

# Transforming Our World

*for people and planet*



## The Global Goals at a Glance

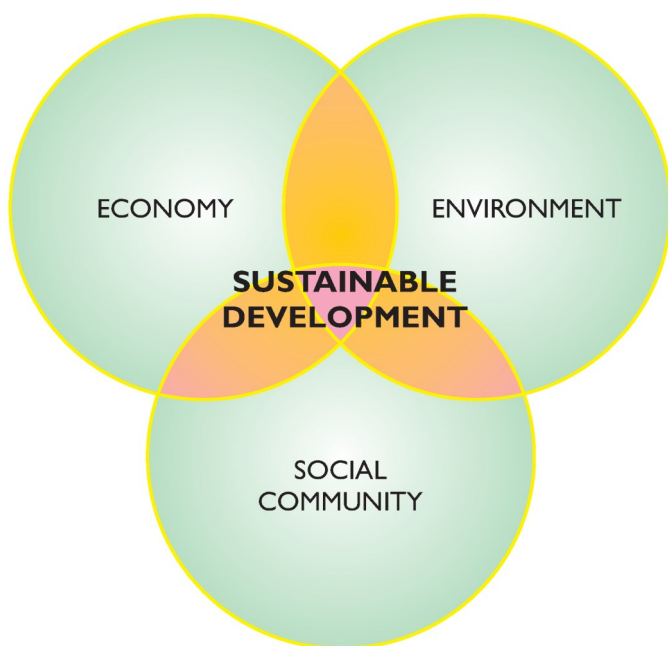


### What is sustainable development?

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.

### The Birth of the SDGs

The decision to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs was made by UN Member States at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universally applicable goals that balances the three interconnected elements of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.



Following more than a year of inclusive and intensive consultative deliberations involving civil society, private sector and other stakeholders, **17 goals** and **169 targets** were proposed.

In early August 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations reached consensus on the outcome document of a new sustainable development agenda entitled, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". On 25 September 2015, the UN Member States formally adopted the new agenda in New York.

The SDGs are part of the bold, ambitious sustainable development agenda that will stimulate action over the next 15 years in the critical areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.



### Implementing and monitoring the SDGs

The SDGs are far more than aspirations or words of good intent. They provide a guide for action in the key areas where countries will have to invest in order to move forward.

The successful implementation of the SDGs will rely on countries own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries. The SDGs will be a compass for aligning countries' plans with their global commitments.

Nationally owned and country-led sustainable development strategies will require equivalent resource mobilization and financing strategies. The goals and their targets will be monitored and reviewed using a set of global indicators agreed on by the UN Statistical Commission.

Governments will also develop their own national indicators to assist in monitoring progress made on the goals and targets. The follow-up and review process will be undertaken on an annual basis by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. These will be compiled into an Annual SDG Progress Report.



### How will the new development agenda be financed?

This ambitious agenda requires the mobilization of significant resources. But these resources already exist. There are far more than enough savings in the world to finance the new agenda.

Resources need to be mobilized from domestic and international sources, as well as from the public and private sectors. Official development assistance is still necessary to help finance sustainable development to assist the least developed countries.

The means of implementation of the SDGs will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that financial resources are effectively mobilized to support the new development agenda.

### How is climate change related to sustainable development?

We are already seeing that climate change is impacting public health, food and water security, migration, peace and security. Investments in sustainable development will help address climate change by reducing emissions and building climate resilience. Action on climate change will drive sustainable development and vice versa.

Climate change, left unchecked, will roll back the development gains we have made over the last decades and will make further gains impossible.

Tackling climate change and fostering sustainable development are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin; sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action, as many of the SDGs are actually addressing the core drivers of climate change.

### What is the life span of the SDGs?

The SDGs implementation started on 1 January 2016 and expected to be achieved by 31 December 2030. However, some targets that build on pre-set international agreements are expected to be achieved even earlier than the end of 2030.

### How do the SDGs compare to the MDGs?

1. There are 17 SDGs with 169 targets, in contrast to the 8 MDGs with 21 targets.
2. The MDGs targeted the poorest in developing countries, while the SDGs are universal and apply to all countries – developed and developing alike.
3. The SDGs are the result of more than two years of negotiations that involved the 193 UN Member States, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders. On the other hand, the MDGs were produced by a group of experts behind closed doors.
4. The SDGs are broader in scope and go further than the MDGs by addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. It addresses climate change, inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, energy, peace and justice among others.

### What can you do in support of the SDGs?

To end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and fix climate change by 2030 will require cooperation among governments, international organizations and world leaders. But you can also make an impact because change starts with you.



Every human on earth—even the most indifferent, laziest person among us—is part of the solution. Fortunately, there are some super easy things we can adopt into our routines that can make a big difference. In the next page, we have suggested a few of the many things you can do to make an impact.

## Things you can do at home

1. Save electricity by plugging appliances into a power strip and turning them off completely when not in use, including your computer.
2. Stay electronic where possible and don't print unnecessarily. No paper, no need for forest destruction.
3. Turn off the lights if you don't need them. Use natural lights whenever possible.
4. Air dry instead of running a machine. If you must wash with a machine, make sure the load is full.
5. Take short showers. Bathtubs require gallons more water than a 5-10 minutes' shower.
6. Freeze fresh produce and leftovers if you don't have the chance to eat them before they go bad. You will save food and money.
7. Compost—composting food scraps can reduce climate impact while also recycling nutrients.
8. Recycling paper, plastic, glass & aluminium keeps landfills from growing.
9. Plug air leaks in windows and doors to increase energy efficiency.
10. Replace old appliances with energy efficient models and light bulbs.

If you have the option, install solar panels in your house. This will also reduce your electricity bill!



## Things you can do outside your house

1. Do not litter. Think about the environment. It supports lives.
2. Shop local. Supporting neighbourhood businesses keeps people employed and helps prevent trucks from driving far distances.
3. Shop Smart—plan meals, use shopping lists and avoid impulse buying. Don't buy more food than you need, particularly for perishable items.
4. Bike, walk or take public transport if possible. If you must drive, try carpooling.
5. Bring your own bag when you shop. Pass on the plastic bag and don't discard waste indiscriminately.
6. Maintain your car and machines. A well-tuned car will emit fewer toxic fumes.
7. Donate what you don't use. Others in need will give your gently used clothes, books and furniture a new life.
8. Vaccinate yourself and your kids. Protecting your family from disease also aids public health.
9. Speak up! Ask your local and national authorities to engage in initiatives that don't harm people or the planet.

## How can you get additional information on the SDGs?

The complete list of the 17 goals and 169 targets are available at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>



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