

# 2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

*Ensure healthy lives and promote  
well-being for all at all ages*



### FACTS AND FIGURES

- The global maternal mortality ratio dropped from 228 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 197 in 2023. However, 260,000 women still die during pregnancy and childbirth every year.
- Global under-5 mortality fell to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023, a 16% reduction from 44 in 2015. As of 2023, 133 countries had already met the SDG target for under-5 mortality, and 7 more are expected to do so by 2030. However, 60 countries – nearly three quarters of them in sub-Saharan Africa – must accelerate progress to meet the 2030 target.
- AIDS-related deaths have halved between 2010 (1.3 million) and 2023 (630,000). Of the estimated 39.9 million people living with HIV in 2023, 9.3 million were not receiving life-saving treatment – resulting in one AIDS-related death every minute.
- In 2023, an estimated 10.8 million people developed tuberculosis, a slight rise from 2022. Tuberculosis-related deaths decreased to 1.25 million in 2023, falling below pre-pandemic levels.
- Global malaria response efforts have averted an estimated 2.2 billion cases and 12.7 million deaths worldwide since 2000. Despite progress, an estimated 263 million malaria cases occurred in 2023, an increase from 226 million in 2015.
- The number of people requiring interventions for neglected tropical diseases fell to 1.495 billion in 2023, a significant decrease from 2.19 billion in 2010.
- In 2021, half of all global premature deaths were attributed to non-communicable diseases. The risk of dying prematurely from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease declined slightly from 18.4% in 2015 and 18.0% in 2019.
- Substantial global progress has been made in reducing adolescent birth rates. Among girls aged 15–19 years, the global birth rate fell from 45.9 births per 1,000 in 2015 to 38.3 in 2024. For girls aged 10–14 years, the rate dropped from 1.5 per 1,000 in 2015 to 1.0 in 2024.
- In 2023, coverage for the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine – often used as a marker of a well-functioning routine immunization system – reached 84%, but still below pre-pandemic levels.
- The global health workforce was estimated at over 70 million in 2023. A global shortage of 14.7 million health workers persisted in that year, down from 15.4 million in 2020. The shortfall is projected to decline gradually to 11.1 million by 2030.



### WHERE WE STAND

- Between 2000 and 2019, healthy life expectancy increased by over five years. However, COVID-19 reversed some of these gains, cutting life expectancy by 1.8 years and slowing progress towards nearly all health-related SDG targets.
- AIDS-related deaths have halved since 2010. 54 countries have eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease. Meanwhile, malaria cases are rising and tuberculosis returned to being probably the world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent in 2023.
- Non-communicable diseases killed 18 million people under age 70 in 2021. Risk factors such as tobacco use, air pollution, and poor diet remain insufficiently addressed.
- To meet global health targets by 2030, a substantial intensification of efforts is needed to address deep-seated inequalities, strengthen primary care, build resilient and inclusive health systems and ensure universal access to quality care.

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



To learn more about  
global progress on the 17  
SDGs, [click here](#) to read  
the latest Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Report 2025.

# SPOTLIGHT

## PANDEMIC AGREEMENT

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular the inequities witnessed in pandemic response, the **World Health Organization's** 194 Member States decided on a global process to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or other international instrument under the WHO Constitution to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

WHO Member States established the Inter-governmental Negotiating Body (INB) to guide the Pandemic Agreement negotiation process, which held its first meeting on 24 February 2022. Thereafter, the INB process involved 13 formal rounds of meetings, nine of which were extended. Member States also held many informal and inter-sessional discussions on various aspects during the negotiation process.

After a more than three-year process led by WHO's Member States, the world's first **Pandemic Agreement** was adopted on 20 May 2025 at the Seventy-eighth **World Health Assembly** through resolution WHA78.1, which also established an Intergovernmental Working Group to conclude the work on the Pandemic Agreement, including the agreement on its **Annex on Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS)**, so that it may be opened for signature and ratification by WHO Member States in the near future.

The landmark decision is the second international legal agreement negotiated under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution. It sets out the principles, approaches and tools for better international coordination across a range of areas, in order to strengthen the global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. This includes through the equitable and timely access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

For more information, visit: <https://www.who.int/>



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- **UHC2030** aims to advance universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030. With **WHO** hosting its Secretariat in collaboration with the **World Bank and the OECD**, the platform fosters collaboration among governments, civil society, private sector, and multilateral organizations to promote equitable, people-centered health systems.
- The **Health4Life Fund** is a UN Multi-Partner Trust established by **UNICEF, WHO, and UNDP** to galvanize domestic financing and scale up country action for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health.
- The **Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (SDG3 GAP)**, brings together 13 multilateral health, development and humanitarian agencies with specific but complementary mandates to provide streamlined support to countries to accelerate progress on health-related SDGs.
- The **Every Women Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE)** initiative of **UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO** supports national governments in scaling up high-impact practices to reduce global maternal mortality and preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 (Targets 3.1 and 3.2).
- The **Global Action Plan on Child Wasting**, aiming to reduce the prevalence of child wasting to below 3% by 2030, is a collaborative effort involving UN agencies working on nutrition, including **FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO**, alongside national governments from 24 front runner countries.
- The **Digital Health for Development Hub** of **UNDP and WHO**, in collaboration with multiple governments, serves as a one-stop shop, providing technical, advisory and partnership for the introduction and scale up of digital health solutions.
- **UNDP's Solar for Health** initiative helps to ensure constant and cost-effective access to solar energy for uninterrupted health services. To date, it has supported some 1,000 health centers and storage facilities in 15 countries with support of partners.
- Since 2020, annual trainings for the **Joint Certificate Training Programme** have been organized by **UNDRR, UNOSSC, WHO and PAHO**. This flagship training programme serves as an introductory course for urban leaders, planners to increase awareness of public health response and preparedness, as well as disaster risks, to better prepare city stakeholders.
- As part of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, the **Group of Friends of Health for Refugees and Host Communities** (co-convened by **WHO and UNHCR**) aims to strengthen inclusion of national health systems and to systematically include mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) actions to achieve lasting change for refugees and host communities alike.
- The **IOM UN Migration Middle East Response (MER)** addresses HIV, TB, and malaria and supports migrants, refugees and IDPs in conflict zones.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



To inform the thematic review of SDG 3 at the 2025 HLPF, **UN DESA, WHO, UNFPA**, supported by the wider UN system, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 3 and its interlinkages with other SDGs** on 12 February 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland.

To read the summary of discussion from the Expert Group Meeting, [click here](#).



**UN SYSTEM SDG  
IMPLEMENTATION  
DATABASE**

# 2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## SDG 5:

# GENDER EQUALITY

*Achieve gender equality and  
empower all women and girls*



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- Significant progress in advancing women's rights has been recorded globally, with 99 positive legal reforms implemented between 2019 and 2024 to remove discriminatory laws and establish gender equality frameworks.
- In 61 of the 131 countries for which data are available, there was at least one restriction preventing women from doing the same jobs as men in 2024. Only 38 countries had made 18 the minimum age for marriage, with no exceptions, and only 63 countries had laws on rape that were based on a lack of consent.
- As of 1 January 2025, women held 27.2% of the seats in national parliaments, up 4.9 percentage points from 2015 but only 0.3 points from 2024. Women held 35.5% of local government positions.
- From 2015 to 2023, women representation in management positions increased by only 2.4 percentage points, reaching 30%.
- Today, nearly one in five young women aged 20–24 (19%) was first married or in union before age 18. While child marriage has become less common globally, largely due to progress in Southern Asia, levels remain highest in sub-Saharan Africa (31%).
- Over 230 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). Eliminating FGM by 2030 will require accelerating progress to 27 times as fast as the past decade's pace.
- By 2023, women and girls were spending an average of 2.5 times as many hours per day on domestic and care work as men. Women in Northern Africa and Western Asia spend over four times as many hours as men.
- A global review of 84 countries shows that 58% lack adequate legal protections for women's land rights across family, inheritance, and land laws. Moreover, in nearly 80 percent of countries with available data, less than half of women have ownership or secure rights to agricultural land.
- Only 56.3% of women aged 15–49 who are married or in a union have full decision-making power over their sexual and reproductive health and rights, according to data from 78 countries. The lowest level of autonomy was reported in sub-Saharan Africa, at 36.8%, compared with 87.2% in Europe.
- Globally, 77% of women and 82% of men owned a mobile telephone in 2024. Since 2021, the gender gap in mobile phone ownership has narrowed, from 9.4 to 7% in 2024. However, among population without mobile phones, there are nearly 200 million more women than men.



## WHERE WE STAND

- Three decades after the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, gender equality remains elusive.
- Women remain underrepresented in decision-making and leadership, holding only one in five parliamentary seats and less than one-third of managerial positions. Given this sluggish progress, it will take almost 100 years to reach gender parity in managerial roles.
- Only 26% countries and areas have comprehensive systems to track resource allocations for gender equality
- Achieving gender equality requires integrated, comprehensive, and gender-responsive policy packages that strengthen legal frameworks, reduce economic and structural barriers, and scale up investment in gender equality at all levels.

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



To learn more about  
global progress on the 17  
SDGs, [click here](#) to read  
the latest Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Report 2025.

# SPOTLIGHT



## Spotlight Initiative

The **Spotlight Initiative** is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations focusing on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The initiative is administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office with the support of core agencies including UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women and overseen by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

With the initial investment of EUR 500 million from the European Union as its main contributor, the initiative welcomes other donors and partners to join forces to broaden its reach and scope.

Key impact from the initiative so far include:

- overall conviction rate for gender-based violence doubled across 13 countries;
- 540+ laws or policies were signed or strengthened to end violence against women and girls;
- USD 195 million was delivered to civil society organizations (49% of activity funds);
- more than 5,000 local and grassroots women's rights organizations reported having greater influence and agency;
- close to 3 million women and girls accessed gender-based violence services;
- 384 million people reached through prevention campaigns;
- close to 8 million young people joined gender equality programmes;
- 50 countries strengthened their National Action Plans to eliminate violence against women and girls.

For more information, please visit [here](#).



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- Under the leadership of the **Deputy Secretary-General, UN Women** coordinated the **first UN system-wide policy guidance to transform care systems**, supported by core partners such as **UNDP, ILO, OHCHR, and ECLAC**. Building on the guidance, **ILO, OHCHR and UN Women** facilitated the observance of the **International day of Care and Support** on 29 October. The Government of Mexico and **UN Women** launched the **Global Alliance for Care**, the first global multi-stakeholder community of governments, civil society, union associations, philanthropy, international organizations and academia that facilitates and fosters spaces for collective action, advocacy, communication, and learning about care economy. The **ILO Global Care Portal** present a knowledge hub to support the transformation.
- Led by **UN Women, DPO and UNDP**, the Global Focal Point on the Rule of Law (GFP) Gender Justice Working Group adopted a **Gender Equality Marker Tracking System** to assess and monitor the gender-responsiveness of the technical and strategic support provided by the GFP. The **Gender Justice Platform of UNDP and UN Women** works closely with GFP to bridge the gender justice gap, empower women, and dismantle barriers to their participation in rule of law institutions. The **Steering Committee of Equality in Law for Women and Girls by 2030** led by **UN Women**, the African Union, the Commonwealth, IPU, **UNHCR, UNODC**, and other partners, seeks to fast track the repeal of discriminatory laws across six thematic areas and address systemic discrimination.
- Led by the **ILO, UN Women**, and the OECD, the **Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC)** aims to achieve equal pay for women and men at the global, regional and national levels.
- ITC's "**Gender Moonshot**" Initiative focuses on removing barriers that women-led businesses face in accessing finance, public procurement, market information, digital tools, and professional networks. The **WTO-ITC Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund** is a \$50 million global fund to support women-led businesses and women entrepreneurs in developing and LDCs to adopt digital technologies. **ITC and UN Women's Gender Responsive Public Procurement Campaign** encourages governments to incorporate gender perspective into procurement practices.
- **UNESCO and UN Women** facilitate the observance of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** on 11 February, which unites the international community in emphasizing the need for gender equality in science. The **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS)** partnership recognizes and supports female scientists at different stages of their careers. The **EMPOWER Fellowship**, a joint initiative between **UNOSSC** and **ICGEB**, aims at supporting young women scientists particularly in developing countries.
- The **UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** works to tackle the elimination of FGM through interventions in 18 countries, shifting social norms in affected communities while working with governments to put in place viable national response systems.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



To inform the thematic review of SDG 5 at the 2025 HLPF, **UN DESA, UN Women**, together with other partners from the wider UN system, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 5 and its interlinkages with other SDGs** on 21-22 January 2025, in New York.

To read the summary of discussion from the Expert Group Meeting, click [here](#).



**UN SYSTEM SDG IMPLEMENTATION DATABASE**



# 2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*



### WHERE WE STAND

- Global economic growth is falling short. Global GDP per capita growth is projected to slow to just 1.5% in 2025 due to heightened trade tensions and policy uncertainty.
- While the unemployment rate fell to a record low of 5% in 2024, nearly 58% of workers remained informally employed, with persistently high rates in least developed countries (LDCs) and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Youth and women continued to face particularly elevated unemployment and NEET (not in education, employment, or training) rates globally.
- In 2024, approximately 138 million children worldwide engaged in child labor, over 20 million fewer than 2020.
- To achieve decent work for all, governments must accelerate comprehensive strategies including formalization pathways for informal workers, enhanced social protection systems, strengthened labor rights enforcement, and targeted investments in green and digital economy initiatives that promote decent work while ensuring equitable access to finance and economic opportunities, particularly as global economic uncertainties intensify.



### FACTS AND FIGURES

- Global real GDP per capita fell by 3.8% in 2020, rebounded 5.5% in 2021 but growth slowed to 2% in 2022-2024, with further deceleration to 1.5% projected for 2025 due to trade tensions and policy uncertainty.
- After plunging to 0.5% in 2020, real GDP growth in LDCs rebounded to 4.7% in 2022 but slowed to 3.5% in 2023 and an estimated 3.1% in 2024—well below the 7% annual target.
- Labor productivity growth recovered to 1.5% in 2024 but still lags the pre-pandemic average of 1.8%, constraining wage growth and employment opportunities.
- Child labor dropped from 160 million to 138 million children from 2020 to 2024, but ending it by 2025 would require an 11-fold acceleration in progress.
- Informal employment rose to 57.8% globally in 2024, affecting over 2 billion workers, with 9 in 10 workers informal in LDCs and sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 2024, 93.8% of women in LDCs and 91.4% in sub-Saharan Africa worked informally, compared to 86.4% and 86.0% of men, showing persistent gender gaps.
- Tourism contributed 3.4% of global GDP and accounted for 5.6% of global employment in 2023. SIDS remained most dependent on tourism, with 13% of GDP and 12.9% of employment from tourism.
- Despite record-low global unemployment (5.0%), youth unemployment remains high at 12.9%—triple the adult rate,
- One in five young people were NEET in 2024, with young women twice as likely to be NEET.
- Compliance with freedom of association and collective bargaining declined 7% between 2015-2023, with LDCs experiencing a severe 45.5% decline in compliance.

8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



To learn more about  
global progress on the 17  
SDGs, [click here](#) to read  
the latest Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Report 2025.

# SPOTLIGHT



## GLOBAL ACCELERATOR

The **Global Accelerator (GA) on jobs and social protection for just transitions** was launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General, with the aim of accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting the creation of decent jobs, primarily in the green, digital and care economies, and extending social protection to people who are excluded.

The Global Accelerator brings together Member States, UN agencies (such as **ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WFP and UN Women**), international financial institutions, public development banks, social partners, civil society, and the private sector to create a virtuous cycle of sustainable development that generates economic and social returns and facilitates just transitions.

Active in **17 pathfinder countries**, the Global Accelerator operates through three complementary and mutually supportive pillars:

- Integrated and evidence-based national strategies and policies;
- Integrated financing combining domestic resources and international financial support;
- Enhanced multilateral cooperation.

These three interlinked pillars aim to increase the level and coordination of the multilateral system's efforts to help countries create 400 million decent jobs, including in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the 4 billion people currently excluded.

For more information, visit [here](#).



To inform the thematic review of SDG 8 at the 2025 HLPF, **UN DESA and ILO**, supported by the wider UN system, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 8 and its inter-linkages with other SDGs** on 6-7 February 2025, in New York.

To read the summary of discussion from the Expert Group Meeting, click [here](#).



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- The **UN Interagency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE)**, with 17 Members and 13 observers, aims to raise the visibility of social and solidarity economy within the UN system and beyond. **ILO** and **UNCTAD** currently serve as the co-chairs of UNTFSE.
- Led by the **ILO**, the **Global Coalition for Social Justice** aims to foster multilateral cooperation and partnerships, accelerating progress towards social justice for the SDGs. It has gathered more than **320 partners**, including 23 international organizations and international bodies.
- **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**, a partnership with **UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP, and UNITAR**, focuses on green jobs, circular economy, and sustainable industries and finance.
- **UNIDO** and **UNEP** jointly support the **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)**, an alliance of governments committed to promoting circular economy at the global level to address the triple planetary crisis.
- The **Green Jobs for Youth Pact**, an interagency partnership of the **ILO, UNEP and UNICEF** with and for youth, brings together governments, businesses, and educational institutions through job creation, capacity building, and advocacy support for youth.
- The **ILO** has collaborated with the **SG's Envoy on Technology** and the **High-Level Advisory Body on AI** in the area of AI and it has partnered with the **ITU** in the **AI for Good initiative**. The **ILO** has launched a **Global Observatory on AI and Work in the Digital Economy**, an international knowledge hub on the world-of-work dimensions of AI and the digital economy. The **UNIDO-led Global Alliance on AI for Industry and Manufacturing (AIM Global)** has operationalized its first Global Centre of Excellence in Shanghai, China.
- The **Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)**, is a multi-stakeholder partnership of **ILO, UN DESA, FAO, ITC, UNRISD** and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) to champion and support people-centered and self-sustaining cooperative enterprises as leaders in sustainable development.
- The **Alliance 8.7 Migration Action Group**, led by **IOM**, is dedicated to promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways to combat human trafficking, forced labor, child labor, and modern slavery worldwide (SDG Target 8.7).
- The **ITC** collaborated with Alibaba on a **Partnership to Strengthen Cooperation Across Digital Connectivity and Trade** aiming to help MSMEs in developing countries to improve their international market competitiveness, better utilize e-commerce platform opportunities, and achieve sustainable development.
- The **ILO** has further advanced standard-setting for **decent work in the platform economy** in the International Labor Conference (ILC) in 2025, paving the way for relevant international labor standards to protect the rights of platform workers.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



**UN SYSTEM SDG  
IMPLEMENTATION  
DATABASE**

# 2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## SDG 14:

# LIFE BELOW WATER

*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*



## WHERE WE STAND

- Oceans are essential to life on Earth, regulating climate, sustaining biodiversity, supporting livelihoods and food security, enabling global trade, and providing countless ecosystem services. Yet they face growing threats from overfishing, pollution, and climate change.
- Only 8.4% of the ocean is under protected and conserved areas, far from the 30% target by 2030, and just 46% of marine key biodiversity areas are under protection.
- Ocean recovery is possible through strong fisheries management, ecosystem- and science-based approaches, “blue finance”, and bold conservation, which requires greater investment, inclusive and participatory approaches, and innovative partnerships.
- The 2025 UN Ocean Conference in June 2025 has brought renewed momentum, with a bold political declaration focused on marine protection, pollution control, high-seas governance, and support for vulnerable nations as well as over 800 voluntary commitments. Significant progress was made on the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement), with 19 new ratifications bringing the total to 50—just 10 short of the 60 needed for it to enter into force.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2024, 126 countries and territories were engaged in marine spatial planning initiatives, a tool for implementing ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas—up 20% from 2023. However, only 45 have formally approved marine spatial plans.
- Ocean acidification is intensifying due to rising CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with average pH falling from 8.1 in 1985 to 8.04 in 2023. Monitoring stations grew from 178 in 2021 to 765 in 2025, yet major data gaps still hinder impact modelling and ecosystem vulnerability assessments.
- In 2024 ocean heat content reached the highest level in 65 years. Ocean warming drives severe marine ecosystem damage, including the fourth global coral bleaching event, confirmed in April 2024 and still ongoing. It is considered the most widespread and intense on record, affecting 84% of reefs across 83 countries and territories between January 2023 and May 2025.
- Even if global warming is limited to 1.5°C, 70-90% of warm-water reefs could vanish by 2050. At 2°C warming, nearly all reefs would disappear, threatening biodiversity, food security, and climate resilience.
- New global estimates based on expanded stock assessments show that 64.5% of marine fish stocks were sustainably fished in 2021, while 35.5% were overfished. This marks a modest improvement from previous estimates of 62.3% for sustainably fished stocks. The share of overfished stocks continues to grow by about 1% annually, underscoring the urgent need for stronger fisheries management.
- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a major threat to global fisheries. As of June 2025, 83 Parties (67% of coastal States) had joined the Agreement on Port State Measures, the first binding global instrument to combat IUU fishing. From 2018 to 2024, the global average implementation rating improved from 3 to 4 (medium to high) on a 5-point scale.
- In 2024, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries marked their 10th anniversary. Despite growing adoption, the global average implementation score fell from 5 in 2022 to 4 in 2024 (based on 112 country reports), though overall trends since 2018 remain positive with increased country reporting.



To learn more about global progress on the 17 SDGs, [click here](#) to read the latest Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025.

# SPOTLIGHT



UNITED NATIONS  
OCEAN CONFERENCE  
NICE, FRANCE 2025

Under the overarching theme “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”, the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) was held in Nice, France from 9 to 13 June 2025.

Co-hosted by the Governments of Costa Rica and France, the Conference welcomed approximately 15,000 participants, including 81 VVIPs, of which 53 were Heads of State and Government, 2 Crown Princes/Princesses and 3 Vice Presidents, along with 206 Ministers from 177 Member States. World leaders joined thousands of young people, business leaders, scientists and civil society representatives to usher in a new chapter for ocean action. Three special events, 130 side events in the Blue Zone, as well as over 300 off-site and virtual side events took place in parallel, which further enriched the discussions.

The Conference adopted the Political Declaration “Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action”, which brings forth an escalated sense of urgency in tone and calls for immediate transformative action, recognizing the need for three crucial changes: greater investment; enhanced science-policy interface; accelerated implementation of international frameworks. Numerous countries announced ratifications of the Agreement under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), marking a major step toward its entry into force. It also reaffirms the global community's commitment to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution based on a comprehensive approach.

Around 800 voluntary commitments were made in the lead up to the Conference in Nice.

To learn more, [visit here](#).



To inform the thematic review of SDG 14 at the 2025 HLPF, UN DESA, UNEP, FAO, supported by other UN partners, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 14 and its interlinkages with other SDGs** on 12-13 May 2025.

To learn more about the Expert Group Meeting, [click here](#).



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- **UNEP and FAO** jointly launched the first World Restoration Flagships for 2025 at UNOC3, targeting nearly 5 million hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems, aiming to combat pollution, invasive species and overexploitation.
- **FAO, IMO, and UNEP** co-lead **Working Group 43** of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), which provides scientific guidance on sea-based sources of marine litter, especially abandoned and lost fishing gear.
- Led by **IMO** and in collaboration with **UNDP and GEF**, the GloNoise Partnership Project addresses the global challenge of underwater radiated noise (URN) from shipping, which poses significant risks to marine ecosystems.
- Led by **IMO and FAO**, the GloLitter Partnerships supports developing countries, including Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, in identifying opportunities for the prevention and reduction of marine litter, including both the shipping and fisheries industries. And through the GloFouling Partnership, **IMO** aims to address the transboundary introduction of biofouling-mediated Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS). Through GreenVoyage2050 and IMO CARES, **IMO** provides technical support and capacity building to developing countries, including SIDS and LDCs, to reduce GHG emissions in shipping and adopt energy-efficient technologies, fostering a more sustainable maritime industry.
- **UNESCO** partnered with **IOC, NOAA, IAEA, IOCCP, and GOOS** to create the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), a collaborative international network to detect and understand the drivers of ocean acidification in estuarine-coastal-open ocean environments, the resulting impacts on marine ecosystems, and to make the information available to optimize modeling studies.
- Initiated by **UNDP** along with numerous partners including **UNCDF, UNESCO, CBD, UNEP, ICRI, UK, Pegasus Capital, and Bloomberg Philanthropies**, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) is a public-private coalition deploying a range of financial solutions and support for sustainable businesses to improve the resilience of coastal ecosystems, economies, and communities.
- The Global Ocean Energy Alliance was developed by **UNIDO** and Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (**GN-SEC**) and launched in collaboration with **SIDS DOCK** at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.
- The Ocean Tourism Pact, supported by **UNWTO, UNEP** under the One Planet Network's Sustainable Tourism Programme, aims to protect marine and coastal ecosystems and shape a sustainable future for blue tourism.
- The UN-Portugal Ocean Fellowship, led by **UN DESA** in partnership with the Government of Portugal, aims to build the capacity of high-level ocean policy officials from developing countries to accelerate the implementation of SDG14.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



UN SYSTEM SDG  
IMPLEMENTATION  
DATABASE



# 2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

*Strengthen the means of implementation and  
revitalize the Global Partnership for  
Sustainable Development*



## WHERE WE STAND

- Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) faced record-high \$1.4 trillion debt servicing costs in 2023, compounded by a \$4 trillion annual investment gap that severely constrained SDG achievement. Despite increased financial flows from official and private sources, official development assistance (ODA) declined for the first time in five years with further cuts expected through 2025.
- The share of developing countries in global merchandise exports has remained stagnated since 2015—far below the SDG target to double their share by 2020.
- Access to information and communications technology continues to expand, but the digital divide remains wide, especially in lower-income regions. While data systems and national statistical capacities have improved, many countries still lack the sustainable financing to support data infrastructure and production needed to meet growing demands.
- Accelerating progress requires renewed international cooperation to bridge the investment gap, innovative financing to reduce debt burdens, targeted digital infrastructure support, and strengthened statistical capacity for better SDG tracking and implementation.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2024, ODA by DAC member countries amounted to \$212.1 billion, or 0.33% of their combined GNI. This marks a 7.1% decrease in real term from 2023, the first drop after five years of consecutive growth. Despite this decline, ODA remained 23% above 2019 levels.
- After steady increases in the early 2000s and 2010s, the share of merchandise exports from developing regions has stagnated since 2015.
- The global share of merchandise exports from Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and LDCs showed minimal gains, each reaching only 1.1%, while Small Island Developing States (SIDS) saw their share decline slightly from 2.4% in 2015 to 2.3% in 2023.
- Global FDI flows in 2024 reached an estimated \$1.4 trillion, a 11% increase over 2023, mainly due to higher values in a few conduit economies. Excluding these, global FDI flows were 8% lower. SDG-related investments declined 11% in 2024.
- In 2023, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries reached an estimated \$648 billion, reflecting a normalization of flows following the post-pandemic robust growth.
- In 2023, 67% of the global population, or 5.4 billion people, were online, marking a 4.7% increase from 2022. The growth rate has returned to pre-pandemic levels after a surge during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2024, 159 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, up from 132 countries in 2019, and 137 countries reported implementing a national statistical plan, though only 95 were fully funded.
- The average Open Data Inventory (ODIN) scores increased sharply from 2022 to 2024 across all regions; for the first time, the global score surpassed 50 out of 100. Despite progress, increased investment in data infrastructure and production is needed across all countries. Similarly, Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI) scores rose from 58.6 in 2016 to 69.7 in 2023, owing to the heightened demand for reliable data during the COVID-19 pandemic.

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



To learn more about  
global progress on the 17  
SDGs, [click here](#) to read  
the latest Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Report 2025.

# SPOTLIGHT



The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) took place from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Sevilla, Spain, guided by the aspiration to unlock greater volumes of capital to deliver an SDG investment push and to reform the international financial architecture to enable the transformative change that the world urgently needs.

World leaders adopted the Sevilla Commitment or Compromiso de Sevilla (A/CONF.227/2025.L.1), which sets out a renewed global framework to finance our future. It holds the promise to catalyze investments to i) close the \$4 trillion SDG financing gap, ii) address the debt and sustainable development crisis, and iii) reform the international financial architecture for a fairer financial system.

Heads of State and Government and global leaders also launched the Sevilla Platform for Action (SPA), a major step to begin implementing the Compromiso de Sevilla without delay. It brings together more than 130 high-impact initiatives which are designed to complement the renewed global financing frameworks adopted by world leaders and to help deliver tangible progress to finance our future. Notable initiatives include a global hub for debt swaps for development by the World Bank and Spain and a debt pause clause alliance championed by Spain and a coalition of partners, among others. Civil society organizations issued a Declaration from the FFD4 Civil Society Forum. Global business leaders issued a Communiqué at the International Business Forum, highlighting five priority areas for action to scale up private investment.

To learn more, visit [here](#).



At the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, four SDG Action Segments were organized in collaboration with key partners from the UN system and beyond around the SDGs under in-depth review at 2025 HLPF, demonstrating how innovative partnerships could be scaled up to drive SDG implementation.

[>>>LEARN MORE](#)



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- The Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) Facility is a joint initiative of **UN DESA, UNDP, OECD, UNICEF, EU** and the Governments of Italy, Spain and Sweden. It responds to the demand from countries developing integrated national financing frameworks and offers a wide range of technical expertise to support the development and delivery of INFFs.
- The 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator of **UN DESA**, implemented in partnership with the Partnering Initiative (TPI), aims to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement in support of the SDGs through training and advisory services to Member States and UN Resident Coordinator Offices.
- **UN DESA** and **UNCTAD** continue to coordinate the UN Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT), facilitating working-level cooperation among expert staff on STI issues in the UN system across ten workstreams.
- Led by **UNCTAD** in collaboration with **UNECA, UNESCAP, UN Resident Coordinator Offices in beneficiary countries**, funded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, the STI Parks for Sustainable Development initiative aims to build national capacity in using STI parks to improve national technology and innovation performance and generate positive socio-economic outcomes.
- AI for Good Global Summit, led by **ITU** in partnership with **over 40 UN agencies**, is identifying innovative AI applications, building skills and standards, strengthening global dialogue on governance, and advancing partnerships to solve global challenges. **ITU's Digital Skills Toolkit** offers a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to support policymakers and other stakeholders to create effective national digital skills strategies and policies.
- Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Coalition (**ITU, UNOHRLLS, UNODET**) fosters meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, with a focus on but not limited to hardest-to-connect communities in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
- UN Data Platform, a collaborative effort between **UN DESA** and Google's Data Commons, empowers policymakers, researchers and the public, leveraging cutting-edge technology to provide easy access to authoritative data and information collected by the entire UN system to enable data-driven decisions and solutions.
- The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) has conducted the 2025 Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework for the SDGs.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



**UN SYSTEM SDG  
IMPLEMENTATION  
DATABASE**