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Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), the present report provides a global overview of the progress made since 2015 towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, using inputs from more than 50 international and regional organizations. The data contained herein are derived from indicators in the global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which was adopted by the Assembly on 6 July 2017 (see Assembly resolution [71/313](#)).

* [A/80/50](#).

** The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a global overview of the progress made in the 10 years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2015, and highlights areas in which decisive action is required in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. According to the data available, the world is on track or making moderate progress on 35 per cent of the 137 Sustainable Development Goal targets. Progress on 47 per cent of the targets is insufficient, and there has been regression from the 2015 baseline in relation to 18 per cent. With only five years until the 2030 deadline, there is a vital need to intensify efforts to reverse these trends, as reaffirmed in the present report.

2. While progress has been uneven and limited on several Goals, notable achievements across regions and countries demonstrate that change is possible. Since 2015, extreme poverty has declined around the world despite the profound impact of the global pandemic, and the number of people classed as working poor has decreased by 20 million. For the first time, over half of the world's population (52.4 per cent) was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2023, up from 42.8 per cent in 2015. Despite the improvement, however, there are still over 700 million people living in extreme poverty, and the risk of falling into, or back into, poverty remains high, driven by compounded shocks and crises.

3. Since 2015, progress towards ending hunger, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture has been mixed, due primarily to ongoing conflicts, global food crises and climate-related challenges. Notable improvements include a decline in child stunting and wasting, and a modest rise in dietary diversity among young children. Hunger and food insecurity have escalated, however, with over 750 million people going hungry and more than 2.3 billion facing food insecurity. Small-scale producers continue to earn substantially less than larger farms. Despite public spending on agriculture reaching a record high of \$701 billion in 2023, it still accounts for less than 2 per cent of total government expenditure, reflecting the need for greater investment and urgent action to bolster food systems.

4. Between 2015 and 2023, progress in healthcare meant that more mothers survived childbirth, and more children lived past their fifth birthday: maternal mortality fell from 228 to 197 per 100,000 live births, and the under-5 mortality rate dropped from 43 to 37 per 1,000 live births. New HIV infections have decreased by 39 per cent since 2010, while 2.2 billion malaria cases and 12.7 million deaths from malaria have been prevented since 2000. The percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 53 per cent in 2015 to 60 per cent in 2024, and literacy skills are improving. In addition, there has been a steady narrowing of gender gaps in education. Education systems remain severely underfunded, however, and learning outcomes are in decline. One in five young people (between the ages of 15 and 24) worldwide is not in employment, education or training, and is therefore missing out on opportunities to gain skills and enter the labour force. Young women are more than twice as likely as young men to fall into this category.

5. Progress on gender equality is uneven and insufficient. While child marriage has declined globally, largely due to progress in Southern Asia, it remains widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. Women still perform 2.5 times more unpaid care work than men and face challenges in exercising their political voice and persistent gaps in land rights and digital access. Women now hold 27 per cent of parliamentary seats, up from 22 per cent in 2015, as well as 35 per cent of local government positions. It should be noted, however, that these global averages conceal alarmingly low political participation rates among women in many countries.

6. Persons with disabilities face significant challenges in accessing education, healthcare, technology and decent work, leading to higher rates of poverty and social isolation. Achieving the Goals for persons with disabilities by 2030 requires accelerating action by up to 65 times, especially in relation to accessibility, social protection and efforts to combat discrimination. There must also be better data tracking.

7. Access to safe drinking water, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene has improved. Between 2015 and 2023, electricity access rose from 87 to 92 per cent, and access to clean cooking fuels increased by 16 per cent. Governance of disaster risk reduction at the local level has improved, with 110 countries reporting that they have local disaster risk reduction strategies in place. Average protection of key biodiversity areas increased from approximately 25 per cent in 2000 to approximately 44 per cent in 2024 across marine, terrestrial, freshwater and mountain biomes.

8. Over the past decade, progress in relation to economic growth and decent work for all has been uneven. There was a sharp drop in global gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of 3.8 per cent in 2020, followed by a rebound to growth of 5.5 per cent in 2021. Growth slowed to 1.9 per cent in 2023, and modest growth of 2.0 per cent is estimated for 2024, while a rate of 1.5 per cent is projected for 2025. Despite the unemployment rate reaching a record low of 5.0 per cent in 2024, the rate of informal employment remained high. Moreover, young people remained three times more likely to be unemployed than adults over the age of 25, with young women disproportionately affected. Some 68 per cent of the global population used the Internet in 2024 compared with 40 per cent in 2015, but 2.6 billion people remained offline. Mobile broadband was used by 92 per cent of the population.

9. Climate action remains well below the level required to meet the commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Global temperatures crossed the threshold of 1.5°C in 2024, which was the hottest year on record. Carbon dioxide levels stand at 151 per cent above pre-industrial levels, the highest level in over 2 million years, while ocean acidification and species extinction risks continue to rise.

10. Peace and security, which are the foundations of sustainable development, have deteriorated sharply. Conflicts have grown in frequency, intensity and duration, devastating lives and livelihoods. By April 2024, over 120 million people had been forcibly displaced, which was more than double the figure from 2015. Overall, progress on Goal 16 is too slow, with persistent gaps remaining in relation to access to justice, accountable institutions and inclusive decision-making.

11. Since 2015, the number of countries with fully compliant national human rights institutions has risen from 70 to 89, and such institutions now cover 55 per cent of the global population. However, the number of documented killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists has remained alarmingly high, with at least 502 cases reported across 44 countries in 2024. Despite high levels of satisfaction with public services (67 per cent for administrative services, 58–79 per cent for education and 57 per cent for healthcare), the fact that only 45 per cent of people believe that their political systems are responsive reveals ongoing deficits in trust and representation. Pretrial detention rates remain unchanged since 2015, underscoring stagnant progress in relation to justice. Budget reliability has improved in the post-pandemic period, however, with expenditure deviations dropping from 12.6 per cent in 2020 to 9.6 per cent in 2023.

12. There has been an increase in financial flows to developing countries from both official and private sources. Foreign direct investment (FDI) rose by 11 per cent between 2023 and 2024, to \$1.4 trillion, while global remittance flows increased by 3 per cent between 2022 and 2023, to \$861 billion. In 2023, debt servicing costs for

low- and middle-income countries hit a record high of \$1.4 trillion, driven by a decade of rising external debt, surging interest rates and weaker local currencies. Principal repayments rose to \$950.9 billion, while interest payments jumped by 37.1 per cent to \$405.3 billion – both all-time highs. As a result, the debt service-to-exports ratio climbed to 14.7 per cent for low- and middle-income countries. This burden, alongside a \$4 trillion annual investment gap in relation to the Goals, is reducing national budget allocations for social services and hampering progress towards the Goals.

13. A key achievement in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been the marked improvement in data availability, which has strengthened the evidence base for policymaking. More needs to be done, however, given the existing disaggregation gaps. In 2024, participants at the United Nations World Data Forum endorsed the Medellín Framework for Action on Data for Sustainable Development in order to strengthen global data systems for sustainable development. The framework contains a call for the modernization of data ecosystems, the fostering of inclusive governance and the utilization of diverse, credible data sources to support decision-making. Emphasis is placed on the need for greater partnerships, innovation and capacity-building to ensure that data are accessible, usable and reliable. Financing remains a key challenge, particularly for low- and middle-income countries facing difficulties in producing timely, high-quality data. There is a need for larger-scale, long-term investments from both domestic and international sources, and political will and sustained funding are essential for effective, data-driven action.

14. Amid intensifying climate change, geopolitical tensions, economic shocks and increasing fragility, progress on the Goals is falling far short of the scale or speed needed. Urgent action is critical to reverse alarming trends and consolidate hard-won gains. With an insufficient pace of progress in relation to 47 per cent of targets, and regression with respect to 18 per cent, there is a risk that over two thirds of the Goals will not be met. The six collectively agreed-upon transitions, identified for their catalytic, ripple effects across the Goals, are key to driving transformative change at the country level, namely in relation to (a) food systems; (b) energy access and affordability; (c) digital connectivity; (d) education; (e) jobs and social protection; and (f) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

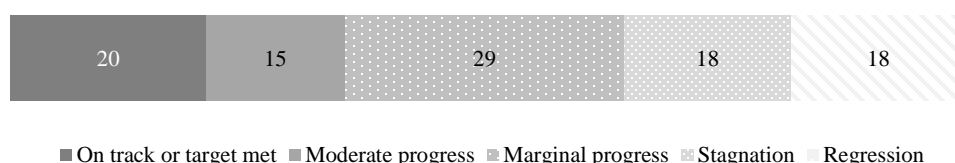
15. Sustainable development is reaffirmed as a core pillar of multilateral cooperation in both the political declaration resulting from the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in 2023 and the Pact for the Future adopted in 2024. Those texts have a vital role to play in framing future efforts to deliver on the commitments made under the 2030 Agenda and accelerate progress on the Goals.

16. Sustained multilateral engagement is essential in order to keep the Goals within reach. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake, the Second World Summit for Social Development, the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, the Group of 20 Summit and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will serve as timely and strategic platforms to advance collective efforts on the 2030 Agenda.

II. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals as of 2025

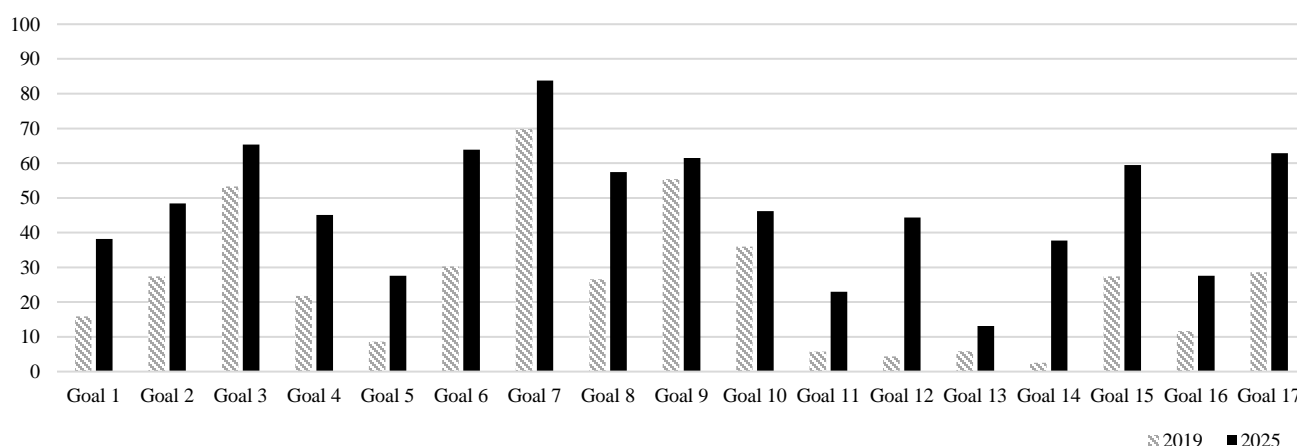
17. As shown in figure I, progress is on track (20 per cent) or moderate (15 per cent) with respect to 35 per cent of the 137 targets for which trend data and additional inputs are available from custodian agencies. By contrast, there has been only marginal progress (29 per cent) or no progress (18 per cent) on 47 per cent of targets. Alarming, there has been regression from 2015 baseline levels for 18 per cent of targets.

Figure I
Overall progress assessment across targets with trend data (2025 or the latest data)
(Percentage)



18. Over the past decade, progress has been made in strengthening data systems to support monitoring of the Goals, as illustrated in figure II. Key changes were introduced in 2025 under the comprehensive review of the global indicator framework, endorsed by the Statistical Commission, in order to better reflect today's challenges, including climate change, inequality and digital transformation. These updates have enhanced countries' capacity to track progress and inform the development of evidence-based policies and investments.

Figure II
Proportion of countries or areas with available data (at least two data points since 2015), with a comparison of the databases from 2019 and 2025, by Sustainable Development Goal
(Percentage)



19. The remainder of this section draws on available data to provide an overview of each Goal with a focus on selected targets where progress remains insufficient or trajectories are off track. Global and regional data, along with progress assessments

for all targets and indicators for which information is available, can be found in the statistical annex.¹

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

20. Global poverty reduction is virtually at a standstill. Around 9 per cent of people worldwide lived in extreme poverty in 2022. Working poverty affected 244 million workers in 2024. While the milestone of half of the world's population having social protection has now been reached, low-income countries have shown almost no improvement since 2015. Inequality within and between countries continues to hinder poverty reduction, and the poorest are often left behind in periods of recovery. Inclusive and sustained economic growth, particularly in low-income countries and fragile settings, remains critical to reversing current trends. Accelerating progress towards a poverty-free world will require the strengthening of social protection systems and the mobilization of greater international resources to help countries to recover from the stalled progress of recent years. The United Nations, in collaboration with the World Bank and other partners, works to address structural inequalities, reduce poverty and increase social protection coverage. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is providing secretariat services to the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, which was launched in 2024 under the presidency of Brazil of the Group of 20, in order to mobilize coordinated global action and investment in support of poverty reduction in the most vulnerable countries.

Target 1.1

21. The latest data showed that 9 per cent of the global population lived in extreme poverty in 2022, which represents a small decrease from 10.5 per cent in 2015. If current trajectories persist, 7.3 per cent of the world's population will still live in extreme poverty in 2030. In 2024, 6.9 per cent of the employed population, 244 million workers, lived below the international poverty line of \$2.15 a day (adjusted for purchasing power parity).

Target 1.3

22. For the first time, in 2023, more than half of the world's population (52.4 per cent) was covered by at least one social protection benefit, up from 42.8 per cent in 2015. A total of 3.8 billion people remain unprotected. High-income countries are edging closer to universal coverage (85.9 per cent). In contrast, the coverage rate of 9.7 per cent in low-income countries has hardly increased since 2015.

Target 1.4

23. As of 2022, two thirds of the global population believe they have secure land tenure, yet only 43 per cent of adults around the world, and just 15 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, possess official land tenure documents. As a result, nearly 1.4 billion adults in developing regions remain excluded from formal land markets, mortgage-based finance and legal protections for their land rights. While women account for 51 per cent of those who feel secure in their tenure, only 24 per cent hold legal land documents.

¹ The indicator framework, the statistical annex to the present report and the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.

Target 1.a

24. In 2022, across approximately 100 reporting countries, government spending on essential services averaged 50 per cent of total expenditures. Advanced economies allocated 61 per cent, while emerging market and developing economies spent 43 per cent.

Target 1.b

25. Of the 133 countries for which data are available for the period 2009–2022, the proportion of social spending (health, education and direct transfers) that benefited the poorest 20 per cent of the population ranged from 10 to 39 per cent. The average was 26 per cent.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

26. Global hunger has risen sharply since 2019 and remains persistently high. Nearly 1 in 11 people worldwide faced hunger in 2023, while more than 2 billion experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. Millions of children and women are affected by malnutrition. The number of countries in which food prices are moderately to abnormally high remains well above pre-pandemic levels. Getting progress on track with respect to Goal 2 requires urgent action to strengthen food systems, support small-scale producers, improve services and ensure access to affordable, healthy diets. Transitioning food systems to make them more sustainable, inclusive and resilient will drive progress on the Goals. The United Nations Food Systems Summit and its biennial stocktakes – the next of which is scheduled to be held in July 2025 – have helped to align global efforts with nationally defined priorities.

Target 2.1

27. Hunger affected 9.1 per cent of the global population in 2023, up from 7.5 per cent in 2019 (between 713 million and 757 million people globally and one in five in Africa). Nearly 2.33 billion people, or almost 3 in 10, faced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2023, which was 383 million more than in 2019.

Target 2.2

28. The global prevalence of stunting in children under the age of 5 declined from 26.4 per cent in 2012 to 23.2 per cent in 2024, but recent data indicate a potential reversal of the trend. More than 150 million children were stunted in 2024. The prevalence of overweight in children rose from 5.3 to 5.5 per cent between 2012 and 2024, though the number of overweight children declined from 36.3 million to 35.5 million. The prevalence of wasting in children declined from 7.4 per cent in 2012 to 6.6 per cent in 2024, and the number of children affected declined from 50.9 million to 42.8 million.

29. Some 34 per cent of children between the ages of 6 and 23 months received minimum dietary diversity between 2015 and 2022, which represents a slight improvement from the figure of 28 per cent in the period 2009–2016. Only 65 per cent of women of childbearing age achieved minimum dietary diversity between 2019 and 2023.

30. Little improvement has been seen since 2012 with respect to anaemia, which affected one in three women between the ages of 15 and 49 years in 2023.

Target 2.3

31. In most countries for which data are available, the annual income of small-scale producers from agriculture is \$1,500 (constant 2017 purchasing power parity), which is often less than half of what larger producers earn.

Target 2.a

32. Global public expenditures reached \$38 trillion in 2023, or 36 per cent of global GDP, of which a record \$701 billion went to agriculture. Nonetheless, agriculture represented only 1.85 per cent of total government expenditure.

Target 2.c

33. In 2023, the proportion of countries in which food prices were moderately to abnormally high declined to about 50 per cent. This was lower than the 61 per cent recorded in 2022 but still three times the average of 16 per cent for the period 2015–2019.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

34. The latest data show mixed results across health indicators. While maternal mortality has declined, the pace of improvement falls far short of what is needed to meet the targets for 2030. Under-5 and neonatal mortality rates have improved significantly since 2000, offering the potential to save millions more lives if progress accelerates. HIV-related deaths have halved since 2010, but millions of people still lack treatment, and global positive trends hide data showing that rates of new infections are rising in several regions. Neglected tropical diseases affect nearly 1.5 billion people globally. Achieving universal health coverage requires intensified commitment to reach those who are the furthest behind. The United Nations is advancing universal health coverage and promoting equitable, people-centred health systems, focusing on fragile, conflict-affected regions and areas with significant health inequalities. Through such initiatives as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030, the United Nations targets the most underserved populations. It has also led efforts in pandemic preparedness and is intensifying action on mental health as a core component of overall well-being.

Target 3.1

35. The global maternal mortality ratio decreased from 228 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 197 in 2023. To reach the global target of 70 per 100,000 live births, nearly 700,000 deaths need to be prevented between 2024 and 2030. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 80 per cent in 2015 to 87 per cent in 2024.

Target 3.2

36. In 2023, the number of global under-5 deaths was 4.8 million, down from 10.1 million in 2000 and 6.2 million in 2015. The under-5 mortality rate dropped to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births, which represents a decline of 52 per cent since 2000 and 16 per cent since 2015. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate fell to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023 – a decrease of 44 per cent since 2000 and 12 per cent since 2015. Meeting targets in relation to the Goals could save 8 million lives by 2030.

Target 3.3

37. In 2023, 39.9 million people were living with HIV, but 9.3 million lacked life-saving treatment. As a result, one person died from AIDS-related causes every minute. AIDS-related deaths halved between 2010 and 2023, from 1.3 million to 630,000. During this period, new HIV infections dropped by 39 per cent globally. It should be noted, however, that infections are rising in the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Latin America.

38. Globally, 8.2 million people were reported as newly diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2023. This was the highest number for a single year since data became available in the mid-1990s, up from the previous record of 7.5 million in 2022, and 15 per cent higher than in 2019.

39. Since 2000, an estimated 2.2 billion malaria cases and 12.7 million deaths have been averted worldwide. By the end of 2024, 44 countries and one territory had been certified as malaria-free.

40. In 2023, 1.495 billion people required interventions against neglected tropical diseases, including 493 million in the least developed countries, which was 122 million fewer than in 2022. By December 2024, 54 countries and territories had eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease.

Target 3.4

41. Globally, in 2021, it is estimated that 18 million people under the age of 70 died from a noncommunicable disease. This figure represents more than half of deaths among people in this age range. The risk of premature death from any of the four main noncommunicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes) has decreased since 2015, but, despite increased awareness, the world is not on track to meet the target for the reduction of noncommunicable diseases by 2030.

Target 3.7

42. The global adolescent birth rate among girls between the ages of 15 and 19 fell from 66.3 per 1,000 in 2000 to 38.3 per 1,000 in 2024, and is projected to decline to 34.8 by 2030. Among girls between the ages of 10 and 14, the rate dropped from 3.5 to 1.0 per 1,000 over the period 2000–2024. Despite this progress, the highest rates were reported in sub-Saharan Africa, at 92.9 per 1,000 for the 15–19 age range) and 3.1 per 1,000 for the 10–14 age range.

Target 3.b

43. Progress stagnated or dipped between 2020 and 2022 with respect to all four childhood vaccines covered by indicator 3.b.1. For the third dose of the vaccine containing diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, which is a useful marker of how well a vaccination system is functioning, performance had still not been fully restored, by 2023, to the pre-pandemic level seen in 2019. Coverage rates for the other three vaccines increased, but this was partially due to vaccines being introduced in countries where they were not previously available. The global target of 90 per cent set by the Immunization Agenda 2030 is unlikely to be met for any of these vaccinations if current trends continue.

Target 3.c

44. The global health workforce surpassed 70 million in 2023, with 52 million people working in key professions, such as dentists, medical doctors, midwives,

nurses and pharmacists. Density in the key professions has increased by 26 per cent since 2013. Health worker density ranges from 1 per 64 people in high-income countries to 1 per 621 in low-income ones. Globally, a shortage of 11.1 million health workers is projected in 2030, with countries in Northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa accounting for over half of the shortage.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

45. Goal 4 remains a critical enabler for sustainable development, yet progress falls short of targets. Improvements in upper secondary completion rates have slowed, while learning outcomes in many countries are declining. Troubling regional disparities exist in early childhood development, and sub-Saharan Africa is at a particular disadvantage. Despite modest improvements in literacy, hundreds of millions of people remain illiterate, and women are disproportionately affected. Teacher qualification challenges persist and there has been minimal improvement since 2015. The rise of digital societies necessitates the integration of technology into education, in order to ensure that young people and future generations have access to relevant, high-quality content that prepares them for the demands of a rapidly evolving labour market. Accelerating progress towards achieving Goal 4 must be prioritized, as it would have a catalytic effect on the realization of the 2030 Agenda overall. Using the impetus of the Transforming Education Summit, convened by the Secretary-General, the United Nations is driving global action towards the achievement of Goal 4, advocating for inclusive, equitable and quality education for all, while supporting efforts to improve learning outcomes and address regional disparities.

Target 4.1

46. The percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 53 per cent in 2015 to 60 per cent in 2024, although progress was slower than in the preceding nine-year period. Many countries are moving backwards in terms of learning outcomes at the end of lower secondary school, but large data gaps, especially in early grades, prevent an assessment of broader trends in learning outcomes.

Target 4.2

47. Between 2015 and 2024, data from 84 countries indicated that around two thirds of young children were developmentally on track and that there were no significant differences by sex.

Target 4.2

48. In 2023, nearly 75 per cent of children worldwide participated in organized learning one year before reaching the official entry age for primary education. That participation rate has remained unchanged since before the pandemic. Currently, only 103 countries guarantee free pre-primary education, and 66 countries mandate at least one year of pre-primary education.

Target 4.3

49. Globally, one sixth of individuals between the ages of 15 and 64 recently participated in formal and non-formal education and training. Participation rates were over half for young people between the ages of 15 and 24, but were much lower for older adults, averaging 3 per cent for those in the 25–54 age range.

Target 4.5

50. Socioeconomic disparities are evident in many education indicators. Disparities based on location and household wealth are even more pronounced, showing that rural and poorer families experience greater disadvantages. These gaps tend to widen at higher education levels.

Target 4.6

51. Some 754 million adults worldwide remained illiterate in 2024, however, with women accounting for 63 per cent of the total. Between 2014 and 2024, the global adult literacy rate (for persons aged 15 and older) increased from 85 to 88 per cent, while the youth literacy rate (for the 15–24 age range) rose from 91 to 93 per cent.

Target 4.a

52. Over a fifth of primary schools globally do not have access to basic services, such as electricity, drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. The availability of other facilities, such as computers and the Internet for pedagogical purposes, as well as disability-adapted infrastructure, is lower, as half of primary schools lack access.

Target 4.c

53. In 2023, 15 per cent of teachers worldwide still did not meet their country's national minimum qualification standards, which means that there had been no improvement since 2015. The situation varied significantly across regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, around two in five teachers did not meet national qualification requirements.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

54. Thirty years since the adoption of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, gender equality remains elusive. Legal barriers persist, restricting women's employment opportunities and perpetuating child marriage and gender-based violence. The unequal burden of unpaid domestic and care work continues to limit the opportunities available to women, although there are significant regional variations. The political representation of women shows alarmingly slow growth, while decision-making autonomy over sexual and reproductive health remains limited in many regions. Gender gaps in land ownership, legal protections and access to mobile telephones further demonstrate the substantial work that is needed to achieve gender equality by 2030. The United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, launched by the Secretary-General, is a course-correcting push to fast-track collective United Nations action for gender equality and the rights of all women and girls.

Target 5.1

55. 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.

Target 5.3

56. At the time of writing, one in five young women between the ages of 20 and 24 years were first married or in a union before the age of 18. Child marriage has become less common worldwide; this trend was largely driven by progress in Southern Asia.

The level remains highest in sub-Saharan Africa, at 31 per cent. Around the world, over 230 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation.

Target 5.4

57. By 2023, women and girls were spending an average of 2.5 times more hours per day on domestic and care work than men.

Target 5.5

58. In 2024, the share of parliamentary seats held by women was 27.2 per cent, up from 22.3 per cent in 2015. In local governments, the participation rate was higher, at 35.5 per cent. Since 2015, the representation of women in management has increased by only 2.4 percentage points, reaching 30 per cent in 2023. Given this sluggish progress, it will take almost 100 years to reach gender parity in managerial roles.

Target 5.6

59. Only 56.3 per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 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 per cent, compared with 87.2 per cent in Europe.

Target 5.a

60. In 80 per cent of countries for which data are available, less than half of women have ownership of, or secure rights to, agricultural land. In half of these countries, less than half of men hold such rights. In almost half of these countries, the rate of landownership among men is at least double the rate among women. A global assessment of legal frameworks protecting women's land rights across 84 countries reveals that 58 per cent of those countries have inadequate measures in family, inheritance and land laws and policies.

Target 5.b

61. Globally, 77 per cent of women and 82 per cent of men owned a mobile telephone in 2024. Women were about 7 per cent less likely to own a mobile telephone than men – down from 9.4 per cent in 2021. Among those not owning mobile telephones, women outnumbered men by 31 per cent.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

62. Despite some progress, billions of people still lack access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Water use efficiency, although increasing globally, remains low in most countries, and water stress continues to be severe in several regions of the world. The implementation of integrated water resources management is advancing slowly, with transboundary water cooperation remaining limited despite the large number of countries sharing water resources. Achieving Goal 6 requires global commitment to ensure water security for all while protecting the planet's water resources. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Water, appointed in 2024, advocates the sustainable management of freshwater resources for accelerated implementation of the Goals. The United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation is focused on governance frameworks, financial resources, data, technology and innovative tools for Goal 6 and supporting preparations for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable

Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Targets 6.1 and 6.2

63. From 2015 to 2024, the population using safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene services increased from 68 to 74 per cent, from 48 to 58 per cent and from 66 to 80 per cent, respectively. However, in 2024, 2.1 billion people were without safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion without safely managed sanitation and 1.7 billion without basic hygiene services. In schools around the world in 2023, 447 million children lacked a basic drinking water service, 427 million lacked a basic sanitation service, and 646 million lacked a basic hygiene service.

Target 6.3

64. Estimates based on data for 129 countries covering 89 per cent of the world's population suggest that the proportion of domestic wastewater that is safely treated was 56 per cent in 2022 (no change since 2020).

Target 6.4

65. From 2015 to 2022, global water use efficiency improved from \$17.5/m³ to \$21.5/m³, a 23 per cent increase. However, 57 per cent of countries still face challenges, with low efficiency of below \$20/m³. Globally, water stress showed little change from 2015 to 2022. Water stress varies significantly across regions, with Northern Africa and Western Asia as well as Southern and Central Asia facing extreme scarcity.

Target 6.5

66. Global progress in implementing integrated water resources management remains slow – the level of implementation was 49 per cent in 2017, 54 per cent in 2020 and 57 per cent in 2023. While 153 countries share transboundary waters, only 43 countries have operational arrangements in place for 90 per cent or more of these waters, and more than 20 countries lack any such arrangements.

Target 6.a

67. Official development assistance (ODA) disbursements to the water sector declined slightly, from \$8.9 billion in 2022 to \$8.7 billion in 2023, but remained higher than disbursements in 2020 and 2021, which were the lowest levels since 2015. ODA commitments to the water sector decreased more substantially, from \$11.4 billion in 2022 to \$10.2 billion in 2023.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

68. Progress towards Goal 7 has been notable: from 2015 to 2023, global electricity access rose from 87 to 92 per cent, access to clean cooking fuels increased by 16 per cent, and renewable electricity continued to grow. However, progress is slowing – renewables lag in the transport and heating sectors, and energy efficiency gains have stalled. Moreover, only a small portion of global energy investment reaches the areas most in need. Achieving Goal 7 will require a significant boost in investment in emerging and developing economies, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, to expand access to electricity and clean cooking, scale up renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks.

69. The United Nations energy compacts are designed to facilitate the clean energy transition and support the development of technical, policy and governance solutions to accelerate the achievement of Goal 7, including through the work of the Council on Engineers for the Energy Transition, launched under the auspices of the Secretary-General. The Just Energy Transition Partnership also provides support to countries.

Target 7.1

70. In 2023, the global electricity access rate reached 92 per cent, reducing the number of people without access to 666 million – 18.8 million fewer than in 2022. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 85 per cent of those without electricity, mostly in rural areas. Despite 73 million new connections annually, population growth is outpacing progress, and 645 million may remain unserved by 2030. Achieving universal access requires increasing the annual access rate to 1.2 per cent. Off-grid solar solutions could serve 41 per cent of the unserved. From 2010 to 2023, 45 countries achieved universal access, but only two were in sub-Saharan Africa.

71. The percentage of the population with access to clean cooking reached 74 per cent in 2023 – up from 64 per cent in 2015 – but 2.1 billion people still rely on polluting fuels. At current rates, 1.8 billion people, or 22 per cent of the population, will remain without access to clean cooking by 2030.

Target 7.2

72. In 2022, renewable energy accounted for 17.9 per cent of total final energy consumption. Excluding traditional biomass, modern renewables grew from 10 per cent in 2015 to 13 per cent in 2022. The electricity sector leads, with renewables at 30 per cent of total final electricity consumption in 2022. While biofuels dominate renewable transport energy, making up for almost 90 per cent of the total, overall progress in the heat and transport sectors remains limited.

Target 7.3

73. Global primary energy intensity improved by 2.1 per cent in 2022, quadruple the 0.5 per cent rate in 2021, and was slightly above the post-2015 average. However, this improvement was partly due to the global energy crisis. Progress falls below the original 2.6 per cent annual target. Meeting the goal would require an annual improvement of 4 per cent in the 2022–2030 period.

Target 7.a

74. In 2023, international public financial flows supporting clean energy in developing countries rose to \$21.6 billion, a 27 per cent increase from 2022. Despite three years of growth, this remains below the 2016 peak of \$28.4 billion and primarily benefits major developing economies. Support falls far short of actual needs, especially for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Target 7.b

75. Global renewable energy capacity per capita hit a record 478 watts in 2023, up 13 per cent from 2022, with developed countries reaching 1,162 watts and developing countries reaching 341 watts. While developing countries showed stronger growth at 17 per cent, compared with 8.1 per cent in developed countries, significant expansion of modern energy infrastructure and technology remains necessary in developing countries.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

76. Over the past decade, progress on Goal 8 has been mixed. While there have been important gains, in particular in reducing unemployment and expanding financial access, setbacks from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and ongoing structural challenges have slowed or reversed gains in productivity, employment and worker protections – in particular for vulnerable groups and in the least developed countries and small island developing States. Just transitions to the formal sector – especially for women and youth – supported by stronger links to social protection systems, are essential to ensure sustainable livelihoods and reduce inequalities. Accelerated action is needed to build more inclusive, productive and resilient labour markets, strengthen protections for informal and migrant workers and advance green and digital economy initiatives that promote decent work. To support faster progress, the Secretary-General launched the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, which supports the expansion and consolidation of social protection systems and the creation of decent work opportunities. Another key effort is the United Nations initiative on the key transition relating to jobs and social protection, which helps governments to link employment and social protection policies to national development plans.

Target 8.1

77. Global real GDP per capita grew modestly over the decade, rebounding after a sharp 3.8 per cent drop in 2020 owing to COVID-19. Growth peaked at 5.5 per cent in 2021 but slowed to 1.9 per cent in 2023, with a modest 2.0 per cent estimated for 2024 and 1.5 per cent projected for 2025. The least developed countries experienced more volatility, with the real GDP growth falling to just 0.5 per cent in 2020 and recovering to 4.7 per cent in 2022 before slowing again to 3.5 per cent in 2023 and an estimated 3.1 per cent in 2024.

Target 8.2

78. Labour productivity, measured as GDP per worker, rebounded to 1.5 per cent growth in 2024 after near stagnation in the 2022–2023 period. The pandemic severely impacted productivity in 2020, when output fell faster than employment rates. Despite a rebound in 2021, growth has struggled to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Target 8.3

79. In 2024, 57.8 per cent of the global workforce was in informal employment, lacking social security or legal protection. This marks a 0.2 percentage point increase from the previous year, adding 34 million informal workers.

Target 8.5

80. The global unemployment rate reached a record low of 5.0 per cent in 2024, down from 6.0 per cent in 2015. However, despite improvements since 2015, women and youth continue to face higher unemployment rates, with youth still three times more likely to be unemployed than adults.

Target 8.6

81. In 2024, one in five young people (ages 15–24) worldwide was not in employment, education or training, missing opportunities to gain skills or work experience. Young women are more than twice as likely to be as young men not to be in employment, education or training.

Target 8.8

82. The global average compliance with labour rights deteriorated by 7 per cent from 2015 to 2023, with the steepest erosion occurring in the least developed countries (a 45.4 per cent decline). Developed economies also saw a 16.5 per cent decline. Ongoing violations undermine free and independent employers' and workers' organizations and increasingly shrink civic space.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

83. Since 2015, notable progress has been made in expanding infrastructure, fostering industrial growth and boosting innovation. However, stark regional disparities persist, and many developing countries continue to face systemic barriers to inclusive and sustainable industrialization. To advance Goal 9, countries must boost investment in resilient infrastructure and research and development, expand access to finance for small manufacturers and bridge the digital divide by prioritizing affordable broadband and innovation systems in the world's most underserved regions. The United Nations is advancing digital inclusion through initiatives such as the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the Global Digital Compact, which is aimed at closing connectivity gaps, expanding access to innovation and ensuring digital transformation benefits

Target 9.1

84. From 2015 to 2023, global maritime freight volumes in terms of goods loaded grew from 10.3 to 11.6 billion tons, with developing countries' share increasing from 49 to 54 per cent. Asia, led by China, drove this expansion, while small island developing States and landlocked developing countries remained marginalized owing to infrastructure and cost barriers.

Target 9.2

85. Global manufacturing annual growth rebounded sharply by 9.2 per cent in 2021, stabilized at 2.2 per cent in 2022, then lowered to 1.7 per cent in 2023 owing to geopolitical and economic volatility. In 2024, growth rose to 2.7 per cent, Global manufacturing value added per capita increased by 17.3 per cent, from \$1,649 in 2015 to \$1,934 in 2024.

86. The global manufacturing employment share held steady at 14.3 per cent from 2015 until 2020, dipping to 14.1 per cent in 2023, owing to pandemic disruptions, geopolitical tensions and sanctions.

Target 9.3

87. Worldwide, 31 per cent of small manufacturing enterprises have a loan or credit line, based on available data, but only 18 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

Target 9.4

88. In 2024, global CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion and industrial processes reached a record 37.6 gigatons, a 0.8 per cent increase from 2023. Rising natural gas and coal consumption drove emissions, while record temperatures increased electricity demand for cooling. However, the expansion of clean energy technologies such as solar, wind and nuclear power mitigated what could have been a threefold larger emissions increase.

Target 9.5

89. Global research and development spending grew at 5.1 per cent annually from 2015 to 2022. The research and development share of global GDP rose from 1.72 to 1.95 per cent in 2022. However, many developing economies saw declines in research and development investment as a proportion of GDP.

90. From 2015 to 2022, the global number of researchers grew by 4.3 per cent annually, driven by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. This is reflected in an increase in the number of researchers per million inhabitants from 1,137 to 1,420 globally over that period. Women made up 31.1 per cent of the research workforce.

Target 9.b

91. Since 2015, the share of medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added has risen modestly, to 44.47 per cent in 2022. Regional disparities persist, with high-tech manufacturing accounting for 48.57 per cent in Europe and North America, but only 16.40 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

Target 9.c

92. In 2024, 5G covered 51 per cent of the global population, with high-income countries at 84 per cent and low-income at 4 per cent. 4G reached 92 per cent worldwide. However, 15 per cent of people in the least developed countries and 14 per cent in landlocked developing countries lack mobile broadband.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

93. The global economy shows contrasting dynamics, with a resilient banking sector and declining labour income worsening inequality. While most countries have seen pro-poor growth, 12 per cent still live below 50 per cent of median income, with Latin America and the Caribbean most affected. Meanwhile, the refugee population has surged to 37.8 million, mainly from Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), worsening the humanitarian crisis. Rising remittance costs further strain migrant workers, highlighting the need for policies to boost labour income, support refugees and enhance financial resilience for inclusive growth. The United Nations is tackling inequality through initiatives including the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), of the International Labour Organization, which promotes universal social protection. The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy ensures that the United Nations is fully equipped to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities across all aspects of its work.

Target 10.1

94. More than half of the 108 countries with available data have managed to achieve higher income growth among the bottom 40 per cent of the population than the national average. Significant regional differences exist, however, with countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Europe and Northern America managing to ensure the most pro-poor growth on average.

Target 10.2

95. Two thirds of the 128 countries with available data have reduced the proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income since 2000. Nonetheless, on average 12 per cent of the population lives below this threshold. Following COVID-19, this proportion decreased further in most regions. Regional differences are substantial, with inequality highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, where on

average almost 1 in 5 people live below 50 per cent of the median income of their country.

Target 10.4

96. In 2024, the global labour income share in GDP decreased to 52.3 per cent, down from 52.9 per cent in 2015, representing a loss of \$255 (purchasing power parity) per worker on average. This decline, which impacts lower-income workers the most, contributes to rising inequality.

Target 10.7

97. As at mid-2024, the global refugee population under the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including persons in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection, reached 37.8 million. Two thirds originate from just four countries – Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Refugee density stood at 460 per 100,000 people worldwide, more than double the 2015 figure and triple the 2005 ratio.

Target 10.c

98. In the second quarter of 2024, the cost of sending \$200 increased globally. Contributing factors to the increase in remittance costs included major remittance-source economies showing above-average increases and higher foreign-exchange margins in certain corridors.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

99. Urbanization continues to accelerate, with more than half the global population now living in cities, projected to be nearly 70 per cent by 2050. However, cities face mounting challenges, including rising urban poverty, growing slum populations, inadequate public transport and threats to infrastructure from disasters. To advance Goal 11, cities need integrated strategies focused on affordable and inclusive housing, participatory urban planning, heritage preservation and stronger local governance, all supported by robust disaggregated data. Initiatives aimed at accelerating progress on Goal 11 include the Local2030 Coalition, which drives action on the Goals at the local level by bringing together United Nations entities, local governments and other partners.

Target 11.1

100. Housing affordability is a pressing issue, affecting 1.6 billion to 3 billion people globally, encompassing challenges from homelessness to overcrowding and lack of basic services. Recent data from 124 countries reveal that the global average housing cost burden is 31 per cent, with sub-Saharan Africa at 43.5 per cent, compared with 21.4 per cent in Europe and Northern America.

Target 11.4

101. In the period from 2019 to 2023, public funding for world heritage protection rose slightly but remained inadequate at \$21.22 per capita (2017 purchasing power parity), with stark disparities between developing countries (\$3.86 per capita) and developed countries (\$83.30 per capita).

Target 11.5

102. On average, 92,199 critical infrastructure units and facilities were destroyed or damaged by disasters annually from 2015 to 2023. Furthermore, disasters disrupted more than 1.6 million basic services, including educational and health services, each year.

Target 11.a

103. In 2023, the national urban policies of 68 countries addressed key development issues as follows: respond to population dynamics (59 countries, up from 54 in 2021); ensure balanced territorial development (55 countries, unchanged since 2021); and increase local fiscal space (33 countries, up from 26 in 2021). Progress in fiscal decentralization remains limited.

Target 11.b

104. In 2024, local-level disaster risk reduction governance improved, with 110 countries reporting local disaster risk reduction strategies and approximately 73 per cent of local governments having such strategies in place.

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

105. Globally, sustainability efforts are advancing, with an increasing number of policies supporting sustainable consumption and production. Environmental agreement compliance remains strong. However, challenges persist, including low sustainable e-waste management and high fossil fuel subsidies. Corporate sustainability reporting has expanded dramatically, with most large companies now disclosing environmental performance through standardized mechanisms. These trends highlight progress while underscoring the need for continued focus on waste management, energy conservation and emissions reduction. The United Nations is advancing Goal 12 through such initiatives as the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, which helps countries to implement sustainable consumption policies and improve waste management.

Target 12.1

106. As at 2025, 530 policy instruments related to sustainable consumption and production have been recorded, with 71 countries participating, a 6 per cent increase from the previous reporting cycle.

Targets 8.4 and 12.2

107. From 2015 to 2022, global domestic material consumption grew by 23.3 per cent, with per capita domestic material consumption rising to 14.2 tons. Non-metallic minerals led the increase, up 39 per cent, while biomass, metal ores and fossil fuels grew by 11.8 per cent, 7.4 per cent and 6.2 per cent, respectively. Latin America and the Caribbean saw the highest rise, at 132 per cent. Material footprint grew by 21.3 per cent, with persistent regional inequalities.

Target 12.3

108. There were 1.05 billion tons of food wasted in 2022, with 60 per cent of waste from households, equating to more than 1 billion meals discarded daily. There are growing global efforts to reduce food waste, with countries such as Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cutting waste by 31 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, showing that large-scale action is possible.

Target 12.5

109. In 2022, global e-waste reached a record 7.8 kg per capita, with only 22.3 per cent properly managed, a figure declining since 2010. Significant uncontrolled transboundary movement continues.

Target 12.6

110. Sustainability reporting has become standard for large companies, with 96 per cent of the world's 250 largest companies by revenue and 79 per cent of the top 100 companies in each country surveyed now reporting on sustainability, up from 64 per cent in 2015. Driven by mandatory reporting and international standards, the number of sustainability reports grew fourfold from 2016 to 2023, led by companies in Asia, Europe and North America.

Target 12.c

111. In 2023, fossil fuel subsidies fell by 34.47 per cent to \$1.10 trillion, down from a record \$1.68 trillion in 2022, owing mainly to lower energy prices and the end of COVID-19 support measures. However, subsidies are still approximately three times higher than they were before the COVID-19 pandemic, showing no sustained reversal of recent trends.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

112. Human-induced climate change reached alarming new levels in 2024, with some impacts already irreversible for centuries. Global temperatures broke records and temporarily exceeded the 1.5°C threshold, highlighting the urgent need to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Extreme weather events – including tropical cyclones, floods and droughts – led to the highest number of new displacements in 16 years, worsening food crises and bringing massive economic losses and social instability. Nonetheless, with bold action, limiting long-term global warming to 1.5°C is still possible. Every fraction of a degree matters in reducing risks, lowering costs and preventing catastrophic and irreversible damage to people and the planet. At the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, States set a new collective quantified goal on climate finance and completed guidance to fully operationalize article 6 of the Paris Agreement on carbon markets, along with making additional commitments on mitigation, adaptation and the operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

Target 13.1

113. Disaster-related deaths and missing persons dropped from 1.61 per 100,000 population in the period 2005–2014 to 0.79 in the period 2014–2023. Nonetheless, disasters claimed 41,647 lives annually over the past decade. The number of people affected by disasters surged by more than two thirds, from 1,158 per 100,000 population in the period 2005–2014 to 2,028 in the period 2014–2023, with an average of 124 million people affected every year over the past decade.

114. By 2024, 131 countries reported the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies, up from 57 in 2015.

Target 13.2

115. 2024 likely marked the first year when global temperatures surpassed the 1.5°C threshold, reaching 1.55°C above the pre-industrial level – making it the hottest year in 175 years. This was driven by rising greenhouse gas emissions, El Niño and other

factors. In 2023, atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ levels remained at their highest in more than 2 million years and were 151 per cent above pre-industrial levels.

Target 13.a

116. According to the Standing Committee on Finance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, global climate finance flows reached an annual average of \$1.3 trillion in the biennium 2021–2022, a 63 per cent increase from 2019 to 2020, driven by higher investment in key mitigation sectors. Sustainable transport saw the largest rise (96 per cent), followed by clean energy (53 per cent) and buildings and infrastructure (41 per cent). Tracked adaptation finance also rose by 28 per cent to \$63 billion annually, mainly through commitments from development finance institutions.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

117. The ocean economy supports millions globally but faces intensifying threats from overfishing, pollution and climate change. Despite a decade of conservation efforts, rising CO₂ emissions continue to drive ocean acidification and damage marine ecosystems. Strengthened enforcement has not sufficiently curbed overfishing and illegal practices that deplete fish stocks. Small-scale fisheries have gained support but require additional protection. Safeguarding oceans for future generations demands urgent scaling up of investment in sustainable fishing practices, comprehensive marine conservation and enhanced international cooperation. The United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development have galvanized global action to protect the ocean, in line with Goal 14.

Target 14.2

118. 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 per cent from 2023. However, only 45 have formally approved marine spatial plans.

Target 14.3

119. Ocean acidification is worsening as global average surface pH declines, driven by rising CO₂ emissions. Continued acidification threatens marine life and climate stability. The expansion of monitoring stations (from 178 in 2021 to 765 in 2025) underscores the need to expand high-frequency and long-term tracking to develop effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Target 14.4

120. In 2021, 37.7 per cent of global fishery stocks were estimated to be overfished, up from 35.4 per cent in 2019. While the pace of decline had previously shown signs of slowing, the latest data confirm a continued deterioration.

Target 14.6

121. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues to threaten the sustainability of global fisheries. As at January 2025, 78 Parties (65 per cent of coastal States) had joined the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the first binding international instrument developed to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Globally,

countries' average degree of implementation has remained steady, with a score of 4 out of 5, from 3 out of 5 in 2018.

Target 14.b

122. In 2024, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication marked their tenth anniversary, with growing adoption worldwide. However, the global average score, which tracks the implementation of instruments that recognize and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries, dropped from 5 (very high implementation) in 2022 to 4 (high implementation) in 2024, based on reports from 112 countries. However, the overall trend since 2018 has been positive, and more countries have been reporting since 2020.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

123. Global forest cover is shrinking, conservation of key biodiversity areas has stalled, and species extinction is accelerating. Desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation are further threatening ecosystems and development prospects. While more countries are adopting legal frameworks for biodiversity and environmental protection, overall progress on Goal 15 remains slow, with significant gaps in safeguarding healthy land and ecosystems vital to humanity. The conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and to the Convention on Biological Diversity have helped to mobilize resources and advance global objectives to support conservation and restoration, sustainable forest management and nature-based solutions that promote resilience, livelihoods and inclusion. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in 2022, has renewed momentum for implementation.

Targets 15.1 and 15.2

124. Global forest area continues to decline, although at a slower rate than in previous decades. The proportion of forest cover to total land area decreased from 31.9 per cent in 2000 to 31.2 per cent in 2020. However, sustainable forest management is improving, with an increase in the proportion of forests under management plans and within protected areas.

Targets 14.5, 15.1 and 15.4

125. Globally, average protection of key biodiversity areas increased from approximately 25 per cent in 2000 to approximately 44 per cent in 2024 across marine, terrestrial, freshwater and mountain biomes. However, progress has largely stagnated since 2015.

Target 15.5

126. Changes in aggregate species' extinction risk, measured using the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List Index, show a deterioration of greater than 12 per cent from 1993 to 2024 (and 4 per cent since 2015). The most severe deterioration is seen in Central and Southern Asia and Eastern and South-eastern Asia.

Target 15.6

127. As at 2024, 76 countries (up from 5 countries in 2015) and 97 countries (up from 12 countries in 2015) reported about their legislative, administrative or policy measures under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, respectively.

Target 15.9

128. Country implementation of the international statistical standard to measure the environment and ecosystems and their connection to the economy increased by 36 per cent from 2017 to 2024. Although growth has slowed in recent years, adoption is expected to rise, as the standard supports key indicators in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

129. More frequent, intense and prolonged conflicts around the world are shattering people's lives, communities and futures. Violence against women, children and marginalized groups remains widespread. Casualties among children and women in armed conflicts quadrupled in the biennium 2023–2024 compared with the previous biennium. While there was progress in accreditations of human rights institutions, many political systems fail to represent their populations fully, leading to declining trust. High pretrial detention rates and limited access to justice highlight the need for inclusive governance and rule of law. Achieving lasting peace requires an urgent global commitment to good governance, human rights, equal justice access and accountable institutions, emphasizing diplomacy and dialogue. Under the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development of UNDP, support is provided for integrated initiatives to strengthen national institutions, promote accountability and ensure compliance with human rights obligations. It enhances justice and security mechanisms by providing legal services and advice, building the capacity of prosecutors, police and legal aid providers, and facilitating access to justice for internally displaced persons and survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, the Programme assists Governments in developing national action plans on business and human rights and advances people-centred policing approaches.

Target 16.1

130. The global homicide rate declined from 5.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.2 in 2023. If the decline continues, the global homicide rate will drop 25 per cent from 2015 to 2030, falling short, however, of the target 50 per cent reduction.

131. In 2024, conflict-related deaths rose 40 per cent from 2023 to at least 48,384 – the third consecutive year of sharp increases. While most victims are civilians, intense hostilities often obscure their status. Compared with the 2021–2022 biennium, approximately 337 per cent more children and 258 per cent more women were killed in the biennium 2023–2024, with 8 in 10 fatalities among children and 7 in 10 among women occurring in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Target 16.2

132. Globally, 1.6 billion children – two thirds – regularly endure violent punishment by caregivers at home. Levels exceed 50 per cent in most of the 84 countries (mostly low- and middle-income) with data from 2016 to 2024.

133. Globally, 38 per cent of all victims of trafficking detected in 2022 were children, up from 13 per cent in 2004. Exploitation patterns differ by gender: 60 per cent of trafficked girls are victims of sexual exploitation, while 45 per cent of trafficked boys face forced labour, and 47 per cent are exploited for other purposes, such as forced criminality and begging.

134. Sexual violence against children is pervasive. Globally, more than 370 million girls and women (1 in 8) and 240 million to 310 million boys and men (1 in 11) are estimated to have experienced contact sexual violence (i.e. rape or sexual assault) in childhood. In fragile settings, the risk is even higher, with slightly more than 1 in 4 girls affected.

Target 16.3

135. Data from 92 countries (2010–2024) show that the median proportions of victims of physical assault and robbery in the previous 12 months reporting to competent authorities were 36 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively. For sexual assault, the median reporting rate was 15 per cent.

136. In 2023, 11.7 million people were in detention, a rate of 145 per 100,000 population. A third (3.7 million) were held in pretrial detention, a share that remained constant from 2015 to 2023.

Target 16.4¶

137. Tracing is vital for investigating illicit firearms, yet global implementation remains challenging. From 2016 to 2023, Member States with data traced on average around 42 per cent of potentially traceable seized weapons. Destroying weapons also curbs illicit arms flows; in the biennium 2022–2023, 717,712 weapons were eliminated.

Target 16.6

138. Countries are improving budget reliability post-pandemic, with expenditure deviations peaking at 12.6 per cent in 2020 and improving to 9.6 per cent in 2023.

139. Globally, latest survey data (2015–2024) indicate that the majority of people are satisfied with public services. Administrative services receive the highest satisfaction ratings (67 per cent), followed by education (58–79 per cent) and healthcare (57 per cent).

Target 16.7

140. In 2024, more than 12,000 parliamentary seats changed in 59 countries, affecting nearly half the world's population, but brought little change in representation. Women's parliamentary seats rose just 0.3 points, with modest gains in committee leadership of 1.6 points since 2020. Women remain underrepresented in public service and the judiciary, and their share among parliamentary speakers slightly declined. Younger members of parliament show more balanced gender ratios, suggesting potential future shifts. Members of parliament aged 45 and under now make up 32.6 per cent of parliaments, but this has yet to translate into more leadership roles.

141. Data from 83 countries show that less than 45 per cent of people believe that their political systems are responsive and that their voices influence decisions, with even lower confidence in wealthier regions. Women are also less likely than men to believe that they have a say in government decisions.

Target 16.9

142. Globally, nearly 8 in 10 children aged under 5 (more than 500 million) have had their births registered; however, 150 million children remain unregistered, with global progress slowing over the past decade. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 51 per cent of children aged under 5 have had their births registered.

Target 16.10

143. In 2024, the number of killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists remained alarmingly high, with at least 502 cases reported across 44 countries – a slight decline from 580 cases in 54 countries in 2023. Conflict zones remained the deadliest for journalists, accounting for 53 killings, or 65 per cent – the highest share in more than a decade.

144. By late 2024, 139 countries had adopted constitutional, statutory or policy frameworks for public access to information, up from 105 in 2015.

Target 16.a

145. Since 2015, the number of countries with national human rights institutions fully compliant with United Nations standards has grown by 27 per cent (from 70 to 89 countries), covering 55 per cent of the world's population.

Target 16.b

146. New data from 119 countries show rising global discrimination. In nations where repeated surveys have been conducted since 2015, the average discrimination rate on any ground increased from 14.8 to 17.1 per cent. Discrimination is widespread for persons with disabilities (28 per cent) and in the least developed countries (24 per cent). Urban residents, women, the poor and the less educated face higher rates of discrimination compared with their counterparts.

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

147. Global progress on Goal 17 has shown both advancement and persistent challenges over the past decade. While financial flows to developing countries have increased, driven by both official and private finance, record-high debt servicing costs in 2023 strain low- and middle-income economies. This is compounded by a \$4 trillion annual investment gap for Goal achievement in developing countries. Access to information and communications technology has grown steadily, although digital divides remain stark, in particular in lower-income regions. While data systems and national statistical capacities have improved, many countries still struggle to secure the necessary funding to fully track and implement the Goals, slowing progress in key areas. Strengthened support and renewed global cooperation are critical to bridge these divides and accelerate Goal progress. Through initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations is helping to build partnerships to close financing gaps, expand access to science, innovation and data, and support developing countries –

alongside international financial institutions – in unlocking capital and investment for implementing the Goals and accelerating inclusive progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Finance

Target 17.1

148. Data for 2023 from approximately 130 countries showed that, globally, government revenue accounted for approximately 33 per cent of GDP. The average overall tax burden or revenue in the form of taxes was 25 per cent of GDP among advanced economies and 18 per cent of GDP among emerging market and developing economies – both similar to 2015 levels.

149. As at 2023, government spending funded by taxes had stabilized regionally and converged globally. From 2015 to 2019, tax revenue rose from 65 to 66 per cent in advanced economies and from 60 to 61 per cent in emerging ones. After dropping to 52 per cent for both in 2020 owing to the pandemic, it rebounded to 62 per cent and 61 per cent, respectively, although it remained below pre-pandemic levels.

Target 17.2

150. In 2024, ODA from countries that are members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development declined by 7.1 per cent in real terms – the first drop in five years – reaching \$212.1 billion (0.33 per cent of combined gross national income). The decrease was driven by lower contributions to international organizations, reduced aid for Ukraine and humanitarian support and less spending on hosting refugees. Nonetheless, total ODA remained 23 per cent higher than in 2019.

Target 17.3

151. In 2023, financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources reported by 106 bilateral and multilateral providers amounted to \$303 billion in official resources and \$58.7 billion mobilized from private finance. An increase is observed for all forms of finance since 2019 (which amounted to \$205.9 billion in official sources and \$46.7 billion from private finance), with the largest increase (77 per cent) in concessional loans.

152. Global FDI reached an estimated \$1.4 trillion in 2024, up 11 per cent from 2023, falling 8 per cent, however, when excluding financial flows through European conduit economies. The number of Goal-related investments declined 11 per cent in 2024. While there have been gains in renewable energy, health and education, three sectors – infrastructure, agrifood systems and water and sanitation – are now receiving less international financing than in 2015.

153. Global remittance flows were at \$861 billion in 2023, an increase of 3 per cent from 2022. Remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries grew at a slower pace, at 1.4 per cent, to reach \$647 billion, after sharp increases averaging approximately 10 per cent in the biennium 2021–2022. The true size of remittances, including flows through informal channels, however, is believed to be even larger.

Target 17.4¶

154. In 2023, total debt servicing costs for all low- and middle-income countries reached a record high of \$1.4 trillion, driven by rapidly accumulating external debt over the previous decade, interest rates at a two-decade high and currency depreciation. Principal repayments rose by 1 per cent to \$950.9 billion, while interest

payments increased by 37.1 per cent to \$405.3 billion – both all-time highs. The total debt service to export earnings ratio rose by 1.6 points to 14.7 per cent.

Target 17.5

155. In 2024, 51 countries had investment promotion mechanisms for outward FDI; 27 (compared with 23 in 2023) had schemes targeting developing countries, including the least developed countries.

Information and communications technology

Target 17.6

156. Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants grew at 6.3 per cent annually from 2015 to 2024, reaching 20 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2024. However, coverage remains low in low-income countries owing to high prices and a lack of infrastructure.

Target 17.8

157. Internet usage reached 68 per cent of the global population in 2024 (5.5 billion users), up from 65 per cent in 2023 and 40 per cent in 2015. Nonetheless, 2.6 billion people remain offline, and universal access is distant.

Target 17.11

158. In 2023, landlocked developing countries and the least developed countries accounted for just 1.1 per cent of global merchandise exports – a modest increase since 2015, but far below the target of doubling their share of global exports by 2020.

Data, monitoring and accountability

Target 17.18.1

159. Sustainable Development Goal data collection has expanded since the pandemic. The average Open Data Inventory coverage scores increased sharply from 2022 to 2024 across all regions, surpassing 50 globally for the first time, with gains in economic and environmental data. Social and demographic data lag behind. However, even in developed countries, the average Open Data Inventory score is only 60 out of 100, highlighting the urgent need for increased investment in data infrastructure and production across all countries.

160. Statistical performance scores rose from 58.6 in 2016 to 69.7 in 2023, with marked improvements over the COVID-19 period owing to the heightened demand for reliable data.

161. In 2024, 159 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, an increase from 132 countries in 2019.

162. In 2024, 137 countries reported implementing a national statistical plan, 95 fully funded – mainly through government sources (103 countries), followed by donor funding (35 countries) and other sources (10 countries). However, many countries face challenges in securing sustainable financing for statistical development plans, limiting their ability to address evolving data needs.

Target 17.19

163. In 2022, \$875 million was disbursed to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries, up 2 per cent from 2021, yet a nearly 50 per cent increase since 2015. New donors, including private foundations and non-Development Assistance Committee members, are increasing their role.
