



Extending the SDGs to 2050 – Yes? No? Maybe?

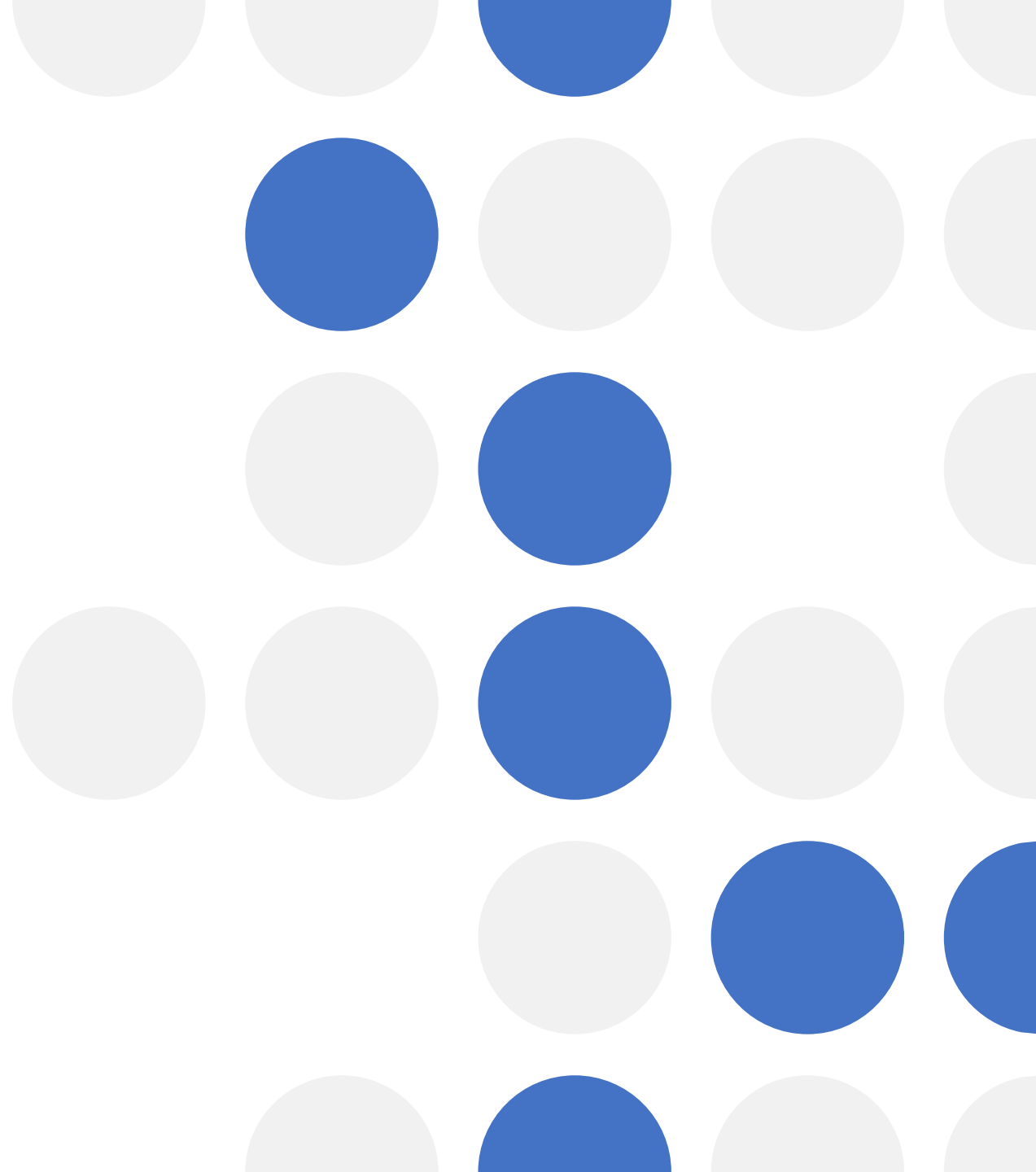
15th IAEG meeting on SDG Indicators

Oslo – 23 October 2024

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The 'Yes' group



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Extending the Sustainable Development Goals to 2050 – a road map

The world should redouble its efforts on the SDGs, not abandon them. Here's how to progress the United Nations' agenda towards 2050.

By [Francesco Fuso Nerini](#) , [Mariana Mazzucato](#), [Johan Rockström](#), [Harro van Asselt](#), [Jim W. Hall](#), [Stelvia Matos](#), [Åsa Persson](#), [Benjamin Sovacool](#), [Ricardo Vinuesa](#) & [Jeffrey Sachs](#) 

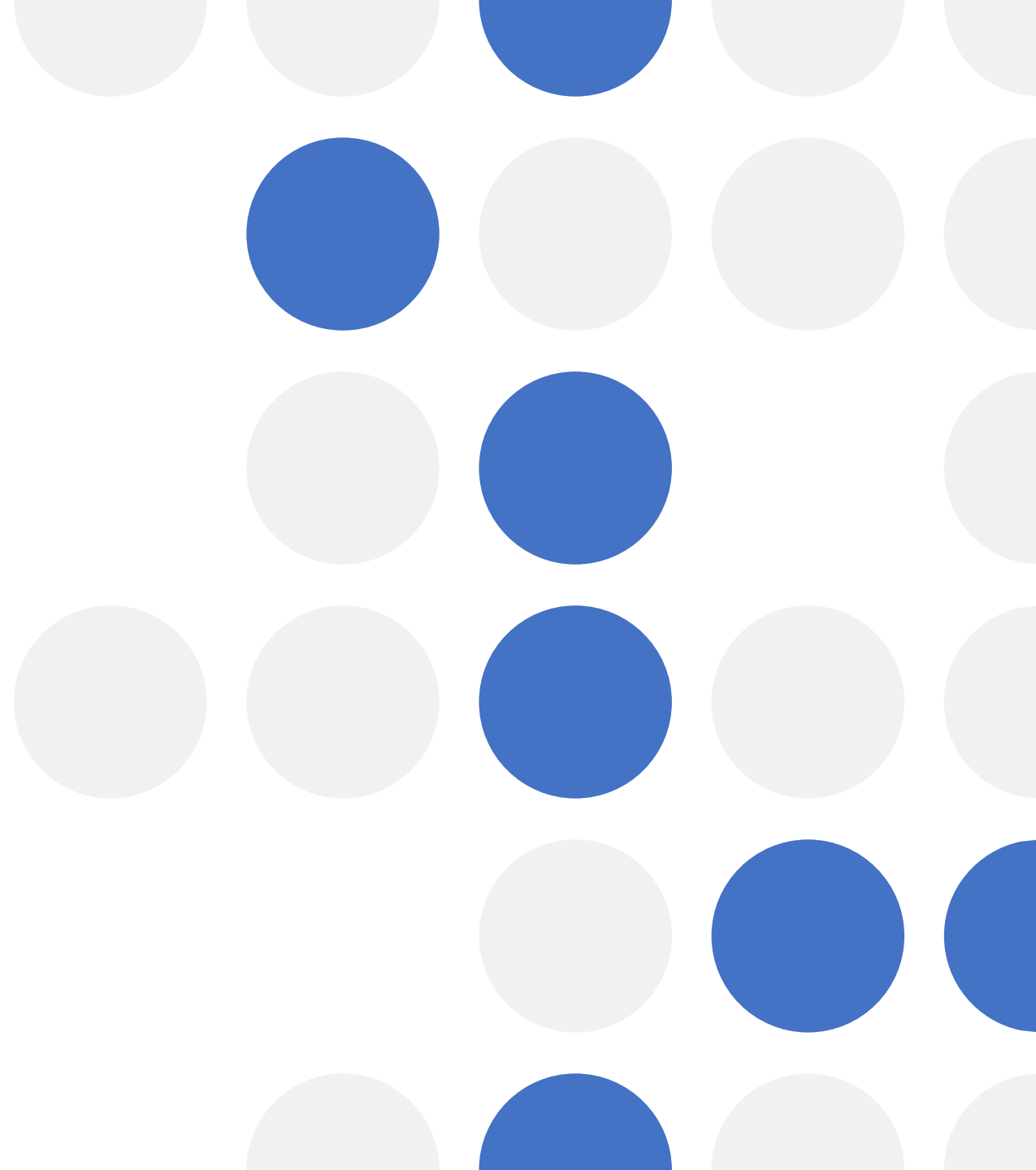


Revised global actions and timelines

Here are examples of actions to take, with target dates, for selected Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG	Actions
1. No poverty	By 2030: Adopt social protection measures to address the most vulnerable in society (older people; mothers and children; people with disabilities; those who are unemployed).
1. No poverty	By 2040: Strong and lasting resilience of the poor to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
1. No poverty	By 2050: Achieve pathways for ending extreme poverty rapidly, and no later than this.
2. Zero hunger	By 2030: Adopt supplemental nutrition programmes to address urgent hunger and undernutrition in the population.
2. Zero hunger	By 2040: Adopt sustainable-agriculture programmes to raise food production, reduce food loss and waste, and protect ecosystems to achieve food security.

The 'No' group



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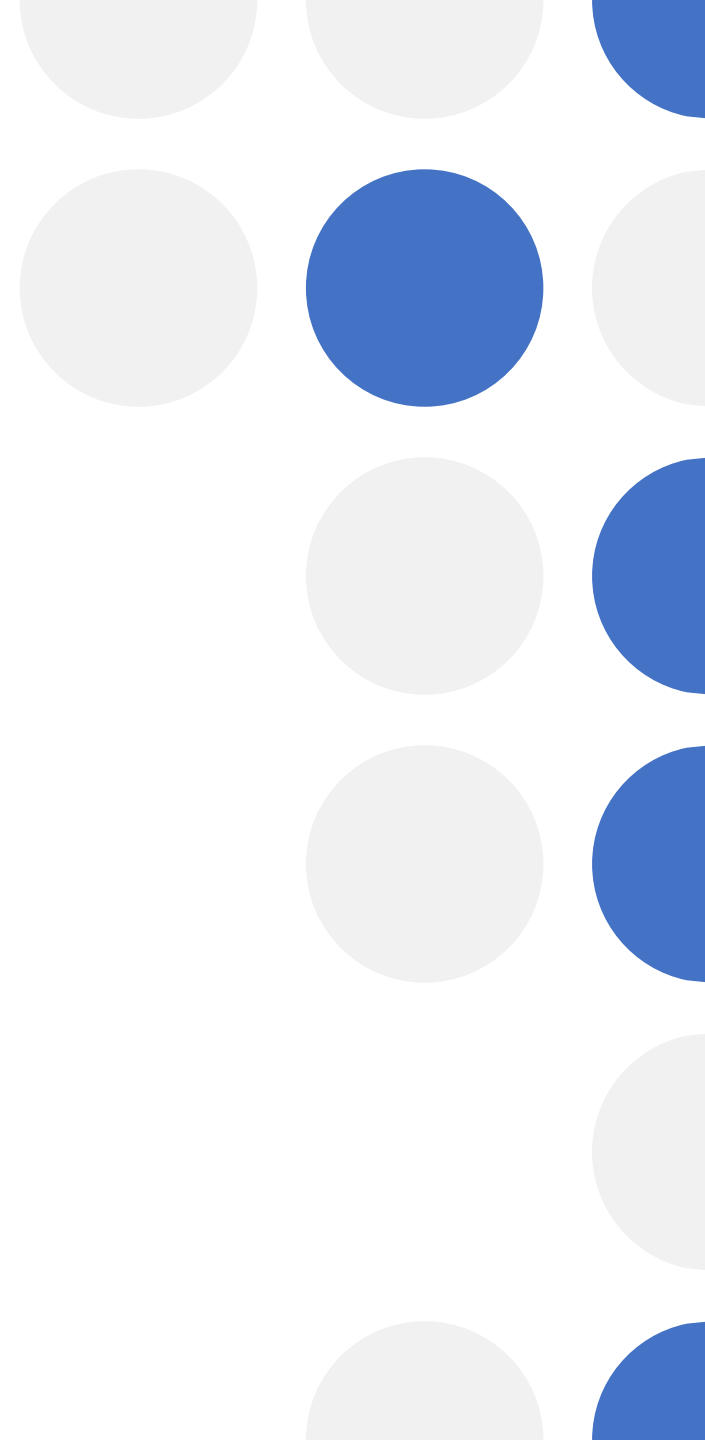
Reset Sustainable Development Goals for a pandemic world

COVID-19 is exposing the fragility of the goals adopted by the United Nations – two-thirds are now unlikely to be met.

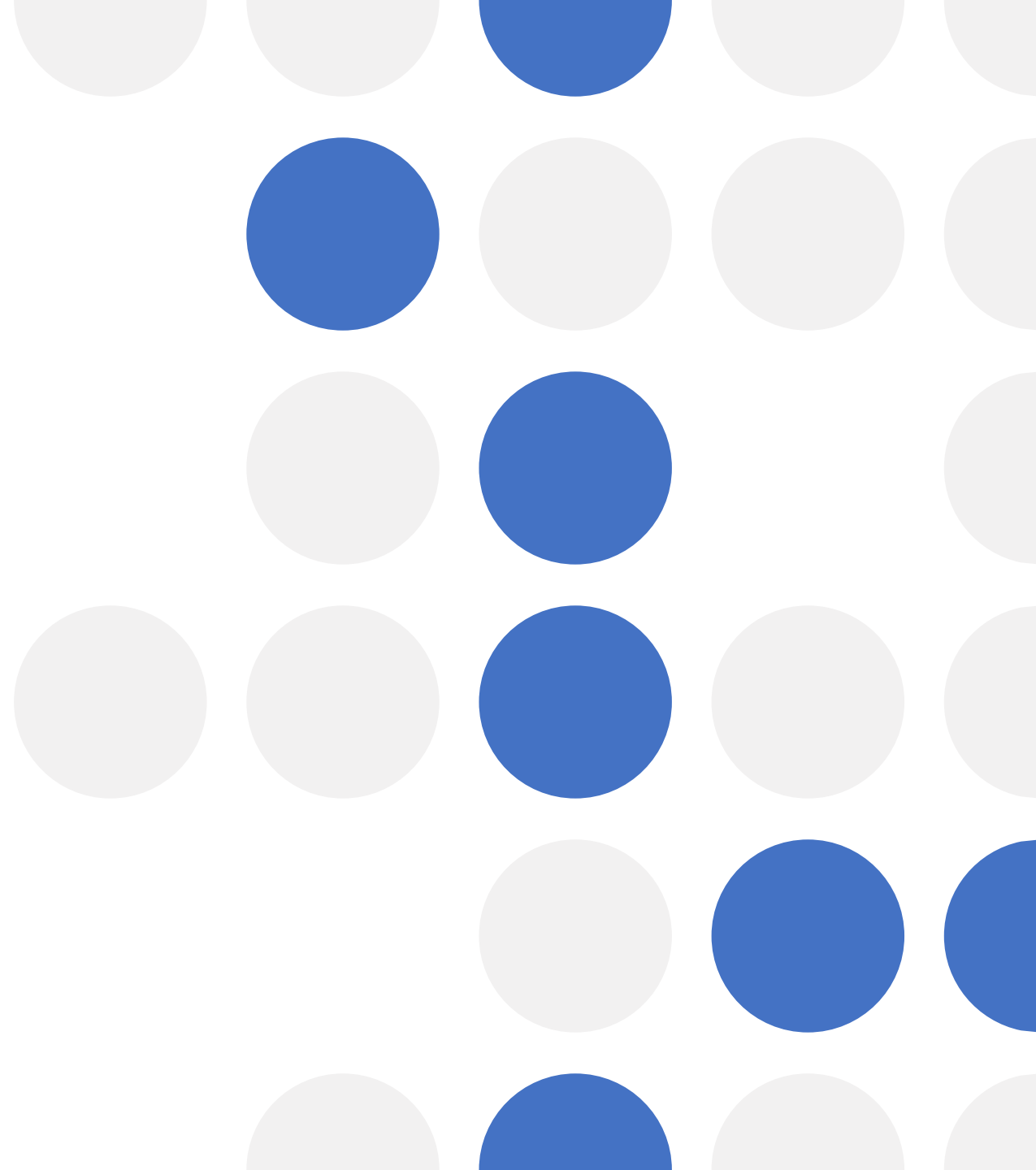
By [Robin Naidoo](#) ✉ & [Brendan Fisher](#) ✉



“ One priority is to decouple the SDGs from economic-growth targets. There is evidence to show that its benefits have not been equitably shared, and that it assigns value to undesirable things — what Naidoo and Fisher call “dangerous jobs, traffic jams and pollution”. Because of the way growth is measured, an increase in any of these three translates to positive growth figures. This creates perverse incentives for policymakers to put cars on the roads or invest further in fossil fuels. ”



The Maybees



GDP at 70: settling a debate at the heart of economics

Researchers advocating reform of the main measure of economic growth have a chance to engage in the process that sets its rules.

Is 'sustained' economic growth compatible with 'sustainable' economic growth? Architects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) clearly thought so – both sustained and sustainable growth are mentioned in the 8th of the 17 SDGs. *Nature* is examining these in a series of editorials. But researchers focused on sustainability are increasingly question-

have been able to decouple growth rates from carbon emissions, the global material footprint is showing no signs of coming down. It is increasing at a greater rate than both population and GDP.

As *Nature* and others have argued previously, all sides of the growth debate need to engage with each other's arguments, and on the basis of the evidence. There is currently an opportunity to do so through the international process for revising the methodology that determines what is measured by GDP.

Growing pains

GDP can be measured in several ways. Under one common definition, GDP is calculated by adding together consumer spending, what governments and businesses spend and invest, and exports minus imports. If SDG 8 requires GDP to increase continually, that conflicts with any incentive for governments to reduce their material footprint or carbon emissions, because these and other harmful activities have a positive effect on GDP. As the economist Kate Raworth writes in her 2017 book, *Doughnut Economics*, "We have

GRANTS DOWN, LOANS UP

Grants for data and statistics in low- and middle-income countries have been falling since 2018, according to an analysis by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Loans, on the other hand, have been increasing since 2019.

— Grants — Loans



*Quantities are in 2021 prices.