

EXPERT'S REPORT UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHURKIN MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations (UN) is one of the most important international organizations that can carry out projects aimed at solving issues on a global scale. Undoubtedly, ECOSOC is the leading organ that is aimed at fulfilling the sustainable goals being set up by 2030. The early years of SDG implementation saw slow but steady progress on some critical SDG indicators, but since 2019, national efforts have faced severe global headwinds. The COVID-19 pandemic, a growing number of conflicts, geopolitical and trade tensions and the ever-worsening effects of climate change have combined to leave the SDGs in peril. And massive shortcomings in our global economic and financial systems, coupled with historical injustices and a weakening of global solidarity, means that developing countries and the world's vulnerable people are bearing the brunt. These goals affect all spheres of economic and social development. They concern such issues as poverty, starvation, health, education, gender inequality, water cleanness, energy affordability, general economic development, innovation, community issues, conscientious consumption, climate, marine and land life, peace and partnership.

The world must now confront head on the multiple crises threatening sustainable development, marshalling the determination, ingenuity and resources that such high stakes demand. To get the SDGs back on track, one foremost priority for the global community is to rally all stakeholders to end the conflicts causing unimaginable suffering and misery globally. Sustainable development is simply not possible without peace.

CHAPTER I: THE OVERVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Relying on the progress achieved under the Millenium Development Goals¹, which guided global efforts in the fight against extreme poverty in the period of 2000-2015, on the 25th of September, 2015, the world's governments adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development under the Resolution 70/1 to further "free the human" race from the tyranny of poverty"2, adding the challenges more equitable development of ensuring environmental sustainability. The Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets and 200 indicators to guide governments, more than organizations toward sustainable and businesses. development in 2030. Now, entering into the second half of the journey to 2030, it is necessary to analyze the progress that has already been made in order to achieve the objectives on time.

At the global level the SDG progress has stagnated since 2020. The rates of fulfillment of the SDGs had already been too slow before the COVID-19 pandemic and other political crises hit. Now, based on the current global pace of advancement, none of the 17 SDGs will be achieved by 2030³.

¹The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, URL: https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf

²A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

C. 1. URL: https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/291/89/pdf/n1529189.pdf

³Sustainable Development Report. Part 2: The SDG Index and Dashboards. URL: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards#the-2024-sdg-index-score-and-ranking

Figure 1.1 | World SDG Dashboard 2024

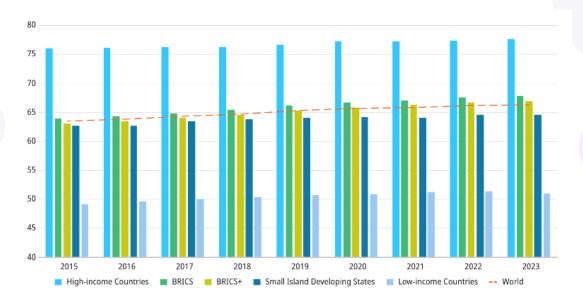


Source: World SDG Dashboard 2024 https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards#figure-2-2-world-sdg-dashboard-2024

At the same time, we can observe a gap between the rates of the SDG completion among the high-income countries, low-income countries and small island developing states, which means that the little progress that the world has actually achieved (i.e. 17% of fulfillment of targets)⁴ is distributed unevenly around the globe.

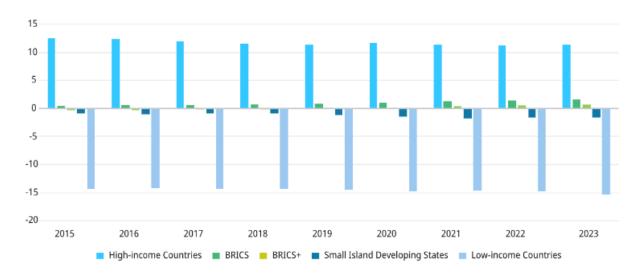
⁴ Secretary-General, Launching Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, Says World Is Failing to Secure Peace, Confront Climate Change, Boost Finance, Urging Action. URL: https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22290.doc.htm

Figure 1.2 | Average SDG Index score by selected country groups, 2015–2023



Source: Average SDG Index score by selected country groups, 2015–2023 https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards#figure-2-3-average-sdg-index-score-by-selected-country-groups-2015-2023

Figure 1.3 | Gap in percentage points between average SDG Index scores by country groups and the world average, 2015–2023



Source: Gap in percentage points between average SDG Index scores by country groups and the world average, 2015–2023 https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards#figure-2-4-gap-in-percentage-points-between-average-sdg-index-scores-by-country-groups-and-the-world-average-2015-2023

Thus, facing a terrifying possibility of failing the SDGs, in June 2024 the UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarked: "Our failure to secure peace, to confront climate change and to boost international finance is undermining development. We must accelerate action for the Sustainable Development Goals — and we don't have a moment to lose... Only 17 percent of the SDG targets are on track. Progress on over one third has stalled or even regressed. In a world of unprecedented wealth, knowledge and technologies, the denial of basic needs for so many is outrageous and inexcusable"⁵.

⁵ Secretary-General, Launching Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, Says World Is Failing to Secure Peace, Confront Climate Change, Boost Finance, Urging Action. URL: https://press.un.org/en/2024/sqsm22290.doc.htm

CHAPTER II: ASSESSMENT OF THE MOST SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Despite improvements in energy intensity and renewable energy growth, international financial flows for clean energy in developing countries remain insufficient. At the current rate, 660 million people will still lack electricity and 1.8 billion will not have access to clean cooking by 2030. To achieve universal access to energy by 2030, we need to expedite electrification efforts, boost investments in renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and establish supportive policies and regulatory frameworks.

It is highly recommended to take into account two targets:

7.1 At the current rate, 660 million people will still lack electricity and 1.8 billion will not have access to clean cooking by 2030.

7.b: Installed renewable energy capacity is on the rise worldwide, reaching 424 watts per person globally in 2022. Developed nations averaged 1,073 watts per person, while developing countries averaged 293 watts per person. This represents an 8.5% increase from 2021, maintaining a steady compound annual growth rate of 8.1% over five-year periods.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9: BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Since 2022, the manufacturing sector has faced

stagnation, attributed to geopolitical instability, inflation, logistical challenges, rising energy costs, and a broader global economic slowdown. Globally, manufacturing's share in employment has regressed. While there has progress in reducing CO2 intensity manufacturing, it falls short of 2030 target values. 9.2: Since 2015, global manufacturing employment has fluctuated. Starting at 14.3% in 2015, it dipped to 14.2% in 2020 but saw a marginal recovery in 2021. However, by 2022, it declined to 14.1%, with notable regional disparities. While sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia saw slight increases, other regions experienced declines, with Australia and New Zealand recording the highest fall of 0.5 percentage points from 2021 to 2022. These trends highlight the ongoing impact of crises on manufacturing employment growth.

9.4: Globally, CO2 emissions per unit of GDP have steadily declined by 11.5% from 2015 to 2021, with a reduction of 16% observed in the manufacturing sector. Despite these positive trends, global CO2 emissions from fuel combustion hit a record high of 33.6 gigatonnes in 2021, with manufacturing emissions also reaching their highest level since 2014 at 6.1 gigatonnes. These figures highlight the insufficient rate of reduction in CO2 emissions intensity to achieve a significant overall decrease in worldwide CO2 emissions.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

The crisis of unsustainable consumption and production patterns worldwide is fuelling the ongoing triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution. Each stage of production or manufacturing presents an opportunity to reduce resource and fossil fuel use, foster innovation, conserve energy, cut emissions, and advocate for a circular economy approach.

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Target 12.4: Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement:

Minamata Convention on Mercury: Most Parties have met their obligations, with 94% appointing National Focal Points and 95% submitting complete national reports in 2023.

Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions: Parties continue to make strides in meeting their obligations and in policy-making to keep pace with rapidly changing global circumstances, such as responding to the growing challenges created by contemporary waste streams such as plastic waste and e-waste, improving the procedure to control transboundary movements of wastes, and enlarging their scope with the listing of new chemical.

Montreal Protocol: Parties consistently fulfil reporting obligations on the production and use of ozone-depleting substances, with 156 out of 198 ratifying the Kigali Amendment by January 2024, demonstrating an increased commitment to mitigating climate change under the Protocol.

Targets 12.4 and 12.5: In 2022, e-waste generation rose to 7.8 kg per capita from 6.2 kg per capita in 2015, but only 1.7 kg per capita was properly managed. Mismanaged e-waste leads to resource loss, increased use of virgin resources, and environmental hazards, underscoring the urgency for improved and environmentally sound management.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

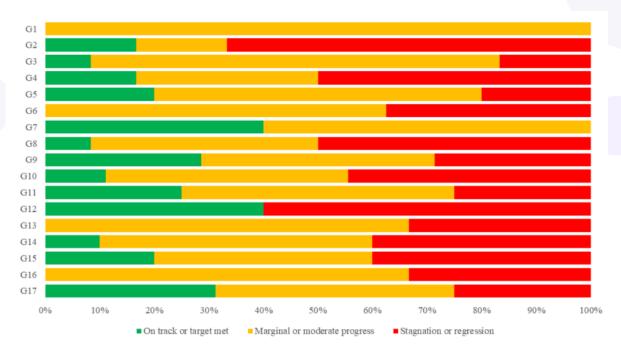
ICTs are specifically mentioned as a means of

implementation under SDG17, highlighting the crosscutting transformative potential of ICTs. They accelerate economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability – as well as providing an innovative and effective means of implementation in today's interconnected world.

Target 17.8: Approximately 67% of the world's population, or 5.4 billion people were online in 2023. This represents a growth of 4.7% since 2022, a higher increase than that recorded from 2021 to 2022 at 3.5%. While there was an uptick in the increase in the number of Internet users during the COVID-19 pandemic, in the last three years growth rates in the number of Internet users were back to pre-pandemic levels.

Target 17.18: One of the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was the limited ability of national statistical offices to collect recent data for the Sustainable Development Goals. This was reflected in a drop in average data coverage scores in the Open Data Inventory (ODIN). Despite the recent decrease in data production capabilities, a comparison of ODIN coverage scores from 2017 to 2022 shows that the scores of lowand middle-income countries have increased at the same pace as high-income countries.

CHAPTER III: ASSESSMENT OF NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED GOALS



Source: Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets with trend data, by Goal, 2024 or the latest data

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

The SDG 1 is one of the few goals where regression took place: the COVID-19 pandemic caused extreme poverty to increase in 2020 for the first time in decades, reversing global progress by three years. With recovery being uneven and low-income countries lagging behind, achievement of this goal by 2030 seems "increasingly out of reach"⁶.

A special attention should be paid to the progress in the following targets:

1.Target 1.1: Extreme poverty levels returned to prepandemic levels in most countries by 2022, except in low-income countries where recovery has been

⁶ A/79/79 – Report of the Secretary-General: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. P. 6. URL: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2024/SG-SDG-Progress-Report-2024-advanced-unedited-version.pdf

low-income countries where recovery has been slower. In 2022, 712 million people (9% of the world's population) were living in extreme poverty – an increase of 23 million people compared to 2019. If current trends continue, 590 million people, (or 6.9% of the world's population) will still live in extreme poverty by 2030.

2. Target 1.3: In 2023, only 28.2% of children globally received child cash benefits, compared to 22.1% in 2015, leaving 1.4 billion children aged 0-15 without coverage. To guarantee at least a basic level of social protection for all children, upper-income countries would need to invest an additional US\$98.1 billion, lower-middle-income countries – US\$88.8 billion, and low-income countries would require an additional US\$59.6 billion.

A possible solution can be to further advance the implementation of policies, construction of resilience to disasters (environmental, economic, social), access to decent employment, and elimination of inequalities between men and women. In addition, governments, NGOs, and businesses can combine efforts and may engage in awareness and education campaigns, advancement of technologies and innovations that have the potential to improve development programs and create opportunities for people in vulnerable situations, and practice ethical business practices and sustainable job creation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER.

SDG 2 is the only goal that none of the 193 UN member states has attained or is on track to achieve⁷. Globally, nearly 1 in 10 of the world's population faced hunger in 2022 with 2.4 billion people (or 29.6%) experiencing

⁷ Sustainable Development Report. Part 2: The SDG Index and Dashboards. URL: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards#the-2024-sdg-index-score-and-ranking

moderate to severe food insecurity. In the same year, nearly 60% of countries worldwide saw significant increases in food prices due to conflicts and disrupted supply chains⁸. At the same time, out of the five SDG targets on which the highest proportion of countries show a reversal in progress since 2015 two relate to the SDG 2: obesity rate and sustainable nitrogen management⁹.

A special consideration should be paid to the following targets:

- 1. Target 2.2: Based on current trends, 1 out of 5 (or 19.5%) children under age 5 will be affected by stunting in 2030. Overweight affected 37.0 million children under age 5 (or 5.6%) and wasting affected 45 million (or 6.8%) in 2022.
- 2. Target 2.c: In 2022, the share of countries facing moderately to abnormally high food prices reached a new record-high of 58.1% (the previous historical peak of 48% was in 2020). The measures that Western countries have employed to exert pressure on Russia since the launch of the Special Military Operation have had significant negative consequences, including major disruptions to logistics and food supply chains which resulted in higher food and energy prices.

A possible solution could be collaboration between the water management sector, the energy sector, the agricultural and forestry sectors, conservation of marine resources sector, and inclusive society sector (the SDGs 6, 7, 13, 14, 16 respectively).

⁸ A/79/79 - Report of the Secretary-General: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. P. 6. URL: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2024/SG-SDG-Progress-Report-2024-advanced-unedited-version.pdf

⁹ Sustainable Development Report. Part 2: The SDG Index and Dashboards. URL: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards#the-2024-sdg-index-score-and-ranking

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION.

At the moment, none of the SDG targets are on track to be met by 2030. Between 2015 and 2022 there has been a notable increase in the usage of safely managed basic hygiene services, drinking water, and sanitation. However, considering the current rate of progress, achieving a universal goal by 2030 will demand an increase between 3x and 5x in respective targets.

The Asia and the Pacific region in particular suffers enormous consequences of failing to meet the targets of SDG 6 with 1.9 billion people lacking access to safe water and sanitation, and 1.3 billion people lacking basic hand washing facilities¹⁰.

Possible solutions can be: improvement of supply chains, development of innovations and technologies to create efficient filters, ameliorate existing and make new family wells.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION.

The world is watching the climate change crisis unfold in real time. Around the world communities are suffering the effects of extreme weather, which is destroying lives and livelihoods on a daily basis and depriving people of their rights. The world must take immediate action to drastically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in this decade and limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in accordance with the Paris Agreement¹¹.

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report. Showcasing Transformative Actions 2024. URL: https://www.unescap.org/kp/2024/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2024 P. 13.

¹¹ Paris Agreement, URL:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

CHAPTER IV: MAIN ISSUES THAT IMPEDE THE PROGRESS AND WAYS TO AMELIORATE IT.

The common trait of the majority of global crises is that they usually involve the threats in more than one SDG. For instance, the Aral Sea, once the fourth largest lake in the world, in Uzbekistan has been shrinking since the 1960s, which has entailed multiple problems such as unemployment, water scarcity, dryness of fishing ports and farming lands, food quality and accessibility in the region. The issues with people's health are one of the most alarming consequences of the shrinking of the lake: the mortality rates are showing an upright tendency and the levels of environmental pollutants like dioxins in the blood of pregnant women and nursing mothers are among the highest in the world12. Another example is a deteriorating situation in South Sudan, which is suffering from the effects of the lengthy military conflict, fragile formal governance institutions, population's reliance on natural resources and rain-fed subsistence agriculture, poor road infrastructure, insufficient water sources, and pastoralism. With the rise in temperatures, droughts, floods, and erratic season rainfalls have caused substantial damage to livelihoods, infrastructure, and development in South Sudan and across the continent¹³. The complications in both of these examples touch upon multiple SDGs. Thus, more integrated, all-encompassing programs like SDG Integration and SDG Fund should be promoted and further implemented.

¹² Turning the Tide in the Aral Sea Region. Uzbekistan is Looking Towards a Sustainable Future, URL: https://sdgintegration.undp.org/turning-tide-aral-sea-region

A Climate Crisis in Africa: The Case of South Sudan, URL: https://www.thecairoreview.com/essays/a-climate-crisis-in-africa-the-case-of-south-sudan/

Another trend in the SDG progress is that the completion of one goal involves work on several others. For instance, to ensure the achievement of SDG 2, we should also target SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, and SDG 15¹⁴. Thus, a more holistic approach for SDG fulfillment is needed.

Another obstacle on the way to achieve the SDGs is the lack of financial resources to execute the programs to accomplish the goals. For instance, it is estimated that a total of US\$1 billion per annum will be required to enable 77 of the world's lower-income countries only to put in place statistical systems to support and measure the SDGs¹⁵. The possible solution of this issue could be revival of the SDG Fund, or other similar initiatives that would combine the financial efforts of private and public sectors.

Slow progress of fulfillment of the SDGs can be ameliorated via further involvement of business and private sector into completion of the SDG via incorporating the SDGs into business strategies. The possible tools are the following: aligning the business with the SDGs, implementing sustainable supply chain practices, promoting gender equality and diversity in a workplace, investing in employee wellbeing, fostering innovation and sustainable business practices, engaging in community outreach and volunteering¹⁶.

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Sustainable Development Report. Part 4: Transforming Food and Land systems to achieve the SDGs. URL: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-4-transforming-food-and-land-systems-to-achieve-the-sdgs

Data for Development - A Needs Assessment for SDG Monitoring and Statistical Capacity Development, URL: https://sdgs.un.org/publications/data-development-needs-assessment-sdg-monitoring-and-statistical-capacity-development

¹¹ Ways You Can Contribute To The Sustainable Development Goals.

URL: https://www.tunley-environmental.com/en/insights/contribute-to-the-sustainable-development-goals

CHAPTER V: UN ORGANS, METHODS, AND PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS.

The UN employs multiple instruments to ensure the completion of the SDGs.

National Development Plan

A state is a principal entity that implements and executes the SDGs via integrating them into their domestic plans. Thus, countries are encouraged to base their national development strategies on meeting the three sustainable development dimensions – to ensure a successful completion of the SDGs. In fact, combined with the domestic schemes and national plans for development, the SDGs have more potential to influence policies within the state. Such phenomena is explained by the fact that the UN has issued various standards and processes such as guidelines on SDG localization and the voluntary national review (VNR) mechanism, which demand accountability from the state¹⁷.

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund)

The SDG Fund was an international multi-donor and multi-agency development mechanism that was created in 2014 by the United Nations to support implementation of sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programmes. Its main objective was to combine the efforts of the UN agencies,

¹⁷ Mahesti Okitasari, Tarek Katramiz, The national development plans after the SDGs: Steering implications of the global goals towards national development planning, Earth System Governance, Volume 12, 2022, 100136, ISSN 2589-8116, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esg.2022.100136 P.2.

national governments, academia, civil society, and business to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve SDGs. The SDG Fund executed joint programmes in 23 countries, involving the budget of approximately US \$70. Each joint programme was aimed at achieving several SDGs¹⁸, thus rendering the activity of the SDG Fund thorough and comprehensive.

SDG Integration

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) assists countries in executing the SDGs through the SDG Integration initiative. For instance, "Reviving the Aral Sea Region" is a program which aims at recovering the region of the Aral Sea economically, socially, and environmentally, thus targeting multiple goals, such as SDG 2, SDG 3, and SDG 6. A multidisciplinary team helps the government to design a roadmap to operationalise the zone which will be followed by implementation of a set of measures¹⁹.

The UNEP

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) is about fostering climate stability, providing a pollution-free future. To support SDG 12, UNEP is working to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, creating more efficient and more circular economies. By helping countries and companies do more with less, UNEP enables people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund, Who we are, URL: https://www.sdgfund.org/who-we-are

Reviving the Aral Sea Region, URL: https://sdgintegration.undp.org/countries/uzbekistan

generations²⁰.

The IRMA

The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance Standard for Responsible Mining (IRMA) is highly compatible with all of the SDG Goals and targets and is already substantially aligned with 14 of the 17 SDGs. For example, the IRMA Standard promotes progress toward Goal 7 by requiring mining companies to develop and maintain a policy to identify and measure greenhouse gas emissions from the project, identify energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction opportunities across the mining project, and set meaningful and achievable targets for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions at the mine site or on a corporate-wide basis.

SDG Impact Assessment Tool

The SGD Impact Assessment Tool is an online learning platform designed for researchers, teachers, companies, agencies, civil organizations, and others willing to assess how their personal or work activities impact the SDGs. The goal of the platform is to provide the user with a better understanding of the different aspects of sustainable development and equip him/her with a suitable strategy ahead. The SDG Impact Assessment Tool was developed by Wexsus - West Sweden Nexus for Sustainable Development (former Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development), at Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg, in collaboration with SDSN Northern Europe and Mistra Carbon Exit, and with financial support from Region Västra Götaland through the Maritime Cluster of West

UNEP and the Sustainable Development Goals, URL: https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/sustainable-development-goals

Sweden²¹.

RINA SDG Evaluation

The RINA SDG Evaluation offers a thorough investigation and verification of contribution of a private or public organization towards the fulfillment of the SDGs²².

About the SDG Impact Assessment Tool, URL: https://sdgimpactassessmenttool.org/en-gb/articles/about
22 RINA SDG Evaluation, URL: https://www.rina.org/en/sdgs-evaluation

CONCLUSION

Sustainable development goals that affect all spheres of life can be considered as the main steps of the future. It's highly important to mention that the relevant governing bodies should take action to review such support to implementation and to report on progress and obstacles. We welcome the ongoing dialogue in the Economic and Social Council on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system and look forward to taking action on these issues, as appropriate.

Key transitions around energy, food and digital connectivity, underpinned by expanded access to social protection and decent jobs, and education and skills for the future, are essential for rewiring economies to combat the triple planetary crisis and to reduce inequalities within and between countries. Achieving objectives requires not only strengthened institutions and policy frameworks but also robust investment pathways, and strengthened support from the UN development system, multilateral and regional development banks, as well as private investors. Plans for these transitions can also inform updated national climate plans by 2025 that cover the whole economy and align with the 1.5 degree limit. And implementation efforts must be done hand in hand with a continued push to tackle the root causes of gender inequality.

Finally, we have to maintain our collective effort and determination in order to reach these goals. Without massive investment and scaled up action, the achievement of the SDGs — the blueprint for a more resilient and prosperous world and the roadmap out of current global crises — will remain elusive.