



**United
Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

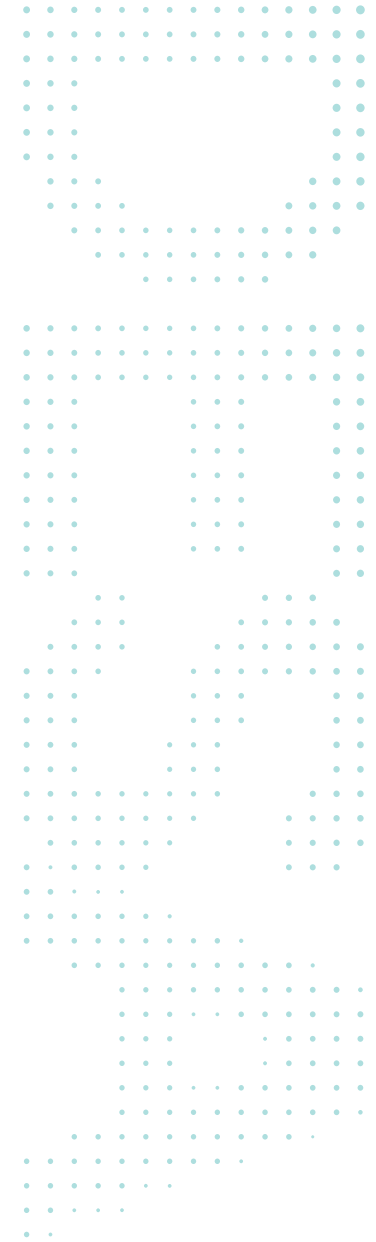
HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022

Towards
Sustainable
Development
For All

HIGHLIGHTS

2021-2022





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About the UN DESA Annual Highlights Report

The UN DESA Annual Highlights report is a tool to communicate the contributions of the Department to the realization of internationally agreed development goals and shared social, economic, and environmental aspirations. It showcases the Department's role in gauging trends, building capacities, and shaping solutions. UN DESA Highlights 2021-2022 covers activities over the period of the 76th Session of the General Assembly (September 2021 – August 2022) and reflects the Department's response to the set priorities and expressed needs of Member States. Over the course of the 76th General Assembly UN DESA put its expertise to the task of supporting Member State efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda amidst multiple, intertwined, compounding crises, building their capacities to respond effectively and shape a transformative recovery that builds their resilience for the future.

The UN DESA Annual Highlights is produced by Strategic Planning and Communication Services in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, drawing on input authored across the Department. Acknowledgements go to the team of dedicated focal points who helped pull it all together: Adriana Alberti, Anni Haataja-Beerli, Elie Hobeika, Midori Kanda, Stephen Kisambira, Marcelo LaFleur, Amine Lamrabat, Sarah Nuñez Solorio, Cheryl Sawyer, Mita Sen and Andrew Smith.

The design of the UN DESA Annual Highlights has benefited from the skill and artistry of a series of interns and consultants who have worked on the report since its initiation in 2019. Thanks go to Jihye (J) Kang and Huafeng Fan for their input to and design of the 2018-2019 report, to Yihang Ouyang, for her work on the 2019-2020 report, to Yawen Yao, for her work on the 2020-2021 edition, and to Siyuan Li for her work on UN DESA Highlights 2021-2022.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism	LDC5	Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least developed countries	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CARICAD	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration	LLDC	Landlocked developing countries	UN-ENERGY	The United Nations' mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in the field of energy
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	LRGF	Local and Regional Governments Forum	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	MAP	Mutual Agreement Procedure	UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	NGO	Non-governmental organization	UN-Water	Interagency mechanism for coordinating the UN's work on water and sanitation
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum	NSO	National Statistical Office	VNR	Voluntary National Review
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	WESP	World Economic Situation and Prospects
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review	WHO	World Health Organization
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
FfD	Financing for Development	SDI	Sustainable Development Investing		
FSDR	Financing for Sustainable Development Report	SIDS	Small island developing States		
G20	Group of Twenty	SIIP	Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Programme		
GDP	Gross domestic product	STI	Science, Technology and Innovation		
GISD	Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance	TAG	Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Mortality Estimates		
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	UN	United Nations		
IAM	Infrastructure Asset Management	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		
IDLO	International Development Law Organization	UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs		
IGF	Internet Governance Forum				
INFF	Integrated national financing framework				
LDC	Least developed country				

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INTRODUCTION

UN DESA's work over the 76th session of the General Assembly was heavily shaped by the combined impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the cascading socioeconomic effects of the war in Ukraine. The need for progress within the 10 critical action areas committed to by Member States in the political declaration at the SDG Summit in September 2019 became at once increasingly urgent and incredibly challenged. Guided both by the call of the SDG Summit, and by the forward-looking vision outlined by the Secretary-General in his report on Our Common Agenda, the Department continued its focus on championing synergistic, future-focused approaches to pandemic response and recovery that accelerate integrated and cross-sectoral progress towards sustainable development for all.

10 PRIORITY ACTION AREAS OF MEMBER STATES

- Leaving no one behind
- Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing
- Enhancing national implementation
- Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions
- Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation
- Reducing disaster risk and building resilience
- Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership
- Harnessing science, technology, and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development
- Investing in data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Strengthening the high-level political forum

© UN Photo/Gonçalo Borges Dias

UN DESA: CHAMPIONING SDG IMPLEMENTATION AMIDST COMPOUNDED CRISES



I am honoured to introduce the fourth edition of the annual UN DESA Highlights report and to become a part of the legacy it represents. The UN DESA Highlights was first launched in October 2019 and aims to present the impact of UN DESA's work to a broader audience. The report is an initiative of UN DESA to strengthen its external communications, which was a priority area of the Secretary-General during the Department's reform to enhance its support to Member States in the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 70/299. In this regard, by presenting this latest version of the report, I am pleased to continue the work undertaken by my predecessors, Under-Secretaries-General WU Hongbo and LIU Zhenmin to enhance the work of UN DESA.

The UN DESA Highlights 2021-2022 revisits the major contributions of the Department to the field of

international development and the implementation of the global sustainable development agenda over the course of the 76th session of the General Assembly (September 2021-August 2022). It provides a snapshot of the important work undertaken by the Department to ensure that the long-term goal of shared prosperity on a healthy planet remains central to international development dialogue and multilateral action, even as the impact of the pandemic persists and climate chaos unfolds, along with the cascading effects of interlinked crises spurred by the war in Ukraine.

Featuring six thematic chapters, the highlights in the present volume focus on UN DESA's work to support and amplify Member States efforts to address the constraints imposed by the multiple, intersecting crises facing the world. The report also spotlights cross-cutting approaches used by the Department to attain the expected results, including our mainstreaming of gender considerations; our attention to partnerships; our central attention to strengthening public institutions; our consistent facilitation of people-centred and planet-friendly multilateral actions, commitments and decisions; our support to countries in special situations; and our commitment to ensuring that we tap our broad expertise to deliver cohesive, cross-sectoral action and advice, driving the types of innovations needed to spur transformative and forward-looking results.

Chapter 1, on Addressing poverty and the root causes of inequality, features the Department's efforts to mainstream poverty reduction and the addressing of inequalities across its various areas of work, and its coordination and acceleration of action in these areas within the UN system and in

building Member State capacities. The year saw the Department place particular emphasis on promoting inclusive social and economic development, particularly among youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. Amidst the accelerated digital transformation spurred by the ongoing pandemic, much attention was given to addressing the digital divide.

Chapter 2, on Guiding global action on our global goals, highlights efforts to champion a centring of SDG implementation in deliberations on COVID-19 response and recovery, support to the High-level Political Forum, Voluntary National Review Workshops, and other efforts to strengthen Member States capacities to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In chapter 3, on Ensuring sustainable financing, we see the depth of work undertaken by the Department to deliver on the major financing for development priorities, responding to Member States existing and emerging needs, with particular attention to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other countries in special situations.

Chapter 4, on Making data count, highlights efforts to provide support for making data and statistics more accessible and available to use both for and beyond the direct objectives of the SDGs. The importance of quality data for effective decision-making cannot be overstated. UN DESA's work over the period helped Member States improve their capacities for collecting official data and for leveraging a range of data sources.

In chapter 5, on Protecting our planet, we give attention to the Department's work on natural and public resource management and environmental action for driving sustainable development, building on the synergies between implementation of the

SDGs and global climate action. The past year saw the Department move forward international dialogue in many areas critical to ensuring a healthy planet, including on sustainable transport, sustainable energy, water and sanitation, responsible use and care of our forests and protecting the ocean.

Finally, chapter 6, on Framing the future of development, highlights UN DESA's work in forecasting and foresight and zooms in on the Department's efforts to focus on long-term intergenerational thinking, supporting Member States to do the same.

As we provide support to the 77th session of the General Assembly, the Department will remain steadfast in championing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the blueprint for current crisis response and recovery. By actioning the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we can realize a stable and inclusive recovery, build resilience, and move the world towards sustainable development for all. UN DESA stands ready to work with the broader international development community to support Member States in these efforts.

LI Junhua
Under-Secretary-General for
Economic and Social Affairs and
Head of UN DESA

WHAT DOES UN DESA DO?

UN DESA is a vital interface between global policies and national action in the economic, social and environmental spheres. Our main activities focus on promoting progress towards global development priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UN DESA's work falls into three broad categories:



Intergovernmental support

By facilitating major global conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as mandated by UN Member States, UN DESA assists countries as they find common ground, set norms, and take decisive steps forward.



Thought leadership

UN DESA generates, analyses, compiles and monitors a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and statistics to inform and advise Member States and other stakeholders on recommendations for shaping effective development policies and practices.



Capacity-building

UN DESA aids in translating policy frameworks developed at UN conferences and summits into programmes at the country level. Through technical assistance and advisory support, the Department supports Member States to build capacities in policy formulation and implementation, data collection and data application, to translate internationally agreed commitments, standards, policies and programmes into action on the ground.

In executing these functions, UN DESA helps governments and other stakeholders take integrated and networked approaches to decision-making, organising and supporting consultations with a range of stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.



MAJOR DATABASES

- [Ocean Voluntary Commitment Database](#)
- [Population databases](#)
- [SDG Acceleration Action Database](#)
- [SDG Good Practices Database](#)
- [SIDS Partnerships Database](#)
- [UN Comtrade International Trade Statistics Database](#)
- [UN COVID-19 Data Hub](#)
- [UN Data](#)
- [UN e-Government Knowledge Database](#)
- [UN Global SDG Indicators Database](#)
- [UN LDC Data](#)
- [UN Public Service Awards Database](#)
- [UN SDG Data Hub](#)
- [UN System SDG Implementation Database](#)
- [Voluntary National Reviews Database](#)



MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



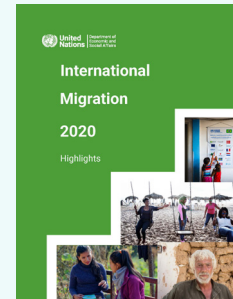
World Social Report



World Economic Situation and Prospects



Financing for Sustainable Development Report



International Migration Report



State of the World's Indigenous Peoples



The Global Forest Goals Report 2021



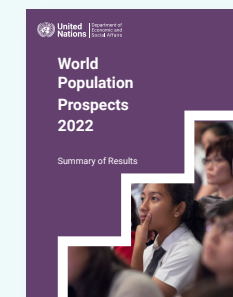
The Sustainable Development Goals Report



The World's Women



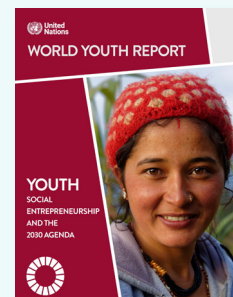
United Nations E-Government Survey



World Population Prospects



World Public Sector Report



World Youth Report

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL THROUGH INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES AND INTER-AGENCY AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

United Nations intergovernmental processes and multistakeholder mechanisms support policy reflection and peer learning, galvanize political will, and help mobilize international cooperation and solidarity for moving development forward. UN DESA supports these processes through preparation of thematic reports, stakeholder consultations, and other input and advice to meetings and negotiations.

General Assembly

Intergovernmental Processes Supported by DESA

- Economic and financial committee (Second Committee)
- Social, humanitarian and cultural committee (Third Committee)

Related high-level events and special thematic meetings supported by UN DESA in 2021-2022

- SDG Moment 2021
- High-level Dialogue on Energy
- International Migration Review Forum
- 2022 UN Ocean Conference

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Intergovernmental Processes Supported by DESA

Commissions

- Commission for Social Development
- Commission on Population and Development
- United Nations Forum on Forests
- United Nations Statistical Commission

Committees and Advisory Bodies

- Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee for Development Policy
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Related high-level events and special thematic meetings supported by UN DESA in 2021-2022

- Special Meeting on "Natural Resources, Peaceful Societies and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Kimberley Process"
- Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
- Special Meeting on "Revitalizing the New Urban Agenda to fight rising inequalities - #NUA2030"
- Special High-level Dialogue on Sustainable Development of Africa

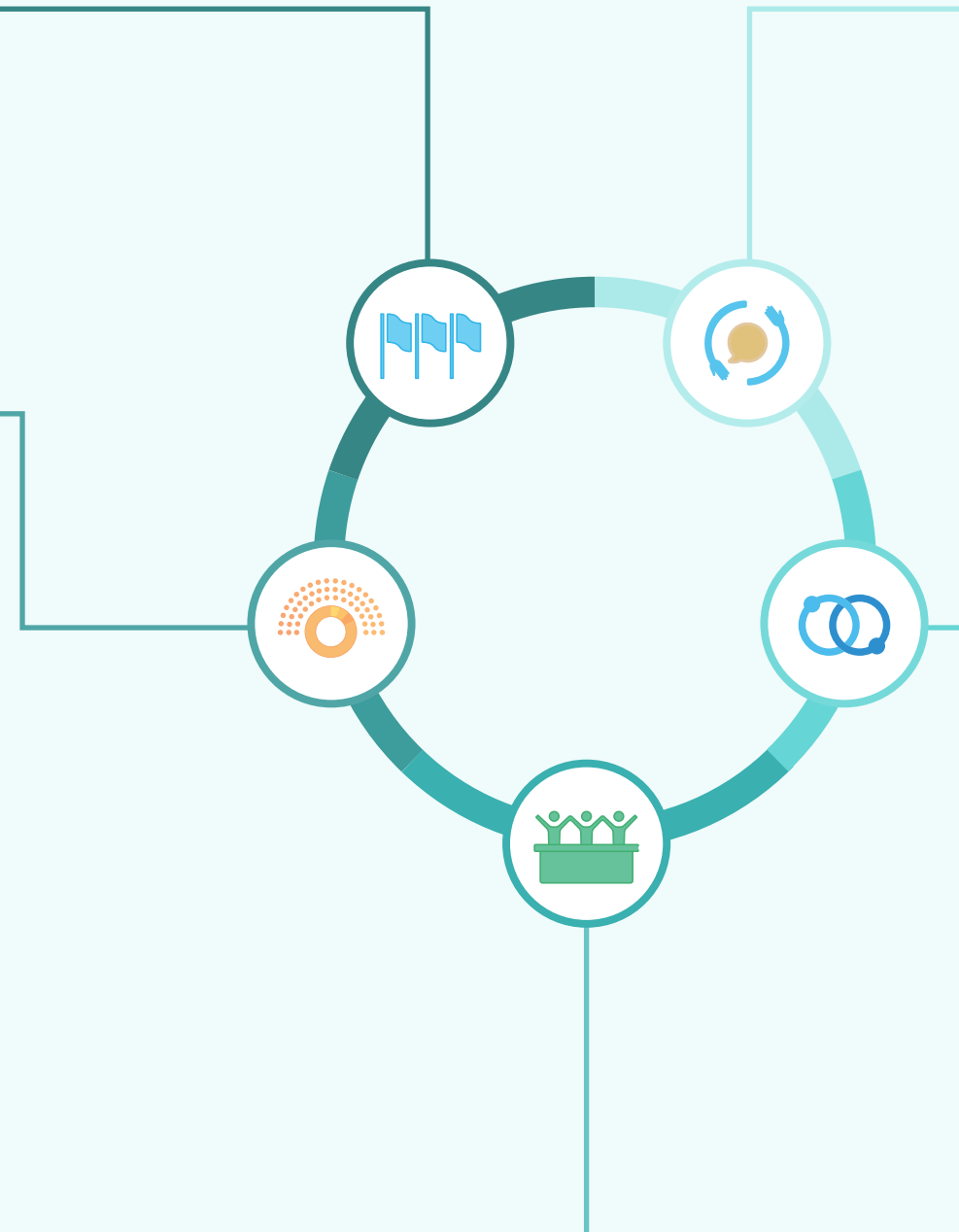
Forums

- Development Cooperation Forum (ECOSOC)
- Financing for Development Forum (ECOSOC)
- Internet Governance Forum
- Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
- Partnership Forum (ECOSOC)
- Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair
- World Data Forum
- World Summit on the Information Society Forum
- Youth Forum (ECOSOC)

UN Collaborative Mechanisms

- Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs
- High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for the 2030 Agenda
- Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
- Inter-agency Consultative Group on SIDS
- Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development
- Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
- UN-Energy
- UN-Water

High-level political forum on sustainable development



UN DESA IN NUMBERS

CAPACITY-BUILDING

60+

Countries across the globe

83

Capacity-building, projects, project offices and activities run by UN DESA

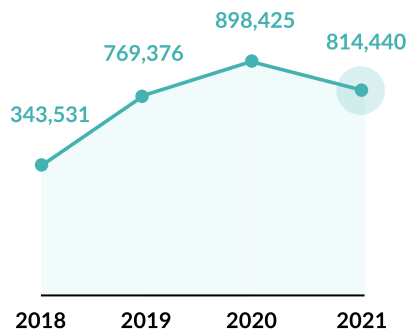
110+

Requests received from Member States, in 2021, for capacity-building support.

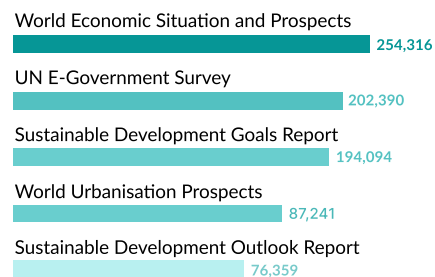
PUBLICATIONS OUTREACH

In 2021, UN DESA's top 5 most popular publications were downloaded a combined

814,400 times



Top 5 downloaded UN DESA publications in 2021



POLICY BRIEFS

Visits to the [DESA Policy Briefs](#) webpage increased by **9.7%** in 2021 over 2020, with daily visits peaking at **7,161** (on 6 May 2021). There were **1,179,112** cumulative **downloads** of the briefs in 2021, **up 22%** from 2020.

SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER (2021)

843,846

Combined followers across accounts managed by UN DESA

6%

Follower growth in 2021

FACEBOOK (2021)

2,267,058

Combined Page Likes across accounts managed by UN DESA

7%

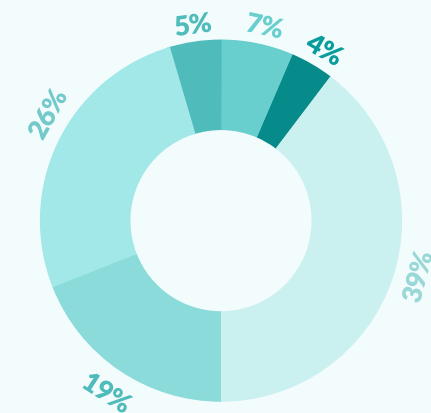
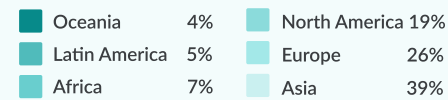
Growth in Page Likes in 2020

UN DESA ON THE WEB

In 2021, UN DESA website visits increased

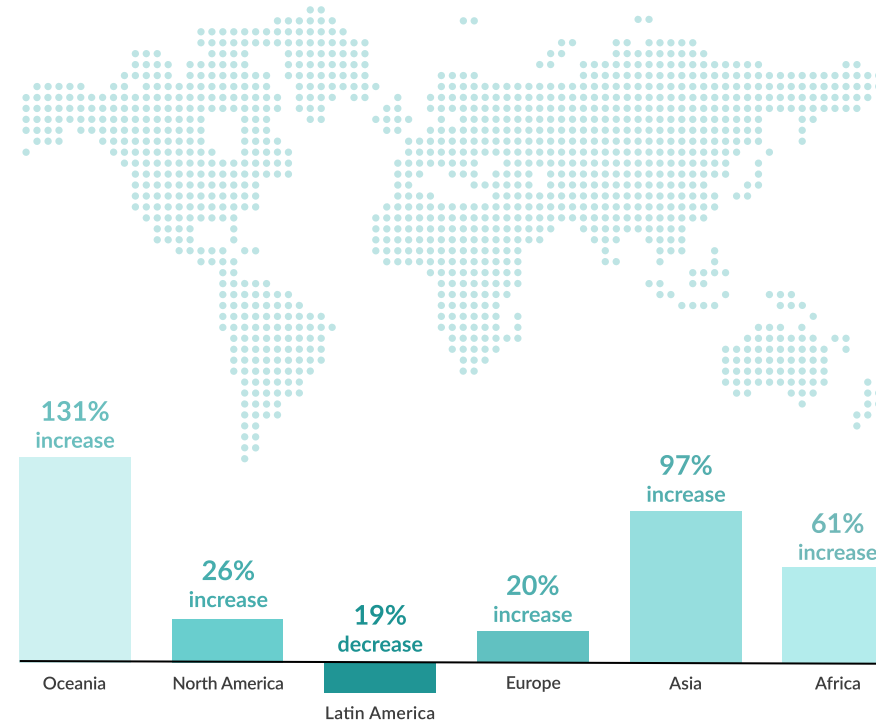
35% over 2020

Share of visits to UN DESA websites (By region, 2021) Total visits



Change in visits to UN DESA websites in 2021 (By region)

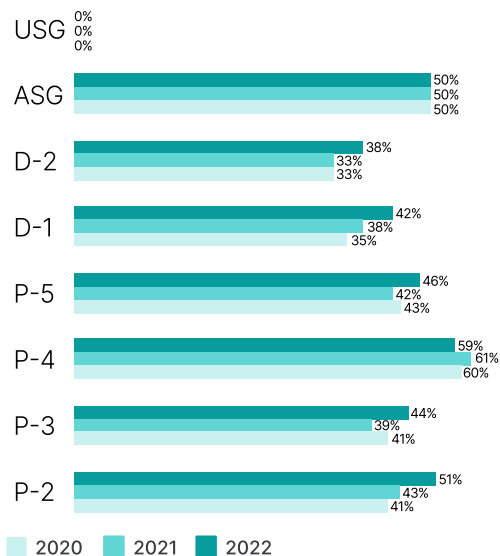
Visits grew in all regions except Latin America, with the greatest growth in Asia and the Pacific.



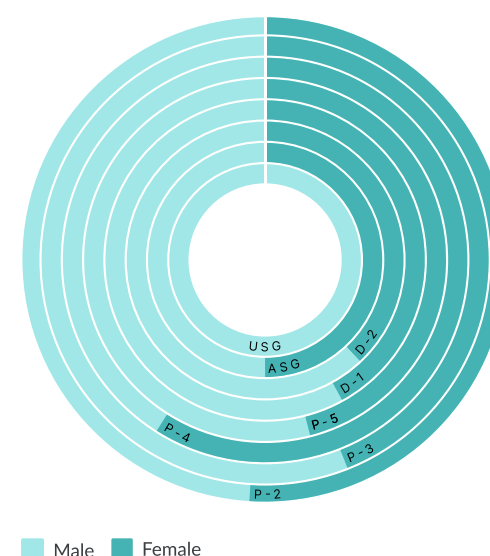
INSIDE DESA

UN DESA Staff represent more than **96** countries worldwide, from all world regions

% of staff in professional categories who are female (2020 - 2022)



Progress towards gender parity at the Professional level in UN DESA



As of 31 July 2022, just over **50%** of UN DESA in professional categories identified as female. DESA has so far achieved gender targets at the ASG, P-4 and P-2 levels. Females represent more than 50% of staff at each level in general service categories. The Department remains committed to the promise of gender parity and women's empowerment within its workforce, operations and substantive approach.

PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTS

In total 316 parliamentary documents were submitted by DESA from January to December 2021, including:

91 Technical working papers of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

56 NGO Statements

45 Reports of the Secretary-General

40 Notes by the Secretariat

36 Notes by the Secretary-General

25 Procedural documents Agendas + Programmes of Work

7 Reports of the intergovernmental group meeting/expert bodies

6 New NGO Applications for Consultative Status with ECOSOC

3 Quadrennial Reports of NGOs with Consultative Status

2 Reports of the 13th and 14th sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

2 Summaries by the President of ECOSOC

1 World Economic Situation + Prospects as of mid-2021

1 Compilation of main messages of Voluntary National Reviews



ADDRESSING POVERTY AND THE ROOT CAUSES OF INEQUALITY

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... to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, for all.

With the COVID-19 pandemic driving one of the greatest social and economic crises in the history of the United Nations, and the war in the Ukraine driving a food, fuel and financing crisis, UN DESA's work in 2021-2022 sought to address multiple dimensions of poverty and inequality and shape solid recommendations that drive transformative action for inclusive social and economic policy, and people-centred development.

UN DESA ...

- Promoted integrated long-term social policy frameworks for addressing poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, and inequalities.
 - Supported the protection of small-scale producers and family farmers through access to modern technologies.
 - Completed training for sixteen countries in the Least Developed Country (LDC) category and worked with the OECD Development Centre, International Trade Centre, and UNCTAD
- to promote LDC advancement.
 - Drew critical attention to the importance of effective disability-inclusion for effective pandemic recovery and long-term development progress.
 - Promoted digital inclusion through multistakeholder partnerships that facilitate access for all to information and communication technologies, in line with human rights frameworks.

01

ADDRESSING POVERTY AND THE ROOT CAUSES OF INEQUALITY

With the world facing climate catastrophe and unstable, food, fuel and financing markets amidst a prolonged pandemic, there is urgent need for social, economic and financing policies and governance strategies that promote equity and inclusion. UN DESA has sought to provide governments the support they need to shape an inclusive and transformative response to these interlinked crises and drive a process of recovery that puts the world on track to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, for all.

Promoting orderly migration and sustainable urbanization to reduce inequality and family poverty

In preparation for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, UN DESA is supporting research and awareness-raising activities on the impact of current megatrends on families. In 2022, the Department has focused on the impacts of migration and urbanization. As migration-related issues are visible throughout the 2030 Agenda and across all pillars of United Nations work, more attention should be given to migrants and their families and ensuring effective policy support and responses in this area. A side event at the Commission for Social Development, "Families and Migration," highlighted the contribution of family remittances to poverty reduction. In observance of the International Day of Families, in May 2022, the Department launched a research paper on "Migration, Urbanization and the Family Dimension", and

prepared a policy brief on "Migration Trends and Families." A UN Chronicle article on families and urbanization was also published, as part of the commemoration.

Eradicating poverty and hunger for an inclusive and resilient recovery

UN DESA's evidence-based analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular on the poorest and most vulnerable, supported the 59th session of the Commission for Social Development to adopt a policy outcome focused on enabling an inclusive and resilient recovery to eradicate poverty and hunger to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In addition to compiling effective national policies and measures implemented to combat hunger and poverty during the pandemic, UN DESA facilitated mutual learning among Member States and various stakeholders during

the Commission session to promote integrated long-term social policy frameworks that simultaneously address multiple causes of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, combat inequalities, and enhance the capabilities, resilience, and well-being of all people over their life cycle. The Department further guided numerous multistakeholder discussions aimed at reducing food insecurity through support for and protection of small-scale producers and family farmers, and the elimination of digital barriers.

Advancing disability-inclusive development

With 185 ratifications to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there is increasing appreciation of and action to advance disability-inclusive development. As secretariat to the Conference of State Parties to the Convention, UN DESA facilitated global-level dialogue to address existing gaps in translating the international commitments to persons

with disabilities into development policies, programming and practices at national and international levels, and realize the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind. Bringing together 1,000 delegates from 185 States Parties and Signatories, UN entities, national human rights institutions and over 500 accredited NGOs, the 15th session of the conference, held in June 2022, addressed three thematic issues: innovation and technology advancing disability rights; economic empowerment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities; and participation of persons with disabilities in climate action, disaster risk reduction and resilience against natural disasters. The conference also took steps to strengthen its intersectional and intergenerational approach with a youth representative speaking at the opening for the first time, along with the representative of civil society.



© UN Photo/Gregorio Cunha

Integrating population and development considerations in building back from the pandemic

UN DESA supported the Commission on Population and Development in its negotiation of a consensual resolution on population and sustainable development, in particular, sustained and inclusive economic growth. The resolution highlights the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in poverty eradication, access to education, and gender equality and women's empowerment. Member States agreed on action-oriented paths to integrate population and development considerations in building back from the pandemic and accelerating implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda. Focus areas highlighted in the resolution include:

the disproportionate amount of time spent by women in unpaid work, limiting their economic empowerment and independence; the role of inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and lifelong learning for achieving sustainable development; the impact of population ageing on labour and financial markets, fiscal systems, education, housing, health, long-term care and social protection; the need to address digital divides within and among countries and regions; the need to invest in measures to empower women, girls and youth in order to realize and capitalize on the demographic dividend; the recognition that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and achievement of sustainable development; and the contribution of sustainable consumption and production practices to achieving economic development, reducing environmental impacts and advancing human well-being.



© UN Photo/Manuel Elías

Country-led and partnership-based global support to countries moving up and out of the LDC category

A record number of countries, sixteen in total, are set to move up and out of the least developed country (LDC) category. UN DESA, recognising an urgent and increasing need for capacity support for countries on the path to graduation, scaled up its pilot of the six service offerings of its LDC Graduation Support Facility to an additional seven countries and expanded its partnerships. UN DESA in collaboration with the OECD Development Centre provided policy and technical support to the Government of Bangladesh in conducting a Production Transformation Policy Review for the country—a first of its kind for an LDC. It will inform Bangladesh's National Smooth Transition Strategy. UN DESA together with the World Trade Organization, International Trade Centre and UNCTAD produced a joint report titled [The Textile and Clothing Sector in Asian Graduating Least Developed Countries: Challenges and Ways Forward](#). The report offers insights on the sector in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal, and sets out important preparatory measures to strengthen the textile and clothing sector. UN DESA actively engaged Member States throughout the intergovernmental

preparatory process for the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5), culminating in the Facility being a concrete measure of support in the Doha Programme of Action.

Building resilient and sustainable digital societies and economies

Building inclusive, resilient and sustainable digital societies and economies is a foundation for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and digital tools remain critical as the pandemic continues to keep people apart in many cases. [The 16th Internet Governance Forum](#) held in December 2021 in Katowice, Poland, encouraged countries to put in place adequate policies, legislation and institutions to ensure that digital transformation processes are inclusive, just, safe and sustainable. This starts with enabling universal and meaningful access to the Internet and equipping individuals with digital skills – actions that require cooperation between public institutions and private actors. The IGF continued to strengthen its position as a central platform for multistakeholder dialogue at the global level on the most pressing Internet and digital policy issues. In 2021 the forum attracted 10,371 participants from 175 countries, featuring



© IGF Secretariat

318 sessions addressing six issue areas: economic and social inclusion and human rights; universal access and meaningful connectivity; emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer rights protection; environmental sustainability & climate change; inclusive internet governance ecosystems and digital rights; and trust, security, stability.

Frontier technologies for supporting smallholder farmers and addressing food insecurity

The number of people facing acute food insecurity continues to grow at an alarming rate. The world is facing a food crisis that is driven by major supply shocks, such as conflicts, weather extremes and disrupted agricultural value chains. The November 2021 edition of *Frontier Technology Issues* examines smart, digital, and precision agricultural technologies that could help to address information asymmetries and deficiencies facing farmers, especially smallholders. The use of these technologies could improve agricultural productivity and output and play a significant role in addressing food insecurity. The report identifies frontier technologies that could be impactful at key stages of the agricultural cycle – preparation, production, and processing and sale.

Despite their potential benefits, the uptake of these technologies by smallholder farmers remains limited. To accelerate the adoption of these technologies, the report calls for greater investment in promoting digital literacy in rural areas; a rethinking of the current model of agricultural extension services; a renewed effort to make digital platforms more user-friendly for smallholder farmers; and significant expansion of rural infrastructure to promote agricultural e-commerce.

Highlighting the intersecting discriminations experienced by older women

UN DESA worked with partners, in the past year, to increase the attention given to the compounded and intersectional discrimination faced by older women, particularly in situations

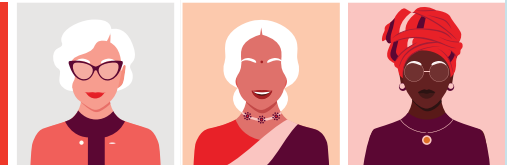
of crisis. An [advocacy brief](#) by UN DESA, UN Women and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, with support from AARP¹, highlighted how the intersecting discriminations that women experience in their lifetimes have a cumulative impact in old age that makes their situation more vulnerable in a crisis, including in the COVID-19 pandemic. The brief is accompanied by infographics and features new data on older women. The brief was launched at a side event during 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

At the 2022 HLPF, a related side-event, co-hosted by the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, UN DESA, UN Women and the Special Procedures Office of the Independent Expert on the rights of older persons, addressed the theme “Older Women in Crises: Invisible Among the Most Vulnerable.” The event sought to explore the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by older women in emergencies and put forward ideas on how to address such challenges and ensure that their needs are met, adding the often overlooked perspective and consideration of older women’s well-being to the HLPF discussions.

¹AARP is a United States-based nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers people to choose how they live as they age

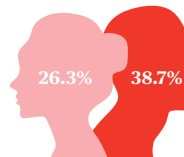
Older Women: Inequality at the Intersection of Age and Gender

Supporting the well-being of all older women across the world demands more and better data.



Many women are confronted with economic insecurity in old age.

26.3% of working-age women worldwide are covered under a pension scheme, compared to 38.7% of men.¹



In lower-middle income countries, only 8.1% of working-age women are covered under a pension scheme, compared to 20.8% of men.¹

As women age, their social roles also evolve.

Women do an average of **2.5 times the amount** of unpaid care and domestic work as men do globally.³



More than half of older women aged 60 and over reported **increased time spent on unpaid care and domestic work** during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴

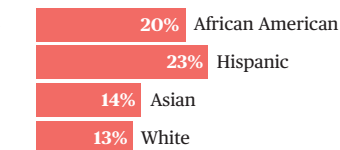


The intersecting discriminations that women experience in their lifetimes have a cumulative impact in old age that make their situation more vulnerable in a crisis.

41% of women in the US aged 40-65 have lost job-based income since the beginning of 2020.²



14% of women in the US aged 40-65 have lost their jobs.²



The pandemic adversely impacted older women’s income and ability to work.

61% of women aged 60-plus reported having lost income as a result of the pandemic.⁴

54% of older women aged 60-plus reported a reduction in paid working hours, compared to 38% of men.⁴

The invisibility of abuse and violence against older women makes their situation more vulnerable.

34% of women 60-plus reported experiencing violence or knowing someone who has since the beginning of the pandemic.⁵

63% of women 60-plus think that **domestic violence** has increased, while **55%** think that **sexual harassment** has worsened.⁵



¹International Labour Organization (2021) “https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_817572/lang-en/index.htm” World Social Protection Report 2020-2022.

²AARP survey “Women, Work, and the Road to Resilience: Working Women at Mid-Life and Beyond”.

³UN DESA (2021) “https://unstats.un.org/sgds/report/2021/gsal-05/” Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

⁴UN Women (2021) “https://data.unwomen.org/publications/women-and-girls-left-behind-glaring-gaps-pandemic-responses” Women and Girls left behind: Glaring gaps in pandemic responses.

⁵UN Women (2021) “https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/Measuring-shadow-pandemic.pdf” Measuring the shadow pandemic: violence against women during COVID-19.





GUIDING GLOBAL ACTION ON OUR GLOBAL GOALS

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... to craft a roadmap out of crisis

In 2021-2022, UN DESA continued to support Member States in responding to the pandemic in transformative ways that accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Department supported evidence- and science-based policy debates and peer learning at the various intergovernmental meetings and events it supported, building on its work to identify and share best practices of SDG implementation at the national, regional and local levels.

UN DESA ...

- Provided data, analysis, policy recommendations and expert guidance to support a successful 2022 HLPF.
- Supported Member States in preparing for and conducting Voluntary National Reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (VNRs) at the HLPF through global preparatory workshops and webinars.
- Supported the substantive preparations of the HLPF reviews of implementation of SDGs 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals, and on the HLPF theme on recovering from COVID-19 while realizing the SDGs.
- Supported governments in negotiating the 2022 HLPF Ministerial Declaration.
- Promoted innovative thinking at 18 VNR Labs.
- Raised awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through special events, side events and exhibitions in the margins of the HLPF, ensuring the inclusion of a wide range of voices and perspectives.

02

GUIDING GLOBAL ACTION ON OUR GLOBAL GOALS

Policies to recover from COVID-19 must aim to both reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic and instil the deep structural changes we need to achieve the SDGs and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda. UN DESA has been supporting Member States to reflect on shaping a transformative recovery, including through the 2022 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which examined the wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs.

Ensuring effective review of implementation of the SDGs

The HLPF brought more than 140 Heads of State and Government, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers, along with other actors back to the UN Headquarters in New York to reflect on ways to recover better from COVID-19. The Forum addressed the theme, “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and also reviewed in-depth SDG 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. UN DESA supported intergovernmental negotiations on the 2022

Ministerial Declaration, as the outcome of the session. While the HLPF declaration provides the sobering diagnosis of the HLPF on the world’s situation regarding the SDGs, it also points to important policy measures that can both drive recovery and rescue and advance the SDGs. It stressed that the 2030 Agenda is our roadmap for recovering from the crises. It asserts that the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs can still be reversed and provides detailed guidance to make progress towards the goals under review. The Declaration also notes the dramatic impacts of conflict on food, energy and finance, and welcomes the Global Crisis Response Group created by the Secretary-General. It launches preparations for the September 2023 SDG Summit and calls for ambitious preparations by all actors.

UN DESA guided and supported 44 countries in preparing their Voluntary National Reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (VNRs) at the 2022 HLPF. Featuring 11 first-timers, 28 second-timers, 3 third-timers and 2 fourth-timers, the continued interest in VNR presentation points to high commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The Department organized three global workshops, including a hybrid workshop in Botswana in 2022 and an in-person workshop in July in New York, which allowed countries to learn from each other and from UN DESA on

policies, actions and institutions to implement the 2030 Agenda and review SDG progress. At national level, the VNRs allowed countries to review and improve their efforts to reach the SDGs. At global level, they provided the HLPF with a clear understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs and the kind of approaches countries are embracing to recover from the pandemic and turn the tide on the SDGs. UN DESA prepared a synthesis of main messages from the 2022 VNRs, available at the HLPF website at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2022/vnrs>.



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HLPF IN NUMBERS:

2022 HLPF and High-level Segment of ECOSOC

Theme: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

9

Days

5

SDGs under review

44

Countries presented VNRs

Who was there?

More than 140

Heads of State and Government, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice Ministers and Ministerial-level officials

214

Keynote speakers, panelists, lead discussants, respondents, moderators in townhall meeting, panels, and fireside chats

to talk about



8 Special Events

Including a pop-up concert with an SDG Piano

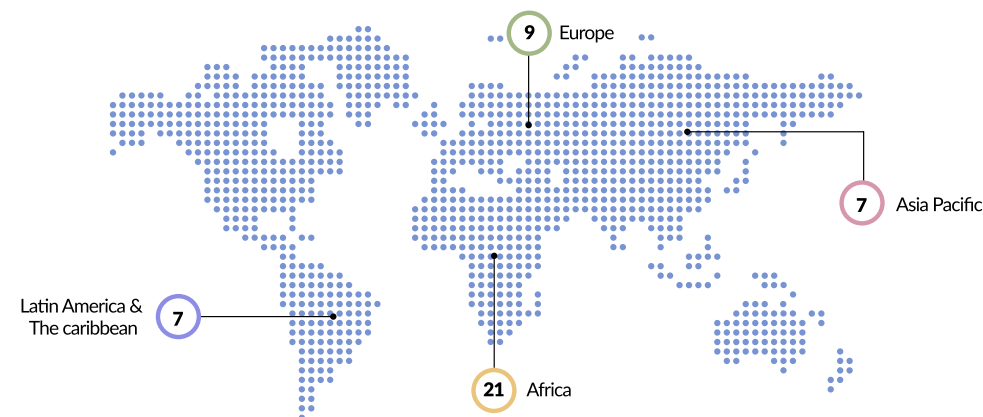
18 VNR Labs

273 Side Events

(43 in person)

11 Exhibitions

Voluntary National Reviews 2022



Promoting public-private partnership to propel the SDGs

The sixth annual SDG Business Forum took place during the High-level Week of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. Co-convened by UN DESA, the International Chamber of Commerce and UN Global Compact, the event reached more than 7,000 participants from 143 countries around the world. The sixth SDG Business Forum incorporated important themes of several United Nations Conferences, including the High-level Dialogue on Energy, the United Nations Food Systems Summit, the Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) and the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 COP26. As a truly multistakeholder event, the Forum included 17 CEO-level speakers, and several high-ranking government officials, UN Principals and Special Envoys also addressed the Forum. The SDG Business Forum continues to be an important space for dialogue to promote a whole-of-society approach to forward sustainable development.

Encouraging youth participation and intergenerational solidarity to realize the SDGs

Throughout the year, UN DESA has undertaken several initiatives to ensure that youth voices are brought to the global decision-

making space, to drive youth inclusion and equality in the process of SDG implementation.

UN DESA's United Nations Project Office on Governance hosted its 5th Youth Forum on SDG implementation in September 2021. The virtual forum engaged youth and offered a platform for the participants to brainstorm and share their ideas on the topic of Leveraging Public Governance and Enhancing Youth Engagement to Promote Green, Resilient and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19. Participating youth expressed appreciation for the Forum as a platform for young people to engage on issues critical to advancing the development agenda.

Based on the key findings of the WHO and UN DESA 2021 Global Report on Ageism, UN DESA hosted the event, "Thriving Youth - From Ageism to Intergenerational Solidarity", within the margins of the Commission for Social Development in February 2022, to address the impacts on youth inclusion and participation and identify pathways for forging the international dialogue and solidarity necessary to move development forward. A related event, "Ageism in Politics: Exploring Intergenerational Solutions," held alongside the 2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum, addressed the impact of ageism against youth in politics. A key message stemming from these initiatives is that pandemic recovery needs



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to leverage the strength and knowledge of every generation and be anchored in equity between generations.

In April, the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2022 offered youth leaders from around the world the opportunity to engage with government representatives, youth delegates and other stakeholders to share best practices, lessons learned and innovative solutions to recover from COVID-19 and get on track to achieve the SDGs. The forum welcomed over 50 Ministers, high-level government representatives and over 22,000 youth participants. The forum reiterated that young people around the world are eager to be in the driver's seat when devising recovery efforts and when decisions are taken that would impact their future. Young people are demanding that the gap between promise and action be closed, particularly to address climate action, inequalities, peace and security, human rights, financing, education, women's and girls' empowerment as well as protecting the planet. Key messages from the Forum served as input to the HLPF. The forum was convened by the President of ECOSOC and supported by UN DESA and the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, in collaboration with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the Major Group for Children and Youth and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations.

Placing a focus on people-centred governance to recover lost ground on the SDGs

UN DESA, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy co-organized the third SDG 16 Conference in April 2022. The theme of the conference was "People-centred governance in a post-pandemic world". The event brought together leading experts in areas across SDG 16 representing governments, the United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, academia and other stakeholder groups. The conference focused on aspects of peace and security, rule of law and access to justice, resilient institutions in times of crisis, and leaving no one behind. Participants provided

important messages and recommendations to inform the discussions at the 2022 HLPF and guide Member States in their responses to and recovery from the pandemic and other crises. The debates stressed the centrality of SDG 16 to transformations in governance necessary to recover lost ground and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The conference featured more than 30 speakers with in-person and online participation from approximately 1,000 individuals. Participants came from 137 different countries, covering all regions.

Engaging local governments for the SDGs

The UN DESA project office, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, held the 2021-2022 International Mayors Forum in January 2022. Through presentations and discussions, the Forum provided a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing on key aspects of SDG implementation, and for examining the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on cities and local governments. Mayors, leaders and representatives of local governments from developed and developing countries discussed their experiences, lessons learned and good practices for SDG implementation at the local and regional levels, while experts from around the world shared



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© Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on SDGs

knowledge and tools to further strengthen the contribution of local actors. More than 100 participants from around the globe joined virtually and interacted with speakers and presenters through Q&A sessions to identify potential solutions and sustainable responses for advancing sustainable development.

The fifth High-level Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF), an annual HLPF special event co-organized by UN DESA, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the Local 2030 Coalition, was held in a virtual format, in July 2022. The LRGF aims to showcase innovative actions taken by local and regional governments to implement the SDGs under review at the HLPF. The LRGF panel discussions included a focus on Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary Subnational Reviews and multilevel governance and multistakeholder collaboration. 660 participants registered to attend the event, which was also livestreamed on YouTube.

Accelerating action on the SDGs, with and for countries in Africa

UN DESA, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, organized

the Special High-level Dialogue on the Sustainable Development of Africa, convened by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The dialogue provided an opportunity for African Member States and their partners to share country experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 while considering the challenges of pandemic recovery and the impact of current geopolitical challenges on food and energy security across the continent. The event served to renew the commitment to the sustainable development of Africa as one of the established priorities of the United Nations and mobilize greater support and partnerships for accelerated implementation of sustainable development priorities.

Under the provisions of the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development UN DESA and the African Union African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) jointly convened two continental workshops, in 2021 and 2022, aimed at forwarding inclusive sustainable development in Africa through effective and coherent implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. The workshops provided a regional platform for peer-learning on

good practices for integration and implementation of both Agendas and supported countries to prepare and report on progress implementing the Agendas, including through the Voluntary National Review and Voluntary Local Review processes. Emphasis was placed on the importance of ensuring robust, agile, adaptive, resilient, inclusive and adequately resourced public institutions and on ensuring application of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, which were developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by ECOSOC. Each workshop brought together high-level participants from over 30 African countries.



Strengthening ECOSOC coordination for realizing development goals

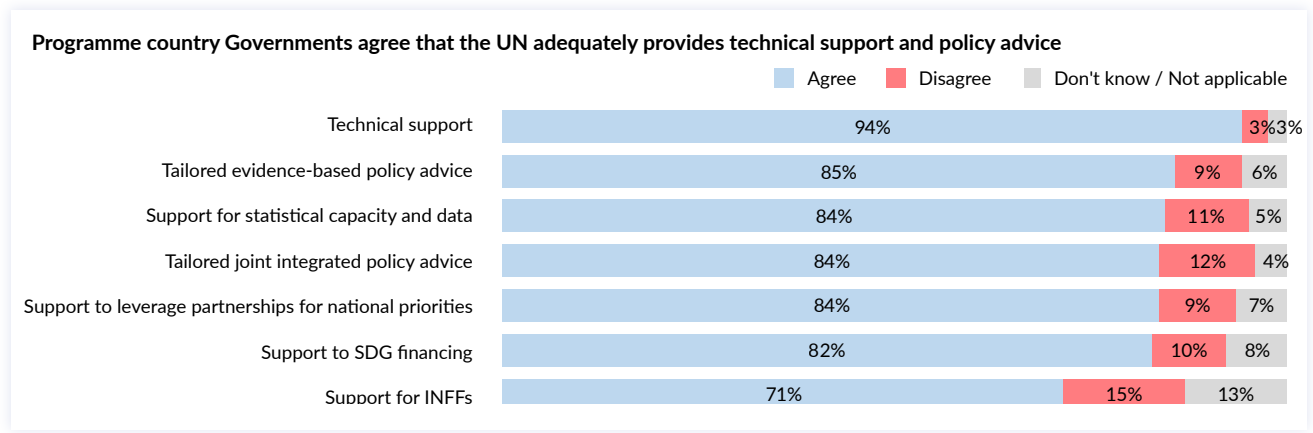
One of the major outcomes of the ECOSOC Review by the General Assembly was the renewed focus on the Economic and Social Council's charter mandate on coordination of the UN system and of its functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies. At the inaugural Coordination Segment, supported by UN DESA, Member States actively participated in taking stock of the impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs and proposed policies

and actions for an inclusive and resilient recovery aimed at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Segment identified key areas where ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and the UN system could deepen the policy reflection, identify innovative solutions or work more closely together. A [draft decision](#) endorsing a summary of recommendations, based on Member State consultations, was submitted to, and adopted by, ECOSOC at the 2022 Management Segment in June. The summary contains important recommendations to place poverty eradication, gender equality and climate change at the centre of the work of subsidiary bodies, enhance their focus on the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs that are the furthest behind, as well as reinforce ECOSOC coordination and oversight of its subsidiary bodies.

Keeping track of progress in UN country-level support to the 2030 Agenda

To help ECOSOC discharge its oversight role vis-à-vis the UN development system, UN DESA carried out a review of UN development system support to countries in realizing the SDGs and responding to COVID-19. The Department conducted a survey, receiving feedback from 141 countries, the results of which informed deliberations at the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment in May 2022.

UN DESA also brought the UN development system together to elaborate a framework of indicators to allow Member States to monitor the implementation of the 2020 General Assembly Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of United Nations system



operational activities (QCPR). The new framework allows Member States to gauge the results and performance of UN development system support to country-level implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Fifty-nine delegates attended the consultation convened by UN DESA to support the elaboration of the framework.

Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

The Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs is a comprehensive set of seven Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits, which contain ready-to-use and customizable training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance the implementation of the SDGs. Launched by UN DESA at the end of 2022, the curriculum provides methodologies and approaches to advance knowledge and assist governments in developing capacities at the individual, organizational, and institutional/societal level, to drive the transformational change needed to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Among the modules are materials targeted to COVID-19 pandemic response. The Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions contains examples and case studies on corruption risks in public procurement during the pandemic; the Toolkit on Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups includes a module on ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups during public health emergencies, focusing mostly on the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Toolkit on Risk-Informed Governance

and Innovative Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience has a module on risk-informed governance and innovative technology for public health emergencies.

Emphasizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

To strengthen the efforts of ECOSOC and the HLPF to support gender equality as a cross-cutting issue for the achievement of the SDGs, UN DESA commissioned an analytical paper in late 2021 to examine how well gender considerations are integrated into the work of the Council and the HLPF, and to identify opportunities for expanding those efforts. This work resulted in a useful analysis of the gender dimensions of the SDGs under review in 2022. It also provided many practical recommendations to help UN DESA expand and deepen gender analysis and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in its work in order to better support ECOSOC and the HLPF in advancing gender equality as a cross-cutting issue.

To turn the recommendations into concrete actions, UN DESA developed a practical and easy-to-use Gender Checklist to help mainstream gender considerations and perspectives in the work of ECOSOC and the HLPF. The checklist provides guidance to staff on applying gender analysis and highlighting gender dimensions in the substantive documentation, programme and deliberations of ECOSOC and the HLPF.





ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

...that invests today for a resilient tomorrow.

UN DESA supported Member States and the global community in addressing the urgent issues of financing for sustainable development, with focus on staving off the debt and liquidity crises exacerbated by COVID-19, the growing climate emergency and disruptions to the food and fuel markets.

UN DESA ...

- Recommended Credit Rating Agencies to be more transparent on their methodology, incorporate ESG factors into ratings and develop longer-term ratings, enhance dialogue with governments and for financial markets to promote a more accurate use of ratings through institutional changes.
- Worked with UN Tax Committee experts, observers and partners to produce and disseminate practical guidance and strengthen capacities of developing countries to deal with complex tax issues for sustainable development.
- Helped countries to prepare and present SDG-aligned projects to investors across a range of priority development sectors.
- Helped governments and their development partners to advance risk-informed development cooperation, strengthening developing countries' capacities to address both short- and long-term risks.
- Released UN Handbook on infrastructure asset management (IAM) in 10 languages and expanded technical assistance on IAM to 10 project countries.
- Launched a global facility on integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs).

03

ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

The COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the war in Ukraine continue to send shock waves through the world's economies. In crisis situations, access to long-term financing enables countries to respond and recover. UN DESA, through its work, continues to support countries to respond to these crises and foster long-lasting financing for sustainable development.

Advancing global consensus on financing response and recovery

The 2022 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) took place amid interconnected crises caused by COVID-19, conflict and climate. The forum succeeded in adopting an outcome document calling for urgent solutions to scale up financing for development. The agreement proved the unique strength of the United Nations in finding solutions at times of growing polarization.

The 2022 FfD Forum featured high-level political engagement including eight Heads of State. The discussion focused on key challenges, including the need to reform the international financial architecture. Within the outcome there is an agreement to consider multidimensional vulnerability as a criterion for both concessional finance and debt relief eligibility, using a UN-developed index geared to capture the unique challenges faced by small island developing States. Member States also called for expanded debt relief and enhancements to the G20 Common Framework. They also committed to expand investment in social protection floors

as a percentage of national budgets. To follow-up on the outcome document, UN DESA will advance policy dialogue and analysis in these areas in collaboration with the UN system and bring the policy recommendations to other important fora, such as the G20.



Making the money move to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, convened by the UN Secretary-General, includes 30 members from among the world's largest investors and financial institutions. UN DESA continued to support GISD as a vehicle to advocate for and scale-up sustainable finance to achieve the SDGs. The Alliance continued to shape and influence the global investment ecosystem for better alignment with the SDG Agenda, collaborating with key policy-making bodies, standard setters, regulators, and multilateral and regional development banks. The common definition of Sustainable Development Investing (SDI) and standardized sector-specific metrics for measuring the degree of SDG-alignment of investments, produced with support from UN DESA, has gained much traction. In October 2021, the GISD published a report with recommendations for development banks and the global development community for increasing private finance flows towards the SDGs. In June 2022, GISD launched an updated model mandate in partnership with the International Corporate Governance Network that seeks to ensure that asset owners' stewardship and sustainability objectives are reflected in the contract with their

asset manager. Work is also underway to establish a pioneering Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Platform (SIIP) in cooperation with the Global Infrastructure Facility. This fund will be structured as a blended finance vehicle to pool a range of public and private investors to co-invest in high-impact sustainable infrastructure in emerging and frontier economies.

Connecting the private sector to investment opportunities in sustainable development

As the private sector continues to embrace principles for sustainable and responsible investment, demand is growing for a dedicated space to connect investors with impactful business opportunities. The SDG Investment Fair is a UN DESA platform that fills this niche. It connects investors around the world to SDG-aligned projects in emerging and frontier markets. Through project-pitching sessions, investor networking, and peer learning, Member States are building the knowledge, skills, and awareness on how to prepare bankable SDG investments and how to tap a growing market for sustainable investments. With the growing demand, in 2021 the fair transitioned from an annual event to a year-round platform.

Over 19 countries across all regions have been showcased as SDG investment destinations to date. In 2021, Kenya, Jamaica, Ghana, Pakistan, Rwanda, Dominican Republic, Namibia, and Ukraine presented over \$10 billion in investment opportunities to financial institutions and companies. In 2022, the fair featured Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nigeria, and Malawi with opportunities in sustainable infrastructure, healthcare, manufacturing, green energy, and agri-business. A special investor matchmaking event was also held in April 2022 at the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations where new investors and technology partners were mobilized to support Namibia's strategic SDG investments.



Providing policy advice to bridge the financing divide

UN DESA led the preparation and analytical work for the 2022 *Financing for Sustainable Development Report* (FSDR), a product of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development. Outreach efforts resulted in broader geographic coverage, doubling the share of readers in African countries, with over 300 news hits around the world, and growth in unique website viewers coupled with a higher share of those viewers outside the host country. Most readers (74.4 %) considered the quality of the report as 'good' or 'excellent', with the highest ratings from national governments/ministries, followed closely by academia. The 2022 FSDR identifies a "great finance divide" – the inability of poorer countries to raise sufficient resources and borrow affordably for

investment, which will lead to a bigger gap or divide between developed and developing countries. The report recommended three sets of actions to bridge the finance divide. First, the report called for urgent measures to address rising costs of borrowing and heightened debt risks. Second, there is a need to increase public financing for investment in public policy priorities and effectively spend mobilized resources on the SDGs and productive investment. Finally, the report highlighted the importance of enhanced transparency and a more complete information ecosystem to strengthen the ability of countries to manage risks and use resources well and in line with sustainable development. The messages of the FSDR were amplified by targeted policy briefs on cost of borrowing, crypto currencies and complementary measures to GDP for access to concessional finance.

Credit ratings for long-term sustainable investing

UN DESA led exploration on the role of credit rating agencies in supporting investment in developing countries and enhancing sustainability. In a response to a call from Member States, the Department organized a [High-Level Meeting on the Role of Credit Rating Agencies in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) in March 2022. Recommendations put forward during the event include: (i) more transparency in rating methodologies; (ii) the incorporation of ESG factors into ratings and production of long-term ratings; (iii) more informed dialogue between governments and credit rating agencies; and (iv) institutional changes to promote a more accurate use of ratings. UN DESA will continue to support Member States and engage all relevant stakeholders to advance these recommendations in the relevant platforms.

Supporting Member States to implement integrated national financing frameworks

In April 2022, in the margins of the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, UN DESA launched the INFF Facility in collaboration with UNDP, OECD, the European Union and the

Governments of Italy and Sweden. The INFF Facility aims to bring together international partners to align and magnify support for implementation of INFFs in more than 80 countries. UN DESA also continued to lead the UN work to develop guidance on the implementation of INFFs and supported various regional training workshops in collaboration with UNDP and the regional commissions. UN DESA is also working with UN partners to develop online self-paced training programmes, explainer videos and various communications products. The Department, in collaboration with the regional commissions and UNCTAD, continues to support INFF development in 10 countries (Belarus, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Zambia). With the support of the Government of Italy, UN DESA also embarked on targeted INFF support for small island developing States.



Building trust and spurring transformation in international taxation

UN DESA supported the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters in translating its ambitious agenda into prioritized plans of work. The 24th Session had a heavy schedule due to its 11 subcommittees and 4 groups, which tackle a breadth of issues related to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on international taxation. Strong fiscal policies and international tax cooperation are critical to pandemic recovery and to avert a lost decade of sustainable development. This work is critical for developing countries. Fiscal policies can help the simultaneous achievement of multiple goals such as reduction of inequalities and promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

The session pointed out the preference expressed by developing countries for simple, administrable solutions to taxing multinational enterprises and other non-residents. It also initiated work on options for a multilateral instrument, overlaid on existing bilateral treaties, to speed up implementation of the UN model bilateral tax treaty responses to taxing income from digital services. The committee recognized that developing countries will benefit from policies and actions that have the goal to curb trade mis-invoicing and other illegal practices that lead to illicit financial flows in the extractive industries. Looking ahead, UN DESA will support the committee in its plans for practical guidance on the interaction of carbon taxes with other national measures in the context of broader fiscal reform and transition to renewable energy sources.

Building capacity in tax administration to reduce risk and build resilience

UN DESA organized several capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing the capability of developing countries to deal with complex tax issues and help them in their efforts to reduce risk and build resilience. The integrated tax policy and capacity-building programme administered by UN DESA complements the

normative guidance products of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

The workshop on the beneficial ownership concept (a key treaty anti-abuse rule) brought together 16 participants from 7 developing countries. This workshop is part of a series focused on intermediate and advanced tax treaty topics aimed at creating communities of practice where developing countries can share their practical experiences and discuss cross-cutting issues. A follow-up satisfaction survey revealed that 100% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop increased their technical knowledge and skills in the negotiation and/or administration of tax treaties.

A related workshop on the mutual agreement procedure (MAP), attracted 25 participants from 15 developing countries. The MAP promotes the fulfilment of treaty obligations and prevents obstacles to international trade and investment.

These efforts go a long way to address key messages from the 2022 ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters held in April, including advancing fair and effective tax systems (with a particular focus on taxation in an increasingly digitalized and globalized economy) and addressing the tax aspects of illicit financial flows. UN DESA will hold a global workshop on digital taxation in September 2022.

Enhancing the sustainability, resilience and accessibility of infrastructure investments

UN DESA expanded its capacity development programme on infrastructure asset management (IAM) for local and central government officials in developing countries in support of the SDGs. The initiative supports public sector officials in shaping strategies, policies and actions that maximize the financial and service performance of publicly owned and/or managed infrastructure assets, such as roads, water and sanitation, waste management facilities and natural assets and also strengthen their sustainability, resilience and accessibility for present and future generations.



UNITED NATIONS
MODEL DOUBLE TAXATION
CONVENTION
BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

LAUNCH
EVENT

2021 UN Model Tax Convention

26 April 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. New York Time. Virtual

Theme: *Adapting to Changing Times - From Remote to Automated Digital Services and Beyond*

DESA Financing for Development UN Tax Committee

The IAM programme draws on the 2021 UN DESA publication *Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development: A Handbook for Local and National Governments* and its corresponding toolkits-now available in all six UN languages and several local languages following strong country demand. Training has reached over 2,500 public sector officials and resulted in 150 multi-year Asset Management Action Plans designed by local governments around the world. 10 beneficiary countries are now receiving direct technical assistance on IAM.

The recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) added impetus to the Department's work in this area. In its 21st session, held in April 2022, CEPA emphasized transparent, accountable and participatory management of public finances as a key element of effective governance, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic, when governments around the world face decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures.

Forwarding risk-informed development cooperation

Following the call at the 2021 ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) for stronger country-level data and evidence on innovation in development cooperation in the COVID-19 context, 53 developing countries – the majority being LDCs and SIDS – participated in the 2021-2022 DCF Survey. The subsequent 2022 DCF Survey Study explored the impact of the triple crises triggered by the pandemic, climate change and conflict on development cooperation and progress on the SDGs. The survey highlights the need for developing countries to adopt a systemic approach to dealing with an increasingly interrelated and complex risk landscape by designing risk-informed national policies, strategies and frameworks and ensuring their effective alignment with both national policies and regional agendas, and by effectively engaging a growingly diverse set of partners and stakeholders in development cooperation processes. The study included proposals that draw from best practices on the ground in developing

countries to enhance the quality and impact of development cooperation for crises response and long-term recovery.

2022 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) Survey Study:
Navigating COVID-19 recovery and long-term risks

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Development Cooperation Forum

#2030 IS NOW

MAKING DATA COUNT



... for evidence-based decision-making.

In 2021-2022, UN DESA helped put data to the task of effective decision-making, supporting Member States to build their capacities for collecting official data, tapping existing data sources, and developing new ones.

UN DESA ...

- Monitored progress and gaps in global efforts to achieve the SDGs, highlighting the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Published updated global population estimates that reflect the impact of COVID-19 and collaborated with WHO to estimate global excess mortality from COVID-19.
- Supported Member States' efforts to compile and disseminate crucial, innovative, detailed, disaggregated, and geo-referenced

- data on the pandemic's impact on society, economy, and government and continued to respond to the increasing need for data for decision-making.
- Developed opportunities for members of the international statistical community to connect, coordinate, collaborate, and strengthen capacities, using hybrid approaches where appropriate as events moved back towards in-person networking.

04

MAKING DATA COUNT

To respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises, countries need up-to-date, disaggregated, and fit-for-purpose data and statistics. UN DESA answers this call with its technical expertise in data collection and analysis, global convening power, and capacity development work.

Monitoring progress towards the SDGs

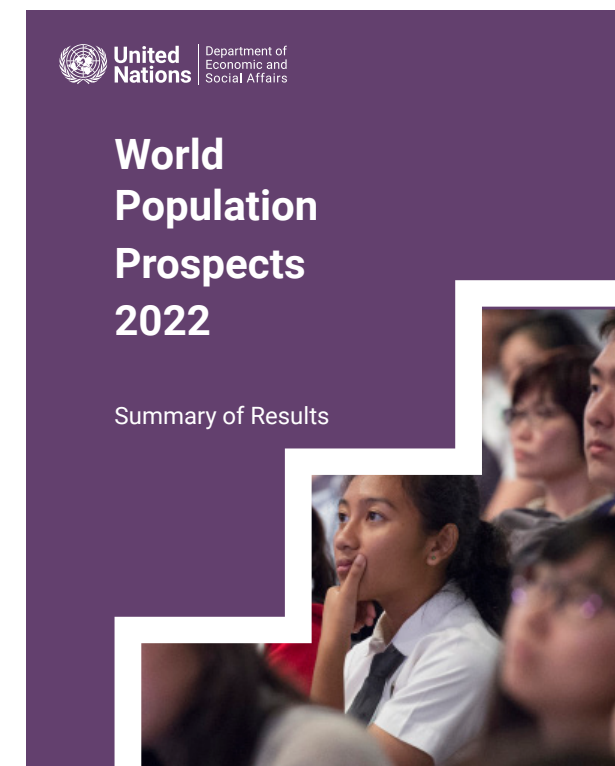
UN DESA led preparation of the annual *Sustainable Development Goals Report*, as central coordinator of the global SDG indicator framework and monitoring process. The *Sustainable Development Goals Report* and other monitoring tools provide policy makers and stakeholders with the latest SDG data to identify areas for targeted policy interventions and enable informed decision-making. The 2022 report demonstrates how COVID-19 continues to disrupt development activities for the SDG implementation across the world and set back years of progress made on the Global Goals. The annual report is based on data from the global SDG indicator framework developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators and is prepared in collaboration with over 200 experts from over 50 agencies, funds, and programmes. The annual Sustainable Development Goals Report is among one of UN DESA's most accessed publications.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022



Monitoring the growth of the global population

In July 2022, UN DESA launched *World Population Prospects 2022*, the official United Nations population estimates and projections, showing that global population would reach an estimated 8



billion in mid-November 2022. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all components of population change, including fertility, mortality and migration. Global life expectancy at birth fell to 71.0 years in 2021, down from 72.8 in 2019, due mostly to the impact of COVID-19. The evidence on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on fertility levels remains mixed. In low- and middle-income countries, the availability of and the demand for contraception, as well as reported numbers of unintended pregnancies and births, have remained relatively stable. In high-income countries, successive waves of the pandemic may have generated short-term fluctuations in numbers of pregnancies and births. The pandemic severely restricted all forms of human mobility, including international migration. Also, the COVID-19

pandemic has affected many data collection operations worldwide. Countries and development partners should give priority to the ongoing 2020 round of national population censuses, as such data provide critical information to inform development planning and to assess progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Measuring the full impact of COVID-19 on mortality

In 2021, UN DESA co-convened with WHO the Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Mortality Estimates (TAG). In May 2022, estimates based on the TAG's work were launched, finding that 14.9 million excess deaths (range 13.3 million to 16.6 million) were directly or indirectly attributable to COVID-19 between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021, nearly 3 times the number of deaths officially reported as attributable to COVID-19. The work of the TAG brings to light the full mortality burden of the pandemic and underlines the need to better integrate national health information systems and civil registration and vital statistics systems. UN DESA will continue to support countries in strengthening statistical systems and improving evaluation and analysis of demographic data.

Global excess deaths associated with COVID-19, Jan 2020 - Dec 2021

+14.91 million
Estimated excess mortality

+5.42 million
Reported COVID-19 deaths

0 Baseline: Expected mortality under normal circumstances

Source: World Health Organization, April 2022



Drawing attention to the issue of early adolescent fertility

In 2022, for the first time, UN DESA included estimates of birth rates for adolescents aged 10-14 years in its annual update for SDG Indicator 3.7.2. Reducing adolescent fertility and addressing the multiple factors underlying it are essential for improving sexual and reproductive health and the social and economic well-being of adolescents, but data on fertility among younger adolescents were previously very limited. UN DESA undertook methodological and analytical studies to report reliable estimates for this younger age group. The data show that early adolescent childbearing is much more common in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean than in other parts of the world. Most countries with measurable levels of early fertility recorded a reduction in early adolescent fertility since 2000. The closure of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic raised concerns that adolescent girls could be at increased risk of early marriage or childbearing. Data to assess the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent fertility are not yet available.



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Intensifying international cooperation on data and statistics

UN DESA delivered the World Data Forum in Bern, Switzerland. Now in its third iteration, the forum continues to bring together various professional groups, such as information technology,

geospatial information managers, data scientists, and users. Over 700 in-person participants and more than 7,000 people joined virtually from over 100 countries around the world. The hybrid event along with the online forum platform supported intensifying cooperation between national statistical systems, international organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Among the highlights from the forum are:

- the launch of the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals to define the global data ecosystem needed to use data effectively for people, planet, prosperity, and peace;
- the Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data, a new, free online platform providing access to data on 36,000 projects, allowing aid recipients, donors, and the public at large

to understand data financing flows, identify funding gaps, and connect to new communities of experts; and

- the Global Data Facility, a new World Bank-hosted fund to support data and statistics priorities at the global, regional, national, and community levels designed in collaboration with UN DESA.

Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians

Over the past year, the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians has seen a 70% increase in users. The share of non-UN users has increased by 15 percentage points, a testament to the success of UN DESA's efforts to expand the scope of the mechanism, opening the network to a wider audience. Since



its launch in 2020, the network has attracted close to 2,400 colleagues from the National Statistical Systems (48% of all users), the global UN system (40%), academia and civil society (9%), as well as NGOs (3%). The Global Network users are based in more than 100 countries and are evenly distributed among both geographical and socio-economical regions. The Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians aims to improve coordination and collaboration among peers and organizations, to better connect existing networks and initiatives, and to provide and share information on capacity building efforts globally.

8th Global Forum on Gender Statistics

Reliable statistics on the situation of women and girls relative to men and boys are vital to monitoring progress toward gender equality. Following the successful launch of the *World's Women 2020* publication, UN DESA convened the 8th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, which was held on 30 September and 1 October 2021, with support from the Swiss Government. The Forum brought together approximately 300 experts on gender equality and gender statistics from national, regional, and international statistical offices, other government agencies, international organizations, academia, civil society, media, the

private sector, and the donor community. Compared to previous forums, the virtual format allowed for greater participation from all regions. The Forum included a keynote address by Tomas Gunnarsson, a gender photojournalist, and contributions from 39 speakers, who discussed the current and future state of gender statistics over six separate sessions. [More information on the Forum and its outcomes](#) is available.

Monitoring the impact of the pandemic on census taking activities

UN DESA is mandated to monitor the 2020 round of World Population and Housing Censuses which requires each country to conduct at least one census between 2015 and 2024. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries delayed or postponed their census activities. The Second United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Conducting Population and Housing Censuses and on Census Data Quality Concerns was organized to continue monitoring the challenges in conducting population and housing censuses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss alternative solutions in designing census operations conducted during the pandemic as well as address data quality

and comparability issues resulting from pandemic protocols and recent changes in the design of census operations. The meeting brought together census experts from NSOs, census agencies, international and regional organizations to explore challenges, good practices and lessons learned in conducting censuses during the pandemic, with a focus on the following four main topics:

- i. potential adjustments in census questionnaires to improve the relevance and quality of census data;
- ii. innovative approaches in designing census operations for reducing the adverse impact of the pandemic;
- iii. assessment of the quality of population and housing censuses concerning the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on process quality and output quality; and
- iv. effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on data analysis and comparability overtime.

New Global SDG Indicators Data Platform

Universal access to trustworthy and up-to-date data is critical for SDG monitoring. UN DESA launched the Global SDG Indicators Data Platform in September 2021. The platform improves access to the latest data for SDG monitoring and includes four components: a new, user-friendly interface to the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database, access to the SDG Country Profiles, the entirely new SDG Analytics, and Advanced Access options. Based on user feedback, updates

to the Global SDG Indicators Data Platform were deployed in March 2022, in a second release. These include the ability of users to save and share their queries, improved query navigation and data download in SDG Analytics, and dramatically improved access to SDG indicators metadata in machine-readable format via an SDMX API¹. The SDG Analytics now also includes the ability to review the availability of disaggregated data at the most elementary level. One important 'fix' provides greater clarity in the query selection of countries and areas in the Global SDG Indicators Database.

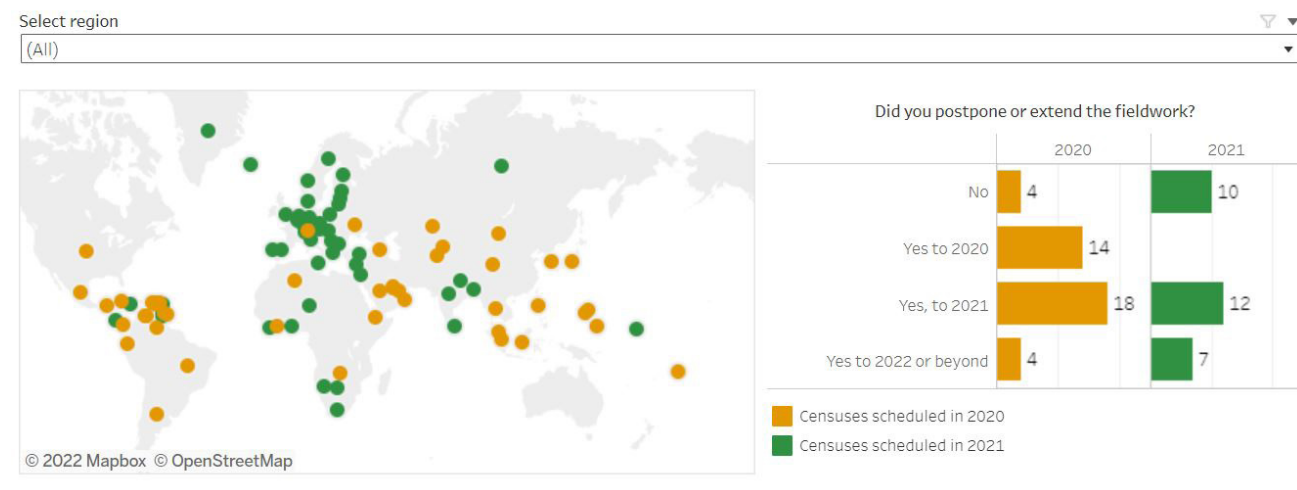
Building global geospatial capacities

In May 2022, UN DESA and the Government of China officially launched the UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China. The centre will provide opportunities to build and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capability and strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries, especially developing countries.

¹ The Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) is a standard to describe statistical data and metadata. It is the preferred standard for statistical data exchange in the United Nations and in many other statistical organizations. Among other things, SDMX defines a common data model and standardized application programming interfaces (APIs) governing data access. More information on SDMX is available via the following link: [Learning | SDMX - Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange](#)

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation of population and housing censuses

1. Countries which had to postpone or extend the enumeration of population for censuses scheduled in 2020 or 2021





PROTECTING OUR PLANET

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... for present and future generations.

Through its support to the High-level Dialogue on Energy, the Second Global Sustainable Transport Conference, United Nations Ocean Conference and the UN Forum on Forests, among others, the Department moved forward the essential truth that the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are closely interlinked, and they require multistakeholder partnership and collaboration to be implemented.

UN DESA ...

- Continued implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, leading in the preparations for the High-level Dialogue on Energy and moving forward its Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action.
- Continued its work to improve sustainable transport via the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference.
- Reinforced ocean action and global efforts to achieve SDG

14 by playing a leading role in organizing the UN Ocean Conference, a crucial event for encouraging all stakeholders to use marine resources sustainably.

- Strengthened further the interlinkages between the SDGs and the Paris Agreement through events hosted at the SDG Pavilion at COP26.
- Ensured that forests are at the centre of resiliency plans and efforts to improve preparedness.

05

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

The Secretary-General's words on the state of the planet have never been stronger: "There is one thing that threatens all our progress – the climate crisis. Unless we act now, we will not have a liveable planet." As he implores the world to end its "senseless and suicidal war against nature," UN DESA has stepped up its work to better connect the shared goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and streamline global efforts towards both. There is no more time to wait—we must take action now to enact smart policies and build lasting partnerships to manage sustainably our forests and ocean, and bring people the clean water and energy required for a liveable planet today and in the future.

Safeguarding life below water

Healthy oceans are the foundation of climate regulation and sustainable development, yet the planet's marine ecosystems continue to be under threat from rising sea levels, pollution, ocean acidification and habitat loss. At the same time ocean-based economies and communities have also been deeply impacted by

the COVID-19 pandemic, causing setbacks in ongoing efforts in ocean management, monitoring and science. The UN Ocean Conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 27 June to 1 July 2022 to galvanise global action to save our ocean under the theme "Scaling Up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions". DESA was involved in all aspects of the conference



from supporting the intergovernmental negotiations, to preparing background documentation, gathering voluntary commitments, and coordinating all aspects of the programme in close cooperation with other UN departments including Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and Department of Global Communications. More than 6,000 participants from 150 countries, including 24 Heads of State and Government and over 2,000 representatives of civil society participated in the conference.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the UN Ocean Conference featured eight interactive dialogues, which provided deep dives into areas such as addressing marine pollution, minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming, and promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries. There were also four special events and more than 250 side events. The special events focused on youth-led innovation, the sustainable blue economy, fresh- and saltwater interlinkages, and ocean action at the local and regional level. Amongst the outputs of the conference, countries agreed on an action plan that calls for a collective global response to addressing the ocean's degradation. The Lisbon Declaration, "Our ocean, our future, our responsibility," was adopted at the closing plenary, which set out specific science-based and innovative actions, taking into account the capacity challenges of developing countries. DESA also helped to coordinate an SDG Media Zone in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, the PVBLIC Foundation and media partners, which brought together UN principals, influencers including actor Jason Momoa and industry leaders to talk about innovative solutions and initiatives that address the global challenges facing the ocean and advanced discussions out of the policy sphere and into the public discourse through a live format of interviews and panel discussions.

"Going forward, it will be important that we renew our focus on ocean action. We need to do this by focusing on improving the scientific basis for our decisions, by



improving the science-policy interface, and by engaging in scientific partnerships that build capacity through mutual learning,"
- UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, Liu Zhenmin.

Healthy forests are key to building a resilient future

The vital role of forests in securing a greener future for people and planet was highlighted at the 17th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF17), held from 9 to 13 May 2022. Around 300 representatives from governments, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders, came together to share their experiences in sustainable forest management. The forum emphasized the role of forests in addressing many challenges, from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the impacts of a changing climate and biodiversity loss. UNFF17 adopted an omnibus resolution which identified actions to be taken by the forum in its key areas of work, including on implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030; means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN); monitoring, assessment, and reporting; and preparations for the midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in 2024.



The forum stressed the need to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Global Forest Goals by 2030. Delegates emphasized the need to support countries in their effort to strengthen their national policy frameworks on forests, including for forest restoration readiness and to improve access to technologies, capacity building and forest finance, including climate finance. The need for robust data on tracking progress towards the Global Forest Goals was noted and the importance of supporting countries in their voluntary national reporting was highlighted in this regard.

Unleashing the power of natural resources for the 2030 Agenda

Sustainable management of natural resources, which plays a critical role in the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, was the focus of the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Natural Resources in March 2022. The issue of natural resources cuts across the pillars of the work of the United Nations and collaboration on sustainable management

of natural resources among the intergovernmental bodies can foster economic and social development and promote peace by preventing the use of natural resources as a cause of conflict. Given the complexities involved, sustainable management of natural resources requires a whole-of-society approach. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, including its tripartite arrangement, has been instrumental in reducing the trade of illicit diamonds and promoting legitimate rough diamond trade. Its principles and objectives could inform an inclusive and sustainable approach to transform extractive industries. Furthermore, sustainable management of natural resources should also entail the promotion of value addition, which would be instrumental for addressing inequalities within and between countries.

Securing a clean energy future

The Secretary-General convened the High-level Dialogue on Energy in September 2021. As the first global summit-level meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General

Assembly in 40 years, the dialogue was a historic opportunity to catalyse bold action to ensure access to clean and affordable energy services for all by 2030, while accelerating the energy transition towards net-zero emissions by 2050. Under the leadership of Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, as Secretary-General of the high-level dialogue, UN DESA functioned as Secretariat, helping in the preparation of the event and aiding in the development of a Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action. More than 100 Member States, including 30 Heads of State and Government, participated in this event, which was followed by almost 1,500 viewers worldwide. Over 150 Energy Compacts comprised of voluntary commitments by governments, private sector and civil society were announced. Together, these commitments sum-up to more than US\$400 billion in new finance and investment towards SDG 7 and securing a net-zero carbon emission future.

The Global Roadmap sets an aggressive timeline to ensure that 500 million more people gain access to electricity by 2025, and 1 billion more people gain access to clean cooking solutions. It also calls for fossil fuel consumption subsidies to be re-directed towards renewable energy and energy efficiency; a 100% increase in modern renewables capacity globally; a doubling of annual investment in renewables and energy efficiency globally; and 30 million jobs to be created in renewable energy and energy efficiency. These will help ensure an inclusive, green recovery by investing in poverty reduction, health, education and social protection.

Furthermore, UN DESA launched two reports in June, [Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2022](#) and the [SDG7 Policy Briefs 2022: Addressing Energy's Interlinkages with other SDGs](#). The Department held an event in June to promote the report's key findings. The event was co-hosted by the Co-Chairs of



the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy, with participation from Anne Beathe Tvinnereimopen, the Norwegian Minister of International Development, Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Usha Rao-Monari, Associate Administrator of UNDP, Riccardo Puliti, World Bank Vice-President for Infrastructure, and others.

Promoting sustainable mobility of people and goods

The Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference was held from 14 to 16 October 2021 in Beijing, China, under the overall theme of “Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development”. The Secretary-General and seven Heads of State and Government addressed the conference (China, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, Turkmenistan and Zimbabwe), as well

as 44 Ministers and other high-level government representatives. Approximately 1,000 participants representing more than 130 governments, 43 UN system entities and IGOs and about 200 stakeholders from the business sector, scientific community and civil society joined the event in person. The livestream coverage of the meetings has received more than 30,000 views to date.

The conference featured opening and closing ceremonies, three high-level plenary sessions, a Ministers’ Forum, a Science Technology and Innovation Forum, and a Business Forum. Six thematic sessions with robust multi-stakeholder participation were also held on various aspects related to sustainable transport, including poverty eradication, COVID-19 economic recovery, and climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. The deliberations were further enriched by 27 virtual side events and an onsite exhibition.



The conference was opened and closed by Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, as Conference Secretary-General, who also co-chaired two plenary sessions, spoke at the Ministers’ Forum and thematic session 5 on transport policies and delivered opening and closing press-conferences. Throughout the discussions, key features of sustainable transport – universal and affordable access, improved safety, greater efficiency, enhanced resilience and lowered environmental impact – were presented not as an end in itself, but as an essential means to achieve the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. All modes of transport—road, rail, aviation and waterborne—were addressed. The urgency of decarbonizing the transport sector while leaving no one behind was a recurrent theme. An interagency report, Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development, produced by DESA in consultation with UN and other agencies, served as the main substantive input to the conference.

At the closing ceremony, the Beijing Statement was presented by the Minister of Transport of China, in his capacity as Conference Chair, to serve as a framework for implementation of transport-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to practice, it will be submitted by China to the UN Secretary-General and will be issued as a General Assembly document.

In the lead-up to the conference, a new online repository was created to capture information about ongoing and new commitments and efforts by Member States and all other actors in support of sustainable transport. This repository will remain open and registrations will continue to be encouraged in connection with other upcoming events as well as in support of the Decade of Action for the SDGs.

“We have the opportunity now to capture the innovation and technology that can revolutionize transport, but these new technologies have to work for everyone. We have the solutions, and now we need the global cooperation to

ensure that sustainable transport will be the engine that powers our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.”
– Conference Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Strengthening links between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement

To demonstrate the connections between climate action and SDG acceleration, DESA hosted the SDG Pavilion in the expo space at COP26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November. Experts from across the UN system and from stakeholder groups came to DESA’s SDG Pavilion to participate in discussions on ocean management, sustainable water and energy, forests, and climate and SDG financing, in a hybrid in-person and virtual format. One highlight event during the first week featured the Executive Secretaries of the five UN Regional Commissions, who discussed best practices for bridging the gap on climate financing. Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin participated in several high-level events virtually, including events related to the UN Ocean Conference and the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Partnerships Network.

COP26 marked the third time that DESA organized the SDG Pavilion, providing a highly visible platform for showcasing the Department’s thought leadership on energy, the ocean, transport, water, small island developing States (SIDS), and more, making clear links between the 2030 Agenda and the goals of the Paris Agreement. Key events featured the SDG 7 Global Roadmap, the independent group of scientists working on the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, and the energy-climate-transport nexus related to SIDS. Overall, more than 40 events were held, featuring about 200 speakers joining virtual or in person, close to 1,000 on-site participants and over 1,500 attendees joining through digital platforms.

Further strengthening the SDG and Paris Agreement connection, DESA and UNFCCC co-convened the Third Global Conference on Synergizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, in July in Tokyo, Japan. The conference was hosted by Japan's Ministry of the Environment in partnership with the United Nations University (UNU) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). DESA Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin and Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, delivered opening remarks, joined by high-level messages from the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Minister of the Environment of Japan and other high-level officials. The Conference was attended by several hundreds of participants, either in-person or online, including over 100 speakers from around the world. The event brought together stakeholders committed to breaking down silos between these two tracks of work to eliminate duplicative work and streamline implementation of their shared goals.

Underscoring this important work to connect the two agendas, DESA released its Climate Review in December to illustrate how the Department's work on each SDG is connected to SDG 13 Climate Action and helps realize the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Recognizing the need for Harmony with Nature

On 22 April, the eleventh Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature to Commemorate the International Mother Earth Day was held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. DESA, in collaboration with the Office of the PGA and the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, supported the event, under the theme of "Harmony with Nature and Biodiversity: Contributions of Ecological Economics and Earth-centred Law". The President of the General Assembly opened the dialogue along with the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the Vice-President and Minister of Ecological Transition of Spain. The opening session was followed by keynote speakers from the European Union, Belgium, New Zealand, India, and Chile.

The dialogue was composed of two panels on "Earth-centred Law to Protect Biodiversity in Harmony with Nature" and "Ecological Economics to Protect Biodiversity in Harmony with Nature".

Prioritizing clean water for all

The Second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 was convened by the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, in June 2022, under the theme, "Catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels". Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, together with the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, co-chaired the conference and moderated two plenary sessions and the closing session. The conference was attended by more than 2,700 participants from 160 countries and 80 official delegations. As a main outcome the conference adopted the [Dushanbe Declaration](#), "From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023."





FRAMING THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT

... to build greater resilience and preparedness.

UN DESA helped Member States better understand the complex challenges created by recurrent crises by monitoring, analyzing, and forecasting social, economic, and demographic trends. UN DESA also helped Member States build greater resilience and preparedness through targeted capacity-development activities and by building tools to help improve governance.

UN DESA ...

- Studied the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises on the 2030 Agenda and examined the options available for the global community to achieve the SDGs.
- Supported the deliberations by the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda.
- Provided evidence-based analysis of the linkages between population growth and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- Provided a view of the challenges faced by LDCs and developing countries in recovering and emerging from the multiple crises affecting the world.
- Explored the opportunities, challenges, key policies and investments needed to build productive capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS as well as MICs.
- Highlighted the importance of public institutions and public servants in building back better as they work to meet the 2030 deadline for implementing the SDGs.
- Provided training on useful tools and new techniques for digital governance that can help improve the efficiency and reach of services.

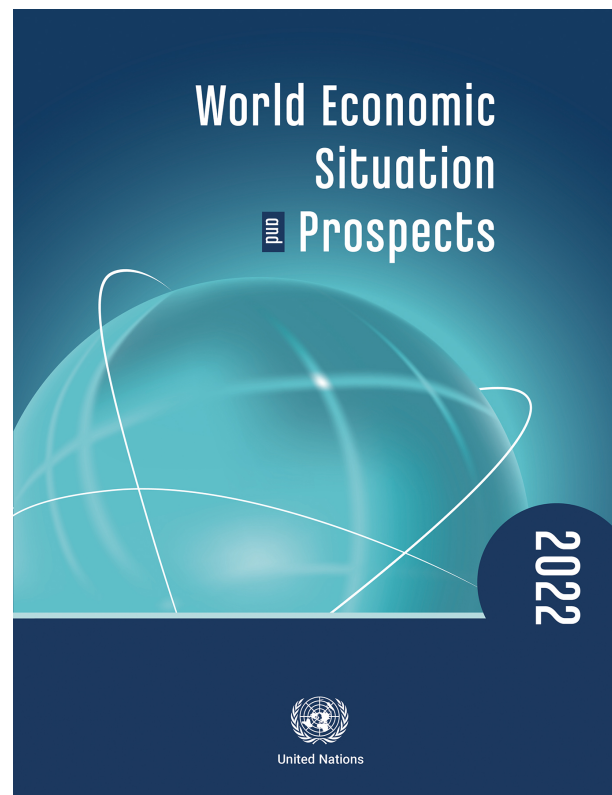
06

FRAMING THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT

In 2021-2022 the world experienced a combination of long-term and short-term crises with interlinked and compounding effects on the achievement of the SDGs and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Climate change is causing more droughts, floods, and severe weather events. The COVID-19 pandemic lingers on, slowing economic growth, increasing unemployment, raising poverty and hunger, and especially impacting women and children. The war in the Ukraine is affecting the lives of those in and around the conflict directly, and having a broader effect on global commodity markets, finance, and the nature of global partnerships, and all with the greatest effect on the people and countries least able to respond. UN DESA's analytical capacity and training programmes were leveraged to help countries better understand how to build greater resilience to recurrent crises and forge the best pathways for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Analyzing the economic impact of the concurrent crises

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022* (WESP) analyzed the increasingly fragile recovery of the global economy. It reviewed, among others, the macroeconomic and development impacts of the quantitative easing (QE) implemented by the major central banks. The report highlighted that while QE kept interest rates low and boosted asset prices worldwide, investments remained inadequate to stimulate growth. The global supply chain disruptions, particularly in food and energy, since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, adversely impacted many developing countries, as highlighted in the WESP mid-year update. While concern about energy security dented the global efforts to deal with the climate emergency, the report advocated economic recovery through the sustainable path, investing in renewable energy to enhance energy resilience. The WESP continued to draw significant attention in 2022, topping the DESA downloads in the first half of the year. The January launch was covered in close to 1,600 media articles in 96 countries, 58% more coverage



than 2021. There was also 33% growth in social media mentions and a 48% increase in social media engagement over 2021.

Ensuring progress during crises: Charting the way forward for the SDGs

UN DESA examined the potential impact of the current crises on SDG progress and the additional effort that will be needed to ensure the 2030 Agenda is achieved. The analysis was published in the policy brief "Ensuring SDG progress amid recurrent crises", which focused on the influence of crises on the SDGs and the policy implications through seven channels: i) Economic growth, inequality, fiscal expenditures, and sustainability; ii) Inflation, interest rate, financial flows and investment; iii) Global trade and supply chains; iv) Migration, remittances and labour markets; v) Changes in individual and collective behaviour; vi) Resilience and capacity to respond to future shocks; and vii) Policy shifts in prominent economies and regions. The research found that the confluence of crises puts countries in a perpetual crisis

mode, with limited room to recover and invest in sustainable development. These additional difficulties call for a redoubling of investments to accelerate SDG progress. The Policy Brief was presented to Member States and policy makers at a side-event at the 2022 HLPF, with nearly 130 registered participants.

Similarly, the *Sustainable Development Outlook 2021* charted a way forward for the global community to achieve the SDGs, despite the setback caused by COVID-19. Launched in September 2021, the report focused on SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 2 (hunger), SDG 3 (health and well-being), SDG 8 (growth and employment), SDG 10 (inequality), and their interlinkages. The report presented plausible future scenarios for SDG progress, focused on cross-cutting policy efforts with potential for positive impact on multiple SDGs. Achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require additional investments in key areas: accelerating vaccination by making the COVID-19 vaccine a public good; strengthening access to quality and affordable universal health coverage and social protection; pursuing structural transformation aimed at growth, equity and environmental



protection; strengthening international solidarity; sharing the Earth equitably with other species; and harnessing the crisis response efforts to overcome political barriers to difficult policy changes.

Forwarding Our Common Agenda

Following the release of the report of the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda, in September 2021, UN DESA has been providing solid support to the follow-up to and deliberations on the report's development-focused proposals. Drawing on its interdisciplinary thought leadership, the Department serves as lead or co-lead to move forward the work on international tax cooperation, legal identity, and civil society engagement, among others, and is supporting Member State consideration of a possible World Social Summit in 2025 and a Biennial Summit on the Global Economy. The Department has taken a future-focused and collaborative approach working across its various workstreams and across the UN system, to engage a broad range of entities.

Building resilient and sustainable digital societies and economies

UN DESA is partnering with UN ESCAP in a forward-looking initiative to explore the viability of technology sandboxes through building the institutional capacity of Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Maldives. This innovative and catalytic approach to digital government development is expected to accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

Sandboxes have gained popularity in fintech in recent years but could go beyond the financial sector to others, including health, education, transport, energy, connectivity and the digital economy, in fast-tracking smart and risk-aware implementation of digital policies.

The promise of sandboxes allows evidence-based decision-making and adaptive deployment of digital technologies in the pursuit of development aims. It allows institutions and regulators to experiment with digital technologies and innovations at the edge or even outside of the existing policy space and regulatory framework.

Changing mindsets for public sector transformation to achieve the SDGs

UN DESA organized a workshop on, "Innovation, Digital Government, and Changing Mindsets for Public Sector Transformation in Guyana to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", in March 2022, in collaboration with the Government of Guyana, the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and with the support of the Resident Coordinator Office. The training was attended by around seventy Permanent and Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Regional Executive Officers, and Chief Executive Officers of Guyana. The participants worked together to identify strengths, challenges, recommendations, actions, and priorities to inform a Roadmap for Public Sector

Transformation, Innovation, and Digital Government and Changing Mindsets in Guyana. Participants agreed to establish a Steering Committee for public sector transformation in Guyana. The recommendations and roadmap will be presented to the Cabinet for further action.

"The Capacity Development Training Workshop on Innovation, Digital Government and Changing Mindsets for Public Sector Transformation in Guyana to Achieve the SDGs has started a journey toward exceptional things for the public service as there is an abundance of resources that need to be supported by an advanced/modernized public service framework."

- Guyana Ministry of Public Service

Planning a sustainable future for a growing global population

A path towards a more sustainable future requires demographic foresight to guide countries in policy formulation and implementation. UN DESA's *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*, launched in February 2022, examines the linkages between population growth and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UN DESA's medium-variant projections anticipate that global population may grow by 3 billion people over the rest of the 21st century. Rapid population growth makes it more difficult for low-income and lower-middle-income countries to afford the increase in public expenditures on a per capita basis that is needed to eradicate poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, and ensure universal access to health care, education and other essential services.

A decline in fertility and the resulting youthful population in some regions present an opportunity for accelerated economic growth if sufficient improvements are made in education, health, gender equality and access to decent work for all.

The report underscores that higher incomes contribute more to environmental degradation than population growth. Limiting adverse climate change impacts will require rapid progress towards decoupling economic activity from environmental degradation. The need for rapid and sustained growth of economies in low-income and lower-middle-income countries will require wealthy countries and the international community to assist these countries with the necessary technical and financial assistance to minimize environmental impacts.

Multiple crises take their toll on the most vulnerable countries

Least developed countries, the most vulnerable among developing countries, have been hit particularly hard by the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, despite having been mostly spared the worst direct health impacts that affected several other countries. The UN DESA-led analysis by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) from 2021 has sadly proven to be on point. Recovery from the pandemic affects the development of LDCs in multiple ways, including their graduation from the LDC category. The 2022 [monitoring reports](#) focus on country-specific impacts of the multiple crises. By enhancing the [monitoring system](#) of countries graduating and graduated from the LDC category, the CDP and its secretariat established a system that can create linkages between external shocks and graduation-related international support.

Even if times are tough for everyone, there is a need to focus to build resilience of those that are most in need. Even though the pandemic is still not over, the ongoing war in Ukraine is a further blow, not only for global peace and security but also for LDCs exposed to the resulting disruptions in food, energy and financial markets. Detailed monitoring by UN DESA is ongoing and will allow for the tracking of impacts and vulnerabilities of LDCs and other developing countries in the near-time, highlighting the widespread negative impacts while accounting for significant heterogeneities. The result of the on-going monitoring are available on the [web](#).





Building productive capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs

The opportunities, challenges, key policies and investments needed to build productive capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and middle-income countries (MICs) were discussed at the joint meeting of the General Assembly and ECOSOC in October 2021. The joint meeting, organized with the support of UN DESA and UNCTAD, was presided over by the Chair of the Second Committee and the President of the ECOSOC. Building productive capacities in these groups of countries was considered as critical step for recovering better, accelerating economic growth, addressing persisting vulnerabilities and getting back on track towards achieving the SDGs. The joint meeting also explored innovative solutions, key interventions and enabling policies to facilitate and augment the long-term resilience of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs to future shocks through building productive capacities.

Recognizing public service innovations to help the world recover better from COVID-19

UN DESA recognized ten initiatives in 2022 for their innovative public service delivery with the prestigious UN Public Service Awards. The UN Public Service Awards recognize excellence in public service delivery that promotes effectiveness, transparency, and inclusiveness to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2022 UN Public Service Award winners were announced by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, during a virtual event to commemorate UN Public Service Day.

In 2022, a new category on institutional resilience and innovative responses to COVID-19 was introduced to highlight the immense efforts and good practices that public institutions have implemented to fight COVID-19 and contain the social and economic fallout from the pandemic. Under this special category, four initiatives

were recognized including the Saudi Data and AI Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the Tawakkalna App; the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate of the Republic of Poland, for the System of Records of the State Sanitary Inspection (SEPI); the National Authority for Government Innovation of the Republic of Panama, for Panavac19; and the Department of Rural and Community Development of the Republic of Ireland, for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. Other recipients included initiatives from Brazil, Canada, India, the Philippines, Thailand, and Ukraine.

Building country-capacity to navigate the pandemic

UN DESA has developed an e-learning program on the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This engaging series of courses provides government officials, policymakers, and other stakeholders with additional insights to better navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic and develop more effective mitigation policies.

Five thematic courses, each consisting of 3 to 5 modules, cover several issues addressed by UN DESA policy briefs. Topics include:

- Macroeconomic impacts focusing on projections of global and regional contractions;
- The social effects of the pandemic, such as inequalities and the effect on vulnerable groups;
- The need for a better science-policy-society interface, along with more effective governance for crisis response and recovery;
- The differential impacts of COVID-19 on countries in special circumstances; and
- Policy recommendations for mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Social and Economic Impact online learning program is available for free on [DESA's Digital Learning Centre](#).

Sharing knowledge and good practices with the public

Since July 2020, UN DESA has organized its Global Policy Dialogue Series as a way to share with the public solutions to the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. The sessions are dynamic, with the Department using its convening power to bring together thought leaders and its own socioeconomic experts to consider today's major issues in a conversational format that attracts a wide audience. From September 2021 through April 2022, UN DESA organized a "Future of the World" series of Global Policy Dialogues looking ahead to some of the key challenges and opportunities of the coming years, including the Future of Work, Future of Community, Future of Our Planet, Future of Money, Future of Trust in Government, Future of Population Growth and Future of Sustainable Development Financing. In each session, key representatives from the UN system, business, academia, civil society and youth shared their ideas for how we can best prepare now for our common future.

ANNEXES



- UN DESA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
- UN DESA ORGANIZATION CHART
- KEY MILESTONES AND MOMENTS OF THE 76TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- KEY MILESTONES AND MOMENTS OF THE 77TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Mr. Li Junhua
Under-Secretary-General

Mr. Li Junhua took office as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, effective 30 August 2022. He succeeds Mr. Liu Zhenmin, who served as Under-Secretary-General from July 2017 through July 2022.

As Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Li guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Li oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

Prior to joining UN DESA, Mr. Li served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Italy and San Marino. Prior to this, he was Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (2013-2019). He has contributed to numerous meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as other multilateral meetings including the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), BRICS etc.

Mr. Li began his career at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1985. Since then, he has served in various capacities, including as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Myanmar (2010-2012), Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences (2008-2010), Minister Counselor (Political), Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations (2003-2008), Division Director and Counselor in charge of UN General Assembly and Security Council Affairs (2001-2003), Second and First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nation (1997-2001). Third and Second Secretary, the Department of International Organizations and Conferences (1992-1997) and Assistant to the Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of China to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok (1986-1992).

Mr. Li holds a Master's in International Public Policy, School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University. Mr. Li is married.



Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano

Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter Agency Affairs

Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano joined UN DESA as the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in March 2019. Between January 2020 and July 2022, she also led the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. As Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Spatolisano assists the Under-Secretary-General in the overall strategic guidance of the Department, with particular focus on ensuring the effective integration and contribution of its work within broader inter-agency initiatives and guiding the mainstreaming of broader organizational priorities into UN DESA's work, including in implementation of Our Common Agenda. She also guides the Department's strategic approach to effective inclusion and engagement, including on gender equality and the empowerment of women, youth participation and disability-inclusion.

Ms. Spatolisano has over 30 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. Prior to her appointment she was responsible for international organizations and development dialogue with other donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In that capacity, she ensured the European Union's presence and developed its positions on development policy in a number of international forums, including the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty, where she represented the bloc in its Development Working Group.

Ms. Spatolisano served as the European Union Ambassador to OECD, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Monaco and Andorra. She was also a member of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section. She covered all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) and in the Economic and Social Council, also serving as the European Commission representative to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). Prior to that role she served in the Washington Delegation of the European Commission and was the representative of the European Commission to the Trade and Development Committee of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law (cum laude) from Florence University. She went on to research and teach at the Florence University Law School for seven years.



Mr. Navid Hanif

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development
Officer-in-Charge, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

Mr. Navid Hanif took office as the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, effective 1 July 2022. As Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Hanif assists the Under-Secretary-General in the overall strategic guidance of the Department, with particular focus on ensuring the quality and value-added of its thought leadership and analytical work, its support to the broader UN development system and its support to countries in special situations.

Mr. Hanif has more than 30 years of experience in national and international civil service, encompassing analytical work, policymaking, programme planning, capacity development, multilateral diplomacy and extensive knowledge of the United Nations system. He first joined UN DESA in 2001 until 2003, serving as Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for UN DESA and focused on departmental initiatives in various policy areas. He worked as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support from 2004 to 2009. In 2005, he was sent on a special one-year assignment to work as a Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. He worked there as a member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In 2010, he was appointed as Head of the newly established UN DESA Strategic Planning Unit. He later served as Director of the former Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, from 2012 to 2018 and as Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office from 2018-2022.

Mr. Hanif holds a Master's in International Political Economy, from Columbia University, New York and a Master's in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.



Ms. Daniela Bas

Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development



Ms. Daniela Bas has been the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) since May 2011.

Through DISD, UN DESA serves as the UN system focal point on youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, families, cooperatives, the social dimensions of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and sport for development and peace, and coordinates follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. As such, Ms. Bas oversees the Department's support to the Commission for Social Development, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and manages its analytical and capacity development work on the social dimension of sustainable development and inclusion, poverty, decent work and inequalities.

Ms. Bas served previously in the United Nations from 1986 to 1995 and held managerial roles in the private sector in Italy, until 2000. From 2000-2011, Ms. Bas served as an advocate and adviser on issues of inclusion and non-discrimination, including as adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy. On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she served as Board Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defence of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Ms. Bas was also the special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini) on human rights, democracy, and social affairs.

Ms. Bas has a background in political science with a major in International Politics. She is also a certified life coach and journalist and worked for the major press, radio, and television networks in Italy.



Mr. John Wilmoth

Director, Population Division

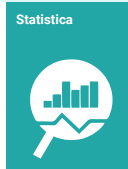


Mr. Wilmoth joined as Director of the UN DESA Population Division in December 2013. He oversees the Department's support to the Commission on Population and Development and to intergovernmental discussions on international migration in follow-up to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Under his leadership, the Population Division continues to upgrade its production of internationally comparable population data, which are essential inputs to the global monitoring of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to his appointment as the Director of the Population Division, Mr. Wilmoth served as Professor in the Department of Demography of the University of California at Berkeley. He also served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the World Bank from 2009 to 2012, leading the development of new global estimates of maternal mortality. He also served previously in the UN DESA Population Division as Chief of the Mortality Section from 2005 to 2007.

Mr. Wilmoth is a member of the Population Association of America and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and has served on the editorial boards of leading demographic journals. He is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers examining various aspects of population dynamics and population issues, including the causes of the historical decline of human mortality, prospects for future trends in life expectancy, the impact of population ageing on public pension and healthcare systems, popular perceptions of population growth and its consequences, and methodologies for estimating and projecting demographic trends.

Mr. Wilmoth holds a joint Ph.D. in Statistics and Demography from Princeton University.



Mr. Stefan Schweinfest

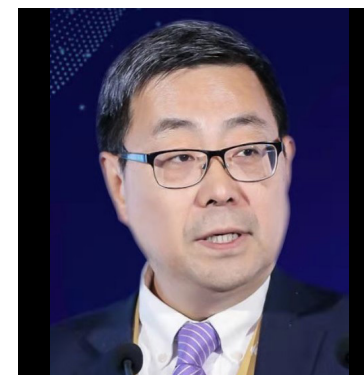
Director, Statistics Division

Mr. Schweinfest joined the Statistics Division in 1989 and has served as the substantive secretary of two intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) since 2002, and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM) since 2011.

Mr. Schweinfest supported the work of the Statistical Commission and its Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to develop the global indicator framework to monitor progress towards the SDGs. Under his leadership, the Statistics Division works on implementing this framework and ensuring countries receive capacity-building support to monitor progress towards the SDGs.

He played a key role in the negotiations leading to the 2011 ECOSOC resolution to establish UN- GGIM and has actively involved himself with global geospatial information management since, including the negotiations leading to a second ECOSOC resolution in 2016 that strengthens and broadens the mandate of this Committee of Experts.

He studied Mathematical Economics at the Universities of Wuerzburg and Bonn in Germany. He holds a Diplome D'Etudes Approfondies (Masters equivalent) from the University of Paris in these fields. He also conducted postgraduate research at the London School of Economics.



Mr. Juwang Zhu

Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
Officer-in-Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals

Mr. Juwang Zhu leads the Division for Public Institutional and Digital Government in promoting inclusive, effective, accountable institutions that are well equipped to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 16. He also currently serves as Officer-in-Charge of the global secretariat for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on providing substantive support, integrated policy analysis, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity-development in the thematic areas such as natural resources, water, energy, climate, ocean, transport, science and technology, as well as special concerns of small island developing States (SIDS).

Prior to his current role, Mr. Zhu served as Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA from 2008 to 2013. In that capacity he advised the Under-Secretary-General on policy and management issues and coordinated the Department's substantive advice to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on development issues and on the restructuring of UN DESA's capacity-building programme.

Mr. Zhu was Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and assisted in coordinating support for the Conference. He also contributed to the Departmental support for Rio+20 follow-up. As Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals from 2016 to 2019, Mr. Zhu coordinated the Secretariat support for the HLPF, the UN Ocean Conference, and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

Mr. Zhu graduated from the Shanghai International Studies University in 1982 and did post- graduate studies in Beijing Foreign Studies University. He has an MSc in financial economics from University of London and an MA in international relations from Webster University.



Ms. Marion Barthélemy

Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development

Ms. Marion Barthélemy has served as Director of the UN DESA Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development since 2018. She was Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government from 2016 to 2018.

From 2012 to 2016, Ms. Barthélemy was Chief of the Intergovernmental Support Branch in the former UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development. In this capacity, she was part of the team supporting the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda. She subsequently led the drafting of the Secretary-General's report on operationalizing the review architecture of the 2030 Agenda, including the Voluntary National Reviews. From 2007 to 2012, she served as Chief of the Development Cooperation Policy Branch in the former UN DESA Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, where she supported the Development Cooperation Forum and the General Assembly's quadrennial policy review of UN system country-level activities (QCPR).

From 2000 to 2005, she served in the Office of two Under-Secretary-Generals for Economic and Social Affairs (Mr. Nitin Desai and Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo), supported the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination (Mr. Patrizio Civili) and served in the Office of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, as Special Assistant to the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (Ms. Louise Frechette).

Ms. Barthélemy joined the United Nations in 1987 through the National Competitive Exam for economists. At the beginning of her career, Ms. Barthélemy worked as an economist in the Division for the Advancement of Women and later in the United Nations Drug Control Programme, supporting the Secretary of the International Narcotics Board.

Ms. Marion Barthélemy studied in the Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris, "Sciences Po", with a focus on macroeconomic and social policies.



Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee

Director, Economic Analysis and Policy Division

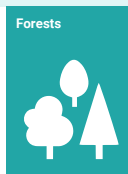
Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee was appointed Director of the UN DESA Economic Analysis and Policy Division in December 2022. In this position he oversees the Division's work on macroeconomic monitoring, modelling and forecasting; the economic analysis of emerging and long-run trends that relate to sustainable development; reviewing the development progress of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including the secretariat support to the Committee on Development Policy (CDP); and the substantive support to the UN Economists' Network (UNEN), as well as to economic policy related capacity building in developing countries.

Prior to this appointment he served as Chief of the Integrated Policy Analysis Branch in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals where his team led the work on integrated SDG analysis with a special focus on harnessing science and technology for the SDGs. In this capacity, he oversaw the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, as well as the substantive back-stopping to the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.

He began his career in the UN system with the United Nations Development Programme, where he led the research team at the "Human Development Report Office". Prior to that, he led the MDG team in UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy where his work included both global policy analysis as well as support to national and local governments, including extensive collaboration with UN and other multilateral entities.

A micro-economist with interests in poverty, health and sustainability, Mr. Mukherjee began his career in his native India working on development policy and public finance as part of the national government.

Mr. Mukherjee earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University and holds advanced degrees in Public Policy, and in Physics.



Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo

Director, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

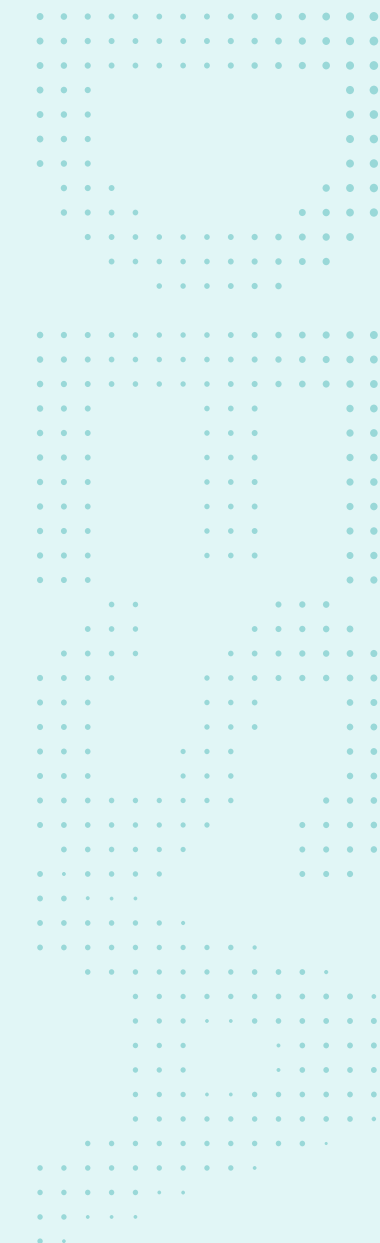
Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo was appointed as Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2022.

She has a wealth of experience in international development and 32 cumulative years managing complex initiatives across Africa, in Latin America, and Canada, with a focus on the environment, community livelihood and gender equality. She has worked with a range of international organizations developing, managing or mobilizing resources.

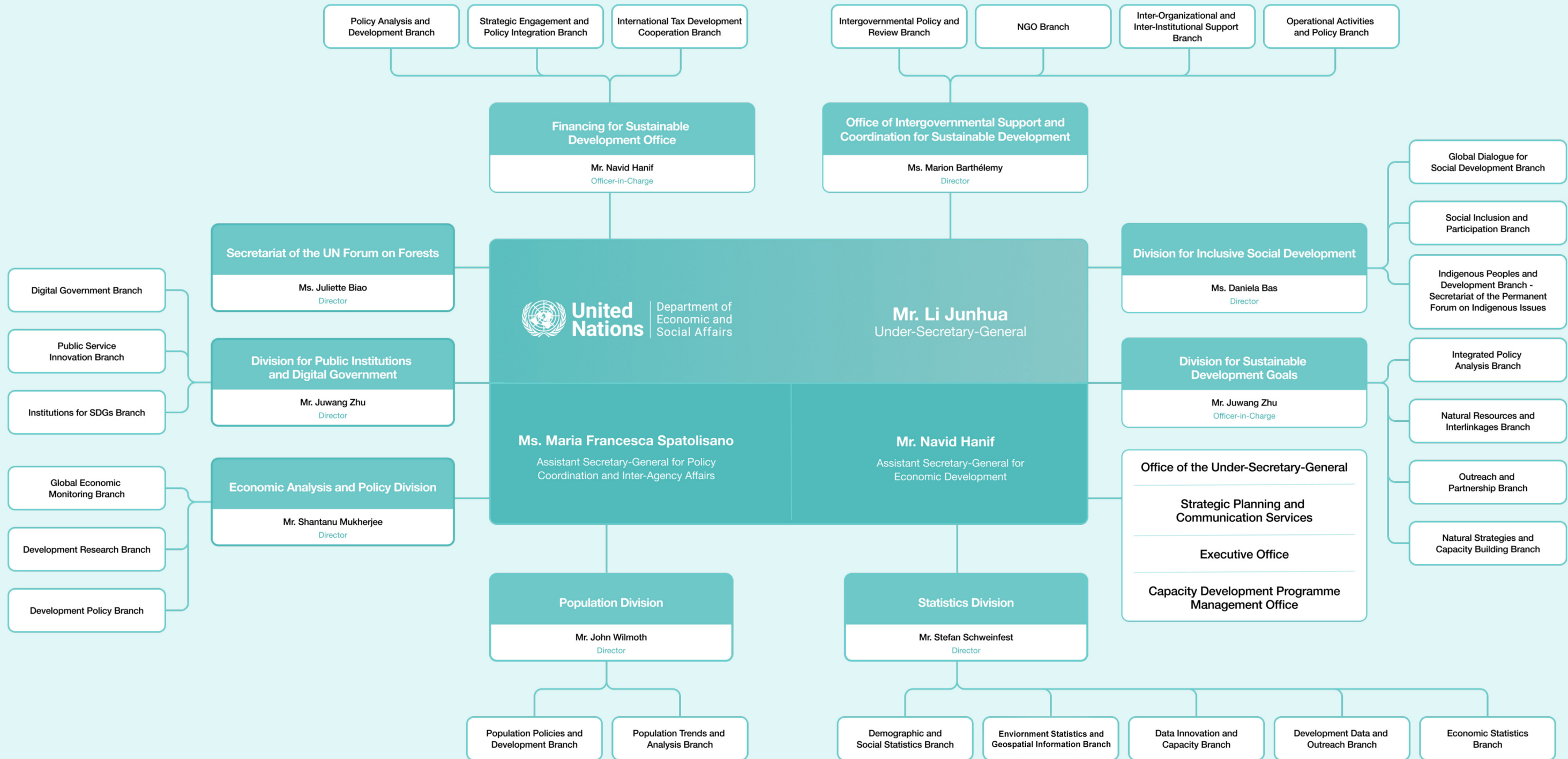
Prior to her appointment in UN DESA, Ms. Biao, worked in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi where she served for over six years as the Director and Regional Representative for Africa. She worked previously with Canadian Crossroads International as the Director of Programmes, has served the Canadian Centre for international Studies and Cooperation as the Regional Director for Africa, and has worked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Office for West Africa. She also worked for seven years with a private sector organization.

Ms. Biao has served in her native Benin as Minister of Environment and Nature Protection as well as Acting Minister of Family and the Child. As the first female forester in West Africa, Ms. Biao pioneered ground-breaking initiatives including participatory management of protected areas. She has won the Global Women's Leadership and Green Future Leadership Awards and was named Commander of the National Order of Merit.

Ms. Biao Koudenoukpo holds an M.Sc. in Forestry Economics and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University.



UN DESA Organigramme



ECOSOC Functional Commission (Intergovernmental) [Supported by UN DESA]	ECOSOC Advisory Bodies (Experts) [Supported by UN DESA]
High-level Intergovernmental Meeting	Publication/Dataset Launch

Key moments and milestones of the 76th General Assembly

Month	Key moments and milestones
September 2021	14 Opening of the 76th session of the General Assembly
	17 Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Resumed)
	20 SDG Moment
	20 Sustainable Development Outlook 2021: From anguish to determination
	24 High-level Dialogue on Energy
	30 Opening of the 76th session of the Second Committee
	30 Sep - 1 Oct 8th Global Forum on Gender Statistics
October	1 International Day for Older Persons
	3-6 UN World Data Forum
	5 Opening of the 76th session of the Third Committee
	12 Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Development: Interagency report for second Global Sustainable Transport Conference
	14-16 Second Global Sustainable Transport Conference
	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
	19-28 Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
	28 Adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the review of the functioning of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including its funding arrangements
	31 World Cities Day
	31 Oct - 12 Nov 26th Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 26)
November	19 World Toilet Day
December	3 International Day for Persons with Disabilities
	6-10 Internet Governance Forum
	13-15 UN Public Service Forum
	15 Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission
	18 International Migrants Day
	20 International Human Solidarity Day
January 2022	13 World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022
	24 Jan - 2 Feb Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
	25 Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs
February	2 ECOSOC Partnership Forum
	3-4 ECOSOC Coordination Segment
	14 Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
	7-16 Commission for Social Development
	20 World Day of Social Justice
	21-25 Committee for Development Policy
	23 Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development
28 Feb - 2 and 4 Mar Statistical Commission	
March	14-25 Commission on the Status of Women
	18 ECOSOC Special Meeting on Natural Resources, Peaceful Societies and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Kimberley Process
	21 International Day of Forests
	21 World Down Syndrome Day
	22 World Water Day
	29 Mar - 1 Apr Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
	25 World Population Policies 2021: Policies related to fertility

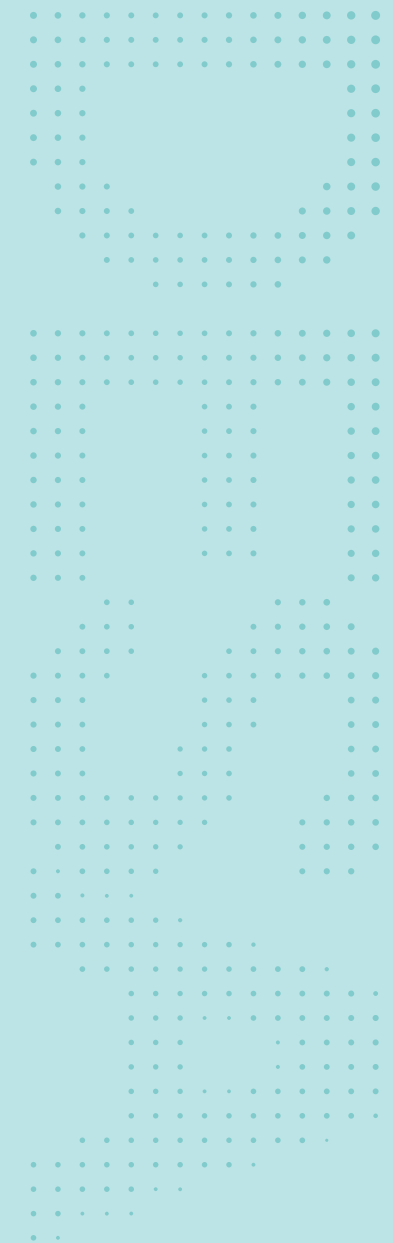
April	4-8 Committee of Experts on Public Administration
	6 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
	8 ECOSOC special meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
	11-14 Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
	12 Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022
	13 ECOSOC dedicated management meetings
	18-20 ECOSOC Youth Forum
	21 ECOSOC Special Meeting on Sustainable Urbanization and the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
	25-28 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up
	25-28 Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
May	25-29 Commission on Population and Development
	25 Apr - 6 May Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
	4 Launch of the UN-Energy Plan of Action and Energy Compact Action Network
	5-6 ECOSOC Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs
	6-7 ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum
	9-13 UN Forum on Forests
	10-13 International Migration Review Forum
	15 International Day of Families
	17-19 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment
	17-20 International Migration Review Forum
June	17-25 Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
	18 World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2022
	7 Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
	7 SDG 7 Policy Briefs and SDG 7 Tracking report
	8 World Oceans Day
	8-9 ECOSOC Management segment
	14-16 Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
	15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
	16 International Day of Family Remittances
	20 ECOSOC meeting on transition from relief to development
July	21-23 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment
	23 UN Public Service Day
	22-24 (tbd) ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment
	27 Jun - 1 Jul UN Ocean Conference
	30 Jun - 1 Jul High-level meeting on Global Road Safety
	4 International Day of Cooperatives
	5-7, 11-15 High-level political forum on sustainable development
	6 Development Cooperation Forum Survey Study
	7 Sustainable Development Report 2022 and Global SDG Indicator Database
	7 Sustainable Development Progress Chart
August 2022	11 World Population Day
	11 World Population Prospects 2022
	13-15, 18 High-level Segment of ECOSOC, including the three-day ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
	15 World Youth Skills Day
	20 Special High-level Dialogue on Sustainable Development of Africa convened by the Presidents of GA
	20-21 Global Climate-SDG Synergy Conference 2022
	21-22 ECOSOC Management Segment
	25 ECOSOC Organizational Session for 2023 Cycle (July 2022- July 2023)
	3-5 UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
	8 World Contraceptive Use 2022
8 Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2022	
9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	
12 International Youth Day	

Key moments and milestones of the 77th General Assembly

ECOSOC Functional Commission (Intergovernmental) [Supported by UN DESA]	ECOSOC Advisory Bodies (Experts) [Supported by UN DESA]
High-level Intergovernmental Meeting	Publication/Dataset Launch

Month	Key moments and milestones
September 2022	7 Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot
	13 Opening of the 77th session of the General Assembly
	19 Summit on Transforming Education
	20-26 General debate of the 77th session of the General Assembly
	21 High-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
	28 UN E-Government Survey 2022
	29 Opening of the 77th session of the Third Committee
	tbd Technical report on adolescent birth rates (10-14 and 15-19 years) for monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goals
	tbd Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
October	1 International Day for Older Persons
	3 Opening of the 77th session of the Second Committee
	9 Principal-level meeting of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development
	10-14 Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress
	15 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
	18-21 Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
	31 The World Cities Day
November	7-18 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27)
	15 Day of 8 billion
	19 World Toilet Day
	28 Nov – 2 Dec Internet Governance Forum
December	3 International Day for Persons with Disabilities
	16 International Migration and Sustainable Development
	18 International Migrants Day
	20 International Human Solidarity Day
	tbd World Social Report 2022: Leaving no one behind in an Ageing World
January 2023	31 ECOSOC Partnership Forum tbd World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023
February	1-2 ECOSOC Coordination Segment
	20 World Day of Social Justice
	20-24 Committee for Development Policy
	28 Feb-3 Mar Statistical Commission
	tbd Commission for Social Development
	tbd Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies
March	14-15 ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum
	21 International Day of Forests
	21 World Down Syndrome Day
	22 World Water Day
	22-24 UN 2023 Water Conference
	tbd Commission on the Status of Women
	tbd Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023
	tbd Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

April	6 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
	10-14 Commission on Population and Development
	17-28 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
	19-20 ECOSOC Youth Forum
	tbd ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up tbd Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
May	1-5 UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names
	3-4 ECOSOC Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum)
	8-12 UN Forum on Forests
	15 International Day of Families
	23-25 (tbc) ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment
	tbd World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2021 tbd United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities tbd Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Regular)
June	8 World Oceans Day
	7 ECOSOC Management segment
	13-15 Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
	15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
	16 International Day of Family Remittances
	20 ECOSOC Meeting on the transition from relief to development
	21-23 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 23 UN Public Service Day tbd Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Regular)
July	4 International Day of Cooperatives
	10-14, 17-19 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
	11 World Population Day
	15 World Youth Skills Day
	7-20 High-level Segment of ECOSOC including the three-day ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
	25-26 ECOSOC Management Segment (continued)
	27 ECOSOC Organizational Session
	tbd Sustainable Development Report and Global SDG Indicator Database tbd Sustainable Development Progress Chart tbd UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023
August 2023	2-4 UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
	12 International Youth Day
	tbd Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Resumed)



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