



16 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

SDG ACTION WEEKEND DRAFT PROGRAMME

Updated 13 September 2023



OVERVIEW OF SDG ACTION WEEKEND

The SDG Summit on 18-19 September will mark the mid point of the SDGs. It must secure the breakthroughs and momentum needed to change course and achieve the SDGs by 2030. To maximize the Summit's impact, the United Nations Secretary-General is convening an SDG Action Weekend, which will generate opportunities for stakeholders, UN entities, and Member States to convene inside the United Nations Headquarters and set out specific commitments and contributions to drive SDG transformation between now and 2030.

The SDG Action Weekend will help ramp-up momentum towards a successful SDG Summit and facilitate the contribution of all relevant actors to the SDG Summit. The weekend will generate opportunities for the engagement of Member States, relevant Intergovernmental Organizations, and other stakeholders in the lead up to the SDG Summit.

The SDG Action Weekend will consist of the SDG Mobilization Day on Saturday, 16 September, and the SDG Acceleration Day on Sunday, 17 September at UNHQ in New York.

Civil society, the private sector, youth, scientists, local and regional governments, and other stakeholders all have a key role in the implementation of the SDGs. Their participation, contributions and catalytic mobilization will be essential to the success of the SDG Summit and its follow-up.

SDG Mobilization Day will create convening and mobilization opportunities for stakeholders across civil society, the private sector, youth, women, scientists, local and regional governments, major groups and other stakeholders. The participation, contributions, and catalytic mobilization of these stakeholders will be essential to a successful SDG Summit and the long-term implementation of the SDGs.

While each session of SDG Mobilization Day will generate specific outcomes, a conscious effort will be made to ensure the overarching messages and outcomes from the day inform the formal proceedings of the SDG Summit.

SDG Acceleration Day will profile actions, investments, and support to accelerate implementation between now and 2030. It will centre around twelve High Impact Initiatives that the UN development system is mobilizing around in advance of the SDG Summit. In addition, the day will feature dedicated sessions on SDG Digital and Generation Equality, as well as a Special Session on Development in Complex Settings.

The SDG Acceleration Day will demonstrate that transformative progress is both possible and already happening in some of the most crucial drivers of SDG progress. Expected speakers and participants at SDG Acceleration day include Heads of State, Ministers, UN Principals, and representatives from the private sector, civil society, major groups and other stakeholders. These coalitions will commit to specific and tangible actions to scale initiatives according to national priorities.

The SDG Action Weekend will also feature a limited number of **high-level side-events** organized by UN Member States, UN entities, relevant International Organizations and stakeholder networks working in partnership. Side-events were identified through an open call and will be held on both days.

Please check the [SDG Action Weekend](#) website for more information on the event and on [side-events](#).



SDG MOBILIZATION DAY, SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER - OVERVIEW

SDG Mobilization Day (16 September 2023) will create convening and mobilization opportunities for stakeholders across civil society, the private sector, youth, women, scientists, and local and regional governments.

The SDG Mobilization Day will be held on Saturday, 16 September, from **9:00 – 18:00 at UN Headquarters**.

Session	Time	Room	Details	Web Link
Opening plenary: Mobilization	11:00 – 11:45	General Assembly	Page 6	
Youth: "Torchbearers For The SDGs: Meaningful Youth Engagement & the 2030 Agenda"	09:00 – 10:30 12:00 – 13:30	ECOSOC Chamber	Page 7	Link
Women and Girls: "Towards a Rights-centred Gender-Transformative Economy, Including a New International Financial Architecture"	12:00 – 14:00	Conference Room 2	Page 7	Link
Major Groups & Other Stakeholders: "Breaking Down the Barriers to Leave No One Behind"	12:00 – 14:00	Conference Room 4	Page 8	Link
Science & Academia: "Catalyzing Transformative Change: Science, Academia and the Journey to 2030"	12:00 – 14:00	Trusteeship Council Chamber	Page 9	Link
Local & Regional Governments Forum: "Action and Leadership from the Ground Up: Towards the Rescue Plan for People and the Planet"	12:00 – 14:00 16:00 – 18:00	Conference Room 1	Page 10	Link
Civil Society: "Enhancing Advocacy, Financing and Accountability: Key Messages from Civil Society to the SDG Summit and Beyond"	14:00 – 16:00	ECOSOC Chamber	Page 11	Link
Private Sector: "Bridging the Financing Gap: Unleashing the Potential of SMEs"	16:00 – 18:00	Trusteeship Council Chamber	Page 12	Link

Please note that this program is subject to change. Please refer to the [SDG Action Weekend website](#) for the latest version and links to the plenary webcast.



SDG ACCELERATION DAY, SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER - OVERVIEW

The SDG Acceleration Day (17 September 2023) will propel stakeholders from ambition to action by highlighting how the High Impact Initiatives, multigenerational campaigns such as Generation Equality, and cross-SDG impact catalysers such as SDG Digital can accelerate collective achievement. The SDG Acceleration Day will be held on Sunday, 17 September, from 9:00 – 18:00 at UN Headquarters.

Session	Time	Room	Details	Web Link
Opening Plenary: Acceleration	09:00 – 09:45	ECOSOC Chamber	Page 14	
<i>High Impact Initiatives</i>				
Energy Compacts: Scaling up ambition to deliver on SDG7	10:00 – 11:30	Conference Room 1	Page 16	Link
Food Systems Transformation: Transforming food systems for a sustainable world without hunger	10:00 – 11:30	Conference Room 2	Page 16	Link
FutureGov: Building public sector capabilities for the future	10:00 – 11:30	Conference Room 3	Page 17	Link
Transforming Education: Learning to build a better future for all	10:00 – 11:30	Conference Room 4	Page 17	Link
Transforming4Trade: Paradigm shift to boost economic development	11:45 – 13:15	Conference Room 1	Page 18	Link
Local2030 Coalition: Pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030	11:45 – 13:15	Conference Room 2	Page 18	Link
Power of Data: Unlocking the data dividend for the SDGs	11:45 – 13:15	Conference Room 3	Page 19	Link
Nature Driving Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Power of Biodiversity and Nature to Drive Equitable Economic Progress.	11:45 – 13:15	Conference Room 4	Page 20	Link
Global Accelerator: The Global Accelerator on jobs and social protection for just transitions	15:00 – 16:30	Conference Room 1	Page 20	Link
Spotlight Initiative: To eliminate violence against women and girls	15:00 – 16:30	Trusteeship Council Chamber	Page 21	Link
Digital Public Infrastructure: Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs	15:00 – 16:30	ECOSOC Chamber	Page 21	Link
The SDG Stimulus: Scaling up long-term affordable financing for the SDGs	15:00 – 16:30	Conference Room 4	Page 22	Link
<i>Special Sessions</i>				
Advancing Sustainable Development In Complex Settings	13:30 – 14:45	Conference Room 3	Page 23	Link
SDG Digital	10:00 – 16:30	ECOSOC Chamber	Page 24	Link
Generation Equality	10:00 – 14:45	Trusteeship Council Chamber	Page 25	Link
SDG Action Weekend Closing Plenary	16:45 – 17:30	ECOSOC Chamber	Page 15	

Please note that this program is subject to change. Please refer to the [SDG Action Weekend website](#) for the latest version and links to the plenary webcast.

SDG MOBILIZATION DAY
PROGRAMME
16 SEPTEMBER 2023



OPENING PLENARY, MOBILIZATION

SATURDAY OPENING PLENARY: "MOBILIZATION" (11:00 – 11:45; GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL)

As the opening to SDG Action Weekend, the opening plenary of the Saturday proceedings will emphasize the urgency of this moment. Halfway to the 2030 Deadline, we are not halfway there – many goals remain off-track and global economic, geopolitical, and environmental headwinds threaten progress in other areas. The 2030 Agenda is a promise, not a guarantee, and humanity is in the hotseat.

In the face of these challenges, participants will be reminded by speakers that transformation, at scale, is possible. We have the right tools and capabilities but now we need everyone, individually and collectively, to channel these resources more efficiently to deliver on the SDGs.

This session will feature a keynote speech from a former Head of State, providing a sober reality check of the moment and emphasizing the possibility for us to achieve our promise. To close, an empowering performance from Yemi Alade will set an uplifting tone as stakeholders head into the programming of SDG Mobilization Day.

Session agenda:

11:00	Introductory video: "Making of the SDGs"
11:04	Welcome remarks from the moderator
11:05	Opening address from the UN Secretary General
11:13	Remarks from H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly
11:21	Remarks from H.E. Mr. Carlos Alvarado, former President of Costa Rica
11:29	Address by Ms. Reekelitsoe Molapo, Co-Founder, Conservation Music
11:37	Cultural performance: Ms. Yemi Alade, Afropop artist and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador

Additional details will continue to be added as they are available



MOBILIZATION SEGMENTS

[YOUTH] "TORCHBEARERS FOR THE SDGS: MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & THE 2030 AGENDA" (9:00 – 10:30 & 12:00 – 13:30; ECOSOC CHAMBER)

- **Lead Facilitators:**
 - United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
 - The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)
 - International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)
- **Contact Details:**
 - youthenvoy@un.org
 - op@unmgcy.org

The [SDG Summit 2023](#) provides a unique opportunity to expand and strengthen meaningful youth engagement at all levels, particularly in the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Building on the views and recommendations from young people, highlighted during the "[Youth & the SDGs](#)" global consultation, the outcomes of the [2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum](#) as well as the process culminating in the [Secretary-General's Policy Brief on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policymaking and Decision-Making Processes](#), the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth alongside the Major Group for Children and Youth and the International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organizations facilitated a youth-led meaningful youth engagement roadmap towards the SDG Summit 2023. This roadmap included two virtual youth consultations hosted between June and August 2023, as well as guidance for self-organized consultations, inviting any youth-led, youth-focused or youth-serving organizations to host consultations in their communities and contribute to the global process and outcomes. The process will culminate in the SDG Action Weekend of the SDG Summit 2023, particularly during the Youth Pillar of the SDG Mobilization Day on Saturday, 16 September 2023. The outcomes of the consultations will be unveiled as an outcome document, which will be at the centre of the discussions.

[WOMEN AND GIRLS] "TOWARDS A RIGHTS-CENTRED GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMY, INCLUDING A NEW INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE" (12:00 – 14:00; CONFERENCE ROOM 2)

- **Lead Facilitators:** Women's Major Group, with the support of UN Women
- **Contact Details:** contact@womensmajorgroup.org

Established during World War II, the institutions of the international financial architecture are no longer fit to address the challenges of our time. In their current structure and operational models, they have amplified structural inequalities, jeopardized social, economic and environmental rights and led to the fragmentation of international financial and economic relations, hampering the implementation of the SDGs. Conditionalities imposed by international financial institutions and austerity policies, in particular, have constrained fiscal space and concentrated wealth at the top.



MOBILIZATION SEGMENTS

The event will feature a diverse and intersectional group of thought leaders and practitioners, including feminist & women's rights organizations, LGBTI+ organizations, UN entities and Member States & other relevant stakeholders and will explore the gendered implications of the current financial architecture and discuss how the reforms proposed by civil society, Member States, the World Bank Evolution Roadmap and the Secretary-General can be designed and expanded to accelerate progress toward the SDGs for a substantive, positive impact on gender equality and the rights of all women and girls. Participants will discuss and give concrete suggestions for how the resources unlocked through debt relief and these reforms should support gender-responsive fiscal and financial policies, including investments in social protection, care, health and education, and reductions in occupational, wage and other gender gaps. The event will encourage commitment by Member States and financial institutions towards an economic model for gender transformative results at all levels.

[MAJOR GROUPS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS] "BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND" (12:00 – 14:00; CONFERENCE ROOM 4)

- **Lead Facilitators:** Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) Coordination Mechanism
- **Contact Details:**
 - oli.henman@action4sd.org
 - rashima.kwatra@rfsl.se
 - bianco.mabel@gmail.com

This session will act as a reminder that the midpoint review of the SDGs is an opportunity to renew the commitments towards the transformative aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. It will shine a light on ways to overcome global challenges and will set out practical recommendations to accelerate action and leave no one behind as we gear up towards 2030.

It will aim to unpack the systemic barriers, identify gaps and ensure meaningful right holders' engagement in the implementation of the SDGs. It will reflect on the priorities to achieve transformational change in the face of multiple and intersecting crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, increased armed conflicts, accelerating climate change and the impact of debt crises, amidst increasing gender-based violence and inequality. It will then offer clear proposals for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda which is grounded in community knowledge and practical proposals for a more sustainable, genuinely inclusive, human rights-based approach to development.

The 'Major Groups and Other Stakeholders' include 21 diverse stakeholder constituencies that are an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as enshrined in the UNGA Resolution 67/290. We will share critical perspectives, particularly from those who have been left behind, to unlock the potential of civil society in contributing to just, equal, peaceful and sustainable societies, and contribute more meaningfully to UN processes.



MOBILIZATION SEGMENTS

[SCIENCE & ACADEMIA] "CATALYZING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE: SCIENCE, ACADEMIA AND THE JOURNEY TO 2030" (12:00 – 14:00; TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER)

- **Lead Facilitators:** UN DESA, in collaboration with
 - Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN),
 - International Science Council (ISC),
 - World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
 - Representatives of the Secretary-General's 10-Member-Group of High-level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community to support the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism
- **Contact Details:** jussila@un.org

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stands as a ground-breaking global roadmap for addressing the most pressing challenges facing humanity. At the half-way point to 2030, science, technology and innovation hold enormous promise for enabling the kinds of transformations needed to accelerate

progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in energy systems, food systems, education, digital infrastructure, just economies, nature and the global commons and other crucial areas as indicated in the Special Edition of the SDG Report and the Global Sustainable Development Report. Addressing institutional and other barriers to knowledge and technology sharing and revolutionizing science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainability can support a global enabling environment for the SDGs complementing financial reforms and a surge in SDG financing.

The objective of the event is to identify and promote concrete opportunities and partnerships for science and academia to accelerate transformations in high impact areas for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By bringing together policymakers, researchers, academics, and other stakeholders, the event will foster dialogue, share best practices and identify actionable strategies to advance the implementation of the SDGs. The event will also aim to help advance commitments in the SDG Summit Political Declaration for bridging the science, technology and innovation divides and supporting the responsible use of science, technology, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development.



MOBILIZATION SEGMENTS

[LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FORUM] "ACTION AND LEADERSHIP FROM THE GROUND UP: TOWARDS THE RESCUE PLAN FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET" (12:00 – 14:00 & 16:00 –18:00; CONFERENCE ROOM 1)

- **Lead Facilitators:**
 - Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments
 - United Cities and Local Governments
 - UNDESA
 - UN-Habitat,
 - UNDP,
 - Local2030 Coalition
- **Contact Details:** policy@uclg.org

Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of policies supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, caring for people and the planet, through public service provision, local policy fostering social inclusion, ecological transformation and the creation of alliances and partnerships.

The Local and Regional Government Forum (LRGF) will highlight the commitments of the local and regional government constituency towards the 2030 Agenda. A special focus will be placed on local acceleration and local accountability through the lenses of the 12 transitions and crosscutting enablers of the High Impact Initiatives and their relationship with action taking place at sub-national level. High-impact localization policies and partnerships for the goals currently in place and new innovative commitments will also be announced as well as the specific localization needs and aspirations of local and regional governments to bring SDG implementation back on track.

The Local and Regional Governments Forum will therefore bring together local, regional, and national governments as well as representatives from the United Nations and other stakeholders to announce strong commitments, present coalitions for policy change, and illustrate high-impact localization policies. The Forum will also reflect on the importance of Voluntary Local and Voluntary Subnational Reviews in the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs as reporting tools but also policy tools. The Forum will provide reflections on the constituency's priorities and aspirations for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024 and the World Social Summit in 2025.



MOBILIZATION SEGMENTS

[CIVIL SOCIETY] "ENHANCING ADVOCACY, FINANCING AND ACCOUNTABILITY: KEY MESSAGES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY TO THE SDG SUMMIT AND BEYOND" (14:00 – 16:00; ECOSOC CHAMBER)

- **Lead Facilitators:**
 - UN Foundation
 - SDG Action Campaign
- **Contact Details:** Pablo Angulo-Troconis (PAngulo-Troconis@unfoundation.org)

This session will feature a high-level dialogue providing a space for open exchange between civil society stakeholders and key representative from governments and others relevant sectors to share learnings from the first half of the SDG cycle, share views on progress and provide suggestions for ways forward on implementation.

The session will focus on SDG mobilization through:

- **Advocacy:** enhancing SDG advocacy / collaboration among multistakeholder partners (CSO, private sector, academia, youth, creative sector), local & global social mobilization, intergenerational dialogue.
- **Financing:** unlocking development finance and establishing long-lasting affordable financing mechanisms through multistakeholder partnerships.
- **Accountability:** increased political commitment on means of implementation, accountable and inclusive institutions and societies.

The key objectives are to:

- Bring together main messages from civil society for the SDG Summit;
- Create an opportunity for civil society to share key messages as they relate to the implementation of the Political Declaration for the SDG Summit;
- Enable dialogue and exchange, including with high-level officials from the United Nations and other decision-makers, to support and amplify collective action for the SDGs across civil society and grassroots organizations.

The key expected outcomes of the session are:

- Enhanced the involvement of civic movements and groups in SDG advocacy by bringing them together with decision-makers ahead of the SDG Summit and the high-level week;
- Generated key messages from civil society stakeholders as they relate to the implementation of the Political Declaration for the SDG Summit;
- Shared key priorities with the leadership of the United Nations and other decision-makers.



MOBILIZATION SEGMENTS

[PRIVATE SECTOR] "Bridging the Financing Gap: Unleashing the Potential of SMEs" (16:00 – 18:00; TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER)

- **Lead Facilitators:**
 - UNCTAD
 - International Finance Corporation
 - ITC
 - UNCDF
 - UNIDO
- **Contact Details:** clemence.lize@un.org

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make a significant contribution to global trade flows and economic value within countries. SMEs account for over 90 per cent of all business worldwide and are responsible for more than two-thirds of jobs created, including for vulnerable groups such as women and youth. They are the SDG drivers on the ground as they deal with local and regional challenges and are key in promoting innovation and contributing to the greening of industries and the energy transition. Yet access to affordable and timely financing and participation in value chains at global, regional, and domestic level remain a key challenge, hampering their economic and social contribution.

Under this session, two panels will be convened to discuss how to increase SMEs' access to finance in order to unlock their full potential. Panellists include regulators, industry associations, financiers, multinationals, SMEs and technology platform representatives.

The objective of the session is to highlight proposed actions that can be taken to unlock the potential of SMEs and strengthen their ability to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

The outcome of the discussions will be fed into major international events and the Report of the UN Secretary-General on Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development.

SDG ACCELERATION DAY
PROGRAMME
17 SEPTEMBER 2023



OPENING PLENARY, ACCELERATION

SUNDAY OPENING PLENARY: "ACCELERATION" (09:00 – 09:45; ECOSOC CHAMBER)

The opening plenary of the Sunday proceedings will highlight that while the 'score' at 'halftime' is not what we had hoped, changing the course in the second half is within our power. Progress in several areas proves what's possible. Now we must take the bold, necessary and at times difficult steps to scale this progress and accelerate implementation in inclusive, sustainable ways. This will require re-tooling our people, re-orienting our systems, and steering our financial resources towards the greatest impact.

The core of the Sunday opening will be a cross-cutting panel on accelerating SDG implementation, featuring representatives from across the development landscape. This panel will interrogate the difficult question of how to scale what works and transform local wins to global successes. The panel will draw on on-the-ground perspectives from a Head of State and Local Representative while also bringing in the critical thoughts of a UN Principal. An IFI President (*to be confirmed*) will provide a development finance viewpoint and a renowned development economist will provide an outside-in perspective on SDG implementation at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda.

Leaving Sunday's opening plenary and heading into the High Impact Initiative and other sessions of the day, it is vital that participants grasp the urgency of the moment, the sense of what is possible and the imperative for collective action.

Session agenda:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 09:00 | Welcome remarks from the moderator |
| 09:01 | UN Secretary-General video remarks |
| 09:04 | "SDG Stocktaking" film |
| 09:10 | Panel on Accelerating SDG Implementation: "Where" and "Why" there is hope <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>(TBC) Head of State or other government representative</i>- <i>Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme</i>- <i>Ms. Claudia Lopez, Mayor of Bogotá</i>- <i>Professor Jayati Gosh, University of Massachusetts Amherst</i>- <i>Moderated by Ms. Femi Oke, International Journalist and Moderator</i> |
| 9:41 a.m. | Closing remarks by Mr. Edward Ndopu, SDG Advocate |
| 9:45 a.m. | Moderator closes the opening session |

Additional details will continue to be added as they are available

SDG ACTION WEEKEND CLOSING PLENARY



SDG ACTION WEEKEND CLOSING PLENARY (16:45 – 17:30; ECOSOC CHAMBER)

At the culmination of SDG Action Weekend, commitments must turn to concrete actions, starting now. The High Impact Initiatives and other major sessions outline scalable pathways to jumpstart the SDG comeback. To do so, it will take the collaboration and buy-in of not just the UN system and member states, but all stakeholders from youth to the private sector. This is a moment for national leadership, bold actions, and global solidarity to accelerate progress for the next 7 years.

The closing plenary will capture what emerged from both days and serve as a critical transition to the SDG Summit, taking forward a sense of solidarity, possibility and determination. Remarks from a UN and a youth rapporteur will provide this recap and speeches from prominent Heads of State will underline the importance of national commitment and action.

To close the Weekend and lead participants forward into the SDG Summit, the UN Deputy Secretary General and the President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly will have a dialogue on global solidarity. They will touch on how the commitments and priorities established during SDG Action Weekend will inform the next seven years of progress. Participants will exit knowing that we all have to start tomorrow, by accelerating what works today.

Session agenda:

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|-------|---|
| 16:45 | Opening by the moderator and introduction to Dr. Natalia Kanem |
| 16:48 | Presentation by Dr. Natalia Kanem, rapporteur on the outcomes of the SDG Acceleration Day |
| 16:56 | Presentation by Ms. Nadia Islam Tedoldi, Youth rapporteur on the outcomes of the SDG Mobilization Day |
| 17:02 | Remarks by Ms. Natalie Portman, Actor and Gender Equality advocate |
| 17:10 | The SDG Summit and beyond: a moderated dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly</i>- <i>Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group</i>- <i>Moderated by Rich Lesser, Global Chair, Boston Consulting Group</i> |
| 17:30 | Moderator closes the closing session |

Additional details will continue to be added as they are available



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE SESSIONS

ENERGY SESSION: “ENERGY COMPACTS: SCALING UP AMBITION TO DELIVER ON SDG7” (10:00 – 11:30; CONFERENCE ROOM 1)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - UN Energy
 - Sustainable Energy for All
 - UN-Energy members and partners
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Minoru Takada (takada@un.org)
 - Bahareh Seyedi (bahareh.seyedi@un.org)

Initiative: Achieving universal access to clean and affordable energy (SDG7) will be a game changer for both people and the planet - today, 675 million people remain without access to electricity, while 2.3 billion are without access to clean cooking. Advancing SDG7 will have a ripple effect across all of the SDGs but will require dramatically scaled up action and investment. The Energy Compacts Initiative focuses on the critical need for financing just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions, in alignment with the Secretary-General’s Acceleration Agenda.

Session: This session will showcase ambitious commitments and impact already achieved by Member States and non-state actors, and inspire increased action via Energy Compacts, with a goal of mobilizing \$1T in commitments for just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions.

FOOD SESSION: “FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION: TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER” (10:00 – 11:30; CONFERENCE ROOM 2)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - FAO
 - WFP
 - IFAD
 - UNIDO
 - World Bank
 - UNEP
 - WHO
 - DCO
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Maximo Torero (chief-economist@fao.org)

Initiative: The High Impact Initiative on food systems will underscore the integrated vision advanced by the Secretary-General in the Food Systems Summit and reaffirmed in the UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment 2023 ([Link to Secretary-General’s Call to Action](#)). The High Impact Initiative will call attention on the nexus of multiple critical SDGs, including the eradication of poverty, climate action and environmental protection, ending hunger and improving nutrition and access to healthy diets. It will focus on the mobilization of finance, science, data (including geospatial platforms), innovative solutions and robust policy and governance mechanisms to support food systems transformation.



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE SESSIONS

Session: The session aims to mobilize means of implementation to assist countries in the implementation of national pathways ([Link to UNFSS +2 Report of the Secretary-General](#)) and to expand commitments from Member States to prioritize their journey of food systems transformation to ensure food security and healthy diets for all in sustainable food systems to deliver for people and the planet. For this purpose, it is important for sustainability to be addressed holistically by all actors, aiming for food systems that generate positive economic, social and environmental values.

PUBLIC SECTOR CAPABILITIES SESSION: “FUTUREGOV: BUILDING PUBLIC SECTOR CAPABILITIES FOR THE FUTURE” (10:00 – 11:30; CONFERENCE ROOM 3)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - UNDP
 - UN DESA
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Patrick Duong (patrick.duong@undp.org)
 - Wai Min Kwok (kwok@un.org)

Initiative: Public sector transformation is critical to enable the achievement of the SDGs. To unlock accelerated delivery of the SDGs, Member States must adopt a renewed sense of purpose and urgency to public sector development – improving the way they design, finance, deliver and evaluate people-centred public services. The FutureGov initiative is designed to support Member States through their public sector ‘transformation journeys’ by building public sector skillsets for resilient institutions, shifting mindsets towards systems thinking and foresight, and facilitating social and policy innovation for results.

Session: The session will bring Member States and partners together in a conversation on the centrality of public sector transformation, while allowing Member States to share capability-building experiences and reiterate their commitments to public sector transformation moving forward.

EDUCATION SESSION: “TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: LEARNING TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL” (10:00 – 11:30; CONFERENCE ROOM 4)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - Special Adviser to the Secretary-General
 - UN EOSG
 - UNESCO
 - UNICEF
 - Other education partners
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Special Adviser Leonardo Garnier (leonardo.garnierimolo@un.org)
 - Asif Saeed Memon (asif.memon@un.org)

Initiative: Two crises in education – one of equity and one of relevance – compounded by a lack of adequate financing are having dramatic consequences for learners worldwide.



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE SESSIONS

Against this backdrop, the Transforming Education Summit (TES) was convened in 2022. This Transforming Education initiative serves as a follow-up to the TES, strengthening momentum from the commitments and calls to action launched there and demonstrating that such a transformation is feasible at scale.

Session: The session will bring together Member States to launch the Transforming Education coalition as a new vehicle for TES acceleration. In addition, the session will bolster the foundation for upcoming conversations on increasing, more equitable and more efficient education financing while providing greater visibility for youth, teacher, and civil society movements.

TRADE SESSION: "TRANSFORMING4TRADE: PARADIGM SHIFT TO BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" (11:45 – 13:15; CONFERENCE ROOM 1)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - UNCTAD
 - UNIDO
 - UN DESA
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Mussie Delelegn (mussie.delelegn@unctad.org)
 - Olivier Combe (olivier.combe@unctad.org)

Initiative: International trade has been an engine for development for decades. However, trade has not been inclusive and has contributed to increased inequalities between and within countries. A shift is needed to make sure that the benefits from international trade become inclusive. This initiative aims to enable governments to achieve structural economic transformation with inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Session: This session will build support for the trade High Impact Initiative, including through building commitments for forward, regular, sufficient and predictable financing. Additionally, the session will sensitize Member States and development partners to the change in narrative needed for development policy formulation and gain buy in and support for this shift.

LOCALIZATION SESSION: "LOCAL2030 COALITION: PUSHING KEY TRANSITIONS AND ACHIEVING THE SDGS BY 2030" (11:45 – 13:15; CONFERENCE ROOM 2)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - UNDP [Local2030 Coalition's Co-chair]
 - UN Habitat [Local2030 Coalition's Co-chair]
 - Other members of the Local2030 coalition
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Rafael Tuts (raf.tuts@un.org)
 - Shipra Narang-Suri (shipra.narang-suri@un.org)



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE SESSIONS

Initiative: It is well-accepted that two thirds of the SDGs could not be achieved unless Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) and other local actors are fully involved in advancing these. For the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve its transformative potential, it must be fully realized at the local level. However, about 42% of the countries that reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2023 demonstrably lacked meaningful involvement of LRGs in the VNR process, having either no involvement or limited and ad hoc engagement. The Local2030 Coalition serves as a platform to strengthen the partnership of local governments and other actors and stakeholders with the UN system in an effort to realize the 2030 Agenda at the local level.

Session: Through this session, the Local2030 Coalition aims to spotlight practices, initiatives, and solutions accelerating localized efforts for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and provide lessons learned from efforts on the ground. It also aims to channel greater SDG financing towards the local level to scale up progress.

DATA SESSION: “POWER OF DATA: UNLOCKING THE DATA DIVIDEND FOR THE SDGS” (11:45 – 13:15; CONFERENCE ROOM 3)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**
 - Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)
 - UNFPA
 - UN DESA
 - UNSD
 - WHO on behalf of CCS-UN
 - World Bank
 - UNDP
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Claire Melamed (cmelamed@data4sdgs.org)
 - Florencia Edgina (fedgina@data4sdgs.org)

Initiative: Data is the fuel that powers progress across all SDGs. Stronger data systems are foundational to revolutionizing decision making, accelerating digital transformation and driving new economic opportunities. Investments to strengthen national data systems have been shown to pay a ‘dividend’ of \$32 for every \$1 invested. Despite the substantial returns, Member States have not been able to capitalize on this dividend because of limited political prioritization; fragmentation; inadequate and siloed investment; and lack of capacity. The Power of Data High Impact Initiative seeks to reverse this trend by launching national data partnerships that align activities behind priority goals, implementing harmonized approaches for funding data systems, and refocusing data commitments towards 2030.

Session: This session will serve as a launching point for the data partnerships and a unifying moment for streamlining financing for data systems. During the session, organizers will highlight the power of data to catalyse SDG progress through inspiring success stories and it will showcase how the High Impact Initiative will scale towards 2030. Collaborating Member States and partner organizations will also announce commitments to the future success of the Power of Data High Impact Initiative.



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE SESSIONS

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE SESSION: "NATURE DRIVING ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: LEVERAGING THE POWER OF BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE TO DRIVE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS." (11:45 – 13:15; CONFERENCE ROOM 4)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**

- UNEP
- FAO
- CBD
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- UNDDR
- UN Habitat
- WFP
- WIPO

- **Points of Contact:**

- Doreen L. Robinson (doreen.robinson@un.org)
- Mara Murillo Correa (mmurillo@un.org)

Initiative: Economic growth is only sustainable if it is in line with the limits of nature. Through transformative economic policies and new investments, sustainable job creation can be achieved while protecting the global commons, respecting rights, and delivering nature-based benefits for all, but we must intentionally factor in the values of nature and biodiversity to do so.

Session: In this session, the Biodiversity & Nature High Impact Initiative will bring together countries undertaking significant economic shifts, and catalyzing a global movement in evidence-based policies and investments for an inclusive green transition that accelerates progress on the SDGs, recognizes and supports nature contributions and dependencies, and reduces related risks to support a Biodiversity Economy.

SOCIAL PROTECTION & JOBS SESSION: "GLOBAL ACCELERATOR: THE GLOBAL ACCELERATOR ON JOBS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR JUST TRANSITIONS" (15:00 – 16:30; CONFERENCE ROOM 1)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:**

- ILO
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UN Women
- FAO
- WFP

- **Points of Contact:**

- Sangheon Lee (lees@ilo.org)
- Amber Barth (barth@ilo.org)

Initiative: The Global Accelerator offers sustainable solutions to tackle multiple crises, creating a virtuous cycle of sustainable development in which combined investments in social protection and decent jobs creation generate high economic and social returns and facilitate the transition to a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy.

Session: The session will convene representatives from pathfinder countries, development partners, international financing institutions, and social partners to generate high-level political support and national commitments, as well as financial pledges, to the Global Accelerator country-level roadmaps prioritizing employment and social protection.



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE SESSIONS

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS SESSION: “SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE: TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS” (15:00 – 16:30; TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER)

- **Leading & Collaborating Agencies:** Spotlight Initiative, as an umbrella for the UN System as a whole, coordinated by EOSG and co-led by core agencies:
 - UNFPA
 - UN Women
 - UNICEF
 - UNDP
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Nahla Valji (valji@un.org)
 - Philippe Lust-Bianchi (philippe.lustbianchi@un.org)

Initiative: Violence against women and girls is among the most pervasive violations of human rights – globally, 1 in 3 women have been subjected to violence. In addition to the direct impact on their well-being, this also affects their participation in public life, labor force and politics, preventing them from accessing justice, education and security. As the world’s largest effort to end violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative works through a comprehensive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, with concrete results on preventing and responding to violence against women while also supporting progress across education, reproductive health, economic empowerment, and more. With years of experience, the Initiative offers ‘proof of concept’ – not only to end violence against women and girls, but to accelerate progress on the SDGs overall.

Session: The session will rally partners in support of the movement against violence against women and girls, building momentum to ensure that women move from the margins to the centre of the Global Agenda. The session will serve as an opportunity to highlight the successes of the Spotlight Initiative’s first phase and secure commitments from Member States.

DIGITALIZATION SESSION: “DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE: SCALING INCLUSIVE AND OPEN DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR THE SDGS” (15:00 – 16:30; ECOSOC CHAMBER)

- Nd
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Keyzom Ngodup (kezyom.ngodup@undp.org)
 - Ursula Wynhoven (ursula.wynhoven@itu.int)

Initiative: Digital public infrastructure can unlock innovation and value at scale, strengthen local digital ecosystems, and provide countries with agency over their digital journeys. It offers the speed, scale and reach that can create exponential societal outcomes to deliver progress on the SDGs.

**FINANCE SESSION: “THE SDG STIMULUS: SCALING UP LONG-TERM
AFFORDABLE FINANCING FOR THE SDGS”
(15:00 – 16:30; CONFERENCE ROOM 4)**



SPECIAL SESSION: ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT IN COMPLEX SETTINGS

SPECIAL SESSION ON ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COMPLEX SETTINGS (13:30 – 14:45; CONFERENCE ROOM 3)

- **Leading Agencies:**
 - UNHCR
 - UN EOSG
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Giovanni Bassu (bassu@unhcr.org)
 - Fern Dunnapar Tilakamonkul (tilakamo@unhcr.org)

Context: Ongoing and new crises around the world are among the critical factors preventing countries from reaching the SDGs. One quarter of humanity – roughly two billion people – currently live in conflict-affected contexts, and over 110 million people have been forcibly displaced as of May 2023. Moreover, the increasingly protracted nature of conflicts, coupled with rising climate-related disasters, is exacerbating the world's faltering progress on development.

Session: This event will demonstrate that sustainable development in complex settings is essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will also demonstrate that such development is possible and can be integrated with a humanitarian response. Indeed, this event will profile initiatives intended to deliver sustainable development progress rapidly and at scale in complex settings. The event will bring together voices from forcibly displaced communities, Member States, as well as high-level experts in the public and private sector to discuss the mobilization of rapid development support from the start of crises and in complex settings.

SPECIAL SESSION: SDG DIGITAL EVENT



SDG DIGITAL (10:00 – 16:30; ECOSOC CHAMBER)

- **Leading Agencies:**
 - UNDP
 - ITU
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Ana Sepulveda, ITU (ana.sepulveda@itu.int)
 - Anoush Tatevossian, UNDP (anoush.rima@undp.org)

Context: Digital technology remains among the most promising but underutilized tools to unlock SDG progress. To steer the digital revolution towards SDG progress, while mitigating new risks, we need a focused approach at national and international level, and a step-change in ambition, policies, and funding approaches.

Session: During SDG Digital, senior leaders from government, the technology industry and civil society will come together to underscore how digital technologies can be leveraged to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and their targets and mobilize new commitments to advance inclusive and responsible digital transformation for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This special event on Sunday 17 September will include the unveiling of an SDG Digital Acceleration Plan, a showcase of game-changing digital solutions, and launch of the High Impact Initiative on Digital Public Infrastructure.

For further details on the Digital Public Infrastructure High Impact Initiative session, please see above section on High Impact Initiative sessions.

SPECIAL SESSION: GENERATION EQUALITY EVENT



GENERATION EQUALITY (10:00 – 14:45; TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER)

- **Leading Agencies:** UN Women, in partnership with stakeholders within governments, civil society, youth organizations, the feminist movement, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector
- **Points of Contact:**
 - Ziad Sheikh (ziad.sheikh@unwomen.org)
 - Shannon Tracy (Shannon.tracy@unwomen.org)

Context: Generation Equality is an unprecedented global effort to accelerate investment and implementation of gender equality in today's context of stalled progress and regression. Convened by UN Women, at the core, Generation Equality is a collection of six multistakeholder partnerships between civil society, youth, governments, the UN system, the private sector and philanthropists, and a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, to catalyse partners, increase investments, drive results and accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is anchored in the UN Decade of Action, and it emphasizes the achievement of SDG 5 on gender equality and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to benefit women and girls in all their diversity. The UN Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda" (OCA) highlights the relevance of the Generation Equality methodology as a multistakeholder platform through which efforts towards gender equality can be strengthened and encourages Member States to build on the momentum created by the initiative.

Session: Alongside the High Impact Initiatives, Generation Equality is included in the UN Secretary-General's approach to SDG implementation acceleration. The Midpoint will be anchored in the pre-SDG Summit programming that Heads of State and Government from around the world will attend to renew and accelerate SDG implementation. The Midpoint Moment will be showcased as part of the SDG Acceleration Day on the 17 September 2023. Two Member States, Iceland and Tanzania, will co-host the event with UN Women and with the collective leadership and support of multistakeholder leaders, leveraging their global leadership on gender equality to drive action, accountability, and renewed commitments to accelerate the SDGs through Generation Equality and its six Action Coalitions and Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA Compact).

ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION



SIDE-EVENTS

The SDG Action Weekend includes over 40 high-level side-events identified through an open call that concluded in August. These are jointly organized by coalitions of Member States, UN agencies and other international organizations, and global stakeholder networks. You can find the detailed programme on the [SDG Action Weekend webpage](#).



PARTICIPATION

The SDG Action Weekend (16 – 17 September) will be open to all Member States, interested stakeholders and representatives of organizations whose work is relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

All in-person participants **MUST** have either valid a UN grounds pass or a Special Events Ticket issued by the United Nations to enter the United Nations Headquarters during the SDG Action Weekend.

All those with a valid UN Grounds Pass, including members of official government delegations, UN Entities, IGOs, media and Civil Society Representatives, will be able to access the UNHQ premises on 16 -17 September without the need for additional registration.

Please note that, as an exception, CSO badges (“N”) and Retiree badges (“R”) will be valid during the two days of the SDG Action Weekend (16 -17 September).

All interested participants without a valid UN grounds pass will need to request registration to receive a Special Events Ticket. This includes those who are **NOT** members of the official delegations of Member States/GA-accredited IGOs/specialized agencies to GA78.

The registration deadline is **8 September 2023**. **There will be no on-site registration and late registrations cannot be accepted.** Please check [here](#) for the link to the registration form and the registration guidelines.

All registered participants will receive communication from the Secretariat on how to pick up their Special Events Tickets closer to event.

[Please check here for more information.](#)