

United Nations High-level Week, 14 – 30 September, 2021



Sustainable Development Goal Moment

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WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of our world. It has exposed the failures and fragilities that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to address: inadequate health systems, gaps in social protection, structural inequalities, weak institutions, environmental degradation and the climate crisis, among others.
- The Goals provide a vital framework to guide the global recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, one that leads to greener, more inclusive economies, and stronger, more resilient societies.
- Six years since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, progress has been made in some areas, such as improving maternal and child health, expanding access to electricity and increasing women's representation in government. Yet even these advances have been offset elsewhere by growing food insecurity, deterioration of the natural environment, and persistent and pervasive inequalities.
- Now, COVID-19 has unleashed an unprecedented crisis, upending economies, livelihoods and government finances in a way that will make progress on the Goals even more difficult, with the world's poorest and most vulnerable affected the most. The pandemic risks sending millions into poverty and has deepened existing inequalities, further entrenched patterns of discrimination and exacerbated inequalities for women and girls. It is also taking attention and resources away from climate action, and from efforts to secure a just transition precisely when a surge in ambition is needed.
- This is a moment of crisis, but bold steps and accelerated action on all levels and by all stakeholders can steer the world back on track towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
- This is a time for change, for a profound and systemic shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. The Goals provide the blueprint for achieving this shift. The 2020s can still become not just a decade of action but of genuine transformation for people and planet alike.

OBJECTIVES

The SDG Moment serves to place an annual spotlight on the Sustainable Development Goals. It takes place as the world experiences a deeply uneven response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which risks creating a two-tier recovery with significant implications for the advancement of the SDGs, especially in developing countries. The SDG Moment will:

- Reinforce the continued relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and build momentum in advance of major summits and intergovernmental meetings;
- Highlight urgent actions needed to ensure COVID-19 response and recovery efforts are equitable, inclusive and accelerate the transition to sustainable development;
- Demonstrate that transformative change at scale is possible between now and 2030.

FORMAT AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The SDG Moment will be held during the High-Level Week in a hybrid format. The meeting will be streamed live online and accessible to all.
- The event will be opened by the UN Secretary-General and feature a number of high profile special guests.
- It will feature a roundtable debate with UN leaders on the State of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery.
- Approximately 30 Heads of State and Government are expected to speak at the meeting this year, for approximately three to four minutes each.
- Interventions will focus on national plans, pathways, partnerships and recovery efforts for accelerating SDG progress during the Decade of Action.
- The SDG Moment is complemented by a social media campaign that aims to ‘**Keep the Promise**’ of the SDGs; a virtual SDG Action Zone and an SDG Media Zone.

MORE INFORMATION

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdg-moment

#GlobalGoals