

VUCA TO BANI: NAVIGATING THE TRANSITION IN BUSINESS AND SOCIETY - PURSUING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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ABSTRACT

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations had created a separate vision for the sustainable development goals by the target year 2030, this Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. The UN is determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently need for the shift into a sustainable and resilient path. The 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets are being announced in the year 2015 with a scale and ambition for this new universal agenda. The goals and targets will stimulate the action for the next 6 years till 2030. They envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all the life can thrive. They envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world of Universal literacy, equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social, protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world with reaffirmation of their commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and improved hygiene, safe and sufficient food which is affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is access to reliable and sustainable energy.

The Sustainable Development Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is devoted to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”.

A report released by the UN reflects as an invitation to embrace transformations with the urgency needed to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Four years have passed since the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report was published and even then, the world was not on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2019, challenges have multiplied and intensified. The world has moved forward on some fronts, such as the deployment of zero-carbon technologies as one of many climate mitigation strategies. Progress has been halted in many areas, partly as a consequence of a

confluence of crises – the ongoing pandemic, rising inflation and the cost-of-living crisis, and planetary, environmental and economic distress, along with regional and national unrest, conflicts, and natural disasters. As a result, overall progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Goals has been severely disrupted in the last three years, yet every inch of progress matters and counts.

Key words: *Sustainable Development Goals, 2030 Agenda, stakeholders, Universal access*

Introduction

The concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) created a benchmark for the overall progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, however they have been disrupted in the last three years, yet year by year there has been an inch of progress that matters and counts in such long term goals set forth in 2015. The resilience and well-being of planet, people, environment and ecosystems are degraded. There is always a better future which does not rest on one source of security, but on all necessary securities, including the geopolitical, energy, climate, water, food and social security. There needs to be designed several strategies to embrace transformations, that should be based on the principles of solidarity, equity and well-being in harmony with nature.

The world is changing at an accelerated rate. Halfway to 2030, there is an ever-greater urgency to build momentum, embrace solidarity, and speed up progress on the SDGs. To do that, decision-makers need to use time and resources —human, knowledge, financial, and institutional, among others— as judiciously and effectively as possible, and take a systematic and strategic approach to drive and accelerate transformations. The report provides a synthesis of the key transformative shifts needed across different entry points (human well-being and capabilities, sustainable and just economies, food systems and healthy nutrition, energy decarbonisation with universal access, urban and peri-urban development, and global environmental commons), as well as a framework for understanding how those transformations may unfold over time. It also presents practical examples and tools for fostering leadership and enhancing human capacities to engage with the acceleration mind set required to achieve the SDGs – locally, nationally and globally. The report synthesizes existing knowledge to cover three overarching themes.

First, it highlights key transformations needed in different sectors and provides examples of interventions from the literature that has modelled different scenarios for progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Second, through a series of examples, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report illustrates how transformations were facilitated in the past and are in recent times. This knowledge can incentivize and support strategic decision-making by different societal

actors, both in terms of better conceptualizing and framing the desired transformations in their context and in the use of levers to enact transformations. This must be implemented with a system of oversight and feedback loops to continually monitor implementation and progress, learn from experience, and make changes as needed.

Finally, the report outlines how the knowledge enterprise has to evolve to best serve transformation processes. This will be achieved by both generating knowledge from a broader spectrum of society and connecting that knowledge to decision-making in a more robust and inclusive manner. In addition, recent crises including the COVID-19 pandemic, cost-of-living increases, armed conflict and natural disasters have wiped out years of progress on some Goals including eradication of extreme poverty. Progress has slowed down on targets including ending preventable deaths of children under 5, vaccine coverage and access to energy.

Crises are not independent events; they are intertwined through multiple environmental, economic and social strands, each fuelling the other's intensities. Addressing interconnections was a starting point for elaborating the 2030 Agenda.

Lingering Drag of Covid-19: The COVID-19 pandemic is still having a profound impact on progress toward the Goals. Beyond costing more than 15 million lives globally, it has slowed, disrupted or temporarily reversed progress across the Goals. The pandemic resulted in losses of jobs, livelihoods, incomes and remittances. In 2022, the total hours worked globally remained 2 per cent below the pre-pandemic level. The pandemic also exacerbated existing fault lines of inequality. Quickest to bounce back were the high-income countries, which delivered more effective relief and had higher rates of vaccination. In 2021, the top 20 per cent in terms of global income distribution had recovered about half their lost income, but the bottom 40 per cent had not done so.

Conflict, war and instability: By the end of 2020, around two billion people were living in conflict-affected countries. In 2021, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons was the highest on record at 89 million, and, for the first time, global military expenditure exceeded \$2 trillion. The war in Ukraine is causing immense suffering and loss of life and triggering large movements of people – while wreaking havoc in many parts of the global economy and driving up inflation, with huge spikes in the price of food and energy. Besides the large number of military casualties, as of January 2023 approximately 7,000 civilians have been killed and more than 11,000 injured. There are more than 8.1 million refugees, most of them women and children as well as 5.3 million people internally displaced in Ukraine. Barriers to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in many countries beyond the war in Ukraine, including in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Venezuela and the Sahel region of Africa among others. Between March and May 2022, approximately 26.5 million people in the Sahel region faced a food and nutrition crisis.

Inflation and the rising cost of living : Between June and September 2022, around 89 per cent of the least developed countries, 93 per cent of landlocked developing countries and 94 per cent of small island developing States had food inflation above 5 per cent. Worst affected were the poor who often responded by skipping meals or purchasing less nutritious food – short-term solutions that imperil family health and damage the future prospects of children. Many countries face debt levels at a 50-year high, constraining options for investing in social protection that can help people cope with rising costs.

Framing The Future

It is possible to actively improve future prospects for action and progress by 2030 and beyond. Leveraging scientific knowledge, strengthening governance for the Goals and unleashing the full potential of the Sustainable Development Goals framework for promoting sustainable development can make this happen. SDG interlinkages, and international spill overs and dependencies must be systematically considered. Uptake and governance using the Goals has advanced in the last four years across sectors and levels of government, despite urgent crises, which indicates the robustness and broad acceptance of the framework. Yet, aspirations and commitments are not yet translating into institutional change, action and implementation at a scale visible in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

A survey of 60 countries showed that by 2021, 75 per cent of governments had developed strategies and action plans related to the Goals. Many local governments have stepped up their efforts, by developing voluntary local reviews or other strategies. International organizations and institutions have widely adopted the Goals and realigned their policy agendas. The private sector is more engaged, through business strategies aligned with the Goals, though there is the risk of over claiming and “SDG-washing”.

While some general patterns of synergies and trade-offs can be observed, the scientific literature points to the context dependence of interlinkages. Local and national actors can therefore gain a lot by using tools to identify positive and negative interlinkages in their context, and by undertaking ex ante policy impact assessments of the Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals framework allows for considering international dependencies and spill overs between countries in their pursuit of sustainable development. Creating an educated and skilled workforce, for example, not only underpins national development in the educating country, but also, through temporary or permanent migration, spills over to the destination economies and communities – though this may be regretted by the educating country as a brain drain. Better understanding and quantification of international spill overs is urgently needed to inform and strengthen action for Goal 17.

Pathways To Achieve The Sustainable Development Goals

Generally, these indicate that on a business-as-usual pathway, the Goals will remain out of reach by 2030, or even 2050. Gains would be made in key areas including extreme poverty reduction and global and national income convergence. But progress would be minimal on targets relating to malnutrition and governance. More ambitious sustainable development scenarios reveal that decisive action can deliver strong gains on the Goals by 2030. For example, an ambitious “SDG-push” scenario would improve social protection, strengthen governance, promote a green economy, and address digital disruption, while improving secondary education and science. By 2030, this could lift 124 million additional people out of poverty, with 113 million fewer people malnourished. The 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report put forward an organizing framework of six entry points for transformation: human well-being and capabilities, sustainable and just economies, sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns, energy decarbonisation with universal access; urban and Human well-being and capabilities Sustainable and just economies Sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition Energy decarbonisation with universal access Urban and peri-urban development Global environmental commons Governance Economy and finance Individual and collective action Science and technology Capacity building peri-urban development; and the global environmental commons. These are still crucial areas where actions can have impacts across the Goals. To achieve the Goals operating through these entry points, the 2019 Report suggested deploying four “levers” to bring about transformation in these entry points: governance, economy and finance, science and technology, and individual and collective action. This Report adds a fifth lever, “capacity-building”, as the development and or mobilization of capacity is essential for the transformation process. The transformation process entails enhancing capacity in all countries for strategic direction and foresight; innovation and the generation of new alternatives; orchestration, engagement and negotiation; identifying and overcoming impediments; and in learning and resilience.

Aligning the framework of entry points and levers with evidence from ambitious global scenarios can inform integrated and transformative action.

Transformative shifts for each entry point from global scenarios include:

Human well-being and capabilities – Scaling up investment in primary health care and ensuring access to life-saving interventions, accelerating secondary education enrolment and completion and ensuring all girls are enrolled, and increased investment in water and sanitation infrastructure to deliver universal piped water access and halving of untreated wastewater.

Sustainable and just economies – Encouraging inclusive, pro-poor growth including progressive redistribution measures, doubling welfare transfers in low-income countries, rollout of good practice climate policies and global carbon pricing, encouraging lifestyles that promote sufficiency levels, investment in green innovation, and circular and sharing economy models.

Sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition – A mix of supply-side measures improving affordability, increasing yields sustainably while reducing inputs and negative impacts, and more sustainable and efficient measures in retailing, processing and distribution, as well as measures on the demand side, most importantly shifting towards healthier and more diversified diets, and reducing post-harvest losses and food waste.

Energy decarbonisation and universal access – The large-scale deployment of renewables and best available technologies, appliances and equipment, rapidly scaling up infrastructure investment and support for universal electricity access and clean cooking alternatives, phasing down of fossil fuels by 2030 in a domestically and globally just manner, major changes in global consumer behaviour to reduce energy consumption and end-use electrification.

Accelerating Transformations To The Sustainable Development Goals

Change can and must be steered in positive directions by human determination. Goals matter in this regard. Over the last 200 years, human societies have produced many rapid and profound transformations – in human rights, for example, economic activity, health, technology and living standards. One major intervention was the Green Revolution, which used to high-yield crops along with fertilizers and irrigation to transform agricultural systems. However, the Green Revolution also offers a cautionary tale. Crop yields rose rapidly, food consumption increased and undernutrition plummeted. But the Green Revolution was often divisive, leaving many smallholders behind, excluded by inequitable land distribution, poor tenancy rights and lack of access to credit. Women farmers were especially disadvantaged. Intensive, chemical-heavy farming also affected soils, water, biodiversity and nutrition. The Green Revolution illustrates the importance of a whole-of-society approach, weighing up positives and negatives to optimize human well-being while safeguarding the planet.

suggesting that a successful transformation can be considered in three phases – emergence, acceleration and stabilization – tracing an S-curve. During the first phase, emergence, innovative ideas give rise to new technologies and practices – often operated in niches through experimentation and learning. The concept of innovation in this Report includes technological, organizational, institutional, behavioural and social innovations. If successful, during the second phase, acceleration, innovations expand and reach tipping points beyond which they are widely shared and adopted, leading to rapid, non-linear growth. Finally, in the third phase, stabilization, these technologies and practices become pervasive in daily

life as the new normal. S-curves work in both directions . Progress in one area is typically mirrored by a decline in others, with three corresponding phases: destabilization, breakdown and phase-out. For example, the rise of renewable energy systems or electrified transport is being matched by the decline of fossil-fuel energy and internal combustion vehicles.

Governments can also accelerate progress through targeted investments, policies and incentives that promote innovation and adoption. These can effectively push innovations across tipping points beyond which they are rapidly adopted. However, sustainable transitions can also fail or veer off along undesirable pathways. This might, for example, be the result of lock-ins to old technologies and practices, political opposition or backlash from vested interests or affected communities, stubborn social norms and behaviours that are difficult to change or gaps in human, financial and institutional capacities or supporting infrastructure.

Transformations Through Science – And In Science

Transformations to sustainable pathways should be rooted in science. The scientific method, based on observation and testing hypotheses, reduces uncertainty, identifies tipping points, accelerates the uptake of innovations and lays the foundations for the next frontier of ideas. This Report argues for science that is GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT XXVI multidisciplinary, equitably and inclusively produced, openly shared, widely trusted and embraced, and “socially robust” and relevant to society. A few decades ago, the science-policy interface primarily involved experts in individual scientific disciplines – usually in the Global North, and predominantly white male. For sustainable development in the twenty-first century, science-policy interactions will need to be far more multidirectional and multidisciplinary – and expanded to a science-policy-society interface. It is clear, though, that the current platforms and intermediaries are not sufficient. Civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), think tanks and other institutions can be powerful advocates for change, and can promote accountability. While young people and CSOs are starting to be included in the global processes and platforms, they are still often excluded from the actual decision making. Young people, those who have the biggest stake in the future, are particularly compelling messengers and leaders, and should be further empowered.

Global imbalance in research and development:

Current imbalances severely curtail the capacity of many low and middle-income countries to attain the Goals by generating context-specific solutions in their region. As well as making the production of science more inclusive and geographically diverse, it is also crucial to ensure that once science is produced, the resulting knowledge is widely accessible. Public interest groups, policymakers, industry and teachers should have free access to the relevant

publications, data and software. This is especially important for issues related to the Goals, and for research that has been publicly funded.

Trust and integrity

A major hurdle for science is the speed of publication. Producing unbiased, peer-reviewed information absorbs time and money, giving some platforms, particularly social media, a head start for promulgating false information. Influencers and propagandists, with little or no expertise, can nevertheless create compelling stories and catchy headlines that appear factual and elicit strong emotional responses. And, because of social media algorithms, people rarely see posts that contradict their own biases and preferences.

The world has responded to the proliferation of fake news with comprehensive countermeasures. In 2022 around 400 teams of journalists and researchers in 105 countries were working on tackling political lies, hoaxes and other forms of misinformation. To help scientific health evidence keep pace with fake news for COVID-19, the World Health Organization (WHO) gathers real-time information on how people are talking online about the pandemic and had released tips to identify mis- and disinformation and is aiming to ensure the top results on the pandemic are official science based sources.

Socially robust science: There is inevitably a time lag between the publication of scientific evidence, public policy decisions and full implementation of science-based recommendations. Sometimes, the gap is created by a lack of political will or lobbying and disinformation by vested interest groups. Sometimes, action is simply impossible because of political unrest and conflict, or the lack of financial resources. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires broader societal engagement with all aspects of science and a greater democratization of knowledge – so that people will be ready and willing to commit to the transformations needed.

Calls To Action For Transformation

Implementation of the Agenda 2030 requires the active mobilization of political leadership and ambition, and building societal support for policy shifts embracing transformations through meaningful consultation with stakeholders and effective participation. Transformation is possible, and inevitable. To guide policymakers in this process, the Report presents a series of calls to action.

First, it proposes that, at the midpoint to the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Member States elaborate a shared transformation framework for the Sustainable Development Goals that consists of six elements:

- i. national plans of action to counter negative trends or stagnation in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

- ii. local and industry-specific planning to feed into national plans;
- iii. initiatives through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda or otherwise to increase fiscal space, including tax reforms, debt restructuring and relief, and increased engagement by international finance institutions for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- iv. investment in data related to the Goals, science-based tools and policy learning;
- v. partnerships to strengthen the science-policy-society interface; and,
- vi. measures to improve accountability of governments and other stakeholders.

The report bridges science and practice to provide actionable knowledge, practical tools, and examples for a variety of actors, from policymakers in United Nations Member States to youth and community groups, from financiers to other industry partners, from donor agencies to philanthropies, and from academics to civil society groups. The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report benefited from inputs received from experts from a wide range of disciplines - natural scientists, social scientists, policymakers, and practitioners - in response to an open call for inputs, a scientific peer review led by the International Science Council, as well as region-specific inputs gathered through a series of regional consultations held in Australia, China, Japan, Malawi, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, and Senegal. Achieving the SDGs is not only the work of governments, and the contributions from multiple actors are essential indeed. This report is for all stakeholders, with the recognition that everyone will engage with these transformations in some way, and for doing so effectively, everyone will need strategies and tools.

PROGRESS

The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.
- Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication and the environment, and built on Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by including more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.

- At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States adopted the outcome document "The Future We Want" in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs to build upon the MDGs and to establish the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Rio +20 outcome also contained other measures for implementing sustainable development, including mandates for future programmes of work in development financing, small island developing states and more.
- In 2013, the General Assembly set up a 30-member Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.
- In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.
- 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)
- Now, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

Today, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), partnerships and Small Island Developing States.

DSDG plays a key role in the evaluation of UN system wide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs. In order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, broad ownership of the SDGs must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the global goals. DSDG aims to help facilitate this engagement.

Action Networks to Achieve the Goal By 2030

Water Action Agenda

In March 2023 the world will come together during the UN 2023 Water Conference convened by the UN General Assembly. The parameters of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference are described in General Assembly resolution 75/212. The mandated outcome document of the Conference is a summary of its proceedings.

We need clear commitments, pledges and actions, across all our sectors, industries and interests, uniting nations, stakeholders and professionals on actions that help deliver on the water actions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, actions that can be scaled and replicated in the years to come. Such commitments will be compiled in the Water Action Agenda, another key outcome of the Conference. The emphasis should be on accelerated implementation and improved impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets, looking at content, process and structure. The existing and future challenges in the field of water require innovative and transformative ideas and a “beyond business as usual” approach. In March 2023 the world joined together during the UN 2023 Water Conference convened by the UN General Assembly. The parameters of the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference are described in General Assembly resolution 75/212. The mandated outcome document of the Conference is a summary of its proceedings.

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On 24 October 2022, over 1200 stakeholders participated in an open stakeholder consultation at the UN Headquarters as well as online. The discussions were focused on five roundtables where participants shared and discussed proposals for potential game changers for the Water Action Agenda based on the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: capacity development, governance, data and information, financing and innovation.

As defined by the President of the General Assembly, a game changer can be:

“a method, an approach a cooperation strategy, capacity development activity, or agreement

that will transform the way we think, do business, plan and implement policies, or govern at local, regional and global levels. A game changer is catalyser to becoming more resilient to water, climate, food and energy crises, as well as to economic, ecological, social and political changes. Ultimately, the goal is the enhancement of cooperation to leverage benefits across actors, sectors and scales, and serves as means for sustainable development.”

All contributors to the Water Action Agenda are encouraged to be inspired by the game changers. The game changers aim to support the Water Action Agenda, ensuring effective, action oriented, inclusive and integrative voluntary commitments needed for a successful implementation of SDG 6 and beyond.

UN Ocean Conference:

The ocean covers 70 percent of the Earth’s surface, is the planet's largest biosphere, and is home to up to 80 percent of all life in the world. It generates 50 percent of the oxygen we need, absorbs 25 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions and captures 90 percent of the additional heat generated from those emissions. It is not just ‘the lungs of the planet’ but also its largest carbon sink - a vital buffer against the impacts of climate change .

It nurtures unimaginable biodiversity and produces food, jobs, mineral and energy resources needed for life on the planet to survive and thrive. There is a great deal we still do not know about the ocean but there are many reasons why we need to manage it sustainably - as set out in the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

The science is clear – the ocean is facing unprecedented threats as a result of human activities. Its health and ability to sustain life will only get worse as the world population grows and human activities increase. If we want to address some of the most defining issues of our time such as climate change, food insecurity, diseases and pandemics, diminishing biodiversity, economic inequality and even conflicts and strife, we must act now to protect the state of our ocean.

The Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, came at a critical time as the world is seeking to address the many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and which will require major structural transformations and common shared solutions that are anchored in the SDGs. To mobilize action, the Conference sought to propel much needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action.

Solutions for a sustainably managed ocean involve green technology and innovative uses of marine resources. They also include addressing the threats to health, ecology, economy and governance of the ocean - acidification, marine litter and pollution, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the loss of habitats and biodiversity.

Leadership: The Governments of Kenya and Portugal co-hosted the Ocean Conference.

Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, served as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, served as the Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Ocean Conference on the ocean and legal matters. A vast majority of the ocean remains unmapped, unobserved and unexplored. Our understanding of the ocean and its contribution to sustainability largely depends on our capacity to conduct effective ocean science - through research and sustained observations, supported by adequate infrastructures and investments.

The Decade provides a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries' actions to sustainably manage the ocean and more particularly to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – through the creation of a new foundation, across the science-policy interface, to strengthen the management of the ocean and coasts for the benefit of humanity.

The Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network

The Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network is a United Nations (UN) hosted online platform for industry stakeholders, media, Governments, and UN system entities. The network showcases and enables collaborations that accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Considering the fashion and lifestyle sector's significant impact on societies and the environment, the Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network fosters transparent, inclusive, and transformative engagement of global stakeholders to drive urgent action for sustainability. The network provides an impartial platform for the industry and the UN system. Its key objective is to mobilize expertise, innovation, technology, and resources towards a sustainable and inclusive COVID-19 recovery, with the Sustainable Development Goals as a guiding framework. The Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network is a joint initiative of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Fashion Impact Fund. The leading entities of the network convene periodic events aligned with key meetings on the UN calendar and publish reports on the network's achievements.

The Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network is committed to keeping the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring that everyone, everywhere can live in dignity, prosperity, and peace on a safe and healthy planet.

Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework

A key request from the outcome of the 2014 Third International Conference on SIDS - the

SAMOA Pathway - was the establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework, designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. Guided by a member States driven Steering Committee, the framework has since its launch ensured that SIDS partnerships have remained high on the UN's agenda, providing a multi-stakeholder platform for reviewing progress made by SIDS partnerships, and for sharing of good practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders, on an annual basis.

In September 2019, member states will (A/RES/72/217) convene a one-day high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. A robust member States driven preparatory process is currently underway, with three regional meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, as well as one interregional meeting for all SIDS. With generous funding support provided by the government of Italy, and under the overall guidance of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, UN DESA is undertaking a capacity development project Strengthening the capacity of SIDS in developing, monitoring and reviewing durable Partnerships.

Conclusion

The Conclusion confirms certainly that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to human capability and human security analyses. It documents strengths of the SDGs, areas of common ground, disparities and possible future trajectories. The processes leading to the SDGs were comparatively speaking notably inclusive, which has provided much more widespread awareness and support. In declared content, too, the SDGs are in several ways potentially transformative: applying to all countries, multidimensional, linking issues of sustainability and development.

They include much of what is desirable from capability and human security perspectives and are more encompassing than what capability scholars have offered in practical assessments of human well-being. They offer policy spaces and processes that can facilitate progress on various fronts. However, they contain important limitations and dangers, including in regard to the continuing commitment to unending growth, the relations between the goals, targets and indicators, the power structures that lie behind these, and how the goals will be interpreted and used at national and local levels.

Capabilities analysis and human development and human security approaches can play essential roles of critique and enrichment, including questioning the belief in unending growth and illuminating the variety of understandings of development and of a meaningful well-considered human life. We suggest that the SDGs should be used as a channel for insights from these partner approaches, and as stimuli for the approaches' deepening and elaboration in regard to sustainability.

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United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015. 2 It has been 35 years now since the ground-breaking Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future, was published under the leadership of Chair, Gro Harlem Brundtland. The Report offered a global agenda for change calling for sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. 3 United Nations, 2023b. 4 Although data availability for the Sustainable Development Goals indicators is improving, there is still a major data gap globally. For 9 of the 17 Goals, only around half of the 193 countries or areas have internationally comparable data since 2015. This data gap prevents effective and informed action, and novel partnerships and data technologies – for example, philanthropic funding, citizen science, artificial intelligence – must be used in the second half of Agenda 2030. See United Nations, 2023b. 5 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2022f.; Homer-Dixon, Thomas and Rockström, Johan, 2022. 6 Example is based on inputs from the Asia-Pacific GSDR regional consultation. 7 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022d. 8 Palacios-Abrantes, Julian, and others 2020. 9 Palacios-Abrantes, Julian, and others, 2021. 10 Tittle, Mark A., and others, 2021. 11 Pecl, Gretta, and others, 2017. 12 Maureaud, Aurèle, and others. 2021; Palacios-Abrantes, Julian and others, 2021. 13 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020. 14 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2022. 15 Ratha, Dilip, and others, 2022. 16 IOM and UNDP Joint Global Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development, n.d. 17 Ibid. 18 Bähler, Janik, Estefania Charvet and Sebastián Zambrano, 2021. 19 International Organization for Migration, 2022. 20 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2022i; World Health Organization, 2022a. 21 International Labour Organization, 2022. 22 Patrinos, Harry Anthony, Emiliana Vegas and Rohan Carter-Rau, 2022. 23 Meinck, Sabine, Julian Fraillon and Rolf Strietholt, 2022. 24 United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 2021. 25 Bolton, Laura, and James Georgakakis, 2022. 26 International Labour Organization, 2022. 27 Sánchez-Páramo, Caroline, and others, 2021. 28 Chanduvi, Jaime Saavedra, and others, 2022. 29 Sangafowa Coulibaly, Brahim, 2022. 30 International Labour Organization, 2023 31 Patrício Silva, Ana L., and others, 2021. 32 United Nations, 2022b. 33 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2022a. 34 Davies, Shawn, Therese Pettersson and Magnus Öberg, 2022; Milián, Iván Navarro, and others, 2022.