15 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01 | SDG SUMMIT PRESS BRIEFING

**02 | EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION:
DEMOCRACY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE ON THE
2023 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY**



AT-A-GLANCE

SDG SUMMIT PRESS BRIEFING



FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

BRIEFING TO PRESS ON THE SDG SUMMIT

A press briefing took place in the SDG Pavilion focused on the SDG Summit and the key high-level events during the United Nations General Assembly on the SDGs.



KEY MESSAGES

With only 15% of the SDG targets on track to be reached by 2030, the picture of progress remains sobering.

As we cross the halfway mark to 2030, one overriding truth stands out in mind: It's easy to be cynical and to believe nothing can be done. But that's not how change happens.

“EVERY TIME YOU SAY WE’RE NOT GOING TO GET THE SDGS BECAUSE WE ARE SO FAR OFF TRACK, WHAT THEN ARE WE TELLING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE? WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO GET THE JOB DONE AND NOT FAIL FOR WANT OF TRYING.”

– AMINA J. MOHAMMED
UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL



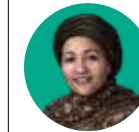
LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



Stephanie Tremblay, Associate Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General

Speakers



Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition



SDG SUMMIT PRESS BRIEFING

At the inaugural event of the SDG Pavilion, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed told a packed press conference that the aim of SDG Summit and a slew of side events during High-level week was to give people hope.

“Every time you say we’re not going to get the SDGs because we are so far off track, what then are we telling millions of people? We have to continue to get the job done and not fail for want of trying,” she said.

She called the progress so far on the SDGs “abysmal,” with reports showing that the world is on track to meet only 15% of the Goals, with the world being buffeted by conflict, climate change, unconstitutional changes in government, and a slow come back from COVID-19. “This has huge implications for everyone, and it is due to our failure to tackle inequalities, divisions, displacement, and gender equality.”

“But the week is about turning things around. We’ve got the tools.” What we need, she said, “is much more determination with those solutions on how we can get this done.”

The one framework to prevent and tackle these challenges, she said, is the one framework that no one argues with—the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. “It’s good for people and it’s good for the planet that we live on.”

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said there might be a temptation

to say the SDGs at halftime are losing relevance as they haven’t changed the world. “I would say you are wrong,” asserting that many countries are redoubling their efforts on the SDGs, such as in Africa, Japan, and the G20.

Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, said the world was now way off track to meet the goal of limiting global temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, which means real things for people, particularly people living on the frontlines of climate change. He said the impacts of climate change were now “unprecedented and escalating” on every continent, and that there was great urgency for action. The Climate Ambition Summit would showcase the “movers and doers” who are taking credible action to decarbonize, as well as to deliver climate justice to people living on the frontlines.

Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said a key issue for the SDG Summit concerned financing—the means of implementation—as many developing countries currently lack the resources to invest in the SDGs. About half the world’s population, he said, or 3.3 billion people, live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on education and health. “How can they invest in the SDGs?” he asked. He added that an SDG stimulus package was needed, along with

affordable long-term loans, and changes in trading regimes, which have become more protectionist and more disadvantageous to developing countries.

The Deputy Secretary-General said the SDG Summit and the Climate Action Summit were aimed at mobilizing greater commitment, resources, solidarity and determination “to face the biggest challenges that we face today.”

In addition to the 2023 SDG Summit, there will be a Climate Action Summit, three meetings on health, and a meeting to help define the “Summit of the Future” in 2024.

Close to 130 world leaders were expected at the United Nations during the week as well as more than 5000 stakeholders.

Ms Mohammed said the SDG Pavilion offered people— delegates and stakeholders— a meeting place outside the halls of the United Nations to continue the discussions around the halfway point of the SDGs.



You can watch the press briefing here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1iqsc71dz>





AT-A-GLANCE

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: DEMOCRACY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE ON THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY



FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

2023 UNDEF SPECIAL EVENT MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

This year’s theme for the 2023 International Day of Democracy, “Empowering the next generation,” focused on the essential role that young people have in protecting democracy and ensuring that their voices are included in the decisions that have a profound impact on their world.

UNDEF—the United Nations Democracy Fund—hosted a special event focused on the need for the values of democracy to accelerate the SDGs, particularly for climate action. The session highlighted the role of youth in protecting and promoting civic space and recognized their leadership in moving climate action forward.

125 people attended the programme in-person, including students from five New York-based universities, climate activists, former and current UNDEF project partners, Member State and civil society representatives.

Watch online SDG Pavilion:
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1m/k1m42ty0e6>

KEY MESSAGES

The session featured an uncommon panel composition that contrasted youth activists at global and national levels with senior United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) officials, which led to a lively and high-spirited conversation:

- The importance of the intersectionality of SDG 16, democracy and climate justice was particularly stressed by all panelists and served as common ground among them.
- Ayisha Siddiqa made clear that “[...] now that elders are listening [...], the opportunity must be used to challenge the status quo and benefit from an expanding society that is working together to address climate change, and advance the SDGs (everything is connected!).
- Mr. Ahmad highlighted UNEP’s role in helping to create a collective youth voice that is translating into a youth and environmental movement.
- Ms Lister applauded youth for increasingly seeking legal avenues to address climate change issues as human rights issues.
- Juliana Uribe’s statement was very precise: to activists, peacebuilding means putting education, climate justice, equality, and employment first.

“IT’S UP TO US TO GO FROM MOMENT TO MOVEMENT, MOVEMENT TO MOMENTUM, VOTE TO POLICY, TO A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OF WHAT WE BELIEVE IS POSSIBLE” .

- SAAD AMER, CLIMATE ACTIVIST, CEO AND FOUNDER, JUSTICE ENVIRONMENT



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



Dieter Wagner, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Speakers



Jamil Ahmad, Director, New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



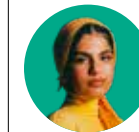
Saad Amer, Climate Activist, CEO and Founder, Justice Environment



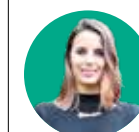
Annemarie Hou, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships



Sarah Lister, Head of Governance, United Nations Development Programme



Ayisha Siddiqa, Youth Climate Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General



Juliana Uribe, CEO and Founder, Movilizatorio

FROM MOMENT TO MOVEMENT, MOVEMENT TO MOMENTUM

15 SEPTEMBER

Opening day at the SDG Pavilion marked the International Day of Democracy. The session focused on the need for democratic values to propel progress on the SDGs, particularly for climate action, and highlighted the role of youth in protecting and promoting civic space and moving climate action forward.

Annemarie Hou, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, opened the session by declaring that urgent climate action must be based on democratic values. "Without the values of democracy, there can be no climate justice."

Ms Hou praised youth for taking centre stage on this issue and referred to the United Nations Secretary-General's message for the Day: that it is not enough to listen to children and young people—they must have meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels.

In his powerful remarks, climate activist Saad Amer, the CEO and Founder of Justice Environment, described the systemic challenges faced by youth looking to drive change and influence response to the climate crisis, and how to overcome them.

"If we're going to solve the climate crisis, we have to envision a new future," said Mr Amer. "If we want

our democratic institutions to remain and thrive, it's up to us to go from moment to movement, movement to momentum, vote to policy, to a fundamental change of what we believe is possible".

Mr Amer's talk was followed by a panel discussion moderated by the United Nations Democracy Fund. It featured Ayisha Siddiqa, one of the Youth Climate Advisors to the United Nations Secretary-General; Juliana Uribe, the CEO and Founder of Movilizadorio, a Colombian civil society organization working to build peace and engage citizens in democratic processes; Jamil Ahmad, the Director of UNEP New York office; and Sarah Lister, the Head of Governance at UNDP.

Ms Lister described the recent recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a breakthrough. Young people, she said, increasingly see climate change issues as human rights issues, and can now pursue legal avenues for address. She added that UNDP was focused on the intersection between legislation, people's capacity to meaningfully engage, and the ability of institutions to implement.

Mr Ahmad said UNEP, is instrumental in bringing together governments, youth, women leaders, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders,

creating a collective voice that is translating into a youth and environmental movement.

For developing countries, he added, a big challenge is access to affordable, sustainable, and predictable financing. "Without access to financial resources, we can't dream of a day when we can overcome climate change."

Ayisha Siddiqa shared a story from 200 years ago, when Native American tribal laws changed to incorporate the viewpoint of children. "Although we are experiencing a crisis which is limiting our resources, we are expanding as a society," she noted. "We need to take a long-term view and take children into account."

Ms Uribe said that when her organization first engaged young Colombians in 2016, and asked them what peacebuilding means to them, they put education, climate justice, equality, and employment at the top of their list.

Today, she added, Colombia is the deadliest country for climate activists in the world and called on her government for more support. Technology, continued Ms Uribe, also presented dangers, particularly when it comes to misinformation, and its effect on democracy, and climate action.





SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SATURDAY
16 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01 | THE SDG PAVILION
ART INSTALLATION

02 | FILM PREMIER OF *THE AGREEMENT:*
HOW THE WORLD ADOPTED THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SDG PAVILION THE ART INSTALLATION





THE CABINET OF CURIOSITIES: OPENING THE DOOR TO NEW STORIES ABOUT THE SDGS

A curated set of artworks were an integral part of the SDG Pavilion design, encouraging viewers to explore and learn more about each of the Goals, and underlining the important role that artists play in helping to communicate—and galvanize support for—the Sustainable Development Goals.

As delegates streamed into United Nations Headquarters for High-level Week of the General Assembly, it was impossible to miss the SDG Pavilion, a semi-circular structure made up of 17 multi-coloured monoliths, placed at the heart of the North Lawn, next to another highly symbolic monument: the statue of St. George slaying the dragon of nuclear conflict. Seen from the plaza by the main entrance, it was as if the SDG wheel, the logo that has symbolized the Goals since they were adopted in 2015, had been brought to life.

Guests invited to the events held at the SDG Pavilion during the week were joined by many other curious onlookers, keen to see this new addition to the statues and artworks donated to the United Nations over the decades. The SDG Pavilion was featured on news shows from around the world as journalists chose to make use of a new, eye-catching backdrop to their reports from UN Headquarters.

As they got closer, they would have seen the logo and Goal number represented by each of the 16-foot-high structures, and a door. These

were the gateways to the “Cabinet of Curiosities,” 17 new artworks inspired by the Goals, and curated by the creative mind behind the SDG Pavilion, Es Devlin. An award-winning artist and stage designer, Ms Devlin has produced shows for musicians including Adele, Beyonce, and U2, and has won three Emmy awards for her work on the 2022 hip-hop themed Superbowl halftime show.

“The Goals are complex,” said Ms Devlin, “so we wanted simple points of entry; we worked with 17 different artists, writers, and activists, each one looking at a Goal through their own lens.” This collaboration led to the creation of a diverse set of original and thought-provoking pieces, encouraging viewers to interact with them, and learn more about the real-world impact of the Goals.

Water, gravity, and a doughnut

For example, behind the door of the light blue monolith was a piece related to Goal #6, Clean Water & Sanitation. *The Shackles of Limitations* is a photograph composed by contemporary artist Aida Muluneh, an Ethiopian photographer and contemporary artist based in Addis Ababa and Cote d’Ivoire, whose work is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. The photograph is a response to the ways that limited access to clean water affects women in her country.

The dark purple monolith representing Goal #8, Decent Work & Economic Growth, housed a collaboration between economist and author Kate Raworth, best known for her best-selling book *Doughnut Economics* that advocates for a global economy working in harmony with the planet’s environment and resources, and Bangladeshi labour activist Kalpona Akter, the Founder and Executive Director of the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity, through which she campaigns for fair wages, garment factory safety, and the right to form labour unions and collectively bargain.

The artwork was in the form of a doughnut, consisting of a circular form made up of a quote from Ms Akter that surrounded Ms Raworth’s book. The quote from Ms Akter calls for the voices of women and girls struggling on poverty wages to be heard, and for legislation guaranteeing a living wage.

The face and voice of the piece referencing Goal #10 (Reduced Inequalities) was Eddie Ndopu, an award winning internationally acclaimed activist and humanitarian from South Africa who is one of the UN Secretary-General’s SDG Advocates. Diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy at the age of two and given only five years to live, he has gone on to become a beacon of hope and possibility for people with disabilities around the world. He plans to be the first person with a disability to go to space.

The work communicates Mr Ndopu’s essential belief that the daily lived reality of people with disabilities, and others who face discrimination, is one of “defying gravity.” He adds, “We are pushing against the gravitational forces of inequality and pushing against the gravitational forces of exclusion constantly.”

‘The human animal is a storytelling animal’

Es Devlin explained that artists need to be part of the conversations because essentially, they are storytellers, and the stories they tell influence the way that we think about the SDGs.

“The human animal is a storytelling animal, but we think that we’re living in a story of separation. It’s for artists to remind us that we’re not, that we live in a story of continuity, because every act that each of us takes, no matter how great or small, will affect the rest of us. Every act is an act of global partnership.”



CONNECTING THE WORLD: BLOOMBERG CONNECTS AND GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE

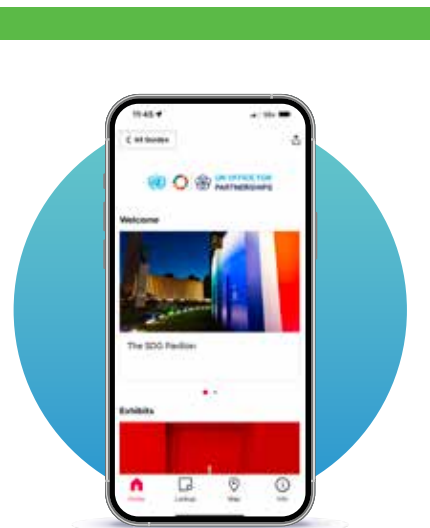
The 17 exhibitions of the SDG Pavilion provided unique experiences of each Goal too good to keep to ourselves. With the partnership of two not for profit organizations Bloomberg Philanthropies and Google.org, the SDG Pavilion can be explored online the apps *Bloomberg Connects* and *Google Arts & Culture*.


Bloomberg Connects and *Google Arts & Culture* offer access to exhibitions from more than 200 museums and over 3000 cultural institutions respectfully from around the world – making art and culture accessible to anyone, anywhere.

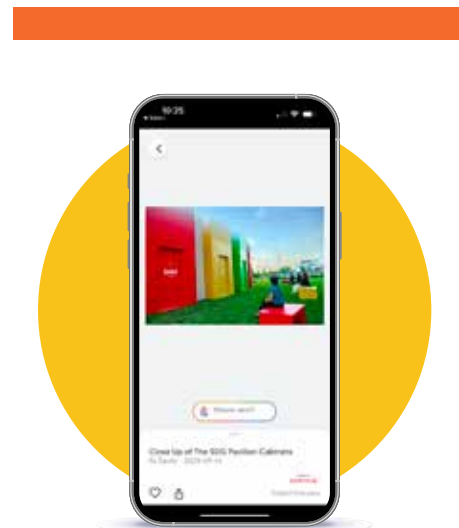
A search for the SDG Pavilion reveals a comprehensive overview of the structure, detailed presentations of each 17 Cabinets, the thinking behind each art piece, and key progress data of the SDG that the art is illustrating. In addition, both apps offer a biographical introduction of the artists.


Users can also listen to the recording of stage designer and artist Es Devlin, the guiding mind behind the structure of the SDG Pavilion, explaining her vision. In her commentary, she says that

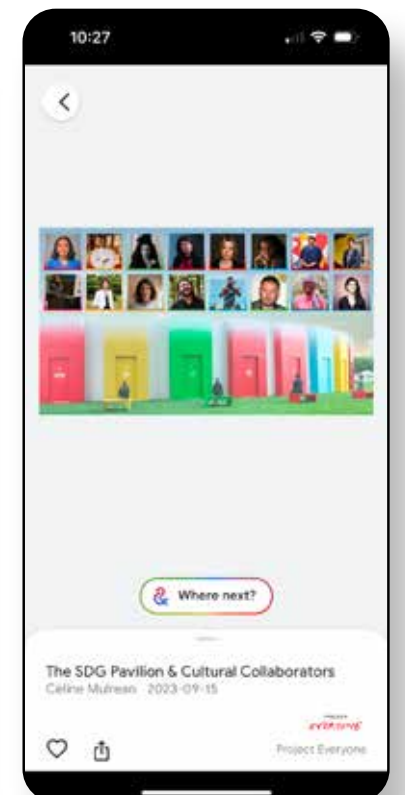
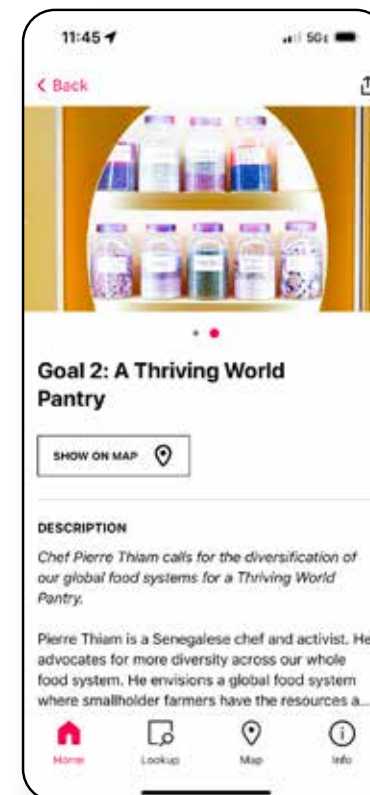
“every act that each of us takes, no matter how great or small, will affect the rest of us. Every act is an act of global partnership, and the 17 SDGs are like a globally co-authored script for each of us to interpret and weave into our practice.”



 You can access the Bloomberg Connects app here: bloombergconnects.org
The SDG Pavilion pages are available in 30 languages.



 You can access the Google Arts & Culture app here: artsandculture.google.com





AT-A-GLANCE

FILM SCREENING: *THE AGREEMENT*



SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

THE AGREEMENT

The Agreement is an independent documentary film on the making of the SDGs about how the world came together to create a unified vision for a better future for all resulting in the Sustainable Development Goals. This world premiere was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations, and the United Nations Office for Partnerships at the SDG Pavilion on the North Lawn of the UNHQ.

KEY MESSAGES

The film reminds us how hard it was to win agreement on the SDGs.

“WITH SEVEN MORE YEARS TO GO [UNTIL THE 2030 DEADLINE], I HOPE THIS MOVIE WILL INSPIRE PEOPLE, REMIND THEM WHAT IT TOOK TO GET *THE AGREEMENT* THROUGH, AND TAKE THE NEXT STEPS.”

— AMINA J. MOHAMMED
UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

“NO MEMBER STATE EVER SAID THAT THE SDGS WERE THE WRONG AGENDA OR ANALYSIS.” — “EVERYONE AGREED AND ENDORSED THEM. THE SDGS ARE THE BEST HOPE FOR HUMANITY.”

— FERGAL MYTHEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS



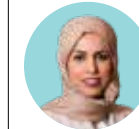
LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



Annemarie Hou, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Speakers



Alya Ahmed Saif Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations



Elizabeth Cousens, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation, and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council



John McArthur, Executive Producer of *The Agreement*



Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



Raeshem Nijhon, Director of *The Agreement*



Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

WORLD PREMIER OF *THE AGREEMENT: HOW THE WORLD ADOPTED THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS*

16 SEPTEMBER 2023

In 2015 the countries of the world agreed on a unified vision for a better world for all, The Sustainable Development Goals. A screening of *The Agreement*, a film about the painstaking work it took to get there, was shown at the SDG Pavilion on Saturday 6 September 2023.

The documentary focuses on the efforts of Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General, to gain consensus and get the Goals adopted. Speaking before the screening, Ms Mohammed, surveyed the audience and seeing many of the colleagues who had helped to drive through the adoption of the SDGs, said that the event was like a reunion of friends.

Reminiscing about the negotiations, the Deputy Secretary-General said that it often felt as if it was one step forward, 10 steps back. But, she added, the United Nations System rose to the occasion.

“With seven more years to go [until the 2030 deadline],” she said, “I hope this movie will inspire people, remind them what it took to get *The Agreement* through, and take the next steps.”

Fergal Mythen, Ireland’s Ambassador

to the United Nations, acknowledged the huge difficulty of achieving multilateral agreements, but said the negotiations showed that it can be done.

“No Member State ever said that the SDGs were the wrong agenda or analysis,” he said. “Everyone agreed and endorsed them. The SDGs are the best hope for humanity.”

Following the screening of the film, the director, Raeshem Nijhon, and Executive Producer John McArthur, joined Ms Mohammed, and some of the people who took part in the negotiations, including David Donoghue, former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, was Co-Facilitator of the intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda; Elizabeth Cousens, currently the President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation, who was United States Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council during the negotiations; and Nikhil Seth, the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), who was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The panel discussed their desire to capture and tell the true story of how the negotiations took place.

Mr. Seth expressed his feeling of nostalgia, of “being in the trenches for three years, working with wonderful leaders through agony and ecstasy,” while Ms Mohammed said that the film was a reminder of why we need the SDGs.

“We haven’t done what we should and could have done,” she said. “We need to take another step forward and keep the promise we made to billions of people.”

In closing remarks, Alya Ahmed Saif Al Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, said that the film depicts the shared commitments that underpin one of most significant agreements in United Nations history.

She compared the process to the drafting of the SDG Summit political declaration. “The negotiations were painful, but it’s worth every moment. It’s never a waste of our time, because every word counts.”

The world premiere was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland, the Permanent Mission of Qatar, and United Nations Office for Partnerships, at the SDG Pavilion on the North Lawn of the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Agreement was directed by Raeshem Nijhon, and produced by Nicole Galovski of Culture House. John W McArthur, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution, was an Executive Producer.







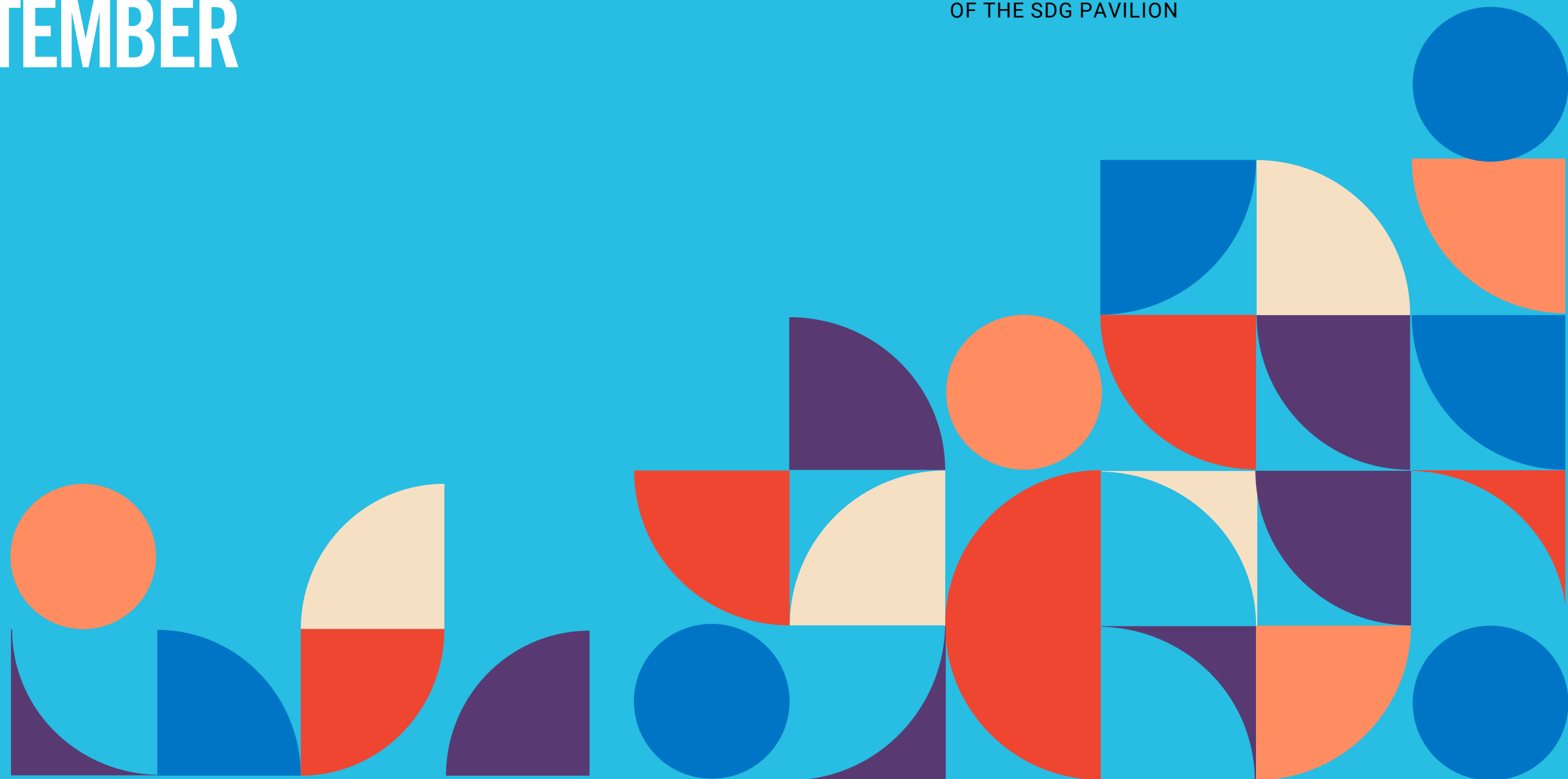
SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SUNDAY
17 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01| SDG ADVOCATES
ANNUAL MEETING

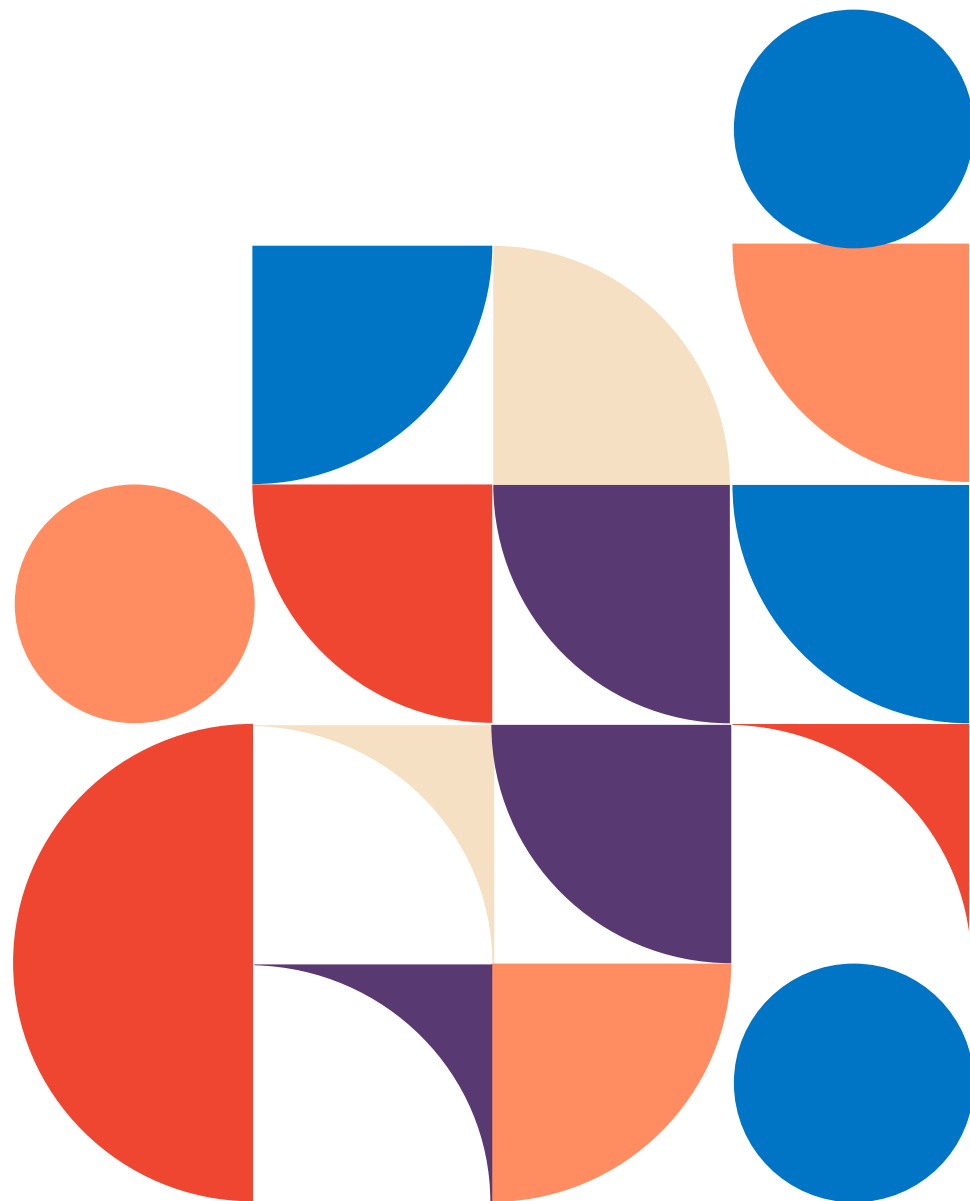
02| INAUGURAL MOMENT
OF THE SDG PAVILION





AT-A-GLANCE

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SDG ADVOCATES ANNUAL MEETING



SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

SDG ADVOCATES

The UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocates meet with the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General every High-Level week of the United Nations General Assembly to share insights and discuss future mobilizations.

This year the meeting took place in the SDG Pavilion. Each Advocate shared their vision and advocacy plans for the next seven years as well as their insights for the Secretary-General.

KEY MESSAGES

Advocacy is crucial in mobilizing action at both the grassroots level and the highest political level.

There is an encouraging movement of multi-sectoral commitments and action for the SDGs, going beyond national governments to private sector, individuals, and local authorities.

There is great potential and opportunities in new technological innovations to accelerate the SDGs in the second half.

There are still overwhelming humanitarian crises around the world related to conflict, dire living conditions, and grave consequences of unresolved debt structures.



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



Annemarie Hou, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Participants



António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



Earle Courtenay Rattray, United Nations Chef de Cabinet



Mia Mottley, UN SDG Advocates Co-Chair and Prime Minister of Barbados



Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of the Belgians



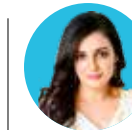
His Highness Muhammadu Sanusi II, 14th Emir of Kano



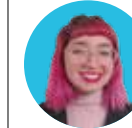
Richard Curtis, Director, Screenwriter and United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



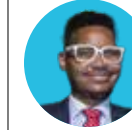
Hindou Ibrahim, Activist for Climate Action and Indigenous Rights



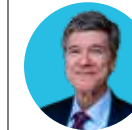
Dia Mirza, Actor, UN Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador



Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, STEM activist



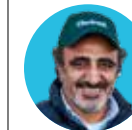
Eddie Ndopu, Award-Winning Humanitarian Humanitarian



Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University



Brad Smith, President, Microsoft Corporation (virtual)



Hamdi Ulukaya, Founder and CEO of Chobani, Founder of Tent Partnership for Refugees



Forest Whitaker, Founder and CEO, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative

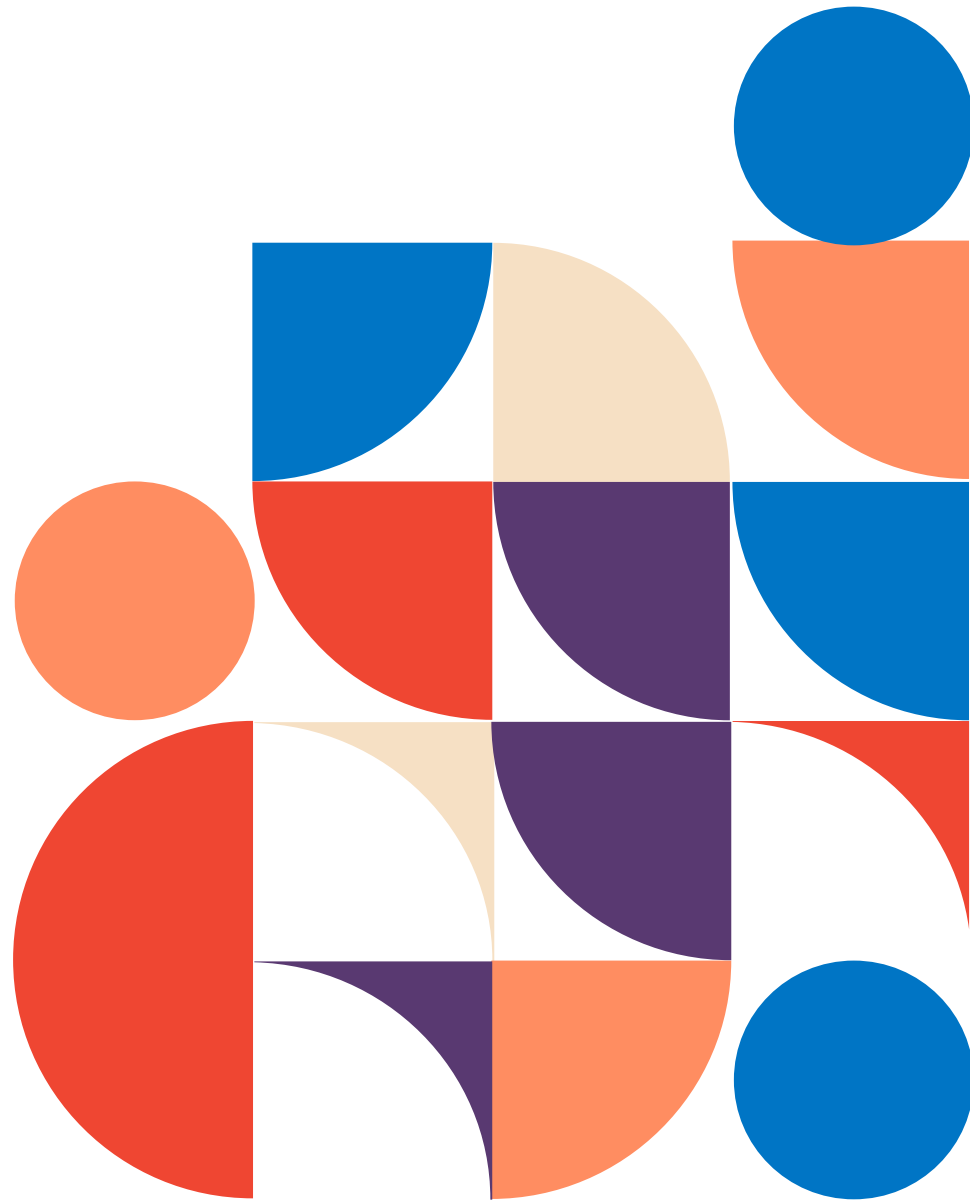






AT-A-GLANCE

SDG PAVILION INAUGURAL MOMENT



The official launch of the SDG Pavilion for the High-level Week of the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

Launched with Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, and Es Devlin the artist behind the artistic vision of the SDG Pavilion.



LIST OF SPEAKERS



Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Co-Chair of SDG Advocates



Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar



Es Devlin, Artist and designer of the SDG Pavilion



Annemarie Hou, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships

“THE SDG PAVILION WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN INSPIRED GROUP OF PARTNERS COMMITTED TO THE KEEPING THE PROMISE OF THE SDGS.”

— ANNEMARIE HOU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS IN NEW YORK CITY: THE SDG PAVILION ‘MINI-FOREST’

The SDG Pavilion was unlike any convening space ever seen at United Nations Headquarters. Entering the space was like walking into a living, breathing ecosystem, like a forest.

The outside of the SDG Pavilion was an extremely striking visual representation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the multicoloured SDG wheel logo. But the innovation also extended to the interior of the structure.

The guests attending the events hosted at the SDG Pavilion during High-level Week of the United Nations General Assembly were treated to a very different kind of conference space – a space filled with large trees, shrubs of various sizes, and ground cover. The overall effect of the foliage was a cozy, intimate forest environment, a reminder that the Goals are designed to create a better future for both people and the planet.

An ‘assembly of trees’

The interior of the SDG Pavilion was designed by renowned landscape architect Phil Jaffa, and conceived by Es Devlin (the creative mind behind the entire structure) in collaboration with the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), a not-for-profit nature conservancy founded by actress and Broadway star Bette Midler. The idea, according to Ms Devlin, was to create

an “assembly of trees, a parallel to the assembly of humans in the United Nations Headquarters across the North Lawn.”

The New York Restoration Project stewards over 80 acres of city parkland and owns and operates 52 community gardens across all five boroughs. The Project also builds almost two dozen new gardens and distributes thousands of free trees throughout New York City every year.

Since it launched more than 25 years ago, the organization has supported and strengthened communities, and improved the physical environment, from the transformation of long-neglected parks to the restoration of the Harlem River shoreline. Over time, NYRP has evolved into an environmental justice nonprofit and citywide nature conservancy, preserving community gardens and other green spaces, and setting the standard for citywide greening efforts.

Amberglow, Satyr Hill, and Jack Frost

Organizations such as the New York Restoration Project have been vital to ensuring that the citizens of the city have access to green spaces; since 1995, Community Gardens, operated and maintained entirely by volunteer-led groups, are now some of the

most popular areas of the city, and are a demonstration of the power of citizens to effect tangible change in their neighbourhoods.

The involvement of the Project was an important element in ensuring that sustainability remained part of the SDG Pavilion’s legacy, as was the decision to only source indigenous trees and shrubs, which meant that when the SDG Pavilion was taken down, the trees could be replanted in parks and recreational areas without damaging the ecosystem.

The names of the trees and shrubs are an evocative reminder of Manhattan’s past before it became a densely populated urban metropolis, when it was inhabited by the Lenape people, and largely consisted of vast forests. They include Amberglow and Green Mountain (small canopy trees); Satyr Hill and Autumn Brilliance (large shrubs); and Coral Bells and Jack Frost (ground cover).

The trees were planted over the Autumn of 2023, in gardens that New York Restoration Project is either building or renovating throughout some of the city’s least green, most underserved communities. The Project has already replanted some of the trees in Highbridge Park in northern Manhattan.







SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

MONDAY
18 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01| SDGS IN THE SECOND HALF

02| WOMEN RISE FOR ALL

03| THE HALFTIME SHOW





AT-A-GLANCE

SDGS IN THE SECOND HALF



MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

SDGS IN THE SECOND HALF

World leaders and experts engaged in a spirited discussion on the second half of the SDGs—with a deep dive into Goal #2 Zero Hunger. This session looked into the future, asking what are the trends and forces for the next seven years? What is standing in the world’s way to reach the SDGs? And how can we take solutions to scale for people and for planet?

As we dove into the issue of food systems, we explored more efficient and sustainable approaches to implement in the second half of the SDGs. Food systems stand at the heart of many SDGs, affecting climate change, the state of hunger, poverty, economic growth, and inequalities. Sustainable food systems are crucial to the health and prosperity of people and the planet.



Watch online SDG Pavilion - SDGs in the Second Half: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k15/k15jbi53c1>

KEY MESSAGES

Key factors identified by panelists as accelerators for SDG progress in the second half are: restructuring the global financial architecture, urgent action and political will, and normalizing the SDGs.

Addressing food security has the potential to unlock most SDGs. For that to happen, urgent action is needed to reduce food loss and waste and to scale up local solutions.

For significant SDG progress in the second half, a robust, global data collection and distribution infrastructure is fundamental.

“UP UNTIL NOW, THE WORLD HAS BEEN CREATED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT, FOR ME TO BE WEALTHY, YOU MUST BE POOR.”

— NANA AKUFO-ADDO, PRESIDENT OF GHANA; CO-CHAIR, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL’S SDG ADVOCATES EMERITUS



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



Sumi Somaskanda, Chief Presenter, BBC News

Speakers



Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana; Co-Chair, United Nations Secretary-General’s SDG Advocates Emeritus



Gordon Brown, United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



Stefanos Fotiou, Director, United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and Director, FAO Office of Sustainable Development Goals



Brigitte Hoyer Gosselink, Director, Product Impact, Google.



Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA



Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London



Eduardo Paes, Mayor, Rio de Janeiro



Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division



Lana Weidgenant Campaigns and Policy Manager, ProVeg International



SDGS IN THE SECOND HALF

18 SEPTEMBER 2023

A discussion on the years left until the 2030 SDG deadline – the “second half” – and a deep dive into SDG #2: creating a world free of hunger.

The Monday morning event in the SDG Pavilion opened with a look ahead to the years that remain until the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline. World leaders and experts discussed the trends and forces affecting the Goals, and how solutions can be scaled up for people and the planet.

The session began with a panel discussion, chaired by Sumi Somaskanda, a senior BBC News presenter, on the biggest challenges facing the SDGs, and what needs to happen, in terms of interventions, partnerships and strategies, to achieve them.

Nana Akufo-Addo, the President of Ghana, and Co-chair of the SDG Advocate Emeritus Group, was joined on the panel by Eduardo Paes, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, and Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College, London.

“Up until now, the world has been created on the principle that, for me to be wealthy, you must be poor,” declared President Akufo-Addo. “Is it possible for all of us eight billion people on this planet to be able to

live and make use of its resources in such a way that we can all be comfortable?” Financing is needed to resolve the climate crisis, he concluded, and the development of green economies.

On behalf of the international community, Gordon Brown apologized to Africa for allowing people to die by failing to transfer available vaccines. “We let the hungry starve through failing to transfer available food, and we’re letting droughts and floods destroy people’s lives, because we’re not transferring the resources that we promised for climate finance and climate change.” Mr Brown called for coordinated action, at a global level, so that the countries with the capacity to pay – the historic emitters – finance their fair share.

Professor Mazzucato objected to the description of a financing gap. “Anytime anything is addressed as a gap, you’re just filling a hole, as opposed to asking, ‘where did that hole come from?’” Rather than thinking of market failures, she called for the creation of a different type of economy that is truly inclusive and sustainable.

The panel was followed by a demonstration by Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and Brigitte Hoyer Gosselink, Director of Product Impact at Google.org of a

new data tool that can visualize the progress of the SDGs.

“At the halfway point of the SDGs, data has never been more important,” said Mr Schweinfest. “We need robust, authoritative data to understand where it’s most urgent to take action in the second half.”

Ms Gosselink explained that by making data truly accessible, nonprofits, policy makers, and the public can get the insights they need to make decisions that are rooted in a deep understanding of the issues they face, and the underlying problems that are driving them.

The session concluded with a deep dive into food systems, which stand at the heart of many SDGs, affecting climate change, the state of hunger, poverty, economic growth, and inequalities.

The speakers were Agnes Kalibata, the President of AGRA, an organization focused on sustainably growing Africa’s food systems, and Special Envoy for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit; Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the SDG Office at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and Lana Weidgenant, Campaigns and Policy Manager at ProVeg International, a food awareness organization working to transform the global food system.

They discussed the policy changes that could make food systems more resilient, and some of the daily practices that people can make to reduce the impact that food production and consumption have on the environment.

Dr Kalibata emphasized the importance of local solutions, increasing diversity in food systems, and accountability for the loss and damage that is being created by the climate crisis. The global community,

she said, needs to fix the problem, which is “leading to hunger, death, and the destruction of life as we know it.”

The theme of accountability was picked up by Mr Fotiou, who said that the issue should be looked at more broadly. “Why are we always asking for accountability only from the governments?,” he asked. “We need to ask for accountability from the private sector, because actually

it’s the private sector that is profiting from the consumption of the people.”

Ms Weidgenant’s organization, ProVeg International, campaigns for a reduction in meat consumption. She called for a food system that has less industrial animal agriculture, less deforestation, and more sustainable, healthy, and plant-rich consumption, particularly in Global North countries like the United States, Western Europe, and Australia.



Watch online SDG Pavilion - SDGs in the Second Half: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k15/k15jbi53c1>





Halftime Talk with Massimo Bottura, Chef, Activist and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador

We caught up with Massimo Bottura, Chef, food systems activist and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador at the SDG Pavilion during the UN General Assembly. He is using the platform and visibility he's built to amplify food messages to the world—especially when it comes to showing people how they can help to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "I care. I care about my future. Our future. That's why I'm doing what I do," he says.

Food security for the world

Each and every day, tons of edible food are lost and wasted. It's not limited to retail and food services—it's happening in our households too. We need an urgent change in the global food and agriculture system.

A longtime voice in promoting sustainable food systems and an activist for people living with food insecurity, Bottura explained that: "We produce food for 12 billion people and we waste 33% of what we produce. This is something insane."

With the impacts of the pandemic and rising food prices, we must push for progress to achieve Goal #2: Zero Hunger. "800 million people don't have access to food," he shares. It's time to act now.

Actions you can take, according to Chef Massimo:

Small steps can make a big change. Bottura advocates for putting a stop to food waste through a few simple actions



Massimo Bottura, Chef, food systems activist and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador takes a tour of the SDG Pavilion Global Goal #2 with Executive Director of UN Partnerships Annemarie Hou. Photo credit: UN Partnerships/Pier Paolo Cito

at home, while dedicating more time and efforts to shop locally and seasonally.

The benefits are endless to working in your community to end hunger and over-consumption.

A testimony to persevere in the Second Half

The SDGs are down at halftime, but any given match is won in the second half—that's what the SDG Halftime Campaign is all about. Bottura reflected on a time when he struggled and was down during his career and advocacy work for transforming food systems and raising his voice for people in need.

"I had my ideas and I believed in my ideas. I kept fighting for my ideas and I had to sell everything I had that time, for years, after years, after years until someone recognized what I was doing."



Find Massimo Bottura here:
[instagram.com/massimobottura/](https://www.instagram.com/massimobottura/)

Massimo Bottura has remained strong in his call to action since the beginning of his journey. He shared that at times people would question his words, but he never gave up. His journey of perseverance and resilience can be applied to any cause you believe in—whether it be food security, sustainability or ending inequalities.

"I understood the importance of me stepping out of the kitchens and sharing all my experiences with people, they really need power and strength to keep going in their everyday life."

We can all learn from Bottura and apply this motivation to keep going and work together to achieve the SDGs for people and planet.

"What we should do all together—because we are the revolution you know—is just buy local, buy with consciousness and the sense of responsibility,"

"Food systems are really at the heart of achieving many SDGs...think about food security and food systems as unlocking the key to accelerating action on SDGs."

Sumi Somaskanda

CHIEF PRESENTER, BBC NEWS





AT-A-GLANCE

WE THE WOMEN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AT THE UNITED NATIONS



MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

WOMEN RISE FOR ALL LUNCH AT THE 78TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

With women’s leadership networks gaining visibility and leverage, the Women Rise for All Lunch was convened by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and is set to become an annual event focusing on women’s leadership and progress for the SDGs.

Launched at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic by the Deputy Secretary-General, Women Rise for All is an initiative that highlights the leadership of women as they address global crises. The initiative has continued to evolve with the aim of being a gateway that connects leaders to different networks around the world and to the United Nations.

The event celebrated and recognized the remarkable contributions of influential women leaders from various backgrounds and sectors. Svenja Schulze, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany launched the We the Women campaign – a global initiative that will crowdsource and capture the voices, experiences, and creativity of the world’s women and girls to inform solutions to some of the most pressing challenges the world is facing. The event also featured a fireside chat between former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Melinda French Gates, and Actress, Lily Singh.

KEY MESSAGES

New initiative aims to highlight the leadership of women

Event celebrated and recognized the remarkable contributions of influential women

“FACING UNPRECEDENTED AND INTERSECTING CRISIS, RISING INEQUALITY, BRUTAL CLIMATE IMPACTS, AND SEEMINGLY ENDLESS CONFLICT, WE NEED A NEW PARADIGM OF LEADERSHIP TO RESPOND: LEADERSHIP THAT EMBODIES THE VALUES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE AMBITION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SDGS.”

– AMINA J. MOHAMMED, UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY-SECRETARY GENERAL

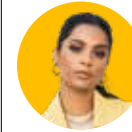


LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Folly Bah Thibault, Principal Presenter, Al Jazeera English



Lilly Singh, Actress, Writer and Producer

Speakers



Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General



Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany



Jacinda Ardern, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand



Melinda French Gates, Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

WOMEN RISE FOR ALL



Women Leaders Inspiring Change: A Fireside Chat with Dame Jacinda Ardern and Melinda French Gates

The leadership style of women can be transformational and deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was the focus of the fireside discussion that took place as part of the Women Rise for All Lunch, convened by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General.

Hosted by actress and writer Lilly Singh, the candid conversation engaged two influential women leaders: Her Excellency The Right Honorable Dame Jacinda Ardern, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Melinda French Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Ms. Lilly Singh kicked off the discussion asking, "It's one thing to say you're a leader and it's another to act like a leader. What are the qualities and characteristics you have, either naturally or through development, that make you a good leader?" Dame Jacinda Ardern responded, "Some may frame humility as a weakness, but it is a strength." Echoing that sentiment, Ms. Melinda French Gates stressed that "The only way to get things done is to collaborate. That's a trait that I see more often in female leaders than I see in males."

The conversation then delved into their personal journeys, including the challenges they faced behind the scenes, and touched upon the transformative potential of women's leadership as well as the barriers that women still encounter. "Set your own agenda or someone else will," stated Ms French Gates, encouraging women to get comfortable with who they are and embrace their imperfections.

Speaking on the preconditions to achieving women in leadership, Dame Ardern said, "We need to address the challenges and underlying issues in the first place." She also underscored the importance of supporting women to overcome their internal barriers.

Concluding the discussion, Ms French Gates highlighted the need to empower women at all levels and find male allies. The fireside chat left an indelible mark, igniting a collective commitment to championing women's leadership in the journey towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.



“We the Women” Campaign: A Global Initiative to Inform a Sustainable and Inclusive Future

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, together with Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, launched a global initiative that will crowdsource and capture the voices, experiences, and creativity of the world’s women and girls to inform solutions to some of the most pressing challenges the world is facing.

The “We the Women...” campaign was launched on the sidelines of the SDG Summit in New York during a networking event of 100 influential women leaders from around the world, who gathered to recommit to efforts which bring visibility and networked support to women in all fields, under the umbrella of ‘Women Rise for All.’ Speaking at the initiative’s launch, Ms Mohammed said, “Facing unprecedented and intersecting crisis, rising inequality, brutal climate impacts, and seemingly endless conflict, we need a new paradigm of leadership to respond: Leadership that embodies the values of the United Nations and the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

“I hope our dialogue today renews our energy for the task ahead: shaping a world that works for all. That will only be possible if we have women front and center - leading the way and keeping the force of hope alive,” she added.

Minister Schulze said: “The world needs gender equality to get the Agenda 2030 back on track. Because no society can afford to leave the potential of half of its population untapped if it wants to develop sustainably. We the women need to claim our rightful place. And that is at the table where decisions are being made. Let’s work together to shape a United Nations that puts women and girls at the center.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has committed to a new vision for inclusive multilateralism, with women and girls at the centre. This commitment recognizes equality as a human rights imperative and a critical accelerator for achieving the SDGs by 2030. ‘We the Women...’ will engage women worldwide in shaping collective solutions. The campaign will reach out to women and girls in every region, inviting the submission of thoughts, ideas, and aspirations for a more sustainable and inclusive future, pathways to achieve this, and the actions expected from world leaders to propel us to this vision. Designed to create momentum, the campaign will grow progressively in visibility, culminating in a multi-media moment at the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

The campaign takes its name from the United Nations Charter, which begins with the inspirational and aspirational words “WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS...” While the intention of these words was one of inclusion, in reality, only eight women participated in the San Francisco Founding conference of the United Nations, and only four signed the Charter. Less than two thirds of the countries gathered in San Francisco had equal voting rights for women at the time. The impact of these missing voices has been far reaching over the decades.

For more information about Women Rise for All and to stay updated on the campaign, please visit <https://www.un.org/en/sg-focus/women-rise-all>.

**“WITH EQUAL RIGHTS,
RESOURCES AND
REPRESENTATION, WOMEN
RISE. VISIBILITY AND
AUDIBILITY ARE THE PREMISE
FOR REACHING OUR COMMON
GOALS. WITHOUT GENDER
EQUALITY THERE IS NO WAY
TO GET THE 2030 AGENDA
ON TRACK. AND WITHOUT THE
EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF
WOMEN THERE IS NO WAY THE
UNITED NATIONS PACT FOR THE
FUTURE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL”**

**Svenja Shulze
Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and
Development of Germany**





AT-A-GLANCE

THE HALFTIME SHOW



MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

THE HALFTIME SHOW

The Halftime Show was a special event with musical guests and speakers to inspire audiences to #ImagineWinning for the SDGs in the second half. An iconic opening night event, The Halftime Show kicked off a week of programming at the SDG Pavilion during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Halftime Show provided a platform for the United Nations to set a path forward to achieve the Goals and encourage decisive and transformative action. The event was co-hosted by United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate Co-Chair Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

Produced by SDG Advocate and screenwriter Richard Curtis, with key contributions from the worlds of entertainment, music and sports to world leaders and activists, The Halftime Show strived to inspire SDG action and encourage new audiences to join the winning team.

KEY MESSAGES

We can do it and we are going to start today.

We need to make a personal commitment to the Goals in our own lives and spread that awareness and action through all the work that we do every day.

“THE GAME IS NEVER WON IN THE FIRST HALF. IT’S THE SECOND HALF, AND SO WE ARE GOING TO WIN WITH 17 GOALS BY 2030. LEADERS OWE US TO DELIVER ON THE PROMISE. IT IS NOW THAT WE HAVE TO STEP UP AND BRING THE WORLD WITH US. WE CAN DO IT AND WE ARE GOING TO START TODAY.”

– AMINA J. MOHAMMED, UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY-SECRETARY GENERAL



LIST OF PERFORMERS/SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Brooklyn United Music & Arts Program



Dia Mirza, United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate & United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador (Welcome)



Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (Opening remarks)



Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate Co-Chair



Rocky Dawuni, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador with Evans Aduful



Orlando Bloom, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador



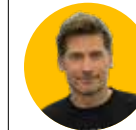
Richard Curtis, United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



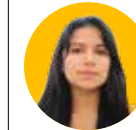
Yo-Yo Ma, United Nations Messenger of Peace



Amir Siraj, Pianist and Astrophysicist, Princeton University



Nicolaj Coster-Waldau, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador



Helena Gualinga, Climate Activist



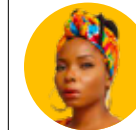
Forest Whitaker, United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate & UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace & Reconciliation



Salome Agbarogi, United States Youth Poet Laureate



Angelique Kidjo, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador



Yemi Alade, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador

HALFTIME SHOW: SONG, STORIES, AND SOLUTIONS

18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Musicians, athletes, and world leaders come together in call for SDG action.

Powerful exhortations from United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, inspiring speeches from Goodwill Ambassadors including Orlando Bloom and Forest Whitaker; and mesmerizing musical performances were among the key moments of the Halftime Show on Monday evening.

The Halftime Show was a unique experience to inspire the audience at the SDG Pavilion, and those watching live around the world, to push for decisive and transformative action that will bring the Sustainable Development Goals closer to reality by the 2030 Deadline.

In her opening remarks, Ms Mohammed reminded the audience that there are still seven years to go. "The game is never won in the first half. It's the second half, and so we are going to win with 17 goals by 2030. Leaders owe us to deliver on the promise. It is now that we have to step up and bring the world with us. We can do it and we are going to start today."

"We can win this in the second half, but it requires all of us working together," declared Ms Mottley. "People and planet are indivisible." The Prime

Minister called out the flaws in power structures that fail to protect the dignity of each human life, and called on citizens to recognize the agency that they have to improve the world.

Actor and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom raised the issue of child mortality, reminding the audience that thousands of children under the age of five die every day. "As a father of two young children myself, the pain of this reality is just hard to conceive. We have the solution, and now it is time to double down on our commitment."

Mr Bloom warned of a generational catastrophe if more efforts are not made to solve an education crisis which is currently seeing 244 million children out of school. "Let's go into the second half of the 2023 agenda with new energy, determination, collaboration. Children's rights are at the very heart of the SDGs."

Since retiring as a professional footballer, former France and Manchester United player Patrice Evra has been open about his personal mental health challenges, and now campaigns on the issue. Returning to the Halftime theme, he described it as "the moment to regroup, analyze, accept the critics, and stay humble. You have to believe in yourself. As a captain I did not accept when people give up, when fear comes into you, when you don't want to take risks."

Mr Evra said that his biggest personal win was overcoming his own mental trauma. "I did not call myself a victim, but a survivor. It is not a sprint, it's a marathon. We are at halftime, and we're going to succeed."

Best known for portraying Jaime Lannister in Game of Thrones, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau is an active Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme. He called on world leaders to cooperate across all sectors for urgent climate action, before it's too late. "Choices we make and actions we take this week, and year after year, will have impacts for thousands of years ahead. Right now, we hold the future in our hands."

Indigenous Ecuadorian environmental and human rights activist Helena Gualinga, from the Kichwa Sarayaku community, described her people's fight against oil and shared a recent success story, the historic referendum vote to end oil exploitation in a critical parcel of the Yasuní National Park, one of the most biodiverse places on the planet.

Actor Forest Whitaker, a United Nations SDG Advocate and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, noted the fact that, whilst peace and justice for all are enshrined in the United Nations Charter, conflict and injustice are still experienced every day across the world. "At the halfway point of the Goals, we need to urgently take action to secure justice for all and drive sustainable development."

The speeches were interspersed with emotionally charged performances from Ghanaian singer and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Rocky Dawuni; United Nations Youth Poet Laureate Salome Agbarogi; Beninese-French singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Angélique Kidjo; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist and United Nations Messenger of Peace; Amir Siraj, pianist and as-

trophysicist; and Nigerian singer and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Yemi Alade.

The closing remarks were delivered by actor and United Nations SDG Advocate Dia Mirza, who imagined how historians would judge today's leaders and policymakers on the extent to which they managed to achieve the SDGs. "It is now up to all of us to ensure that the SDGs are achieved in full and on time," she said. "We need to make a personal commitment to the Goals in our own lives and spread that awareness and action through all the work that we do every day."

The Halftime Show was produced by SDG Advocate and screenwriter Richard Curtis. It was co-hosted by United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate Co-Chair Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed.



Watch online SDG Pavilion - The Halftime Show: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wrak7roa>



“Forward ever,
backward never.”

Rocky Dawuni

SINGER-SONG WRITER,
UNEP GOODWILL AMBASSADOR





Star power lights up the SDG Pavilion, producing optimism and hope for the future



Watch the SDG Halftime sessions here: sdghalftime.org/resources-videos

Celebrities were out in force at the SDG Pavilion, powerfully advocating for the Goals and amplifying the calls for accelerated action to bring them about in the second half and achieve a better future for all.

To paraphrase a certain webbed Marvel character, with great fame comes great responsibility and, over the years, many of the world's best-known actors, athletes and activists have taken this to heart, by becoming Goodwill Ambassadors. Taking on this role involves promoting the work of the UN system, and inspiring their millions of fans to take action that will accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Several Goodwill Ambassadors from the world of entertainment headed to the SDG Pavilion during High-level Week, including Hollywood and Bollywood actors and musicians capable of selling out packed stadiums. They were joined by other prominent figures keen to show their support for the SDGs, and the Halftime campaign message: that whilst we have not made sufficient progress on the SDGs so far, we are only at halftime, and there is still everything to play for.

'What are you going to do?': Award-winning actors at the SDG Pavilion

Many of the stars took part in the Halftime Show, an evening event at the beginning of High-level Week, designed as a platform for the UN to set a path forward to achieve the

Goals and encourage decisive and transformative action.

Danish actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, who shot to fame thanks to his role as the villainous Jaime Lannister in the TV series *Game of Thrones*, declared that leaders must do more to protect the planet and deliver climate justice for all. As a UN Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador, Mr. Coster-Waldau focuses on raising awareness and support for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Orlando Bloom, the actor best known for his roles in *The Lord of The Rings* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2009, in recognition of his commitment to the rights of children around the world. He warned of the consequences of some 244 million children missing out on school which, he said, could lead to a "generational catastrophe."

Hollywood was also represented by Academy-Award winner Forest Whitaker, who called for urgent action to secure justice for all. Mr. Whitaker has a long history with the UN system. In 2014, he was appointed an Advocate for Children Affected by War with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. That same year, he was designated a UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation. He is currently one of the UN SDG Advocates, rallying behind the vision

of a better world and inspiring others to do the same.

Another actor and SDG Advocate at the SDG Pavilion was leading Bollywood performer Dia Mirza, who spoke at a number of sessions during the week. Ms Mirza, who is also the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador for India, is a leading voice for environmental and wildlife conservation. She spoke about the collective responsibility we all bear with regards to achieving the Goals.

Although he wasn't there in person, the actor who arguably made the biggest impression on the audience was Al Pacino. The veteran movie star, known for his standout performances in some of cinema's most iconic productions, including *The Godfather*, *Serpico*, and *Dog Day Afternoon* lent his voice to a powerful short film arguing for action in support of the SDGs. The video repurposed Pacino's locker-room speech in the 1990s film *Any Given Sunday*, written by Oliver Stone, in which he exhorts his struggling team to fight for each other, ending with a question that speaks to us all: "What are you going to do?"

The piece, which intersperses the speech with images of inequality, environmental destruction, and solidarity, was produced by SDG Advocate and film-maker Richard Curtis. Responsible for indelible comic hits such as *Love Actually*, *Notting Hill*, and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, Mr. Curtis has a

deep association with the UN and sustainable development. With his not-for-profit communications Project Everyone, Mr. Curtis helped to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at their launch in 2015, and Project Everyone played an integral role in the creation of the SDG Pavilion, and the production of the sessions.

World and European Cup Winners

Mr. Curtis was present throughout the week, appearing as a speaker, a panellist and an interviewer. At the Halftime Show, he introduced former footballer Patrice Evra to the audience.

Mr. Evra had a highly garlanded career, winning multiple cups and titles with English Premier League side Manchester United, and Italian Serie A team Juventus but, behind his success, he was coping with the trauma of the sexual abuse he suffered at the age of 13. He revealed the abuse in a memoir published in 2022 and, since then, has become an outspoken campaigner for the protection of children, speaking on the issue at the UN General Assembly in 2022, and meeting survivors of abuse in several African countries at the invitation of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Mr Evra likened his personal struggles to the worldwide fight for a better future for all. "My biggest win was overcoming my trauma," he said. "I don't call myself a victim, but a survivor. As a captain, I did not accept when people give up. We are at halftime, and we're going to do it."

Leah Williamson, captain of Arsenal and England Women's football team, with whom she won the 2022 European Championship, took up the theme in the session on Elevating Education. "In the first half you can start slowly, because you have so

much time to fix things. Then you get to half time and realize the walls are closing in, and the pressure builds up. You have to make the second half count."

During the session, Ms Williamson shared her experience of working with Coaching for Life, an initiative of Save the Children and the Arsenal Foundation. The initiative supports children and their families in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan who were forced to flee their homes in Syria since the outbreak of civil war in 2011. Ms Williamson reflected on the way that the programme has helped the girls that she met in the camp to build resilience and the confidence to aim for their career aspirations.

Musical talents shine "a light so bright"

The intellectual case for the Sustainable Development Goals was eloquently made by the speakers at the SDG Halftime Talks but the musicians performing at the Halftime Show added an emotional charge, delivering their messages in song.

Ghanaian singer Rocky Dawuni brought his charismatic presence to the show, with an acoustic performance of the song "Shine a Light," which had the audience on their feet, unable to resist the infectious optimism of the song's message. He signed off by declaring that "the next half is ours, let's just go and claim it!" Mr Dawuni has used his platform to champion several causes, as a UNEP Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, and a Global Ambassador for the UN Foundation's Clean Cooking Alliance.

Yo-Yo Ma took the audience to the stars. The renowned award-winning cellist is a UN Messenger of Peace, committed to using his art to connect cultures. He was accompanied by

pianist and astrophysicist Amir Siraj for a performance of Arvo Pärt's *Mirror in Mirror* whilst, behind him, were projected awe-inspiring images of gas clouds and distant galaxies taken by the James Webb Space Telescope. The intention, he told the audience, was to bring a sense of cosmic perspective, and for the "music and universe to be reflected in one another."

Later in the show, Mr Ma acted as accompanist, this time for acclaimed Beninese-French singer Angélique Kidjo, who has been described as "Africa's Premier Diva." A UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for over twenty years, Ms Kidjo is a long-term campaigner for the rights of women and girls, and her Batonga Foundation provides safe spaces for vulnerable girls, and training to build financial literacy.

After this evocative collaboration, Ms Kidjo had the crowd dancing with her next duet, featuring Nigerian singer Yemi Alade, one of Africa's biggest Afropop artists, with whom she collaborated on the latter's 2022 *Mother Nature* album. Ms Alade's activism for the Sustainable Development Goals has grown since her appointment as a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador in 2020, when she pledged to focus on inequality, women's empowerment, and the climate crisis.

Baaba Maal, like Angélique Kidjo, has achieved crossover success, introducing international audiences to African music, recently as a contributing artist on the soundtracks to the two *Black Panther* movies. The Senegalese singer-songwriter has been involved in humanitarian work for decades, and is a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Although he didn't perform at

the SDG Pavilion, Mr Maal made thoughtful contributions as a panellist at the SDG Action Zone event on Thursday, on the theme of Arts and Culture for People and Planet.

Mr Maal noted that the idea of engaged artists is nothing new. At the time of the Mali Empire, around the 11th and 12th Centuries, he said, rulers set out to involve artists in promoting laws designed to improve the lives of their subjects and bring about peace and harmony. This involved sending out poets, musicians, and clothes designers across the 12 kingdoms to explain the laws through their art, so that they would adopt them in their daily lives. This approach, he continued, should be applied to today's global problems, with artists helping leaders to change perceptions.



PERFORMED AT THE SDG
PAVILION HALFTIME SHOW

Have you heard of the place Over the horizon That no one has seen, but Everyone wants to go?

That place they call OASIS?
Where the water runs clear
Glittering bodies of endless blue
Trickling tributaries and springs
Sustainers of life above and below it.

Where the hawksbill turtles wade
And bluefin tuna swim
Without plastic nets 'round their necks.

Have you seen the OASIS?
Where oaks and timbers
Grow green and lush
From fertile black beating soil
Branches extending beyond imagination
Bearing full ripe fruit as far
As the eyes can see.

Where macaws chirp and
Orangutangs swing and
Amur leopards prowl.

The OASIS!
Powered by it's greens,
Streams, and Sun beams
And at end of day, you see
A million stars in the obsidian sky,
Ozone unobstructed by carbon clouds
Nothing but crisp air inhalation
And inexplicable peace.

Haven't you seen the kids?
Beaming and full bellied
Boys and girls basking
In equal opportunity and health
Plucking fruit from the foliage
Laughing for it's sweetness and abundance
And innocence
As juice drips betwixt fingertips.

Haven't you seen the people?
Satisfied and sustained
Harvesting all of what is needed
And never any more.
Solidarity is the only language they speak
And in that language, there is no word
For "war" "pillage" "steal" Only "thank you" "grace"
"together"

If you knew of this place,
Wouldn't you want to go?

Even if the road was paved with uncertainty,
Tribulation, bottle caps and mishaps?

If I said that you were just halfway there,
Would you fall to your knees

Amidst the deserted battleground, the
wilting wilderness
The incinerated pages and pile of plastics,
The deafeningly hot, weathered rock etching
Extinction in your waving white flag?

No!
We must go!

For every tree that must grow
For every species worth saving
For every child that needs books
For every conflict that needs resolution
For every woman that deserves equality

Let's reach the end zone and make it
To that beautiful place no one has ever seen, but
Everyone wants to go.

In our lives
On our earth
That place that we call OASIS.

SALOME AGBAROJI

2023 UNITED STATES YOUTH POET LAUREATE





World leaders and legislators lend weight to Halftime Talks

Current and former Heads of State and senior politicians were among the many prestigious speakers at the SDG Pavilion Halftime Talks, a reflection of the importance of the topics covered, and the will to take urgent action to achieve the Goals.

“Up until now, the world has been created on the principle that, for me to be wealthy, you must be poor.”

This pithy criticism of the global financial and economic system, made on the Monday of the General Assembly High-level Week by the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, set the tone for the days to come at the SDG Pavilion, where politicians interacted with a diverse group of activists, UN experts, and artists, exchanging ideas and fostering an atmosphere of hope in the prospect of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. President Akufo-Addo, the Co-chair of the SDG Advocate Emeritus Group, was speaking at SDGs in the Second Half, a discussion on the years left until the 2030 SDG deadline – the “second half” – and a deep dive into SDG #2: creating a world free of hunger.

Active in politics since the 1970s, President Akufo-Addo has also been involved in civil rights for several decades, forming the Committee on Human and People’s Rights in the 1990s, and receiving the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice in 2016.

He was joined on the SDG Pavilion stage by Gordon Brown, a former UK Prime Minister who has gone to have a second career as an international advocate for education. As UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Mr Brown calls for investment and the use of innovative financing to reach the SDG Goal on education (SDG #4).

Mr Brown began with an apology to President Akufo-Addo, and the people of the continent of Africa, on behalf of the international community, for letting the hungry starve by failing to transfer food, “And we’re letting droughts, fires, and floods destroy people’s lives, because we’re not transferring the resources that we promised for climate finance and climate change.”

City solutions

The third legislator on the panel was Eduardo Paes, the mayor of Rio de Janeiro, the second biggest city in Brazil, where he oversees a budget estimated at around US\$69 billion. Mr Paes was the first mayor from a developing country to chair the C40, a global network of the mayors of the world’s leading cities, committed to cutting their emissions in half by 2030. He echoed Mr Brown’s calls for development financing, and emphasized that the solutions to achieving the SDGs exist at local, city level, if the funding is made available.

Valérie Plante, the mayor of Montreal, speaking at the Green Transitions session, picked up the theme of funding for local initiatives, and for more recognition of the role of cities in improving the environment. Ms Plante was elected to her post on a progressive, environmental ticket, and was a strong supporter of the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference, which took place in her city, and resulted in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a landmark agreement to guide global action on nature through to 2030.

“There is a dog at our heels”: The fight against the climate crisis

One of the most visible Global South politicians on the international stage is Mia Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados. A recipient of the UN Environment Champions of the Earth Award, and co-chair of the SDG Advocates, in recent years, Ms Mottley has become well-known internationally, following a series of powerful speeches decrying the effects of the climate emergency on her country, and other nations on the frontline of the crisis.

Speaking at the Halftime Show, Ms Mottley pinpointed a lack of political will as the biggest block to climate and development finance. She returned to the theme at the session devoted to finance (Winning Strategies for Financing the SDGs), at which she likened the struggles of the Global South to being in a race they cannot win. “There is a dog at our heels, and we are not running fast enough. Even if we are making progress, progress is not accomplishment. There needs to be a complete debt write-off for low-income countries.”

Barbados is described as a “frontline state” in the fight against climate change, alongside many other

Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, which was represented by at the SDG Pavilion by Matthew Samuda, the Minister with responsibility for climate change in the Jamaican Government. In 2022, Mr Samuda was appointed as a Ministerial Ambassador to the UN Capital Development Fund’s Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL), a sign of the country’s commitment to advocacy for increasing the finance available for local adaptation to climate change.

At the panel on climate finance, the Minister sounded the same alarm as Ms Mottley, declaring that his country is in a race against time, as increasingly extreme weather events put the livelihoods of his country’s citizens in danger. Even though Jamaica’s sound financial situation has, he said, allowed the country to benefit from international loan facilities, the amounts needed for adaptation and mitigation to climate change run into the billions, diverting funds that could otherwise be used to develop other aspects of Jamaica’s economy.

The second Co-chair of the SDG Advocates is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, a country which has suffered from devastating wildfires, exacerbated by the man-made climate crisis. In a speech at an event on global carbon pricing, a tool that could help wean the world off polluting fossil fuels, Mr Trudeau welcomed Norway, Denmark, Viet Nam, and Cote d’Ivoire to the Global Carbon Pricing Challenge, Canada’s initiative for the adoption of carbon pricing as a central part of national climate strategies, toward a collective goal of covering 60 percent of global emissions by 2030.

“Nothing good ever came easy”

The Chief Minister of Sierra Leone, David Sengh, has a reputation as

an expert on the topic of education. A board member of the Global Partnership for Education, Mr. Sengh was his country’s Minister for Education, before being appointed to his current post.

Prior to becoming a politician, the MIT graduate pioneered a new system for creating comfortable prostheses, after noticing that many of those who became amputees as a result of the country’s civil war decided not to wear prosthetic limbs, because the available devices were ill-fitting and painful to use.

At the Elevating Education session, Chief Minister Sengh acknowledged that the SDG targets for education are not being met, but expressed optimism that much more progress can be made. “It’s very hard to achieve these national, regional, and global targets but that’s why we set them. Nothing good has ever come easy.”

Legislating for existential risk

Politicians in countries at all stages of development are having to grapple with the inevitable rise of artificial intelligence, which promises enormous economic and societal benefits but comes with potentially existential risks.

Ministers from Spain and Togo came together at the SDG Pavilion session on AI to discuss what the technology means for their countries.

Maria Carme Artigas Brugal, Spanish Secretary of State for Digitalization and AI, is regarded as one of the leading experts on AI in her country. She is also an ambassador in Spain for the Stanford University Women in Data Science conferences and is a member of the Data Ideas Factory Innovation Network at Columbia University.

She outlined some of the ways that AI can support the achievement of the SDGs but warned that AI is having a major effect on mis and disinformation, leading to plummeting trust in the content we see and read online. The minister proposed enhanced regulations for high-risk applications, and a human rights-based approach to legislation.

Like Ms Brugal, Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Transformation of Togo, had a background as a technology expert before moving into politics, advising governments on communication and information technologies at the World Bank.

Since joining the Togolese government, Ms Lawson has prioritized the improvement of digital connectivity in her country, in order to make students and entrepreneurs more competitive, and make Togo a regional digital hub. The Minister called for more training in data science, and improved data collection and analysis, to ensure that AI works for everyone in society.

Whilst progress towards the SDGs has undoubtedly been far slower than originally envisaged at their adoption in 2015, the willingness of so many leaders and senior politicians to reiterate their commitment to the Goals at the SDG Pavilion, can be seen as a sign that there is a growing groundswell of institutional support, and the will to bring the world much closer to achieving them in the years left until the deadline, in 2030.



SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

TUESDAY
19 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01| ELEVATING EDUCATION

02| FINANCING THE SDGS

03| PERSPECTIVES ON THE GLOBAL GOALS





AT-A-GLANCE

ELEVATING EDUCATION



TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

ELEVATING EDUCATION AS A WIN-WIN FOR THE SDGS

Right now, hundreds of millions of children are out of school and of the billions in school, most are not acquiring the basic skills. As we reach the halftime mark of the Sustainable Development Goals, we must boost ambition, innovation, and an intersectional approach to save education. One year after the Transforming Education Summit, the Elevating Education event spotlighted youth voices front and centre, together with education advocates, government officials, renowned athletes, civil society and the private sector. The panelists discussed topics that included educational justice, skills to prepare young people to thrive in a changing planet and world of work, as well as cross-sectoral action for investing in education.

KEY MESSAGES

Education needs to be elevated to the top of every sector's agenda.

- ▶ Many children are not acquiring the skills they need to succeed.

“WE MUST ENSURE THAT THESE GLOBAL BENCHMARK PROCESSES ARE RESPECTED. WE HAVE TO HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE AND KNOW THAT THESE ARE NOT JUST FLEXIBLE THINGS THAT WE WROTE. WE COMMITTED TO THEM. WE SAT AND WE IMAGINED THAT WE COULD DO THEM BY 2030, AND IT’S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.”

– DR. DAVID MOININA SENGEH, CHIEF MINISTER, SIERRA LEONE



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



Vee Kativhu, Girls' Education Activist; Young Leader for the SDGs; Founder, Empowered By Vee

Speakers



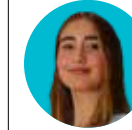
Fahad Al-Sulaiti, CEO, Education Above All



Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of The Club of Rome, Co-Lead of the Earth4All Initiative



Egoitz Etxeandia, STEAM Lead Consultant and Climate Champion, Teach For All



Julieta Martinez, Founder, Fundación Tremendas



Elizabeth Faber, Chief People & Purpose Officer, Deloitte Global



Mason Fong, 9th grade high school student, Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama, Honolulu



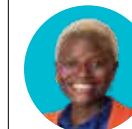
Leonardo Garnier, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Transforming Education Summit, United Nations



David Moinina Sengeh, Chief Minister, Sierra Leone



Ivy Murugi, Youth Representative, World Organization of the Scout Movement



Temilade Salami, Founder & Executive Director, EcoChampions , GPE Youth Leader



Leah Williamson, Arsenal and England Women's Soccer player. Coaching for Life Ambassador



Inés Yábar, Lead Next Generation Fellow, UN Foundation

ELEVATING EDUCATION AS A WIN-WIN FOR THE SDGS

19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Exploring priorities to progress action for education everywhere.

For many children, education isn't working. Hundreds of millions of children are out of school and, of the billions who are in school, most are not acquiring the skills they need to succeed. By 2030, without the right investments and commitments to transform education, 84 million children will be out of school, and 300 million more who attend school will still lack basic numeracy and literacy skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Despite these challenges, the outlook for these children can be improved with the right approach to investment and support for equity of access, so that they will have the tools they need for their futures.

Youth voices, education advocates, government officials, renowned athletes, civil society and private sector representatives took part in the Elevating Education event on Tuesday morning, bringing their expertise on topics ranging from educational climate justice to empowering young people with the skills they need to thrive.

The session was opened by Vee Kativhu, one of the United Nations

Young Leaders for the SDGs, who shared her own journey from education to activism. She began by inviting the audience to imagine winning for education from their own points of view.

The first panel of the session, focused on climate education, was moderated by Temilade Salami, Founder & Executive Director, EcoChampions and Global Partnership for Education Youth Leader from Nigeria. Julieta Martínez, the founder of Fundación Tremendas in Chile, pointed to the link between social justice and the climate crisis. "You have people from government that say 'if you want to care about the environment, instead of using the car, use public transport.' What if I really want to care about the environment but I cannot use the bus because it is not safe?"

She went on to ask for better youth representation in policymaking, a theme taken up by high school student from Kapālama, Honolulu, Hawaii, Mason Fong. "Each and every one of us matters. Each of us should have a voice, no matter what pay you get, no matter what race or gender you are, everyone should have a voice at the table, especially the youth." Egoitz Etxeandia, Climate Champion at Teach For All, agreed

that young people need to be heard. "They want to be listened to, they want to lead the change of the future and in the present."

Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-president of The Club of Rome and Co-Lead of the Earth4All Initiative, declared that education needs to be thought about in a different way, because today it is about "realizing that we are all students and we are all teachers. And it's putting in place the learning and the knowledge exchange that is necessary to face the challenges that we have before us."

Leah Williamson, professional footballer for Arsenal Women, and captain of England's national women's team, embraced the SDG Halftime analogy and agreed that there is everything to play for in the second half. "When you start the game there's a complacency because you know you have so much time to go. Then you get to half time and realize the walls are closing in and the pressure builds up. You have to make every second count."

Ms Williamson works with Coaching for Life, a programme which supports the mental health and well-being of children affected by violence. She explained that sport and non-formal education can empower girls and young women, because it gives them the confidence to believe that they can achieve their dreams.

As the world of work changes, how can education keep up? This question was at the heart of the final panel of the session. Inés Yábar, Lead Next Generation Fellow at the United Nation Foundation (UNF), moderated the discussion between Leonardo Garnier, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Transforming Education Summit; Elizabeth Faber, Chief People and Purpose Officer at Deloitte Global;

Fahad Al-Sulaiti, CEO of Education Above All Foundation; and Ivy Murugi, Youth Representative of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

At the heart of the education crisis, said Mr. Al-Sulaiti, is a system that is no longer fit for purpose. He called for innovative financing and a commitment from governments to increase their commitment for education. "This is the commitment that we want," he said. "That we set a target and others to come and focus on that target with you. This is what we're advocating strongly for."

Mr. Garnier pointed out that the world has never been as rich as it is today. "So, when we say 'there is no money' I say, what do you mean there is no money? There has never been as much money as today." What we have seen in the last 30-40 years is an increase in inequality and a concentration of wealth and a concentration of income. So financing education today means redistribution. The decision to redistribute income to finance education in the end will benefit us all."

The private sector plays a key role in unlocking this win-win for education, according to Ms Faber, because "it brings innovation, investment, and scale. And innovation in terms of diversity in our talent pipeline, and diversity of our thinking, can unlock some of these creative solutions by working together with our partners in these broader ecosystems."

Ms Murugi expressed her belief in going beyond formal education, to include practical and soft skills, and for investment in these skills. "It all boils down to action," she said. "Let's stop saying young people are the leaders of tomorrow. When companies and organizations and other stakeholders are making decisions, let them involve young

people right at the start. They have innovative ideas they want to share, so involve them right at the beginning."

The session concluded with Chief Minister of Sierra Leone David Sengh looking to the future, and how to ensure that the education remains high on the minds of government officials and leaders.

Mr. Sengh said there was a strong likelihood that good progress will be made before 2030, but he called for a new wave of leadership and accountability.

"We must ensure that these global benchmarks processes are respected. We have to hold ourselves accountable and know that these are not just flexible things that we wrote. We committed to them. We sat and we imagined that we could do them by 2030, and it's not impossible."



Watch session here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wsm4nhnr>



“We keep opening all these doors, but young girls need to have the confidence and the belief to walk through them themselves. Part of my role, my responsibility, is to continue to lay the paving stones for them. But also, I have seen the change. If I had half the confidence that those young girls have when I was younger, I would’ve been incredible.”

Leah Williamson

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER FOR ARSENAL WOMEN,
AND CAPTAIN OF ENGLAND’S NATIONAL WOMEN’S TEAM



Passing the mic to youth voices | In their own words: Mason Fong and Paul Parish



Photo credit: UN Partnerships/Pier Paolo Cito

Youth voices were front and centre at the Elevating Education as a Win-Win for the SDGs event that took place at the SDG Pavilion on 19 September.

We talked with Mason Fong, a 9th grade high school student at Kamehameha Schools in Hawai'i who was the youngest speaker to participate in the panel that focused on unlocking the potential of youth in a changing planet and world of work.

We also talked with Paul Parish, a former diplomat who now works as a Kumu (teacher) with the Kamehameha Schools, who guided Mason and a group of fellow students who traveled to New York from Kapālama, Honolulu, Hawai'i as part of their two-year Ka'amauloa

Pathway. The pathway is a curriculum based on sustainability that takes students on a journey to the United Nations to create confident young leaders, and grounded in who they are culturally, who understand the issues, and who can contribute to shaping policy locally, nationally and globally. In their own words, Mason and Paul describe their experiences about their participation in the Elevating Education event.

New opportunities to take the mic

Mason: "When I first found out about joining the Elevating Education event, I was surprised. I have had my fair share of panel discussions and events in the past, but getting to talk at the UN? That takes it to a

whole different level. I was excited that I would be able to speak in front of leaders from around the world! Not only was I going to represent my family, school, and Hawai'i on the global stage, but I was representing my kūpuna (ancestors) as well. Their knowledge deserves to be heard by the world, so I'm very glad that many people were able to listen to what we had to say."

A first-time journey to the United Nations Headquarters

Mason: "My experience at the United Nations was above and beyond what I expected. Not only were we the youngest people in the room, but we had a mindset that no one else had. Our unique geographical location in Hawai'i gives us an advantage that helps us to think with an island perspective. With the mindset of knowing the connection and interdependency of everything, we were able to share that stance with other global leaders. As we shared what we stood for, we realized that we, as youth, can make a difference. We have the potential to tackle decade-old issues. We have the solutions and drive to make the world a better place. With these adult leaders listening to us, it strengthened our confidence that we are heard and can create change."

On speaking up

Mason: "One major topic that I advocated for was to let people know that their cultural identity matters.



Photo credit: UN Partnerships/Pier Paolo Cito

From the perspective of a Hawaiian youth, I know the importance of 'ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) and cultural practices. Their cultural values of aloha āina (love of the land), mālama (to take care of), and ha'aha'a (humility) should shape our own lives to make us more connected with the 'āina (land)."

A message for youth today

Mason: I wanted to let the youth know that they truly matter. Growing up in a world full of chaos, war, violence, crime, and confusion, there is no wonder why depression rates among youth are sky-high. We need to let the youth know that they have the potential to make a change due to their unique perspective. They have values and an outlook that are unlike those of any other generation. They have the drive and passion to lead change.

On uplifting young people

Paul: The goal of the Ka'amauloa pathway is to take students on a voyage of self-discovery and empowerment, bringing about the realization that their culture, values,

and worldview have the power to change hearts and minds and hence, behaviour. Seeing Mason take it to the global stage was inspiring. Watching his classmates absorb the reaction he received was even more powerful. From an educator's perspective, we saw them develop exponentially as young leaders during that week. And as a concerned citizen of this planet, it gave me hope for the future.

Our young leaders are the ambassadors and custodians of that knowledge and it is the celebration and rediscovery of this wisdom that has captured the imagination of the world at a time when many regard the earth as being at a dangerous crossroads. They have a huge potential to help make the world a better place. And they do that, as they themselves said in New York, with aloha as their superpower.





AT-A-GLANCE

WINNING STRATEGIES FOR FINANCING THE SDGS



SESSION 01 FRIDAY 15

FINANCING THE SDGS

With the global economy facing multiple shocks that are threatening to further reverse progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and deepen inequalities, we need to build on the momentum of provided by the SDG Stimulus, Bridgetown, the New Global Financing Pact, and the G-20. When it comes to financing, we need “constructive noise with solutions.”

The session on Winning Strategies for Financing the SDGs focused on raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities around overhauling the global financial architecture in an accessible way. It brought together world leaders, development banks, civil society, and experts from the United Nations to focus on debt, cost of capital, tax, integrating civil society, special drawing rights and the multi-lateral development banks (MDBs) and position SDG financing as a cross-cutting solution to achieving the Goals.



KEY MESSAGES

Bold action is needed to tackle the debt crisis, address the cost of capital, tax, integrating civil society, special drawing rights and SDG financing as a vehicle to achieve the goals.

Specificity, speed and scale are critical.

This challenge will require all actors to come to the table.

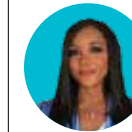
“WE NEED TO GIVE A MENU OF FINANCIAL OPTIONS TO COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THE COLLECTIVE TOTAL BE AT A SCALE THAT ALLOWS US TO WIN THIS BATTLE.”

– MIA MOTTLEY, PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Folly Bah Thibault, Principal Presenter, Al Jazeera English



Annemarie Hou, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships



Kristen Sullivan, Global Audit & Assurance Sustainability and Climate Services Leader, Deloitte & Touche LLP

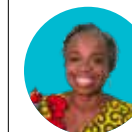
Speakers



Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates



Richard Curtis, Director, Screenwriter and United Nations Secretary-General’s SDG Advocate



Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi, Executive Vice President, African Center for Economic Transformation



Douglas L. Peterson, CEO, S&P Global



Rémy Rioux, Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement



Mark Suzman, CEO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

GROWING PRESSURE TO ACCELERATE FINANCIAL REFORM

19 SEPTEMBER 2023

The global economy is facing multiple shocks that are threatening to further reverse progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and deepen inequalities. What are the next steps and how do we transform the international financial architecture to bring a fairer and more just future closer to reality?

World leaders and leaders representing development banks, the private sector, as well as foundations and civil society took part in the 'Winning Strategies for Financing the SDGs' event to discuss plans and tactics for tackling debt, the cost of capital, tax, integrating civil society, as well as special drawing rights and how to position SDG financing as the vehicle to achieve the Goals.

Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, in a fireside chat with Folly Bah Thibault, Principal Presenter at Al Jazeera English, discussed the urgency needed to address the 'great financial divide' which has sharply curtailed the ability of many developing countries to invest in recovery, climate action, and sustainable development.

"There is a dog at our heels, and we are not running fast enough," Prime Minister Mottley said. "Even if we are making progress, it is not accomplishment. There needs to be a complete debt write-off for low-income countries."

In a discussion focused on how to radically reform and strengthen global financial institutions to achieve the SDGs, Rémy Rioux, CEO at Agence Française de Développement and Chairman of the International Development Finance Club, said that the Global Goals remained the compass for organizations such as his, through to 2030 and beyond. All players in the financial system, he said, "need to play their part to break silos, and have a global discussion between central banks, standard setters and public and private finance."

Douglas Peterson, CEO of S&P Global, argued for clear standards for what is defined as sustainable. "Right now, there are many different definitions and standards. We should start working on clear, simple standards to ensure that what is defined as 'green' is actually green."

The session concluded with a panel moderated by Kristen Sullivan, Global Audit & Assurance Sustainability and Climate Services Leader at Deloitte, which explored the role of non-state actors, in mobilizing finance around the SDGs.

Mark Suzman, the CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, explained that whilst philanthropic organizations can play a key role, the public sector needs to scale up investment. Now, he said, is the time to "put up or shut up" on the SDGs.

Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi, Executive Vice President at the African Center for Economic Transformation, noted that "Africa is the youngest and fastest-growing population in a rapidly aging world," adding that "if Africa youth are skilled and productive, the world will benefit from it."

United Nations SDG Advocate and screenwriter Richard Curtis underscored that everyone's personal money is at the core of investment. "It's the money in our banks, almost more than government money, which is going to make a huge difference," he said. "This is not a time to say 'I am sure someone else will sort this out.' Whatever your job is, take this sense of urgency and try and do something radical."



Watch session <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k18/k18lbzcoxy>



Perspectives on the Global Goals



Every year, the UN invites a group of talented young journalists from the Global South to observe the opening of the General Assembly, and cover it for their respective broadcasters. During this year's High-level Week, four members of the current cohort co-hosted the SDG Roundup Shows, ensuring the inclusion of diverse viewpoints on the events taking place at UN Headquarters.

The journalists, all experienced TV personalities in their countries, are recipients of the Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalism Fellowship (RAF Fellowship for short), named in honour of a 29-year-old Jordanian UN Public Information Officer who was killed in the 19 August 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad. The Fellowship gives them, and other young working journalists from developing countries and nations with economies in transition, a unique opportunity to attend special briefings, interview senior officials, and exchange ideas with colleagues from around the world.

From 18 to 22 September, the Fellows appeared in the SDG Studio alongside host Ian Phillips, the head of the UN News and Media Department, reporting and commenting on the key events taking place in the conference rooms of UN Headquarters, and the many exciting and innovative sessions at the SDG Pavilion.

Day 1 - SDG Roundup Show | SDGs at HALFTIME (sdghalftime.org)

On Monday, Ian Phillips was joined by Mauro Calvagna, a journalist for Canal 26 in Argentina, who also serves as a columnist for El Heraldo Radio in Mexico, and a correspondent for the multimedia platform Portada Uruguay.

Mr Calvagna is the President of the NGO Rotary, where he focuses on human rights promotion, peace-building initiatives, and advocacy for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). He is particularly interested in SDG #5 (achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls), especially on issues pertaining to diversity, equality, inclusion, and the human rights of the LGBTQ community.

On the show, Mr Calvagna and Ian talked about the relevance of the SDGs in Argentina, which has been a pioneer in promoting the human rights of LGBTQ people, and where persistent economic upheavals have exacerbated inequality.

Day 2 - SDG Roundup Show | SDGs at HALFTIME (sdghalftime.org)

Deandre Williamson, a reporter for the Bahama Journal and Radio Bahamas, was the co-host for the second show. Deandre has been a Caribbean Climate Justice Journalism Fellow, and a Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellow, and is the recipient of several awards, including the Bahamas Press Club's Best Business Story Award in 2020.

SDG #13, on Climate action, was the focus of the discussion, and Ms Williamson explained that the countries in the Caribbean region are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events exacerbated by the increasingly unpredictable climate, particularly hurricanes. She expressed her hope that high profile figures from her region, such as Mia Mottley, the President of Barbados and an SDG Advocate, and Dennis Francis, the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations and the current Prime Minister of the General Assembly, would help to raise the profile of the Caribbean, and advocate for climate justice.

Day 3 - SDG Roundup Show | SDGs at HALFTIME (sdghalftime.org)

On Wednesday, Emmanuella Wvemnyuy from Cameroon shared her thoughts on the relevance of the SDGs to her country. Ms Wvemnyuy, a broadcast journalist for Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), reports on a diverse range of topics, with a particular interest in issues relating to women, children, and the vulnerable in society.

The show was broadcast on the same day as the UN Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit, involving the leaders of countries described as "movers and doers," in terms of their actions and policies on climate. Ms Wvemnyuy described the urgency of the problem in her country, where increasingly high temperatures in the north are leading to a scramble for limited water resources, which has seen houses burned down and people killed in inter-ethnic conflict.

Meanwhile in the south, there is too much water; heavy rains have caused floods, destroying homes and livelihoods. On the subject of improved financing for developing countries, Ms Wvemnyuy pointed to the crippling consequences of Cameroon's high-interest loan repayments. Servicing this debt, she said, means that the government is unable to make the necessary investments in health care.

Day 4 - SDG Roundup Show | SDGs at HALFTIME (sdghalftime.org)

The last Roundup Show featured Aminata Sanyang from Gambia Radio & Television Services (GRTS) where she works as a producer, presenter, and reporter for both TV and radio. Ms Sanyang is the recipient of several awards and is a specialist on sexual and gender-based violence reporting.

A high-level meeting on universal health coverage (UHC) meeting took place on Thursday, an important step on the way to achieving UHC by 2030. World leaders endorsed an ambitious declaration but, like many of the Sustainable Development Goals, progress is not on track.

COVID-19 has been blamed for slowing progress towards universal health coverage and, according to Ms Sanyang, the pandemic taught the world a lesson about the importance of having fully functioning, sophisticated health systems. The Gambia, she said, is moving in the right direction, setting up a national health insurance scheme, and working to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. The citizens of the country, she added, are playing an important role in this area, with young people in particular advocating for more discussions around mental health care and working with UN agencies and government agencies to improve the situation.

The SDG Roundup Shows were an initiative of UN Partnerships, in collaboration with the UN Department for Global Communications. Both the Office and the RAF journalists were pleased with the outcome. UN Partnerships successfully brought the subjects discussed at UN Headquarters to a wider, more diverse audience, whilst the Fellows were able to observe the events up close, enhancing their ability to explain the workings of the Organization to their viewers and listeners.

"The SDG Pavilion was a wonderful initiative which translated the importance of the SDGs to the wider world, and the need to save them," said Ms Wvemnyuy, reflecting on her experience covering High-level Week. "The SDGs represent the wellbeing of the globe; if we don't stand as one, work together, and leave no-one behind, we will not succeed in making them a reality."



SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

WEDNESDAY
20 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01| AI AND INNOVATION

02| CLIMATE JUSTICE

03| GREEN TRANSITION

04| PUTTING A PRICE ON CARBON





AT-A-GLANCE

AI AND INNOVATION



WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

AI AND INNOVATION: IMAGINE WINNING

New developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have the potential to revolutionize our lives and help us achieve the SDGs. AI is a powerful tool that can help us tackle complex problems quickly and at scale. However, to fully leverage the potential of AI in an equitable way, we must engage in discourse about the risks it poses and create safeguards in order to ensure a safe and prosperous future for all. Most importantly, as AI has the potential to disrupt systems at a global level, we must include voices from all regions and levels of society.

This session gathered technology innovators and investors, high-level government officials, civil society experts, and United Nations officials to advance guiding principles for creating a global safe environment for such innovations to flourish and help accelerate the SDGs.

KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ Global governance of AI is needed and it must be an inclusive conversation.
- ▶ All regulation must be human-centric and human rights oriented.
- ▶ Regulation must not slow down innovation but rather enable it.
- ▶ AI must be inclusive and secure by design.

“REGULATION IS GOOD, BECAUSE WE ARE BAD! BUT WE MUST NOT OVER-REGULATE.”

– LEMOGANG KWAPE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BOTSWANA



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Sinead Bovell, Futurist and Founder, WAYE and Board Member



Emily Chang, Host & Executive Producer, Bloomberg)



Annemarie Hou, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships

Speakers



Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union



Maria Carme Artigas Brugal, Secretary of State for Digitalisation and AI, Spain



Amandeep Singh Gill, United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Technology



Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Botswana



Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Transformation of Togo



Anna Makanju, Vice President of Global Affairs, OpenAI



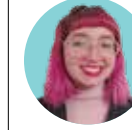
Dr. Geetha Manjunath, Founder and CEO, NIRAMAI Health Analytix



James Manyika, Senior Vice President of Research, Technology & Society, Google



Gopal Mitra, Global Lead on Disability and Development, UNICEF



Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, STEM activist and United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



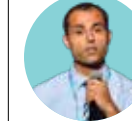
Maria Ressa, CEO & President, Rappler and 2021 Nobel Peace Laureate



Shamina Singh, Founder & President, Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth



Brad Smith Vice Chair and President, Microsoft Corp, UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocate.



Bourhan Yassin, CEO, Rainforest Connection

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: SAFEGUARDS AND SOLUTIONS

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

Realizing the promise of AI to create a better world.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool with the potential to help tackle complex problems quickly and at scale. However, AI also poses considerable risks, including mis- and disinformation, inherent biases, affecting everything from job markets to democratic values.

This event, on Wednesday morning 20 September 2023, gathered technology innovators and investors, high-level government officials, civil society, and experts from the United Nations to discuss the opportunities and the safeguards needed at the halfway point of the Goals and a new wave for AI.

Amandeep Gill Singh, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Technology, insisted that digital technologies need to be scaled with ambition and responsibility. "Artificial Intelligence is destined to play a big role in the next seven years as we countdown to 2030."

Borhan Yassin the CEO of Rainforest Connection, an organization which fights illegal deforestation, demonstrated an AI audio tool, which can help combat the devastation of the rainforest. "When you are in the

middle of the rainforest and you are hearing all these species that are vocalizing, it's very hard to decipher even a chainsaw that is metres away. With AI, we are able to decipher specific sounds, down to individual type of species, and we are also able to detect any illegal activities. That is important, because, every year, 12 million acres of rainforest are destroyed, threatening over a million species with extinction."

Mr Yassin's talk was followed by a discussion, moderated by Emily Chang, Bloomberg Host and Executive Producer, with Dr Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Botswana, and Amandeep Gill Singh, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Technology.

The conversation covered the importance of appropriate governance in ensuring a fair and equal protection of basic rights, wellbeing, and livelihoods. Mr Kwape said that his country is making the space and funding available for young people – 60 per cent of the population – to develop AI technologies.

Responding to the pervasive fears surrounding AI, the Minister explained that bad actors, rather than the technology, are the problem.

"There's nothing wrong with AI, and everything wrong with us, that's why we need regulations. But we must not impede creativity because, by being creative, we can solve a lot of problems. Regulation is good, because we are bad! But we must not over-regulate."

The third part of the session was a panel, moderated by Ms Chang, focused on keeping the right balance between AI regulation and innovation.

"AI is not yet another technology," warned Carme Artigas Brugal, Secretary of State for Digitalisation and AI in Spain, underlining the need for good regulation in the sector. "For the first time ever, we have a technology that can evolve without human agency and we are now questioning ourselves and what makes us unique."

The United Nations' contribution to the evolution of AI was highlighted by Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). "We need to be sharing practices and experiences," she said. "What the UN has to offer is this ability to convene."

Brad Smith, the Vice Chair and President of Microsoft, called for joined up thinking in the sector. "If we are to advance AI, we have to advance all the technologies together. We have to close the connectivity gap, close the AI gap, and close the electricity gap."

This sentiment was echoed by James Manyika, Senior Vice President, Technology and Society at Google. "We want regulations that minimize and mitigate everything that we are concerned about but, at the same time, we want regulations that enable the positive things that we want to happen. The fact that some places, some people, some

societies, and some countries run the risk of being left out is problematic."

AI has the potential to improve basic preventive health care, according to Dr Geetha Manjunath, Founder and CEO of NIRAMAI Health Analytix. Dr Manjunath expressed her hope that AI can bridge the healthcare divide that exists between the "haves" and the "have nots," the developed and developing countries, and rural and urban environments.

The technology could also be instrumental in scaling equality and inclusion. In the final panel, moderated by futurist Sinead Bovell, explored AI as a tool for inclusion. Speakers also discussed strategies for ensuring equal representation in data to minimize biased algorithms.

Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Transformation of Togo, said that connectivity is a priority for her country. "What we want to do right now to digitize our countries is to deploy fibre. We also want to build data sources, in terms of education and health, then apply algorithms that we can use to improve our policies."

Unequal levels of financial inclusion could be addressed by AI, according to Shamina Singh, Founder & President of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. But, she added, "You have to build structures to be inclusive by design, secure by design and with privacy at their heart."

United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate Valentina Muñoz Rabanal pointed out that youth have to play a central role in the development of technology. She argued that, whilst children and young people are getting more representation, as core users, they need to be seen as protagonists.



Watch session <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1r/k1rh2c3whq>

The closing part of the session was an exclusive sit-down with 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa. AI technology, she said, has to be understood by all parts of society, including sociologists and behavioural scientists, and developed in a principled environment where money isn't the driving force. "We have seen that, when money is the driving force, the harms are pushed aside and, unless they touch advertising revenue, they won't be addressed."



“YOU HAVE TO BUILD STRUCTURES TO BE INCLUSIVE BY DESIGN, SECURE BY DESIGN AND WITH PRIVACY AT THEIR HEART.”

**– SHAMINA SINGH,
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT,
MASTERCARD CENTER FOR
INCLUSIVE GROWTH**



Commitments and connections made at the SDG Pavilion will reinvigorate and advance the Goals

The positive impacts of the Halftime Talks at the SDG Pavilion were seen almost immediately, with agreements and commitments announced, and new connections made between high-profile influencers and leaders.

The welcoming forest environment of the SDG Pavilion, and the free flowing conversations that took place on stage and in the green room, were clearly conducive to the spirit of partnership and mobilization the structure was designed to create: throughout High-level Week of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, the SDG Pavilion was chosen by organizations across sectors and Member States as the venue for the announcement of new commitments to advance the SDGs, and new alliances were forged.

A week of major announcements

A powerful new data tool, the fruit of a collaboration between the UN and Google.org, was unveiled during the opening session of the High-level Week at the SDG Pavilion. The new tool, deployed by UN Data Commons for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pulls together SDG data and information from across the UN System into an easy-to-use platform, allowing anyone to track the progress of every target within each of the 17 Goals. “At the halfway point of the SDGs, data has never been more important,” said Mr. Schweinfest, Director of the UN Statistics Division (UNSD/DESA). “We need robust, authoritative data to

understand where it’s most urgent to take action in the second half.”

Speakers at the session on education, on Tuesday, 19 September, warned of a global crisis, a system that is not fit for purpose, and the need for investment. Fahad Al-Sulaiti, CEO of Qatar’s Education Above All Foundation, called for innovative financing, and a commitment from governments to increase their commitment for education. Earlier in the week, Mr Al-Sulaiti announced a US\$250 million partnership between the Foundation and the World Bank, designed to improve access to quality education, and address the needs of out-of-school children around the world.

“There’s nothing wrong with AI, and everything wrong with us,” declared Dr Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Botswana, at the session on Artificial Intelligence on Wednesday 20 September, in a call for effective regulation that was echoed by several other speakers. Alongside the acknowledgement of the dangers inherent in the misapplication of the technology, there was also widespread recognition of the immense potential of AI to help create a better world.

On the same day at the SDG Pavilion, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, together with H.E. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, launched a global initiative that will crowdsource and capture the voices, experiences,

and creativity of the world’s women and girls to inform solutions to some of the most pressing challenges the world is facing.

The “We the Women...” campaign was launched during a networking event of 100 influential women leaders from around the world, who gathered to recommit to efforts which bring visibility and networked support to women in all fields, under the umbrella of “Women Rise for All.”

“With equal rights, resources and representation, women rise,” said Ms Schulze. Visibility and audibility are the premise for reaching our common goals. Without gender equality there is no way to get the 2030 Agenda on track. And without the equal participation of women there is no way the UN pact for the future will be successful.”

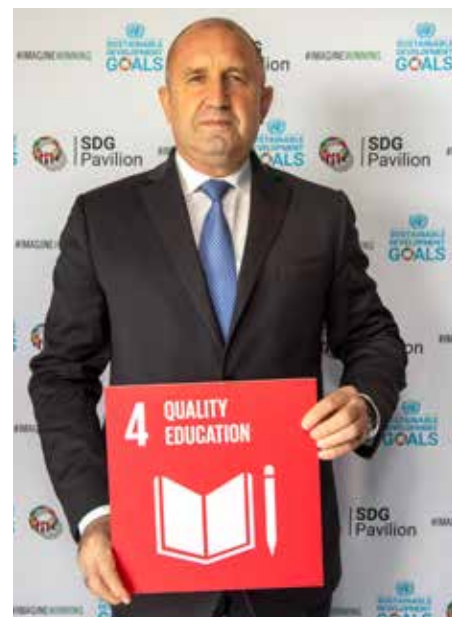
Carbon pricing has a pivotal role to play in advancing global climate ambition and decarbonization. At the Wednesday, 20 September session devoted to the topic – co-hosted by the Canadian Government and UN Partnerships – representatives of several countries, and the European Union, expressed their support for the Global Carbon Pricing Initiative, a Canadian-led call for all countries to adopt pollution pricing as a central part of their climate strategies.

New connections

People from across sectors, exchanged ideas, and resolved to continue meeting in support of the Goals. For example, after hearing Douglas Peterson, CEO of financial information firm S&P Global, speak at the “Winning Strategies for Financing the SDGs” session on Tuesday, 19 September, Mia Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados, expressed the wish to discuss

climate financing with him in more detail. And, after learning about the Halftime Campaign, Massimo Bottura – celebrity chef, food systems activist, and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador – stopped by the SDG Pavilion to underline the importance of individual responsibility in transforming food systems and called for each person to shop for sustainably produced food.







AT-A-GLANCE

CLIMATE JUSTICE



WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR ALL

As the world grapples with the escalating climate crisis, urgent actions are needed from all to prevent catastrophic consequences and ensure justice for those on the frontlines.

This segment featured in-depth discussions around climate justice, including on early warning systems as an important measure to save lives and protect livelihoods from loss and damage. The segment also highlighted the importance of delivering on the promise of climate finance to meet developing countries' needs and build their resilience against the worsening impacts of climate change.

Watch here: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k12/k123kevga8>



KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ Accelerated efforts to protect vulnerable populations is a moral imperative and must be pursued urgently alongside emissions reduction efforts.
- ▶ Those who contribute the least to climate change are often the most vulnerable to its impacts. Climate finance is how we right this injustice.
- ▶ In a world defined by escalating climate injustices, early warning systems are a proven and effective way to save lives and protect vulnerable communities.
- ▶ Understanding the centrality of human rights is crucial in addressing the climate crisis. We must prioritize human rights to more effective climate decision-making and actions.



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Cassie Flynn, Global Head of Climate Change, UN Development Programme (UNDP)



Paul Goodloe, Television meteorologist at the Weather Channel

Speakers



Xiye Bastida, Climate Justice Activist



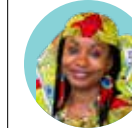
Kate Brandt, Chief Sustainability Officer, Google



Kevin Chand, Senior Legal Advisor to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations



Jevanic Henry, United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisor on Climate Change



Hindou Ibrahim, Indigenous rights activist and United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



Dwikorita Karnawati, Minister and Director of the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics



Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Vanessa Nakate, Climate justice activist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador



Matthew Samuda, Climate Change Minister of Jamaica



Petteri Talaas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation

“WE HAVE THE EVIDENCE, WE HAVE ENOUGH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. NOW WE NEED THE POLITICAL WILL.”

- JEVANIC HENRY, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S YOUTH ADVISOR ON CLIMATE CHANGE

GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR JUSTICE

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

As the world grapples with the escalating climate crisis, urgent action is required to prevent catastrophic consequences and ensure justice for those on the frontlines.

The Climate Justice session at the SDG Pavilion included in-depth discussions about early warning systems as a key measure to save lives and protect livelihoods from loss and damage, and emphasized the importance of delivering on the promise of climate finance to meet the needs of developing countries and enhance their resilience.

The first panel of the session focused on early warning systems, particularly their role in achieving climate justice. The panel showcased progress towards this ambitious goal, highlighted the challenges faced by vulnerable populations, and explored equitable solutions for universal access to early warnings.

Dwikorita Karnawati, Director of the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics, advocated for greater social justice for the poor, enabling them to become as resilient as those with more resources. Meanwhile, Mami Mizutori, the head of United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), emphasized that an early warning system's effectiveness depends on

prompt follow-up actions. She noted, "In some vulnerable communities, where the spoken language may not align with the national language, the warning needs must be curated to ensure they reach all residents".

Early warning systems are poised to be increasingly important in the coming years, as Petteri Talaas, the head of the World Meteorological Organisation, explained. He said that negative trends will persist into the 2060s, regardless of our success in mitigating the effects of this instability.

AI technology has an important role to play in early warning systems. Kate Brandt, Chief Sustainability Officer at Google, explained that, through Google Search and Google Maps, information from reliable sources can show if there are nearby floods or wildfires. "AI can be used for early detection of wildfires so that emergency authorities can go and squelch them," she said.

The second panel, moderated by Cassie Flynn, Global Head of Climate Change at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focused on the need to scale up climate finance, a necessary investment for a liveable planet. Climate change-induced disasters raise challenges and increase development, and that climate finance is a vital tool enabling

developing countries, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience.

Matthew Samuda, Jamaica's Climate Change Minister, underlined the necessity for more climate financing in his country, noting that \$3 billion is needed to make Jamaica water-secure by 2030. However, he also predicted that by then, half of the country's energy will be produced from renewable sources.

For nations that are heavily dependent on tourism, the climate crisis is causing huge economic instability. Jevanic Henry, the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisor on Climate Change, called for political will to increase climate financing. "We have the evidence, we have enough scientific research. Now we need the political will."

Building on the importance of ensuring equitable climate action that upholds human rights for all, the final panel examined the adverse effects of climate change, including on human rights, and showcased successful case studies of integrating human rights principles into climate policies.

Kevin Chand, senior legal advisor to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations, said that island nations are seeking climate protection from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which will consider whether carbon emissions should be considered marine pollution. Their advisory opinion would be key as countries seek to get answers on how to determine the obligations of states parties.

Indigenous rights activist and United Nations SDG Advocate Hindou Ibrahim noted that while indigenous people make up five per cent of the

world's population, they protect 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity. "Climate justice is about all species, from insects to animals, from our rivers to our oceans to our forests to our savannas. They all deserve respect."

Vanessa Nakate, Climate justice activist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, said that there must be an end to new investments in fossil fuels. "We know that they're greatly responsible for this crisis, which has caused destruction in

many communities, especially in the Global South. Leaders must listen to the science and listen to communities. We've seen disaster upon disaster. People can't deny that we're in an emergency that needs to be addressed."

Climate activist Xiye Bastida closed out the session, with a talk on the importance of activism and how to find hope amidst the climate crisis. "Everything that we are comes from the earth. When you hurt the earth, you hurt yourself."





AT-A-GLANCE

GREEN TRANSITION



WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

ACTION FOR A LIVABLE PLANET

Decarbonization. period. We are witnessing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis in every continent and region. The efforts of governments and business have been insufficient so far, but we can't give up. The world still has a narrow window to stay within the 1.5C limit of the Paris Agreement to avoid dangerous tipping points and secure a livable planet.

The good news is that the tools to address the climate crisis already exist. What we need is the will to act. We must cut carbon pollution and end the merciless war on nature in order to protect lives and livelihoods. The conversations in this segment identified the gaps, highlighted solutions, and stressed what needs to be done next.

Watch here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1v/k1vejo4149>

KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ The 1.5-degree temperature limit is non-negotiable. It must remain the north star for global mitigation ambition.
- ▶ Change is happening but nowhere near fast enough. The climate crisis is still

outpacing countries' efforts to contain it. Without international cooperation, we have no chance of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

- ▶ We must leave behind fossil fuel dependency and show how only renewables offer secure, affordable energy for all.
- ▶ A transition away from fossil fuels must leave no one behind. All people, including women, indigenous peoples, and youth should have an equal opportunity to contribute to and benefit from climate action and the energy transition.
- ▶ The fashion industry has a big impact on the environment and needs to take an active part in tackling the climate crisis and helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ▶ Nature-based solutions to the climate crisis are significant tools in the battle to secure a better future.



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Sheena Butler-Young, Senior Correspondent at Business of Fashion



Nelson Muffuh, United Nations Resident Coordinator, South Africa



Justin Worland, Senior Correspondent at TIME

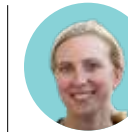


Melissa Wright, Bloomberg Philanthropies

Speakers



Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency



May Boeve, the Executive Director of 350.org



Tim Christophersen, Vice President of Climate Action at Salesforce



Alexander Lacik, CEO of Pandora



Elizabeth Maruma, Deputy Executive Director UN Environment Programme



Dia Mirza, Actor and United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montreal



Lewis Pugh, Endurance swimmer and United Nations Patron of the Oceans



Lindita Khaferi-Salih, Business Engagement Lead, Global Climate Action at United Nations Climate Change (UNFCCC)

“IN THE ABSENCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, WE HAVE NO CHANCE WHATSOEVER TO REACH OUR 1.5C TARGET.”

—FATIH BIROL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

GREEN TRANSITION: KEY DISCUSSIONS AT SDG PAVILION HIGHLIGHT URGENT NEED FOR AMBITION AND ACTION

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

The world still has a narrow window of opportunity to stay within the 1.5C limit of the Paris Agreement, avoid dangerous tipping points, and secure a liveable planet.

The good news is that the tools to address the climate crisis already exist, but we need the political will to cut carbon pollution and end the merciless war on nature in order to protect lives and livelihoods.

The Green Transition segment at the SDG Pavilion centred around the availability of solutions, and what needs to be done to make the transition a reality. It opened with Justin Worland, Senior Correspondent at TIME, interviewing Dr Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency.

Dr Birol laid out a path for the world to decarbonize its energy use based on international cooperation without which, he said, we have no chance of giving 1.5C target a fighting chance.

Mr Worland then interviewed May Boeve, the Executive Director of 350.org, on building movements for change. "If we look at the countries where we are seeing political progress, people power is often the

secret sauce behind these big policy changes," she argued.

The fashion industry has a big impact on the environment and needs to take an active part in fighting the climate crisis and helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sheena Butler-Young, Senior Correspondent at Business of Fashion, moderated a panel discussion focusing on the concrete solutions driven by the fashion industry to challenge the status quo.

Lindita Xhaferi-Salihi, Business Engagement Lead for UNFCCC, called for a new level of collaboration between brands and suppliers, taking into account the needs of local people.

Actor and United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate Dia Mirza argued that sustainable clothing should be the norm rather than the exception, and should be part of a commitment that consumers make to themselves and the planet. Alexander Lacik, the CEO of Pandora, hailed the power of individuals to create momentum and bring about real change.

Nature-based solutions to the climate crisis are significant tools in

the battle to secure a better future. Melissa Wright, Senior Associate at Bloomberg Philanthropies, moderated a panel discussion on the synergy between biodiversity and climate action, and how to forge partnerships and policy innovation, and mobilize communities to drive transformative change.

Valérie Plante, the Mayor of Montreal, said that whilst citizens are being asked to make sacrifices and change their behaviour, cities also have a responsibility to take actions and implement nature-based solutions to improve their quality of life. "This means planting trees, and creating 'sponge parks' and 'sponge streets' [which mitigate flooding]."

Elizabeth Maruma, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP and Co-Chair of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, focused on the need for data in decision-making which, she said, is a challenge for developing countries. "Even though more and more data are available, there is still an issue of accessibility, particularly for those countries where technology has not developed," she said.

In facing the climate crisis, optimism is essential, according to Tim Christophersen, Vice President of Climate Action at Salesforce. "What gives me a lot of hope is that there is a big shift towards seeing nature as infrastructure. There is a multibillion-dollar nature restoration economy emerging in many countries, and this will happen very quickly with our help."

Endurance swimmer and United Nations Patron of the Oceans Lewis Pugh concluded the session, fresh from his epic swim down the Hudson River, to raise awareness about the health of waterways. "For me, this is about justice between ourselves and future generations but also between ourselves and the animal kingdom,"

declared Mr Pugh. "When it comes to these goals, we have to flip the script, and imagine what things would look like if all the SDGs are achieved."





AT-A-GLANCE

PUTTING A PRICE ON CARBON



WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

A GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The Paris Agreement signifies a global commitment to combat the climate crisis, with the aim of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Achieving this target requires enhanced international cooperation on decarbonization, including market-based approaches like carbon pricing.

This event, jointly hosted by the Government of Canada and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, highlighted the pivotal role of carbon pricing in advancing global climate ambition and decarbonization.

During the event, Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada launched a global carbon pricing challenge to make sure that pollution has a price.

Watch here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1nrw1ouuk>



KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ The Paris Agreement signifies a collective commitment to combat the climate crisis. To limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the world needs joint efforts in decarbonization.
- ▶ In addition to reducing fossil fuel subsidies, it is important to have market-based approaches like carbon pricing to address the climate crisis.



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Panel 1 Speakers



Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates



Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund



Sherry Dean, Assistant Halifax Fire Chief and Jason Brolund, Fire Chief of West Kelowna in British Columbia, Canada



Jason Brolund, Fire Chief of West Kelowna in British Columbia, Canada



Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Climate Action



Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO of Sustainable Energy for All

Panel 2

Moderator



Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency

Speakers



Jean-Luc Assi, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Cote d'Ivoire



Espen Barth Eide, Minister for Climate and Environment of Norway



Andrew Mitchell, the Minister for Development of the United Kingdom



Nicolai Wammen, Minister for Finance of Denmark



Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President for the European Green deal at the European Commission

“WE ALL KNOW THAT POLLUTION HAS A COST. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT POLLUTION HAS A PRICE, TOO.”

– JUSTIN TRUDEAU, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

PUTTING A PRICE ON CARBON

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

Global Leaders Emphasize Crucial Role of Carbon Pricing to Achieve Paris Agreement Goals.

The Paris Agreement signifies a global commitment to combat the climate crisis, with the aim of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Achieving this target requires enhanced international cooperation on decarbonization, including market-based approaches like carbon pricing.

This event, jointly hosted by the Government of Canada and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, highlighted the pivotal role of carbon pricing in advancing global climate ambition and decarbonization.

In the first panel, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, declared that putting a price on carbon is the only way to keep the Paris Agreement alive. "The average price today is \$5 a tonne. It has to go up to \$80 a tonne by 2030. We propose to create a carbon-price floor. This is very pragmatic. My call to everybody is take this shot, put a price on carbon!"

The catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis were underlined by

Jason Brolund, Fire Chief of West Kelowna in British Columbia, Canada. He recalled his experiences tackling the wildfires in his country.

"We were surrounded by fire and the wind was driving it down on us. The sky was orange. Five weeks ago, my community was devastated. It was like fighting a hundred years of fire all in one night. How did this happen to us?"

Assistant Halifax Fire Chief Sherry Dean described the effects of Hurricane Fiona, which hit her region a year ago. "More than 60 per cent of Nova Scotia residents were affected. More than 16,000 were evacuated immediately. Two hundred thirty-five square kilometres of forests were lost. It is sad to know that there are still people and industries questioning the impacts of the climate emergency."

Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, praised the work of his country's firefighters, and called for world leaders to show more climate ambition. "We all know that pollution has a cost. Together, we can make sure that pollution has a price, too. Let's keep taking action and, as leaders, let's be inspired by the courage with which firefighters like these show up to work every

single day." Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Climate Action, praised Canada's status as a "first mover and doer" on climate action, which earned the country an invite to the Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit.

"It is never easy to be a first mover while others hide behind," said Mr. Hart. "We hope you will encourage others to move together, especially from the Global South."

Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO of Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, said that carbon pricing is a powerful tool to combat climate change, but also for development. "We cannot ignore disparities in carbon pricing mechanisms around the world. African carbon credits have the potential not only to support marginalized groups, but to pave the way for a just energy transition over the continent."

In the second panel, Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), expressed support for carbon pricing, but pointed out that it needs to happen at the right time and at the right level. "In 2005, about five per cent of the global emissions was covered by carbon pricing. Today, about one fourth of global emissions are covered by carbon pricing, but there is also one trillion dollars of incentives to fossil fuels. We have two jobs: one, put a carbon price, and second, reduce the fossil fuel subsidies."

Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal at the European Commission; Andrew Mitchell, the Minister for Development of the United Kingdom; Jean-Luc Assi, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Cote d'Ivoire; Espen

Barth Eide, Minister for Climate and Environment of Norway; and Nicolai Wammen, Minister for Finance of Denmark, all expressed their support for the Global Carbon Pricing Initiative, a Canadian-led call for all countries to adopt pollution pricing as a central part of their climate strategies.





SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

THURSDAY
21 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01| SDG ACTION ZONE

02| HEALTH AND HOPE





AT-A-GLANCE

SDG ACTION ZONE



THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

SDG ACTION ZONE: RAISING ACCOUNTABILITY



Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General closing the SDG Action Zone

©UN Photo/Pier Paolo Cito

The 5th edition of the SDG Action Zone provided a dynamic and inclusive platform for over 20 leaders from different sectors, geographies, and generations to speak truth to power – in seven unscripted sessions.

The overarching theme was how to raise accountability to close the gap on the SDGs in the next seven years. Like in previous years, those driving solutions on the ground took center stage. There was much coherence between the sessions while each of the speakers brought unique perspectives on accountability at all levels.

Every year, the SDG Action Zone provides a meaningful space for a diverse range of actors to share innovative approaches, spotlight solutions, and build a community to inspire pathways for change.

KEY MESSAGE

Each participant from around the world was left empowered to use their own spheres of influence to hold leaders accountable to their promises at global, regional, national, and local levels.



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Brady Piñero Walkinshaw, CEO, Earth Alliance.



Dawda Jobarteh, Global Head, United Nations SDG Strategy Hub

Host



Nadira Hira, Master of Ceremonies

Speakers



Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



Yolanda Awel Deng Juach, Minister of Health of the Republic of South Sudan



Omoyemi Akerele, Founder & CEO, Style House Files, Lagos Fashion Week



Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, Oxfam International



Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations, World Bank



Paloma Costa, Youth Climate Advisor & Co-founder, Youth Climate Justice Fund



Greg Curtis, Executive Director, Holdfast Collective



Es Devlin, Artist & Designer



Hahrie Han, Director, SNF Agora Institute & Professor of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University



Selina N. Leem, Climate Justice Warrior



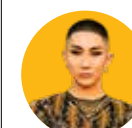
Catherine McKenna, CEO, Climate and Nature Solutions



Eddie Ndopu, United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



Luisa Neubauer, Activist, Fridays for Future



Kodo Nishimura, Artist & Buddhist Monk



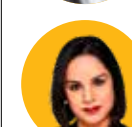
Baaba Maal, Musician & Activist



Ramya Ramana, Poet



Shruti Suresh, Co-Director of Campaigns, Global Witness



Nahla Valji, Global Coordinator & Senior Advisor, UN Spotlight Initiative

SDG ACTION ZONE HOLDS FEET TO THE FIRE WITH ACCOUNTABILITY FOCUS

21 SEPTEMBER 2023



The SDG Action Zone 2023 inspired pathways to boost powerful movements for the SDGs

The fifth edition of the SDG Action Zone took place in the SDG Pavilion on Thursday morning, providing a meaningful platform for a diverse range of actors to share perspectives, spotlight solutions, exchange ideas, and discuss lessons learned.

The SDG Action Zone 2023 opened up the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to SDG champions, activists, and allies to feature critical insights for people and planet: from thought leaders to

social movers, changemakers and the highest levels of UN leadership.

In a spoken word performance, award-winning poet and writer Ramya Ramana reflected on opportunities, humility, and hubris. “And this landscape is worthy of beauty: Expansions of lily pads freckling horizons of water. Asir magpies painted with a single blue-ish stripe, their ability to mimic human sound – what a weight of voice. It is evident after all, grass longs to be full and green. And earth cries to be clothed well: education, opportunity, health, economic justice, peace, sustainable lands for all.”

Accountability + Action for People + Planet

The first panel of the session tackled head-on this year’s theme: “Raising Accountability.” In a world shaken by the forces of climate change – fierce heat waves, flash floods, severe droughts, and raging wildfires – the need for action has never been more urgent. Activists and political leaders joined this session, diving into the heart of the matter and one of the most effective climate solutions: accountability.

Catherine McKenna, CEO of Climate and Nature Solutions and former Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, noted that young people want to work for businesses and companies that are actively doing the right thing in terms of climate action, and people want to invest their money with banks and companies that are not harming the planet.

Paloma Costa, Youth Climate Advisor and Co-founder of the Youth Climate Justice Fund, agreed that accountability is an issue for all of us. “We are out of time. If we want to be accountable, we need to have access to information, to education, and to spaces for deliberative decisions.”

Amitabh Behar, Executive Director ad interim at Oxfam International, decried the “empty rhetoric” and “greenwashing” from the private sector, and the failure of global political leadership. “It is going to be the people’s power which is going to hold them accountable to these promises.”

Trailblazing in business

In September 2022, Patagonia’s CEO and Founder Yvon Chouinard “gave away his business,” donating all future profits to help fight climate change. In a fireside chat, Greg Curtis, Executive Director of Holdfast Collective (Patagonia’s new non-profit shareholder) explained the motivations behind the move to redirect Patagonia’s profits towards environmental preservation, and how this shift reflects a wider web of businesses taking responsibility for their impact on people and planet. “I’m hoping to create an environment where we can support local grassroots organizations to protect something that’s important to them in their local community,” he said.

How to boost global SDG movements?

No matter the crisis – be it climate change, inequality, or human rights violations – social movements have consistently drawn attention to societal grievances and advocated for needed change. The panel on boosting these movements brought together voices from different movements to discuss the impact and indicators of successful movements, identify universal learnings, and explore strategies to boost powerful movements for the SDGs.

Climate Justice Warrior Selina N. Leem opened this session with a firsthand account of the current situation on the ground, addressing clear words to developed nations: “Your comfort is enabled by the erasure of our cultures, languages, livelihoods, and security”. Leaving participants with a strong message, she closed her appeal with “1.5 to stay alive”.

Hahrie Han, Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University, said that every major change in human history has been driven by social movements, often with young people at the forefront. “Systems are so entrenched that it often takes disruption – and people power to be able to do that. There’s a gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be, and people have to close that.”

Activism isn’t a choice, but a compulsion, according to Eddie Ndopu, United Nations Secretary-General’s SDG Advocate, adding that activism is the work of the imagination, because it’s about envisioning a world that doesn’t yet exist.

Shruti Suresh, Co-Director of Campaigns *ad interim* at Global Witness, said that the checks and balances on unchecked power are being fundamentally eroded. Global Witness, she added, speaks truth to power, using investigations to expose hidden power dynamics, particularly where corporations are working with authoritarian governments.

Arts + Culture for People + Planet

Having analyzed accountability, the possibilities and responsibilities of business, and the power of and need for social movements, the SDG Action Zone shifted focus to touching people’s minds and hearts through a panel of artists moderated by Brady Walkinshaw, CEO of Earth Alliance.

Artist and Buddhist Monk, Kodo Nishimura discussed the importance of representation, and what it meant to see art, music, and movies featuring LGBTQIA+ people. “Their

“WE ARE COMING DOWN WITH THE DETERMINATION THAT WE ARE GOING TO GET THE JOB DOWN IN THE SECOND HALF. [...] EVERYONE HAS A VOICE. USE IT.”

– AMINA J. MOHAMMED, UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

“THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN THE WORLD AS IT IS, AND THE WORLD AS IT SHOULD BE, AND PEOPLE HAVE TO CLOSE THAT.”

– HAHRIE HAN, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY & DIRECTOR OF THE SNF AGORA INSTITUTE

struggles were identical to mine. And that made me feel that I was not alone.”

“We’re storytelling animals,” said Es Devlin, the stage designer and artist behind the SDG Pavilion. “We think we’re living inside places, but we’re really living inside stories. Between all of us, there’s only connectivity. There’s only the continuation between us, plants, other species, and each other.”

Omoyemi Akerele, Founder and CEO of Style House Files and Lagos Fashion Week, said that fashion is an important tool for shaping conversations around climate change, consumption patterns, and habits. “Every contribution is important to creating the clothes that we see. Fashion is about heritage and speaks to a culture of craftsmanship. Africa was always the continent that was associated with pessimism. But, in the last decade, we’ve started to see the stories come out of Africa, with our music, with movies, and with fashion.”

Sharing the stage was renowned singer Baaba Maal, who spoke of the need (and possibility) to inspire people all over the world. “Everyone can have a dream and can make it happen,” he assured before calling for global unity. “We are one big country, we are one big family, and we have one big responsibility to share something and to give it to the next generations.”

How do we know what’s working?

How can we measure the success of a society? Gross Domestic Product (GDP) does not guarantee equal benefits for all in society so, to make a positive difference, policymakers must adopt real-life indicators that truly reflect the well-being of people and planet. The “How do we know what’s working?” panel addressed what these crucial success metrics could be and how to shift systems and mindsets to address them.

“When it comes to assessing what works and what doesn’t work, we need to listen to ourselves and not to those who will always tell us that we will fail,” said Luisa Neubauer, a leading member of Fridays for Future in Germany. “It is on us to make sure that people are not falling for the lies and the dark stories of the cynics.”

Yolanda Awel Deng Juach, Minister of Health of the Republic of South Sudan, said that the mortality rate is a clear metric for success or failure. “This year, eight million people are on the verge of starvation and hunger in my country, almost half the population. So, that tells me that something is not working.”

Nahla Valji, Global Coordinator for the UN Spotlight Initiative, pointed to women’s equal participation in

society as a key metric for progress, because it helps achieve all the SDGs.

Anna Bjerde, Managing Director of Operations at the World Bank, declared that the organization’s goal is to eliminate poverty on a livable planet, so the metrics that lead to that goal need to be tracked. “We must lift everyone up. This is about raising everyone’s prosperity and it’s about reducing inequality across countries.”

Overdue, but not too late

For the closing session, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed underscored the urgency for each of us to play our part in shaping a world where the SDGs are a lived reality.

“Leaders have been in the house [UN Headquarters] and they may not be Presidents and Prime Ministers but, I can tell you, they’ve been stepping up. The messages that we knew we wanted to take out of the General Assembly will go back to capitals, and those messages are not just going back with other delegations. They’re going with stakeholders, civil society, women’s groups, young people, business, academia, and scientists. I think this house has opened up more than it has in quite a while, but it has to be every house and every country, in our local communities. And it is happening more now than ever.”



Watch all sessions at: <https://sdgactionzone.org/on-demand/>



Online content creators at the SDG Pavilion: A first for the UN

Media accreditation for UN General Assembly High-level Week is highly prized and tightly controlled but in 2023, for the first time, online content creators were granted entry to interview the guests at the Creator Studio in the SDG Pavilion. Nathalia Arcuri, Prajakta Koli and Alice Aedy were joined by a host of exciting speakers to bring the message of the Sustainable Development Goals at Halftime to their millions of followers.

While media activity at UN Headquarters fluctuates throughout the year depending on world events, the presence of news-making personalities, and the events being held on-site, nothing compares to the thousands who make their way to midtown Manhattan during General Assembly High-level Week in September.

This is when the eyes of the world turn to the UN. Roads are closed, New York City Police and Secret Service teams join the UN security officers to protect the world leaders and delegates flying into the city, and there is a huge influx of international broadcast news teams, basing themselves out of temporary structures erected on the North Lawn area of Headquarters.

Gaining access to the HQ site during this period of heightened security is extremely difficult. Only journalists from traditional media organizations can apply for accreditation and, even then, there is no guarantee of success. In 2023, however, UN

Partnerships enabled a new breed of content creators to enter the gates of New York Headquarters and interview the politicians, senior UN officials, and activists speaking at the SDG Pavilion.

Breaking out of the bubble

The idea was to “break out of the bubble” and explain the Sustainable Development Goals to a diverse global audience. To make it happen, UN Partnerships worked closely with Project Everyone, the not-for-profit communications agency founded by screenwriter and SDG Advocate Richard Curtis, and YouTube, which suggested several influential and popular content creators. After considering several names, three creators were eventually chosen: Prajakta Koli, Nathalia Arcuri, and Alice Aedy.

Mumbai-based Ms Koli, who has over 15 million followers on social media, is best known for her YouTube channel “Mostly Sane,” but she has also branched out into acting, starring in Bollywood movies, and TV series. Ms Koli has taken part in several social initiatives, including campaigning for mental health, and speaking at UN Headquarters in support of actions to deal with hate speech, sexism, and homophobia, for International Day of Tolerance. She is also a UN Development Programme (UNDP) India Youth Climate Champion.

Nathalia Arcuri, the founder of “Me Poupe!,” the world’s largest financial

entertainment platform, is a Brazilian entrepreneur, journalist, finance specialist, and philanthropist. *Me Poupe!* brings together entertainment and financial information and makes complex concepts understandable, earned Ms Arcuri several awards, and attracts more than 5.5 million subscribers to her YouTube Channel.

Alice Aedy is a British filmmaker, documentary photographer, and campaigner, who focuses on telling stories about those on the frontlines of the climate emergency, the refugee crisis, and the fight for women’s rights. She is one of the co-founders of Earthrise Studios, which creates content across various platforms, with the aim of inspiring those curious about climate issues to advocate for change. Earthrise Studios content has been viewed some 49 million times.

During High-level Week, the three influencers were based in the Creator Studio, a bespoke space created by YouTube and Project Everyone in the backstage area of the SDG Pavilion, conveniently located next to the Green Rooms, affording them easy access to the guests and speakers.

Ms Koli’s guests included Richard Curtis, who discussed his optimism about the rapid growth of renewable energy, the attitude of the younger generation towards the climate emergency, and the importance of effectively using powerful examples, both positive and negative, to elicit a strong response, in order to engage audiences and effect change.

Ms Arcuri interviewed several senior politicians, including former UK Prime Minister, and UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown. Mr. Brown described 2023, the midpoint of the SDGs, as “the moment of truth.” He outlined the huge gaps in education funding, and the plight of the hundreds of millions of children who miss out on school. “Education unlocks every other Goal: gender equality, employment opportunities, and quality of life, and the mitigation and adaption to climate change depends on an educated population.”

An important aspect of the SDG Pavilion events was the presence of activists. Alice Aedy interviewed Xiye Bastida, a Mexican climate activist, and one of the main organizers of the Fridays for Future movement in New York City. Ms Bastida, a member of the indigenous Otomi people, advocates for the involvement of indigenous and immigrant communities in the fight against the climate crisis.

Ms Bastida called for greater attention to paid to SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, which, she said, is often forgotten. “We are all in this crisis, and we all need to work together,” she declared, adding that a fairer representation of people from the Global South, which is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, is missing at a multilateral level. “87 per cent of people under 30 live in the Global South. In a room of 10 youths, around nine should be from there, but we’re not seeing that kind of representation. So, the SDGs are about greater visibility, and ensuring that solutions permeate across sectors.”

The Creator Studio, a collaboration between UN Partnerships, Project Everyone, and YouTube, marked a new era in the way that the UN engages with online content creators and was hopefully just the first in many more projects to come.



You can watch all the interviews conducted by the influencers in the Creator Studio here: <https://unpartnerships.un.org/videos>





AT-A-GLANCE

HEALTH AND HOPE



THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

ACTIONS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN

This session looked at the actions that are needed to accelerate progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality around the world, and what can be done to ensure that mental health services are accessible for all.

Panellists explored how can we redress the huge global health inequalities between now and 2030, in the second half of the SDGs, to ensure we uphold the principles of universality, and leave no one behind when we focus on achieving SDG3. The establishment of universal healthcare could be a pivotal step toward ensuring equitable health outcomes worldwide.

KEY MESSAGES

Maternal and child health good news for the SDGs—now taking to scale

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) not the silent pandemic anymore

Mental health has a seat at the table

New mental health treatments, many of which are being developed in the Global South, could change the lives of billions



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderators



Caitriona Perry, Chief Presenter, BBC News



Susan Rogers Van Katwyk, Managing Director, AMR Policy Accelerator

Speakers



Dame Sally Davies, UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial



Patrice Evra, Football Legend and Activist



Dr. Hadiza Shehu Galadanci, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital



Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia and President of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development



Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director



Zahid Maleque, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh



Eddie Ndopu, Award winning activist and humanitarian, United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Advocate



Miranda Wolpert, MBE, Director of Mental Health, Wellcome



Anita Zaidi, President, Gender Equality, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

“WHERE WE CAN DISSEMINATE GOOD INFORMATION ONLINE, IT IS REALLY HELPING PEOPLE TO MANAGE THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. INFORMATION IS NOT A REALM FOR POLITICAL DIVISION.”

– NATALIA KANEM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNFPA

HEALTH AND HOPE: BUILDING ON SUCCESS

21 SEPTEMBER 2023

This session looked at the actions that are needed to accelerate progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality around the world, and what can be done to ensure that mental health services are accessible for all.

Opening the session, Senait Fisseha, Director of Global Programs at the Susan Buffett Foundation, pointed out that 70 percent of maternal deaths are concentrated in African countries, and pregnancy complications and unsafe abortions are the leading cause of death amongst adolescent girls.

In the first panel, speakers discussed the policy interventions and investments that could improve child and mother mortality rates. Anita Zaidi, President of Gender Equality at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, warned that overall SDG progress has not gone well. However, she said, technology offers promise for the future. “We now have handheld artificial intelligence-enabled ultrasounds. Those things are now becoming very cheap and can be easily deployed around the world to determine whether a pregnancy is high-risk or not.”

Anwar Hossain Howlader, Secretary of the Bangladesh Ministry of Health, said that vaccine programmes have

greatly reduced child mortality in his country. To improve health outcomes, some 50,000 community clinics have been introduced around the country.

Natalia Kanem, the head of the United Nations reproductive health agency (UNFPA), called for more action to tackle misinformation. “Where we can disseminate good information online, it is really helping people to manage their sexual and reproductive health. Information is not a realm for political division. We really should not allow the type of contention about what it is young people need to know to be empowered. Biology is biology. Governing your own body, your own hormones, your own reproductive future, is part of your human rights”.

The panel was followed by a talk from Hadiza Shehu Galadanci, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital in Nigeria.

Dr. Galadanci, the first female gynecologist in the Kano region, recounted the difficult conditions faced by healthcare workers. “I see them exhausted, having to care for patients even though they are burnt out due to poor or inadequate healthcare providers, struggling

with inappropriate and inadequate facilities, to care for the vulnerable women and children.” Dr Susan Rogers, Managing Director for the AMR Policy Accelerator, and an adjunct professor with the Global Strategy Lab at York University, interviewed Professor Dame Sally Davies, the UK Special Envoy on antimicrobial resistance.

Professor Davies warned that while antibiotics have huge benefits, many people are dying from resistance. “About five million people die from drug-resistant infections, which means they are the third most important underlying cause of death. It matters to all of us, even in the richest countries with the best health systems, but of course it is much more prevalent in low-income countries.”

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization, talked about the violence faced by around one billion children around the world. “Violence does more than harm individual children. It undermines the fabric of our society. This is a cycle we can break. We have the solutions to prevent violence.”

The state of global mental health was the focus of the last panel of the session—the progress that has been made globally, ongoing challenges, and how to scale up mental health treatment and awareness globally.

Eddie Ndopu, award winning activist and humanitarian, and United Nations Secretary-General’s SDG Advocate, underlined the effect that deprivation, inequality, and injustice have on mental health trauma. “We need to incorporate a trauma-based response if we’re going to both tackle

the SDGs and uphold the importance of mental health,” he declared.

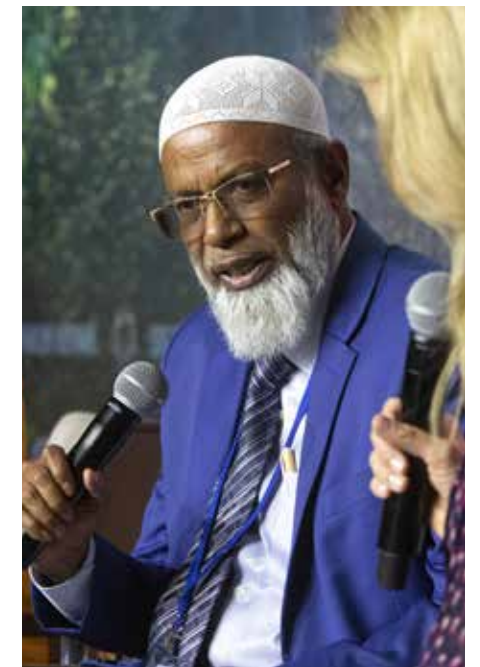
Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia and President of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development, talked about the generational trauma faced by so many of her country’s citizens. “I think the mistake that Namibia made, and many post-conflict societies made, was not to entrench mental health into our developmental plans. We need to really integrate the funding and the focus on mental health into our developmental plans.”

According to Professor Miranda Wolpert, Director of Mental Health at Wellcome, the world is at a tipping point, with new mental health treatments, many of which are being developed in the Global South, that could change the lives of billions across the globe.

The session closed with Rhitu Chatterjee interviewing former France and Manchester United footballer Patrice Evra, sharing his personal struggles – he was a victim of child sexual abuse – and explaining why he has become a mental health advocate.

“When trauma happens to you, you feel shame about yourself, you feel guilty, and you don’t know if people will believe you. In life, sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose. Never give up, and never find any excuse.”

Watch it here: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1r/k1rcxh7ffi>



“WE NEED TO INCORPORATE A TRAUMA-BASED RESPONSE IF WE’RE GOING TO BOTH TACKLE THE SDGS AND UPHOLD THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH.”

– EDDIE NDOPU, AWARD WINNING ACTIVIST AND HUMANITARIAN, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL’S SDG ADVOCATE





SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

FRIDAY
22 SEPTEMBER

SESSIONS

01 | 17 ROOMS

02 | HOPE AND HARMONY





AT-A-GLANCE

17 ROOMS AT THE UN SDG PAVILION



FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

17 ROOMS EXPERIENTIAL SESSION

The acclaimed 17 Rooms, an innovative approach to accelerate collaborative action for the SDGs in any community, was featured at the SDG Pavilion Around the world, a growing number of “17 Rooms-X” exercises have shown how collaborative enterprises can empower groups to come together to take the SDGs into their own hands, creating a new sense of possibility for the SDG Second Half.

To build on this momentum and help catalyze new forms of SDG progress, 17 Rooms aimed to empower the expansion of localized SDG action efforts around the world.



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator



John W. McArthur, Co-Chair, 17 Rooms Initiative, Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institution

Speakers



Noha Al-Khalqi, Managing Director, Millennium Campus Network



Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, UNAIDS



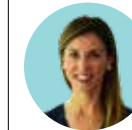
Azeem Christopher, Giving Tuesday Pakistan Country Leader



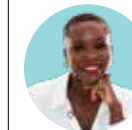
Asha Curran, CEO, Giving Tuesday



Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Economy and Transformation, Togo



Kristen Leanderson Abrams, Senior Director, Combatting Human Trafficking, McCain Institute



Blessing Omakwu, Deputy Director, Goalkeepers, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Miahore Herve Roland, Giving Tuesday Côte d'Ivoire Country Leader



Philipp Schönrock, Executive Director, Cepei



Judit Ungvári, Research and Innovation Officer, George Mason University's Institute for a Sustainable Earth



17 ROOMS AT THE UN SDG PAVILION 22 SEPTEMBER

The acclaimed 17 Rooms experiential session on the SDGs comes to the United Nations

On Friday, 22 September, the 17 Rooms Secretariat collaborated with the United Nations to convene diverse global stakeholders at the SDG Pavilion for an interactive working session, to explore how 17 Rooms approaches could help unlock new forms of collaborative action, insight, and community to improve progress among diverse constituencies for the SDG Second Half.

17 Rooms is an innovative approach to accelerate collaborative action for the SDGs within any community or geography. Around the world, a growing number of "17 Rooms-X" exercises have shown how collaborative enterprises can empower groups to come together to take the SDGs into their own hands, creating a new sense of possibility for the SDG Second Half.

To build on this momentum, and help catalyze new forms of SDG progress, 17 Rooms aims to empower the expansion of localized SDG action efforts around the world.



Behind the camera | An interview with photographer Tyreese Nacho and Co-Founder of Lens on Life, Jack Powers



The compelling events, candid moments and notable crowds who walked through the SDG Pavilion were captured by a group of talented photographers of all ages and backgrounds. A native of the Bronx, New York, Tyreese Nacho was the youngest photographer. At 23 years old, he joined the UN Partnerships team for the UNGA High-level Week in September 2023.

Tyreese became a student with Lens on Life, a nonprofit organization supporting photography and computer literacy for youth with teachers around the world—from the Bronx to Iraq and the DRC to name a few. “The resilience that Tyreese, who we met on the street through our partner Youth Justice Network, has shown to literally survive; to be determined to be successful,” says Jack Powers, one of the Co-Founders of Lens on Life and mentor for Tyreese. “Look at this young man from one of the most affected places in New York City of inequity going to the United Nations...documenting the most important people in the world.”

At Lens on Life, Tyreese learned the basics of managing a camera and saw the promise of becoming a photographer. “I was sharpening my skills and really just being passionate

about what I do to where I was able to get opportunities, like in the United Nations.” Since then, he has explored unique, creative endeavors in fashion and nature and documentary-style photography.

As a young photographer entering and working for the UN for the first time, he felt he learned more about how the organization works and felt surreal being in the space, even though he walked outside the UN grounds many times as a New Yorker. Tyreese captured compelling images of events at the SDG Pavilion, ranging from press conferences and performances to panels on complex topics like artificial intelligence. He found many sources of inspiration and empathized with the relatable stories and speeches.

“The SDG Pavilion was a space of a lot of people that were willing to listen and learn. And even though I was doing my job, I became one of those people that was there to listen and learn.”

One performance stood out to Tyreese on the last day of the SDG Pavilion programming: “Sing For Hope,” a children’s choir. Tyreese was there to photograph the young singers and felt moved by their

lyrics—quite literally. “I was dancing all over,” he says with a smile. “It was touching to me when I saw that because I’ve got children in my family—young boys, young girls—and they go through things. And as they get older, a lot of the time, they feel like they lose hope.”

Hope, empowerment, and equal opportunities are central to building a better world for youth. “This experience taught me that, you know, you can do anything. You could be anywhere.” Today, Tyreese



Photo courtesy of Lens on Life



Photo: UN Partnerships/Daniel Getachew

is working as an intern with Lens on Life, advancing his education and studying at the International Center of Photography. He feels passionate about supporting youth and building opportunities for the next generation. Young people starting or pivoting their careers can learn from Tyreese’s persistence, discipline and consistency. “Understand that when there’s a blessing before you, then just keep working hard.”



Photo credit: UN Partnerships/Tyreese Nacho



WHAT COMES NEXT...
IT'S FITTING THAT
WE CLOSED THE
SDG PAVILION
WITH THE SING
FOR HOPE CHOIR.

Music for Humanity Sing for Hope



Sing for Hope joined the final SDG Pavilion celebration with a choir featuring youth's bright faces and talented voices. The moving music impacted the audience in the room—reminding us of the unifying power of the arts.

With an empowering mission to harness the power of the arts to create a better world, the nonprofit Sing for Hope was founded in New York City in response to the events of 9/11. Among their Board Members are renowned names like Jon Batiste and Andrea Bocelli.

The creative programme is no stranger to the United Nations. In 2022, through a collaboration with the Netherlands, Sing for Hope provided a custom artist-designed piano that features the colours that make up the Sustainable Development Goals. This piano has since been used by diverse artists who have performed inspiring tunes for events like the SDG Halftime Show in the SDG Pavilion, and the SDG Summit at the General Assembly Hall, and beyond.

Our Photographers



Photo credit: Studio Arienti

Pier Paolo Cito

Pier Paolo Cito is a photo-journalist based in Rome and works as a consultant with the FAO Agency of the United Nations since 2014, and he's covered various FAO events inside and outside the Headquarters.

Cito has experience in providing professional photojournalism stories and producing story-telling photos in multicultural environments. Additionally, he is a dedicated underwater photographer. He holds extensive teaching experience in photojournalism having taught in various institutions of higher education across several countries in the last 30 years.

He covered the main conflicts in the last 20 years and the last 15-years activities of Pope John Paul II. His photos have been published in the most important magazines and newspapers worldwide.



Photo courtesy of Daniel Getachew

Daniel Getachew

Daniel Getachew was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. After discovering his true passion was photography, he enrolled in the Master Films & Communication School, where he earned his diploma in photo shooting and editing.

Getachew has a decade of experience and has worked in various settings, including private photo studios, media agencies, and my business, Photopia Studio. He has provided services to the United Nations system, documenting leaders and notable figures.

He believes that great photography is not just about capturing beautiful images but significant moments. Photography is his passion and life's work, and he is grateful to have such a fulfilling job and hopes his journey inspires others.

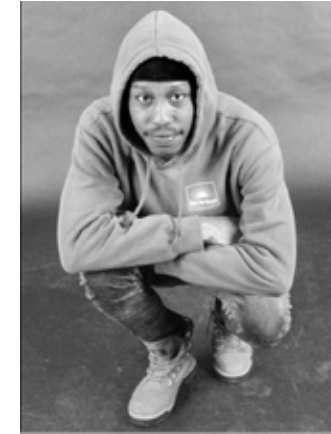


Photo courtesy of Tyreese Nacho

Tyreese Nacho

Tyreese Nacho is a 23-year-old, Bronx-born photographer, currently working and residing in the South Bronx. Growing up in one of New York City's most dangerous neighborhoods, Tyreese was consistently exposed to street violence, incarceration, and trauma.

He began training with Lens on Life and is now the staff photographer for a New York nonprofit called Youth Justice Network, a gigging event photographer, and was part of the UN Partnerships comms team, shooting photos at the SDG Pavilion.

During his time with Lens on Life, Tyreese trained with professionals in the field including renowned photographers Gillian Laub and Richard Renaldi. His work has been featured at the Shelter Gallery and Benrubi Gallery in New York, and he is now a scholar at the International Center of Photography (ICP). He uses documentary reportage to continue telling his own story and capture stories of his surrounding community in New York.



Photo courtesy: Stephanie Berger

Stephanie Berger

Stephanie Berger has been on the scene, photographing dance, music and live performance for over 30 years as the house photographer in New York City's cultural venues such as The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Lincoln Center, The Park Avenue Armory, Carnegie Hall, The Met Museum, to name a few.

As a photographer for the New York Times for many years, her assignments included everything from ballet to hip hop, Broadway openings to Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, portraits of presidential candidates to families living in homeless shelters, bridge workers, teenagers and the beauty of Central Park.

In 2016, she published her first book, Merce Cunningham: Beyond the Perfect Stage that is now in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, George Pompidou Center, Dia Arts Foundation, and MassMoca.

SDG PAVILION REPORT – PARTNERSHIPS

On 12 December 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the General Assembly for the first time after his appointment to office. Speaking on the existential role and fundamental values of the United Nations, he stated that,

“WE LIVE IN A COMPLEX WORLD. THE UNITED NATIONS CANNOT SUCCEED ALONE. PARTNERSHIP MUST CONTINUE TO BE AT THE HEART OF OUR STRATEGY. WE SHOULD HAVE THE HUMILITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF OTHER ACTORS WHILE MAINTAINING FULL AWARENESS OF OUR UNIQUE CONVENING POWER.”

The SDG Pavilion is a physical testament to the elemental impact of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

For the SDG Pavilion to be an iconic structure, it needed a creative visionary. Richard Curtis, one of the first UN Secretary-General’s SDG Advocates, has been a prominent

campaigner for the SDGs since their inception in 2015, always finding creative ways to communicate the Goals to the global public. He brought the spirit of “making the SDGs famous” to ensure that the SDG Pavilion was center stage at this critical juncture. Combined with the imaginative vision of artist Es Devlin, the SDG Pavilion made a statement on the powerful promise engraved in the SDGs.

Richard Curtis was not the only SDG Advocate to contribute. Brad Smith was behind the efforts to emphasize the importance of SDG progress data consistent throughout the structure and narrative of the SDG Pavilion. The interactive SDG data wall was but one example of Microsoft’s partnership.

The Co-Chairs of the SDG Advocates personally attended many events. Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley co-hosted the Halftime Show, celebrated the inauguration of the SDG Pavilion with us, and led the conversations on financing the SDGs. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hosted Canada’s carbon pricing event, bringing attention to the much-needed boost on global climate ambitions.

The government of Qatar, fueled by SDG Advocate Sheikha Moza bint Nasser’s commitment to the SDGs was also a key partner in the

inaugural moment and the premiere screening of The Agreement. In addition, the expertise of each partner was critical in shaping compelling conversations and special events held in the SDG Pavilion. The depth of the Health and Hope session could not have been possible without the profound knowledge that Wellcome and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offered.

Education Above All Foundation’s long-standing leadership in fighting for equal quality education for all was central to building constructive discussions on improving infrastructure that will enable education to remain a top global priority.

As governments and global organizations debate the fairness and efficiency of the current international financial architecture for sustainable development, the insights of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Deloitte and Bloomberg philanthropies were priceless.

Artificial intelligence has become one of the hottest topics, entering our everyday parlance and agitating the core zeitgeist. Google.org, Microsoft and Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, some of the top players in the field today, provided their deep command of the topic and cutting-edge innovation to

highlight the massive potential of AI in accelerating the SDGs.

Project Everyone’s creative initiatives in the general curation of the SDG Pavilion, the Halftime Campaign and the Halftime Show were fundamental in generating the inspiring energy behind the whole project.

These partnerships were facilitated by colleagues at the United Nations Foundation.

The North Lawn had never hosted a new structure of such scale and without the full support of UN

facilities, Office of Legal Affairs, security, catering, and volunteers from across the system, none of this would have been possible. Not to mention the thousands of Special Event Tickets generated by the pass office team, allowing us to welcome so many stakeholders and audience members.

Indeed, we live in a complex world – complex in diversity. But when those complexities unite for the common cause of creating a better, more sustainable world for all, they can magnify the riches of diversity and create a beacon of hope.





SDG PAVILION
AT THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNEX

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS

Briefing Book 2023

UN Office for Partnerships



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world's roadmap to a better future for all. As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 SDGs are a call to action to all countries, companies, organizations, and individuals to take action towards solving the world's most pressing issues.

With only 15% of the targets on track and the deadline rapidly approaching, we need urgent action from everyone, everywhere.




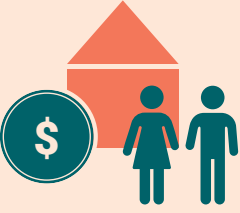




THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOAL 1 | NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 1 Targets

 <p>1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty (<\$1.25/day) for all people everywhere.</p>	 <p>1.2 Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.</p>	 <p>1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all</p>
 <p>1.4 Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p>	 <p>1.5 Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to disasters</p>	 <p>1.A Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources to end poverty in all its dimensions</p>
 <p>1.B Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions</p>		

Key Messages

- Enhancing economic opportunities, improving education and extending social protection are crucial components to delivering on the commitment to end poverty and leave no one behind.
- We need a global financial system that puts the needs of developing countries at the centre of all its decisions to ensure the benefits of globalization flow to all
- To reduce poverty governments and stakeholders must target underlying factors and develop strategies to alleviate deprivations across multiple dimensions.


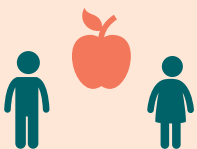






Key Data

- On current trends, only 30% of countries will achieve the goals outlined in SDG 1 by 2030
- If current trends continue, an estimated 7% of the global population – approximately 575 million people – will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030, with most in sub-Saharan Africa
- Government spending on essential services has increased, accounting for approximately 53 % of total government expenditures globally in 2021, a rise from 47% in 2015
- In 2023, about 9.2% of the world’s population, approximately 719 million people, are living on a daily income of less than \$2.15 a day
- Over 4 billion people globally lack social protection, despite an expansion during the pandemic
- Between 2015 and 2021, a staggering 151 million people on average were affected by disasters each year globally

GOAL 2 | ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 2 Targets

 <p>2.1 End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.</p>	 <p>2.2 End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age.</p>	 <p>2.3 Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.</p>
 <p>2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices.</p>	 <p>2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species and promote access to fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.</p>	 <p>2.A Increase investment, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries.</p>
 <p>2.B Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.</p>	 <p>2.C Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.</p>	

Key Messages

- More resilient food systems will better serve people and planet, catalyzing rural transformation, economic development, environmental protection, and health outcomes for the most vulnerable
- Policy solutions can drastically improve investment in sustainable agricultural practices and mitigate the impact of conflict and the pandemic on food prices and supply
- Preventing malnutrition requires prioritizing both maternal and early childhood nutritional health, in addition to ensuring their access to water, hygiene and sanitation services, and opportunities for safe physical activity
- The transformation of food systems will rely on advances in the intersection of technology and agriculture, such as: the development of draught resistant crops, digital soil sensors and efficient irrigation systems
- Advancing sustainable food goals includes protecting farmers with insurance policies to assure they have an opportunity to cope when climatic conditions are poor. These types of policies further incentivize young people to enter the farming industry

Key Data

- In 2030, it is projected that 600 million people worldwide will still be facing hunger—a figure that has risen since 2015
- In 2022, about 9.2 % of the world population was facing chronic hunger, equivalent to about 735 million people

- In 2022, an estimated 45 million children under the age of 5 suffered from wasting, 148 million had stunted growth and 37 million were overweight
- The prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15-49 has remained stagnant at around 30% since 2000
- Since the launch of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination hub in 2021, 126 countries have adopted national pathways to developing sustainable food systems

GOAL 3 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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

Goal 3 Targets



3.1 Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70/100,000 live births.



3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12/ 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25/1,000 live births.



3.3 End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.



3.4 Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.



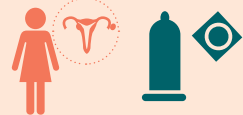
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.



3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.



3.9 Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.



3.8 Achieve universal health coverage and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.



3.C Increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries.



3.B Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries and provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines.



3.D Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.



3.A Strengthen the implementation of WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries

Key Messages

- In the early 2000s, rapid progress has been observed in population health – however, this progress has markedly stalled since 2015, challenging the timely attainment of the SDGs
- Increased investment to build resilience against future health threats is crucial.
- Proactive policies are needed to increase public health funding, extend coverage for medicines and make healthcare services more affordable
- Regions with the highest disease burden continue to have the lowest proportion of health workers to deliver health services
- At the end of 2022, 47 countries had eliminated at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD), which include diseases such as blinding trachoma, lymphatic filariasis and soil-transmitted helminths
- In 2021, there were 1.5 million new HIV infections globally. This represents a decline of 32% in new HIV infections compared to 2010
- 146 out of 200 countries or areas have already met or are on track to meet the SDG target on under-5 mortality






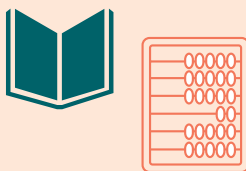




Key Data

- 99% of the entire global population breathes unhealthy levels of fine particulate matter as caused by both ambient and household air pollution
- In 2019, an estimated 6.7 million deaths globally were attributed to the joint effects of ambient and household air pollution
- The largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years has occurred over the past couple years, due systemic immunization challenges exacerbated by the pandemic
- Maternal mortality is increasing. One woman dies every two minutes during pregnancy or childbirth
- Between 2015 and 2021, the global under-5 mortality rate fell by 12%
- The global adolescent birth rate for girls aged 15–19 was 41.3 births per 1,000 girls in 2023, down from 47.2 in 2015

GOAL 4 | QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 4 Targets

 <p>4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education</p>	 <p>4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education</p>	
 <p>4.3 Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university</p>	 <p>4.4 Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</p>	 <p>4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable</p>
 <p>4.6 Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy</p>	 <p>4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development</p>	 <p>4.C Increase the supply of qualified teachers</p>
 <p>4.A Build and upgrade education facilities that provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all</p>	 <p>4.B By 2020, expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries for enrolment in higher education</p>	

Key Messages

- We must reimagine education systems to prioritize effective instruction for all through quality educators, who have been historically undervalued
- Universal access to early childhood education offers governments and families a critical tool to prevent and reverse inter-generational inequalities
- Legislation must protect respect for diversity in curricula, learning materials and in the composition of teachers
- Improving basic school infrastructure and embracing digital transformation are essential for providing universal education
- To deliver on Goal 4, education financing must become a national investment priority as opposed to a consumption expenditure

Key Data

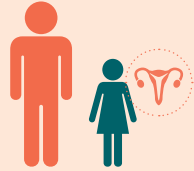

- Without additional measures, only one in six countries will achieve the universal secondary school completion target by 2030
- More than 616 million students faced learning disruption due to school closures during the pandemic
- In low- and middle-income countries, learning losses to school closures left up to 70% of 10-year-olds unable to read or understand a simple text, up from 53% pre-pandemic
- On current trends, an estimated 84 million children and young people will still be out of school, and approximately 300 million students will lack the basic numeracy and literacy skills necessary for success in life in 2030

- Low- and lower- middle-income countries face a nearly \$100 billion annual financing gap to reach their education targets
- COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on education, causing learning losses in four out of five of the 104 countries studied
- 11% of children globally were not enrolled in primary school in 2022
- Of students enrolled globally, only 45% completed upper secondary in 2022
- There are 700 million illiterate adults around the world, the majority of whom are women

GOAL 5 | GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 5 Targets

 <p>5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p>	 <p>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p>	 <p>5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p>
 <p>5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate</p>	 <p>5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life</p>	 <p>5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</p>
 <p>5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</p>	 <p>5.B Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</p>	 <p>5.C Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels</p>

Key Messages

- Women and girls represent half of the world's population and without it, we cannot find solutions to global challenges that work and benefit all.
- It is necessary to ensure equal leadership and participation of women and youth in governance, science and technology to develop gender and children-responsive policies across all sectors
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues for millions of girls forced out of school, mothers and caregivers forced out of paid employment, and children forced into early marriage
- Dedicated investment across governments, civil society and partners in the private sector is critical in combination to prevent gender-based violence and address its root causes
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights are the foundation for lives of choice, empowerment and equality, and must be protected by law
- Gender equality is in the foundation of solutions for all the SDGs
- In the tech industry, men outnumber women 2 to 1. In Artificial Intelligence, only about 1 out of 5 workers is a woman
- By the end of 2021, more than 1,600 gender-sensitive measures had been put in effect across 196 countries and territories in response to gender disparities that were exacerbated in the pandemic, such as the upward trend of violence against women and girls
- In 2022, women were about 12% less likely to own mobile phones than men— the gap virtually unchanged from 2019
- It will take 300 years to end child marriage
- It will take 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws
- It will take 140 years to achieve equal representation in leadership in the workplace
- It will take 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments
- It will take 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments

Key Data

- Globally almost 1 in 3 women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, mostly by an intimate partner
- Legislated gender quotas have seen an average of 30.9% women's representation in the 2022 parliamentary elections, compared with 21.2% in countries without quotas
- As of 1 January 2023, the global share of women in lower and single chambers of national parliaments reached 26.5%

IMPLEMENTATION SDG 1-5

THE EASIEST WAY TO MONITER WASTING? TRAIN THE PARENTS

UNICEF East Asia & Pacific. (2022, August 23).
Wasting in the East Asia and Pacific region. UNICEF.

One of the key targets from Goal 2 is to end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age.

Wasting results from the failure to prevent malnutrition, and can occur in times of crises, but also in everyday life.

Nine countries in the East Asia and Pacific region have introduced services and strategies for the early identification of child wasting and have begun incorporating treatment into primary health care services. Care can be provided to children at health facilities close to their home, making access easier for busy caregivers who often work long hours to provide for their families.

Additionally training family members and health workers to identify children with wasting – for example, by measuring their arms using a simple measuring tape and testing the feet for swelling – has led to much prompter referrals before children become very sick. These methods are simple and effective and can be widespread to help end malnutrition for good.



A parent measures their child's arm to monitor for wasting.
© UNICEF/2020/Le Vu



A child snacks on a nutritional food pouch.
©UNICEF/2021/Padj



A mother learns how to monitor wasting alongside her children.
© UNICEF/2021/Raab

LOCAL INITIATIVES HAVE WIDESPREAD IMPACTS

UN Women Feature. (2023, August 17). Tackling Discriminatory Gender Norms in Cameroon. UN Women.

Eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and the private spheres is one of the targets of Goal 5. While this task can seem daunting on a large scale, the key is local-level initiatives.

One such example is the work being done in Cameroon. In 2022, 979,000 people were in need of gender-based violence (GBV) services in the country—94% of whom were women and girls. According to Loveline Musah, CEO of United Youths Organization (UYO), harmful social norms in Cameroon have “resulted in men asserting dominance over women.”

To address this, UYO has organized grassroots discussions on GBV prevention, positive social norms, and gender equality, convening men, women, and religious and traditional rulers. Melvin Songwe, UYO’s Chief of Administration, describes one such session targeted at male members of the community: “We did one training with 60 men, the majority of whom were ignorant about the issues of GBV... by the end of the session, 90% of them were emotional about the fact that they had been causing harm to women and girls.”

These efforts, in combination with those being done by UN Women and partners, have reached 42,547 people, including men and boys, through sensitizations, workshops, dialogues, and other community engagements. Furthermore, 20 community HeForShe groups of 599 men and boys have been created and trained on positive masculinities, to advance the prevention of GBV.










UN Women | A facilitator from Cameroon’s United Youths Organization leads a HeForShe dialogue with men in the municipality of Batibo. Participants wear shirts with the hashtag #TogetherAgainstGBV. Photo: United Youths Organization.

GOAL 6 | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 6 Targets

 <p>6.1 Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</p>	 <p>6.2 Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation</p>	 <p>6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</p>
 <p>6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity</p>	 <p>6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</p>	 <p>6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</p>
 <p>6.A Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes</p>	 <p>6.B Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management</p>	

Key Messages

- Clean water and sanitation are fundamental human rights
- Water scarcity is growing and is exacerbated by conflicts and climate change.
- Billions of people globally still need access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Capacity-building in the water sector means developing systems in the agriculture, infrastructure and health sectors
- It is crucial that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote conservation include the integration of sustainable water systems

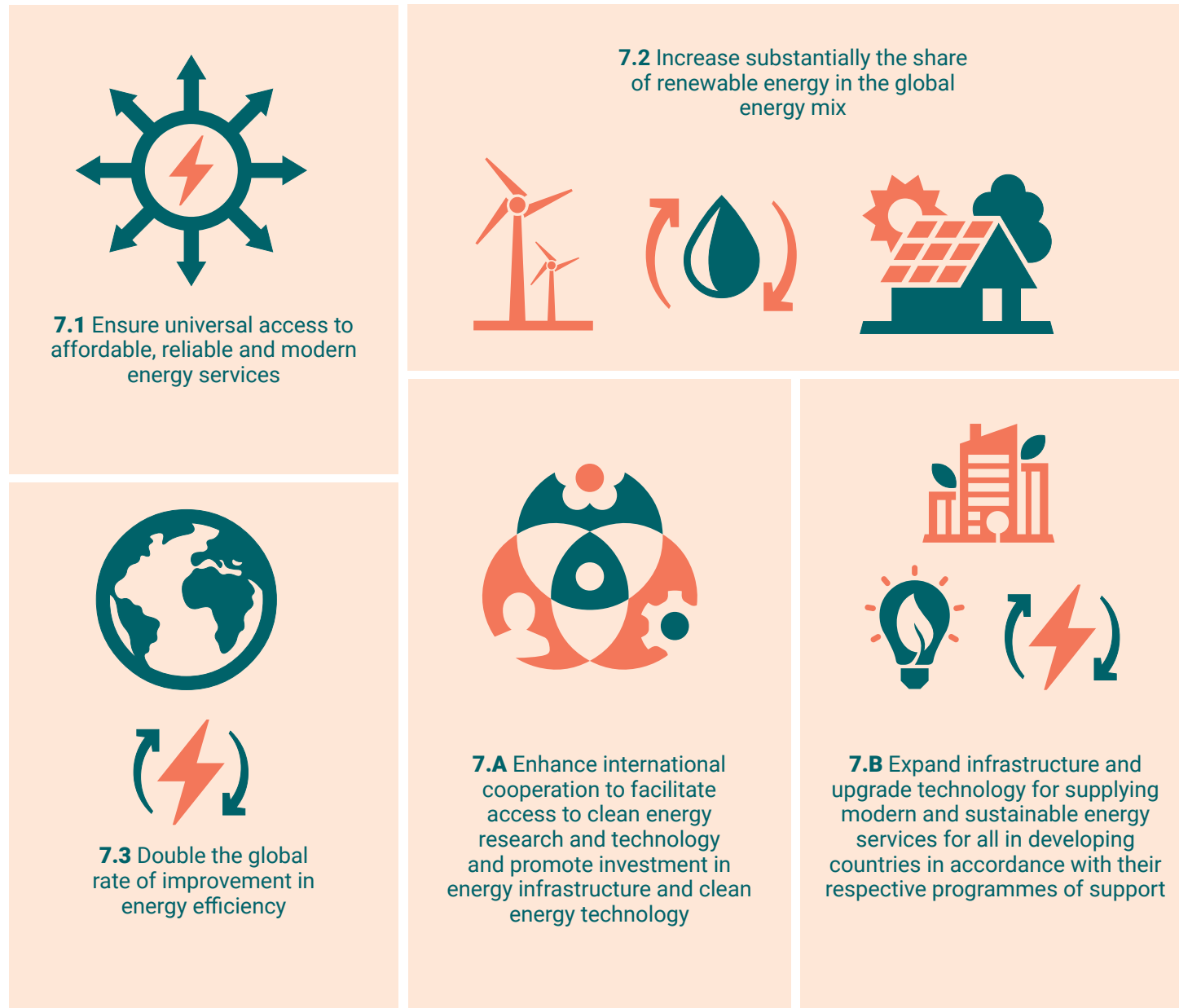
Key Data

- Achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a 6-fold increase in current global rates of progress on drinking water, a 5-fold increase for sanitation, and a 3-fold increase for hygiene
- Between 2015 and 2022, the proportion of the world's population with access to safely managed drinking water services increased from 69 to 73%
- 75% of the global population had access to basic hygiene services in 2022
- Water use efficiency has risen by 9 % from 2015 to 2022, but water stress and water scarcity remain a concern in many parts of the world
- Wetland ecosystems have suffered an alarming 85 % loss in the past three centuries, primarily from drainage and land conversion
- Since 1970, a staggering 81 % of species dependent on inland wetlands have declined, surpassing declines in other biomes, and an increasing number are at risk of extinction

GOAL 7 | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 7 Targets



Key Messages

- Investments in clean technologies drive innovation, productivity, employment and growth across sectors
- The development of policies to cease licensing or funding of new oil and gas and shift subsidies to renewable energies is imperative to limit global warming to around 1.5C
- An acceleration of electrification is vital to globally increasing educational attainment, improving health care, supporting agriculture development, reducing gender inequality, and creating business opportunities and jobs

Key Data

- At the current pace, about 660 million people will still lack access to electricity and close to 2 billion people will still rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking by 2030
- The global population with access to electricity has increased from 87% in 2015 to 91% in 2021, serving close to an additional 800 million people
- Between 2015 and 2021, the proportion of people with access to clean cooking fuels and technologies increased only by 7%
- Nearly 4 million premature deaths occur each year from the use of open fires and solid fuels for cooking
- To make up for lost time due to COVID-19, energy intensity improvements will need to average 3.4% per year until 2030
- Renewable sources power nearly 30% of energy consumption in the electricity sector, but challenges remain in heating and transport sectors
- Greenhouse gas emissions from the shipping sector are set to double by 2050

GOAL 8 | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 8 Targets

 <p>8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 % gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries</p>	 <p>8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation</p>	 <p>8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of SMEs.</p>
 <p>8.4 Improve progressively, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, with developed countries taking the lead</p>	 <p>8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all and equal pay for work of equal value</p>	 <p>8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</p>
 <p>8.7 Take immediate measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</p>	 <p>8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers</p>	 <p>8.9 Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</p>
 <p>8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all</p>	 <p>8.A Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries.</p>	 <p>8.B By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization</p>

Key Messages

- Current trends underscore the urgent need to promote social justice in the labor market
- It is critical to put quality job creation at the heart of economic policy-making and development plans
- The pandemic's major impact on youth requires promoting equitable pay and decent work for young people
- Global real GDP per capita is forecast to slow down in 2023, putting at risk advances in equitable pay for women
- Achieving SDG8 will require a wholesale reform of our financial system to tackle rising debts, economic uncertainties and trade tensions
- Decent work is the foundation of peace, economic development and ensuring the personal fulfillment of everyone

Key Data

- Estimates are that global real GDP per capita will further dwindle, to 1.4 % in 2023, followed by a modest increase of 1.6 % in 2024
- Globally, 58.0% of those employed were in informal employment in 2022, most of whom are women
- The global unemployment rate declined significantly in 2022, falling to 5.4 % from a peak of 6.6 % in 2020. Projections indicate that global unemployment is expected to decrease further to 5.3 % in 2023, equivalent to 191 million people entering the workforce
- Young women remained more than twice as likely as young men to not be in education, employment or training in 2022
- Globally, nearly 1 in 4 young people (23.5 % or 289 million) were not in education, employment or training in 2022
- The median gender wage gap across 102 countries (based on hourly earnings of employees) is approximately 14 %

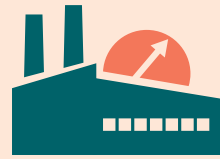
GOAL 9 | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 9 Targets



9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all



9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries



9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets



9.A Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States



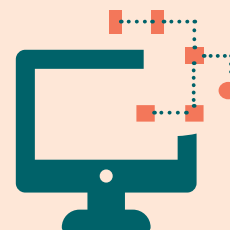
9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities



9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries



9.B Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries



9.C Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Key Messages

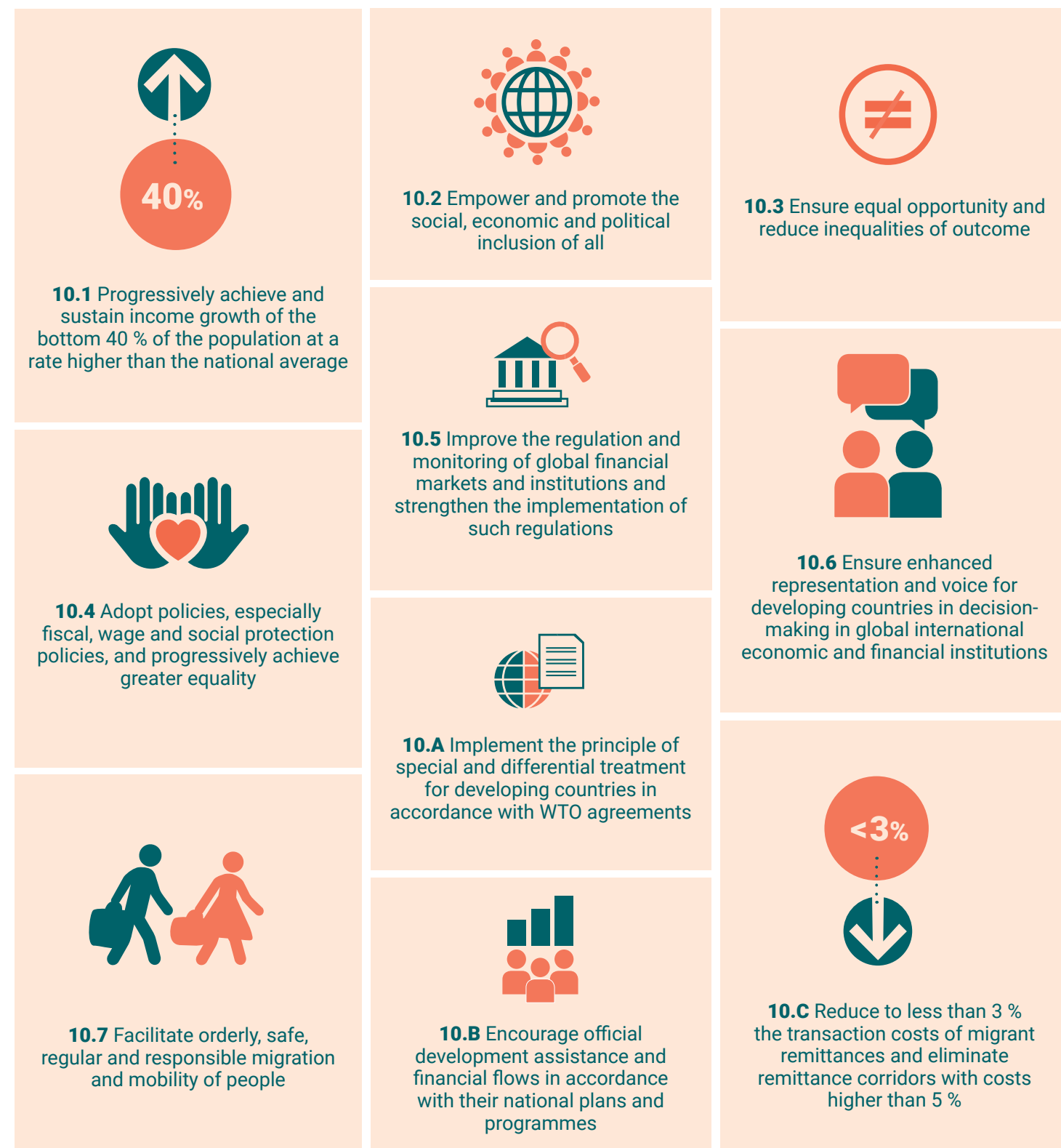
- The manufacturing industry's recovery from COVID-19 remains incomplete and uneven: some high-income regions achieved record-high manufacturing value added per capita in 2022 but levels in LDCs were not much higher than the 2015 baseline
- To achieve Goal 9 equitably around the world, it is essential to support the Least Developed Countries, invest in advanced technologies, lower carbon emissions and increase mobile broadband access
- Strong economic growth must be decoupled from emissions, and not erode the natural resource base nor degrade fragile ecosystems

Key Data

- Global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from energy combustion and industrial processes grew by 0.9 % to a new all-time high of 36.8 billion metric tons in 2022
- Global manufacturing growth slowed down to 3.3 % in 2022 from 7.4 % in 2021
- The share of manufacturing as a proportion of GDP in LDCs increased from 12.1 % in 2015 to 14.0 % in 2022
- Medium-high and high-technology industries experienced strong growth in 2022, with a 21.7% increase in sub-Saharan Africa, a 47.7% increase in Europe and Northern America and a 47.1% increase in Eastern Asia
- Mobile broadband (3G or above) access is available to 95% of the world's population, but coverage is only 82% in sub-Saharan Africa and 68% in Oceania

GOAL 10 | REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Goal 10 Targets



Key Messages

- In 2015, 193 countries pledged to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path where no one will be left behind
- The pandemic has caused the largest rise in between-country inequality in three decades
- Reducing inequality requires investing in education, implementing social protection measures, combating discrimination, supporting marginalized groups and fostering international cooperation in trade
- Achieving SDG 10 requires concerted efforts to address the root causes of wage disparities and the access to resources

Key Data

- The year 2022 witnessed the highest number of refugees (34.6 million people) ever documented
- 41% of refugees documented in 2022 were children
- 6,876 deaths on migratory routes worldwide were recorded in 2022 and 2,091 were as of mid-June 2023
- Women are twice as likely as men to report instances of discrimination based on sex and almost twice as likely as men to experience discrimination on the basis of marital status
- In 2022, one in three persons with disabilities reported instances of discrimination, twice the rate encountered by individuals without disabilities
- Only 45 countries have anti-discrimination and other disability-specific laws

IMPLEMENTATION SDG 6-10

LET THERE BE LIGHT: SOLUTIONS IN NON-ELECTRIFIED COMMUNITIES

United Nations. (2023, May 23). UN News. "First Person: The young leader bringing clean power to Tanzanian villages".

Born in a Tanzanian village with no electricity, Gibson Kawago, decided to start a business producing off-grid clean electricity for communities like his own. He is the founder and Chief Technical Officer of WAGA, where he and his team produce solar lamps, power banks and mini-power walls, to help rural dwellers access off-grid clean and affordable energy for lighting, and urban dwellers to cope with power cuts.

These projects are done with recycled lithium-ion batteries and his team has utilized 13,092 recycled batteries to date! Currently, Mr. Kawago is working with Tanzanian radio station Wasafi FM, educating over 13 million people on solving digital problems and raising awareness of new technologies.

WAGA's efforts are contributing to the accomplishment of SDG Goal 7, by advancing universal energy access and doing so sustainably through clean energy.



Gibson Kawago | Gibson Kawago class of 2022 Young Leaders for SDGs working in his workshop where he recycles and re-uses used laptop batteries.



©Photo Courtesy of WAGA's Website
WAGA Founder Gibson Kawago alongside laptop batteries that will be re-purposed to build WAGA's power packs.



©Photo Courtesy of WAGA's Website
Gibson Kawago working alongside his team at WAGA.

SMALL COUNTRY, BIG POLICY

UN Development Coordination Office. (n.d.). "SDGs Review Barbados: Where we are and where we need to go." 19 July 2023

Barbados' has enacted several national policies in recent years that demonstrate their commitment to the SDGs. According to the SDG Mapping Report, Barbados has made substantial progress with 43 of 95 SDG targets having been already met or likely to be met by 2030, and 52 of the 95 targets showing fair progress.

The Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan focuses on addressing fiscal stability, debt reduction and sustainable growth. The main initiatives of this plan relate directly to both Goals 8 and 9, using fiscal policy to facilitate increased social protection by shifting the burden of responsibility away from the most vulnerable.

Barbados has increased investments in health, education and other social services to positively impact on well-being and reduce inequality and poverty. These investments are crucial to develop and maintain a sustainable and resilient social infrastructure.













Photo: © UN Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean/ Java Sealy | UN Resident Coordinator, Didier Trebucq, joins Prime Minister Mia Mottley and other Government officials at a SDG stakeholder dialogue in June 2023 to discuss progress and identify gaps in Barbados' journey towards achieving the 2030 agenda.

GOAL 11 | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 11 Targets

 <p>11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p>	 <p>11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all</p>	 <p>11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries</p>
 <p>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</p>	 <p>11.5 Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters</p>	 <p>11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces</p>
 <p>11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities</p>	 <p>11.C Support least developed countries, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials</p>	
 <p>11.A Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</p>	<p>11.B By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement</p> 	

Key Messages

- Cities are critical battlegrounds for the advancement of the SDGs due to their high emission rates and population density
- There is a pressing need for cities worldwide to have efficient and environmentally friendly transportation systems and infrastructure alongside policy implementation
- Adequate housing is an essential right and the prerequisite for social and economic development, health and equal opportunities
- Organizations across sectors must support cities to take action on climate, advance access to affordable housing, and deliver the local initiatives needed to make the SDGs a reality

Key Data

- Over half of the global population currently resides in urban areas, a rate projected to reach 70 % by 2050
- Cities generate 70% of global emissions
- Approximately 1.1 billion people currently live in slums or slum-like conditions in cities, with 2 billion more expected in the next 30 years (The world's population was 8 billion in 2022)
- In 2022, only 51.6% of the world's urban population has convenient access to public transport, with considerable variations across regions
- By the end of 2022, a total of 102 countries reported having local governments with disaster risk reduction strategies, a substantial increase from 51 in 2015
- At least 170 countries and many cities around the world have included adaptation in their climate policies and planning processes
- 3 in 4 cities globally have less than 20% of their area dedicated to public spaces and streets
- Only 13% of the world's cities have affordable housing

GOAL 12 | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 12 Targets

 <p>12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns</p>	 <p>12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>	 <p>12.3 Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains</p>
 <p>12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil</p>	 <p>12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p>	 <p>12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle</p>
 <p>12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>	 <p>12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature</p>	 <p>12.A Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production</p>
 <p>12.B Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</p>		 <p>12.C Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances</p>

Key Messages

- Circular, zero-waste economies could save governments billions and create hundreds of thousands of jobs
- Countries who produce the most waste must take on the responsibility to design products and services that are less resource and material intensive
- Massive investment is needed to modernize waste and recycling systems
- Tackling food loss and waste requires policies informed by data, as well as investments in technologies, infrastructure, education and monitoring
- Countries must prioritize monitoring sustainable tourism practices

Key Data

- The world generates 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste every year, equivalent to the weight of 200 million elephants
- Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic is dumped into the ocean
- The material footprint per capita in high-income countries is 10 times the level of low-income countries
- In 2021, there was a resurgence in coal, oil and gas subsidies, with government costs of an estimated \$732 billion
- In 2021, although 828 million people were facing hunger, 13.2 % of the world's food was lost after harvest along the supply chain from farm to consumer, hardly changed since 2016
- 10% of all global greenhouse gas emissions comes from growing, storing and transporting food that is never used
- 70 % of monitored companies publishing sustainability reports in 2021

Goal 13 Targets



13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries



13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning



13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning



13.A Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address the needs of developing countries and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund as soon as possible



13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States

Key Messages

- To limit global warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, emissions must already be decreasing and need to be cut by almost half by 2030
- We urgently need progress on adaptation – to build resilience to the climate disruption to come
- International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks must change their business model to scale up adaptation finance and better mobilize private finance to massively invest in climate action
- Governments are highly recommended to tax the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies and redirect that money to people struggling with rising food and energy prices, and to countries suffering loss and damage caused by the climate crisis
- Systems that respect all human rights guarantee a safe space for environmental defenders
- One in five youth feels unprepared for climate change based on their education and is asking for more information to grasp its complexities
- Developing countries’ needs amount to nearly \$6 trillion by 2030 to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Adaption costs alone could reach up to \$330 billion for year
- Between 2010 and 2020, highly vulnerable regions, home to approximately 3.3–3.6 billion people, experienced 15 times higher human mortality rates from floods, droughts and storms compared to regions with very low vulnerability
- The rate of global mean sea-level rise has doubled in the past decade – from 2.27 mm per year in 1993–2002 to 4.62 mm per year in 2013–2022

Key Data

- Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change
- Growing public and political awareness of climate impacts has resulted in at least 170 countries and many cities adapting climate policies into planning processes
- An analysis of national curriculum frameworks in 100 countries reveals that nearly half (47 %) do not even mention climate change
- Only about one-third of teachers globally can effectively explain the effects of climate change in their region

GOAL 14 | LIFE BELOW WATER

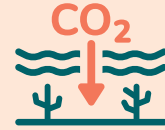
Goal 14 Targets



14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds



14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts and take action for their restoration



14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification



14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans



14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas



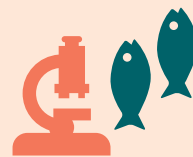
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing



14.B Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets



14.7 Increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources



14.A Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries



14.C Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS

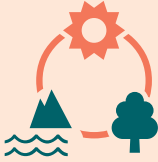











Key Messages

- The oceans are absorbing a quarter of annual carbon dioxide emissions. While this mitigates the impact of climate change on the planet, it comes at a great cost to the careful balance in ocean acidity, damaging organisms and ecosystems
- The ocean is in a state of emergency as increasing eutrophication, acidification, ocean warming, and plastic pollution worsen its health
- Overfishing trends have led to the depletion of over one third of global fish stocks, which leads to an imbalance in oceanic ecosystems, in addition to the loss of jobs and coastal economies for people who depend on the fishing industry for their livelihoods
- To counter overfishing, it is vital to increase funding for ocean science, intensify conservation efforts, advance nature- and ecosystem-based solutions and address the impacts of human-induced pressures
- In March 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on addressing the problem of plastic pollution

Key Data

- There is 17 million metric tons of plastic clogging the ocean in 2021, a figure set to double or triple by 2040
- Plastic production has skyrocketed fourfold in the last 40 years, while recycling rates remain below 10%
- Currently, the ocean's average pH is 8.1, about 30 % more acidic than in pre-industrial times and changing rapidly
- Annual losses as a result of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing are estimated at 11 to 26 million tons of fish, with an economic value of up to \$23 billion
- Only 7.5% of the world's oceans are protected by law

Goal 15 Targets

 <p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands</p>	 <p>15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</p>	 <p>15.3 Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</p>
 <p>15.4 Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems including their biodiversity</p>	 <p>15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</p>	 <p>15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources</p>
 <p>15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</p>	 <p>15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species</p>	 <p>15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</p>
 <p>15.A Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	 <p>15.C Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species</p>	 <p>15.B Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management</p>

Key Messages

- From the air we breathe and the food we eat, to the energy that fuels us and the medicines that heal us, our lives are wholly dependent on healthy ecosystems
- The world faces a triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss
- Without urgent and deep emissions reductions, some species and ecosystems, especially those in polar and already-warm areas, will face temperatures beyond their historical experience in the next decades
- In order to effectively address biodiversity loss, partnerships are necessary with indigenous peoples, local communities and young people
- Restoration is among the cheapest and quickest nature-based mitigation measures to implement – offering much-needed habitat for plants and animals, thus enhancing resilience of biodiversity in the face of climate change
- To fulfill Goal 15, a fundamental shift in humanity’s relationship with nature is essential, where its tremendous value is recognized and its wildlife respected

Key Data

- Global forest coverage decreased from 31.9 % in 2000 (4.2 billion hectares) to 31.2 % (4.1 billion hectares) in 2020.
- Agricultural expansion is the direct driver of almost 90 % of global deforestation
- Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, it is estimated that 1 million species globally may be threatened with extinction
- If current trends continue, restoring 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030 will be necessary to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world
- Local population extinctions caused by climate change have been widespread among plants and animals, detected in 47% of 976 species examined and associated with increases in the hottest yearly temperatures
- Only 15% of the world’s land is protected by law

IMPLEMENTATION SDG 6-10

CLIMATE FRIENDLY HORTICULTURE PAYS OFF

United Nations. (2023, August 23). UN News.
Retrieved from "From ashes to riches: Profiting from peatland in Indonesia."

Farmers in the Indonesian province of West Kalimantan on the island of Borneo are adapting their agricultural techniques with a more climate-friendly approach to farming, and without the burning of land.

Thanks to an initiative by Indonesia's Peat and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM), progress is already being made: a school building was saved from burning down; farmers are earning 50 % higher incomes; and a healthier peatland is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as they store enormous quantities of carbon dioxide.

Since its launch in 2019, the programme, which includes training for villagers and critical infrastructure upgrades, has dramatically reduced fire risk, and equipped the residents of 121 villages in coastal West Kalimantan with new skills and resources. BRGM, with the support of UN Office for Project Services, the Ministry of Forestry, and other players, has carried out restoration projects in 852 villages in Kalimantan, Papua, and Sumatra.

The key is community involvement, and demonstrating to them that they have a stake in non-burn agriculture, and that it can improve livelihoods.



**UN Indonesia/
Kiky Wuysang**
Volunteer firefighters keep the peatland moist to limit damage if a fire were to break out.



UN Indonesia/Kiky Wuysang Eggplants are a delicacy and a cash crop for peatland farmers in Jongkat, West Kalimantan.



UN Indonesia/Kiky Wuysang Cucumbers are harvested in Limbung on the island of Borneo in Indonesia.

This project represents commitments to SDG 12 and 13, by promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production that coincides with climate change-related planning through the directives of local governments.

THE HUDSON RIVER: CLEANER THAN YOU THINK

citation needs to be changed: United Nations. (2023, Aug. 28) "UN chief calls for urgent action to address climate change." UN News. | "Hudson River PCBs." (n.d). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The first appointed UNEP Patron of the Oceans, Lewis Pugh, an English-South African long-distance swimmer, will swim the length of the iconic Hudson River in New York state to draw attention to the critical importance of healthy river ecosystems.

After three decades of massive toxic substances dumping and an estimated cost of harm of \$22 billion dollars, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated the Hudson River cleanup in 2002 and has since monitored its natural recovery.

Pugh's swim down the river started August 13, 2023, and he plans to arrive at New York City during the United Nations 78th General Assembly.

When speaking on his journey, Pugh expressed "I specifically chose the Hudson for this swim because of the environmental progress that's been made on the iconic waterway...setting an example for restoring rivers around the world."



The Lewis Pugh Foundation, UNEP Patron of the Oceans Lewis Pugh swims in front of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour (file).



UN Photo/Evan Schneider | UN Secretary-General António Guterres plants a young mangrove tree in the Weg Naar Zee mangrove rehabilitation site in Suriname.



UNDP Suriname/Pelu Vidal | Much of Suriname's coastal area is low-lying and susceptible to natural disasters.



UN Photo/Evan Schneider | UN Secretary-General António Guterres (centre) meets with members of agricultural cooperatives led by indigenous women and men in Pierre Kondre- Redi Doti Village, in Suriname's tropical forest belt.

PASS THE PINEAPPLES, PLEASE

United Nations. (2022, July 02) "Suriname gives 'hope and inspiration to the world to save our rainforests': UN chief" UN News.

Suriname, the smallest and least populated country in South America, is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity conservation and lush rainforests covering over 90% of its land. Despite its size, Suriname stands as a global leader in preserving its rich natural resources, and is on track on all SDG 13 targets. The country's rainforests absorb more carbon emissions than it produces, rendering it carbon negative.

It has been praised by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres for its commitment to safeguarding its environment through its indigenous knowledge. Indigenous communities, such as the Kaliña peoples, are grappling with environmental threats like mercury contamination caused by illegal extraction activities and climate change-induced challenges like rainfall and flooding. These challenges have resulted in the implementation of a wide-range of sustainable development practices.


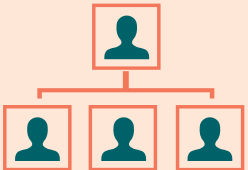

For example, in the Redi Doti village, there is a large cultivator of pineapples, passion fruit, and cassava, which form their primary livelihood in an infertile region. Due to the poor soil conditions, the community, led by local women, transformed their cultivation practices to make pineapple a year-round endeavor. Rather than simply harvest the pineapple, the cooperative now additionally creates organic pineapple-derived products, such as jam, juices, and fruit cups.

On Suriname's coast, the Anton de Kom University has led a project to restore the coastline from extreme erosion with the help of the Mangrove tree. This nature-based solution helps to rehabilitate the coastline ecosystem, but they are also essential in the fight against climate change: Mangroves can store huge quantities of carbon in their roots and even in the soils in which they grow.

These solutions highlight the significance of indigenous and tribal communities' inclusion in economic prosperity, especially in a nation where they cover over 80% of the land but lack official recognition in national legislation.

GOAL 16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Goal 16 Targets

 <p>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</p>	 <p>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</p>	 <p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>
 <p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p>	 <p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p>	 <p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>
 <p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	 <p>16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance</p>	 <p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p>
 <p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p>	 <p>16.A Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime</p>	 <p>16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development</p>

Key Messages

- We need to step up preventive diplomacy at the global level in the face of growing global fragmentation
- Countries most presently affected by conflict face the greatest challenge of achieving the SDGs
- It is imperative that the weaponization of emerging technologies is prevented which requires new solutions through international law
- The pandemic has increased vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons, further undercutting capacities to rescue victims and bring criminals to justice
- Ongoing and new violent conflicts around the world are derailing the global path to peace and achievement of Goal 16. The world needs collective security structures that represent present geopolitical realities
- Children's needs and rights must be considered during all phases of conflict, from prevention efforts to mediation and recovery, through sustainable, inclusive development

Key Data

- As of the end of 2022, 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide – an increase of 19 million compared with the end of 2021 and two and a half times the number of a decade ago
- In 2021, the world experienced the highest number of intentional homicides in the past two decades: 5.8 per 100,000 people
- Civilian deaths directly related to 12 of the world's deadliest conflicts increased by 53% between 2021 and 2022, marking the first rise since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015
- Youth face underrepresentation in politics, as 30 is the global median age, but 51 is the average age of members of parliament
- More than 450,000 victims of trafficking and 300,000 (suspected) offenders were detected worldwide between 2003 and 2021
- Female victims are subject to physical or extreme violence at hands of traffickers at a rate three times higher than males, and children are subjected almost twice as often as adults

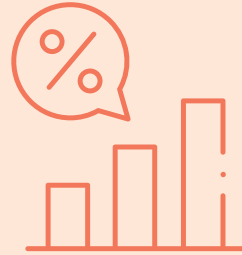
GOAL 17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Goal 17 Targets

FINANCE



17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection



17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments e.g., 0.7 % of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 % of ODA/GNI to least developed countries



17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources



17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring



17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

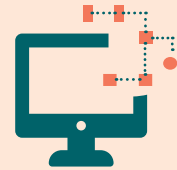
TECHNOLOGY



17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing



17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms



17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology

CAPACITY BUILDING

17.9 Enhance int'l support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs



TRADE



17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO

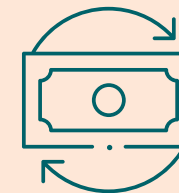


17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020



17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries

SYSTEMIC ISSUES



17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence



17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development



17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

GOAL 17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs



17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships



DATA, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data



17.19 Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries



Key Messages

- Geopolitical tensions and the resurgence of nationalism hinder international cooperation and coordination, highlighting the importance of a collective surge in action
- Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) requires tackling the high cost of debt and rising risk of debt distress, massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development, and expanding contingency financing to countries in need, especially in times of crisis
- Multilateral development banks' (MDB) capital base needs to be strengthened in order to align finance flow with the SDGs
- The newly launched Sustainable Development Goals Stimulus will direct investments towards the SDGs with a funding equivalent of US \$500 million. However, it is necessary this is done in conjunction with MDBs easing their terms of lending to provide developing countries with the necessary financing

Key Data

- As of November 2022, more than half (37 out of 69) of the world's poorest countries were either at high risk of, or already in, debt distress
- 25 developing economies currently have external debt service payments higher than 20 per cent of total revenue
- Global exports increased by 12.3% in 2022
- Global trade reached a record \$32 trillion in 2022
- All developing countries combined saw an increase in their share of global merchandise trade, reaching 45.3 % in 2022
- Refugee costs in donor countries amounted to \$29.3 billion in 2022, representing 14.2 % of DAC member countries' total ODA. Net ODA to Ukraine accounted for \$16.1 billion, representing 7.8 % of total ODA
- Global ODA funding for data dropped more than 20% between 2018 and 2020
- The share of exports from LDCs in Global Merchandise Trade has stagnated at around 1% since 2011

IMPLEMENTATION SDG 16-17

TRUCK DRIVERS BECOME ANTI-TRAFFICKING ALLIES

United Nations News. (2023, August 27). Malawi: Truck drivers learn about risk of human trafficking. UN News.

Malawi is located at the crossroads of several significant conflicts, instability, and poverty across both Central Africa and the Horn of Africa. The result? Continuous flows of fleeing people becoming prime targets for smugglers and traffickers.

In order to transport these migrants and trafficking victims, smugglers will partner with truck drivers, who are frequently manipulated into accepting these offers through tactics of intimidation. Drivers often accept the offer too, out of necessity: the payment for illegally transporting people is much larger than the average truck driver's salary.

As a response, truck drivers based in Malawi are now learning about the risks of transporting migrants and trafficking victims through a collaboration between the Professional Drivers Association of Malawi and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, with cooperation of Malawi's Ministry of Homeland Security and financial support from the Government of Sweden.



UNODC
Maxwell Matewere, addresses a local community in Malawi about the threat of human trafficking.

A total of four courses for around 400 drivers have been conducted so far, with further sessions on the schedule. The participants are informed about the penalties they face if caught, including the loss of both their truck and employment, a criminal record, and potential imprisonment of up to 14 years in a foreign country. Furthermore, the drivers are told that these crimes are linked to exploitation, abuse, violence, illicit activities such as drugs and firearms smuggling, and can even result in death.

Since the start of the UNODC courses, the Professional Drivers Association has reported a reduction in the number of arrests of Malawian drivers on charges of migrant smuggling and human trafficking and explain the drivers who complete the training are proving to be “very useful allies” in the prevention and detection of cases.



© ILO/Marcel Crozet
A truck travels up to East Africa.



IOM/Alexander Bee Migrants travel by foot and by vehicle across Africa in order to reach Europe and other destinations.

FROM CHILD SOLDIER TO AGENT OF CHANGE

“From Child Soldier to Youth Leader and Peacemaker.” (2021 Jun 11)
Children and Armed Conflict. United Nations.

The Youth Peacemaker Network under the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI) mentors and supports youth to create coalitions of peacebuilders and entrepreneurs from around the world. One such mentee is Rajab Emad, who spent three years in the Sudan People’s Liberation Army. Since leaving SPLA, Rajab has been living in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement Uganda where he received reintegration support.

The WPDI provided Rajab with rigorous trainings in Conflict Resolution Education, mental health healing support, Information Communication Technology and Business and Entrepreneurship. They further assisted him in attending classes at Uganda Cooperative College, where he received a certificate in Business Administration.

Rajab successfully graduated as a Trainer of Trainees (ToT) and is promoting peace at the grassroots level within the Kiryandongo settlement, primarily focused on children and adolescents. His training in mediation skills has additionally helped him reduce incidents of gender-based violence in his community. He continues to expand his reach of conflict resolution training to neighboring communities, primarily through radio talk shows.



©WPDI Website
Peacemaker Rajab Emad (red) leading a group of adolescents at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement during a football game, organized by the Peace Through Sports program

NOTES
