



**BOOSTING PARTNERSHIPS  
AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT**

### Harnessing the power of partnerships to accelerate SDG implementation

In 2022-2023, UN DESA continued to serve as the secretariat for the ECOSOC Partnership Forum and organized a Partnership Exchange on the margins of the Partnership Forum to provide additional space for Member States and other stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise in the design and implementation of partnerships that will contribute to SDG implementation."

Through its Partnership Accelerator Initiative, UN DESA also established regional networks of partnership champions in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, and strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships at the national level in the Bahamas, Maldives, Mexico and Sri Lanka. Additionally, the Department launched an online Partnership Learning Centre with resources on how to build and manage effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs.

Since its launch in 2019 in connection with the first SDG Summit, the Partnership Accelerator Initiative supported development and dissemination of freely available partnership guidebooks and research papers to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as organization of virtual and in-person trainings and events. The initiative has worked with a range of partners, including 18 countries and Resident Coordinators, regional UN entities and others, totaling more than 1,000 stakeholders from various sectors.

In collaboration with the Asia-Europe Foundation, UN DESA also convened the 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF) to



Participants discuss at the International Mayors Forum in April 2023 in Dakar, Senegal – Photo credit: UNOSD/UN DESA

facilitate transformative actions and maximize synergies towards SDG implementation for countries in both conflict and post-conflict situations. Held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in October 2022, the Forum gathered over 100 participants from developing countries as well as experts and practitioners from international organizations, NGOs, the public sector and academia. It resulted in the Incheon Communique, which addressed issues related to the current geopolitical context and the impact of COVID-19, and highlighted the need for accelerated action for sustainable development governance, as well as transformative actions to account for interlinkages among the SDGs.

### Accelerating localization of the SDGs

In November 2022, together with partners, UN DESA supported the production of a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) by the local government of Filadelfia in Paraguay, the first of its kind in the country. Based on the value of this experience, the SDG Commission and the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning of Paraguay, with support

from UN DESA, began introducing the practice to local governments in other regions of the country, starting with a capacity building workshop in June 2023. The Department is further providing capacity building support on VLRs to local governments including from Argentina, Bolivia, the Gambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

To further support the local and regional implementation of the SDGs, the UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of UN DESA co-convened the International Mayors Forum in April 2023 in Dakar, Senegal. The forum supported local authorities and communities in achieving a better understanding of successes, lessons learned and good practices to the implementation of the SDGs, particularly those in focus of the 2023 HLPF.

In addition, UN DESA in collaboration with partners convened the Sixth Local and Regional Governments Forums (LRGF) as one of the key special events during the 2023 HLPF. The forum illustrated the interconnected importance and breadth of SDG11 to the whole 2030 Agenda, as well as how local and regional governments are localizing the SDGs through high-impact localization policies.

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**The Partnership Accelerator generated a catalytic change, and reinvigorated the UN team on the ground in its efforts to convene and engage holistically in the Maldives for the 2030 Agenda.**  
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by **Catherine Haswell**  
UN Resident Coordinator for the Republic of Maldives



Collaboration and Innovation took center stage at the Sri Lanka Partnership Week 2023 – Photo credit: UN DESA



### Bringing business voices and impacts closer to intergovernmental deliberations

Building on collaborative relationships with major private sector umbrella organizations, UN DESA continued to bring business voices and impacts closer to sustainable development debates at the global level, building a global community of sustainability leaders from the business sector and beyond to co-create solutions to accelerate SDG implementation. For example, UN DESA, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, International Organisation of Employers and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, organized the 2023 SDG Global Business Forum in July 2023. This brought together a global multi-stakeholder community of movers

and shakers, problem solvers and innovators on the margins of 2023 HLPF to review trends, discuss priorities, build alliances and co-create high-impact business solutions to turbocharge the SDGs in the remaining seven years before 2030. In collaboration with Resident Coordinators, UN Global Compact Local Networks, and Employer Federations, the Forum also featured an hour-long virtual session highlighting local impact stories from around the world.

### Highlighting the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development

UN DESA, as the co-chair of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), continued to serve its role in building a strong interface between

higher education, science, and policy making. In collaboration with other UN partners including UNESCO, the initiative supported raising the profile of higher education sector in supporting sustainable development. It also convened multi-stakeholder discussions to drive actions, share best practices and provide accessible education that effectively integrates sustainability at its core. For example, in July 2023, UN DESA worked with partners to convene an evolving and action-oriented conversation on the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development at the 2023 HESI Global Forum, on the margins of 2023 HLPF. It was attended by 500 participants in-person and approximately 800 virtual, including student groups from Montclair State University and United Nations University.

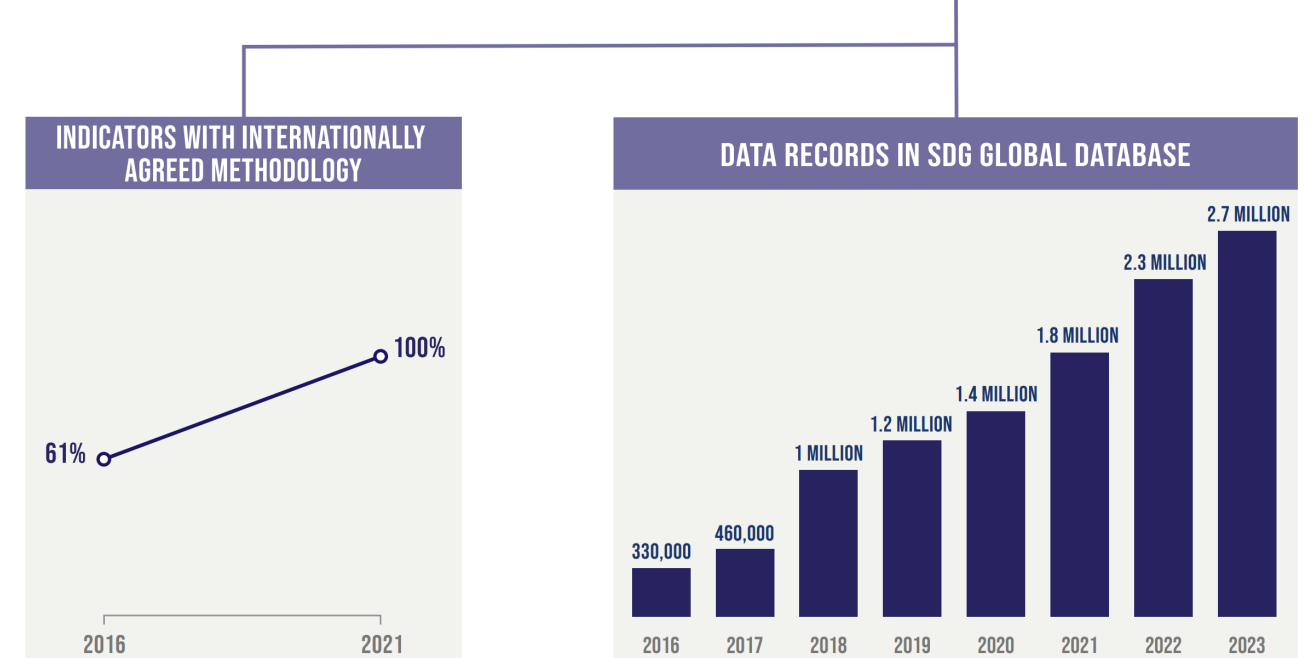
### Improving the Global SDG Indicators Data Platform

UN DESA ensured universal access to up-to-date data critical for monitoring SDG progress. Through the improved Global SDG Indicators Data Platform, the Department developed a new interface that allows users to easily search, download and share data. The entirely new 'SDG Analytics' tool allows the interactive analysis of data availability, including for disaggregated data. The SDG Analytics tool also enables users to review global and regional trends for individual indicators and compare trends for countries and areas and for different indicators. The platform also provides access to the SDG Country Profiles which—with a single click—provide trends for individual countries across the



Participants discussing just transition to net zero and a nature positive world at the SDG Global Business Forum in July 2023 – Photo credit: UN Global Compact

## SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN SDG DATA AND MONITORING



Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition

SDGs. Most importantly, access to the metadata is dramatically improved. SDG indicators metadata are made available in machine-readable format using Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange.

### Delivering an SDG Monitoring Dashboard for local and regional governments

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), administered by UN DESA, supported Japanese local and regional governments to monitor SDG progress and identify gaps in SDG implementation. Through a public-private partnership, UNCRD developed an SDG Monitoring Dashboard to enable the local and regional governments to conduct data- and evidence-based Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), which would be used to monitor, evaluate and take further actions to accelerate SDGs progress. The

Dashboard allows for local policymakers and other stakeholders to evaluate the SDG progress made by each city and region, while ensuring the data is internationally comparable for reference by other countries and municipalities.

### Driving action and collaboration on climate and SDG synergies

To foster stronger connections between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, UN DESA hosted its fifth SDG Pavilion during COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Bringing together practitioners from international organizations, Member States and diverse stakeholders, the SDG Pavilion featured a record 130-plus events organized by almost 140 partners from more than 90 countries. The events included in-person and online participation on

Facebook, where dynamic fireside chats with experts were streamed live. The Pavilion's inauguration was attended by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, UN DESA Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, underscoring the fact that the climate agenda and the 2030 Agenda share the same interlinked goals. Through this platform, UN DESA shared its expertise in critical areas such as energy, forests, the ocean, transport, water and small island developing States (SIDS).

To enhance the momentum for action, UN DESA and UNFCCC are jointly initiating the preparation of the First Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergies, to be launched in September 2023. This report is being prepared by a diverse group of 14 experts and aims to provide empirical evidence and forward-looking recommendations to accelerate synergistic climate and SDG action while transitioning toward more just and equitable societies.

To further link and synergize the two agendas, UN DESA collaborated with UNFCCC to host a side event during the 58th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn in June 2023. This event shed light on the benefits of synergistic action to amplify results and to support countries in replicating successes.

Additionally, UN DESA and UNFCCC organized the Fourth Global Conference on Synergizing the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement in July 2023 as a special event during the HLPF, aiming to mainstream the climate agenda within the review and follow-up processes of the SDGs. The event convened high-level representatives from Member States and international organizations, along with experts

and practitioners from across the globe. In total, more than 400 in-person and nearly 4,000 virtual participants from 140 countries participated at the event.

Looking ahead, UN DESA will continue to advance this integrated agenda in key forums, including the SDG Summit, the UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks and COP28 in Dubai, to drive action and collaboration towards achieving the SDGs and addressing climate-related challenges.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres speaks at the SDG Pavilion at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. - Photo credit: UNFCCC