



ACCELERATING ACTION FOR THE SDGs

...to realize the ambitious and transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda

In 2023–2024, UN DESA continued to work towards the bold, ambitious, and just transformations needed to put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs, by supporting Member States and engaging UN system partners and other stakeholders in intergovernmental and multistakeholder platforms.

UN DESA...

- Galvanized broad stakeholder engagement and fostered partnerships with the private sector, local authorities, and higher education institutions among others, to build SDG ownership.
- Supported Member States in conducting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) through preparatory workshops and webinars and facilitated relevant peer learning through VNR Labs.

- Advanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda through support to the ECOSOC forums on financing, science, technology and innovation (STI), and partnerships.
- Galvanized broad stakeholder engagement and fostered partnerships with the private sector, local authorities, and higher education institutions among others, to build SDG ownership.
- Supported SDG implementation at the regional and national levels, in collaboration with Regional Commissions, with special attention to countries in special situations such as Small Island Developing States.

- Contributed to UN system-wide coordination and coherence-building in support of the SDGs.
- Mobilized efforts to advance SDG localization, including collaboration with local networks and on-demand support to conduct Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).
- Provided data, analysis, policy recommendations and expert guidance to support a successful 2023 SDG Summit and 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), including supporting the intergovernmental consultations on the Political Declaration and the thematic reviews of the five SDGs in focus.

Conducting an in-depth review of the implementation of the SDGs

At the July 2024 High-level Political Forum, more than 90 Heads of State and Government, Deputy Prime Ministers, and Ministers, along with other actors, gathered at the UN Headquarters in New York to review progress towards SDG 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. At this

UN DESA created spaces alongside intergovernmental meetings for key sectors and stakeholder groups to galvanize their ownership, support and commitments to the 2030 Agenda. For example, the Department worked with the Executive Office of the Secretary-Gen-



Forum for lightning talks and showcases, spotlighting those innovations from and for Small Island Developing States. The Forum was held around the theme “Science, technology and innovation for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.



UN DESA continued to galvanize partnerships between Member States and all other key stakeholders for sustainable development, as the Secretariat for the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. The Forum demonstrated how innovative partnerships could be scaled up to drive the implementation of SDGs under review in 2024, leveraging learnings from the High Impact Initiatives. It featured a set of SDG Action Segments organized by key partners from the UN system working in collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders.

The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator Initiative led by the Department continued to support effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs – offering training and advisory services for stronger collaboration across sectors to Member States, UN entities, and stakeholders. Through the Partnership Accelerator, UN DESA established the Mexico Network of Partnerships for Local Action, collectively developed by various stakeholders dedicated to realizing the SDGs through strengthened partnerships and local approaches. A comprehensive national partnership landscape assessment for Moldova was conducted, analysing challenges and opportunities to accelerate SDG implementation through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Department also collaborated with Partnerships2030 and the Global Forum on National SDG Advisory Bodies to raise awareness and develop enabling factors for multi-stakeholder partnerships through the SDG Partnership Symposium and the launch of the Unite to Ignite report.

Conference and for which UN DESA supported the intergovernmental negotiations – sets out the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS over the next ten years and the support required from the international community to achieve them. The conference itself assessed SIDS' progress towards their sustainable development objectives and was a forum for practical and impactful solutions and partnerships to address SIDS' most pressing challenges.

As secretariat of the conference, UN DESA coordinated substantive and logistical preparations, in collaboration with the host country and other UN entities. Under the theme "Charting the course towards resilient prosperity", it brought more than 3,000 representatives from 121 countries, the UN system and other stakeholders to Antigua and Barbuda in 2024. Plenary sessions, five interactive dialogues, over 200 side events,

preparatory platform for initiatives to be advocated or launched at the Summit of the Future.

Enhancing global coordination and collaboration on sustainable transport

UN DESA continued to play a key role in the organization's work on sustainable transport by preparing for the Implementation Plan of the upcoming United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport – declared by the General Assembly to start in 2026 – as well as the proposed Third United Nations Sustainable Transport Conference. In November 2023, UN DESA organized the first-ever UN Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Transport, together with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The meeting brought together a wide array of representatives from Member States, the United Nations system, think tanks, civil society

and other stakeholders to consider how sustainable transport can best accelerate SDG progress. In conjunction with the meeting, a celebratory meeting was held to commemorate the first World Sustainable Transport Day on 26 November, as mandated by the General Assembly.

Supporting countries and stakeholders in navigating the future of work

The need to accelerate action towards creating decent jobs as a crucial response to addressing poverty and deepening inequalities was highlighted at the ECOSOC Special Meeting on the Future of Work, supported by UN DESA. Under the theme "Towards a productive, inclusive, and sustainable global society," Member States and other stakeholders underscored how demographic trends and rapid technological

advancement were shaping the future of work. Quality education and skills training were highlighted as essential, alongside the need to close the digital divide. Furthermore, particular attention was paid to supporting vulnerable groups in the labour market through improved access to social protection programmes and urging international cooperation to ensure policies keep pace with rapid market changes.



Member States recognized the importance of accelerating action to regulate AI globally and ensure the potential of AI is utilized in support of sustainable development at the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Harnessing

Intergovernmental support: at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)

UN DESA convened world leaders, civil society, youth and other actors at the SIDS4 conference in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024 to address key issues confronting small island nations – including the climate emergency, spiraling debt and health crises. The Conference was a resounding success, culminating in the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity (ABAS). It establishes the sustainable development aspirations of small islands over the next 10 years and the support required from the international community to achieve them. UN DESA now will work to champion follow up on the ABAS in a range of intergovernmental fora, recognizing that partnerships will be fundamental

to pair bold action from SIDS governments with support from the international community.

SIDS4 featured more than 170 side events and five special events, and UN DESA also organized two Global Policy Dialogues at the Conference – one on the economic prospects for SIDS and one on their demographic prospects, drawing on expert analysis from the Department's *2024 World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)*