

 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



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transforming lives*

2020 will see the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. But how far have we progressed?



## Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)



Click on <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/> where you will find all the completed VNRs and those proposed for 2020 and 2021.

Click on <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/HLPF-Report-2019-FINAL-SI-edit.pdf> to view SI's report for the HLPF 2019.



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The High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in conjunction with the General assembly, Economic and Social Council and other relevant bodies.

A central feature of the HLPF are the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that are undertaken by both developed and developing countries to report on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



## Reports for the HLPF

Click on [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/22700E\\_2019\\_XXXX\\_Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_the\\_progress\\_towards\\_the\\_SDGs\\_Special\\_Edition.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/22700E_2019_XXXX_Report_of_the_SG_on_the_progress_towards_the_SDGs_Special_Edition.pdf) view the 'Report of the Secretary General: The Special Edition of the SDGs Progress Report',



**2019 session**  
27 July 2019 - 28 July 2019  
Agenda item 1(a)  
**High level segment: Ministerial meeting of the high level political forum on sustainable development: Commitment under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council**  
**Special Edition: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals**  
Report of the Secretary General

**Summary**

This report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is submitted in response to the 2019 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 75/1).

As the first cycle of SDG implementation and review enters to a close and Member States gear up for the High Level Political Forum in July and five major sustainable development-focused meetings in September, this 'Special Edition' of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report was written in cooperation with the United Nations system. Led from the High Level Political Forum, coordinated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme.

The report demonstrates that over the past four years, progress has been made in a number of Goals and targets and a wealth of actions has been undertaken by Governments and other stakeholders in response to the 2019 Agenda item heading.

The report also demonstrates, however, that progress has been slow on many Goals, that the most vulnerable people and countries continue to suffer the most, and that the global response thus far has not been ambitious enough.

With the new decade of implementation to start, this report identifies a series of cross-cutting areas where political leadership and support, including multi-stakeholder actions are needed to dramatically accelerate progress. Doing so will allow us to shift the world onto a trajectory that is compatible with achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report  
2019



<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

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Two key reports have been written to shed light on the progress the world is making to achieve the SDGs and to highlight the areas that need our most urgent attention.

## Progress to date

- Extreme poverty has declined considerably;
- The under-5 mortality rate fell by 49 per cent between 2000 and 2017; immunizations have saved millions of lives;
- The vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity;
- Countries are taking concrete actions to protect our planet: marine protected areas have doubled since 2010;
- Countries are working concertedly to address illegal fishing;
- 186 parties have ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The reports demonstrate that progress is being made in some critical areas. However, while advances have been made in some areas, monumental challenges still remain. The most urgent area for action will come as no surprise to most of us, namely, climate change.



## **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres**

"The natural environment is deteriorating at an alarming rate: sea levels are rising; ocean acidification is accelerating; the last four years have been the warmest on record; one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction, and land degradation continues unchecked."

"The coming years will be a vital period to save the planet and to achieve sustainable, inclusive human development."

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If we do not cut record-high greenhouse gas emissions now, global warming is projected to reach 1.5 degrees in the coming decades. As we are already seeing, the compounded effects will be catastrophic and irreversible; increasing ocean acidification, coastal erosion, extreme weather conditions, the frequency and severity of natural disasters, of vital species and the collapse of the ecosystems.'

These effects, which will render many parts of the globe uninhabitable, will affect the poor the most. They will put food production at risk, leading to widespread food shortages and hunger and will potentially displace up to 140 million people by 2050. The clock for taking decisive actions on climate change is ticking.'



“It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals.” *United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.*



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The other defining issue of our time is increasing inequality among and within countries. Poverty, hunger and disease continue to be concentrated in the poorest and most vulnerable groups of people and countries.



## Some facts and figures:

- The world is not on track to end poverty by 2030;
- Millions more are living in hunger: 821 million were undernourished in 2017 up from 784 million in 2015;
- 617 million children and adolescents lack minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics;
- 750 million adults still remain illiterate; two thirds of them are women;
- At least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to Female Genital Mutilation;
- 785 million people remain without even basic drinking water services.

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Over 90 per cent of maternal deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. People living in fragile States are twice as likely to lack basic sanitation, and about four times as likely to lack basic drinking water services. Women and girls perform a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work and lack autonomy in decision-making.

## Gender Equality

‘There is simply no way that we can achieve the 17 SDGs without achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.’ *From Special Edition: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General*



Click on <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/progress-of-the-worlds-women> to view the UN Women's flagship report

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In addition to these two reports on the SDGs, UN Women has recently produced its flagship report, which demonstrates how women and girls are faring across the world, and what it will take to achieve the SDGs.

As we know, gender equality is a right. Fulfilling this right is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Women are not only more affected by these problems, but also possess ideas and leadership to solve them.





Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to each of the 17 goals. In order to deliver on SDG 5 (gender equality), work needs to be carried out across all 17 SDGs.

However, we are one organisation covering many different areas each with their own issues. Perhaps we need to focus on the SDGs relevant to our own areas in order to deliver on SDG 5 thus ensuring no-one is left behind.