

INFORMATION BRIEF ON SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

19 May 2022

BACKGROUND

More than ever, people and countries everywhere rely on the United Nations to rise to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic – a human crisis. The Secretary-General has emphasized that the creativity of the response must match the unique nature of the crisis – and the magnitude of the response must match its scale.

Moving ahead on the Decade of Action for SDG implementation¹, the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity for governments and stakeholders alike to Build Back Better their societies. The SDG Acceleration Actions online database is a tool to help inspire and mobilize actions around the world to promote the implementation of the SDGs, as well as build resilience and bring inclusive recovery in the context of new realities post COVID-19, so that the global economy, planet, and people we serve could emerge stronger together from the crisis.

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 19 May, a total of 350 Acceleration Actions have been published. The majority of actions (77%) aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages, while 23% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 345 registered actions, SDG 17 has mobilized the largest number, followed by SDGs 13, 1, 6, 16, 5 and 4. With regard to geographical location of initiatives, 41% of registered actions come from Europe; 20% from Latin America and the Caribbean; 19% from Africa; 12% from Asia and the Pacific; and 8% from West Asia (Middle East).

WHAT IS AN SDG ACCELERATION ACTION?

The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the SDG Summit, UN DESA set up an online platform to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions.

(<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions>)

SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate the SDG implementation by governments and any other non-state actors - individually or in partnership. Any new action or action that builds on existing efforts (scaling up, new phase, etc.) aimed to achieve the SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action.

IMPACT?

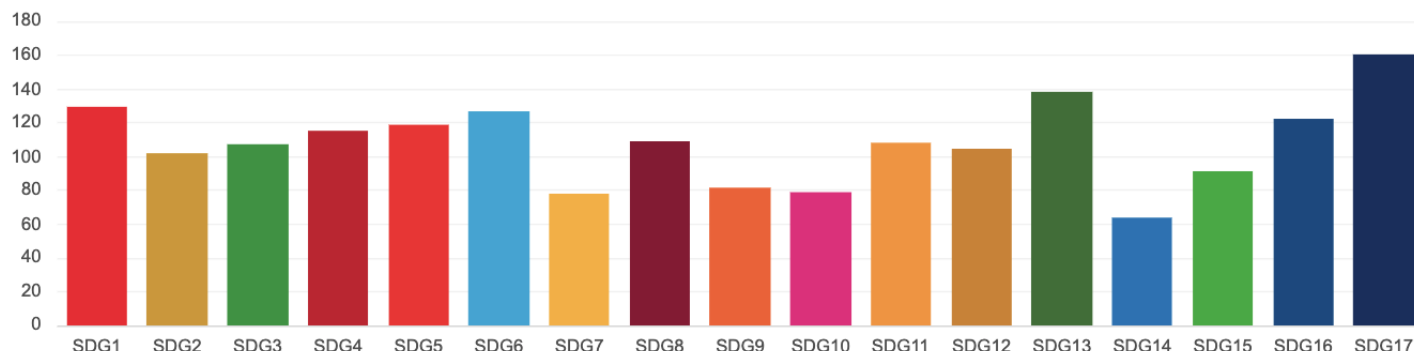
Registered actions will be highlighted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and other key global meetings, including the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and through UNDESA's Acceleration Action platform and social media channels.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

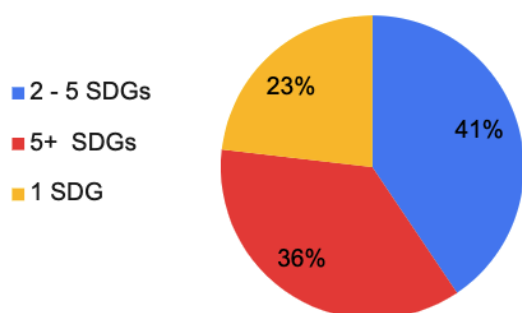
Registration is [open](#) online. Submissions will be reviewed by UNDESA in accordance with a set of criteria (click [here](#) for more information).

¹ For more information, see: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions>

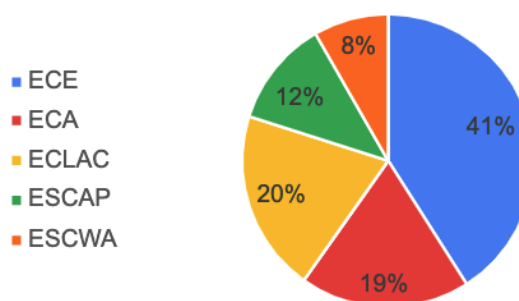
Number of Acceleration Actions per SDG



Number of SDGs Addressed

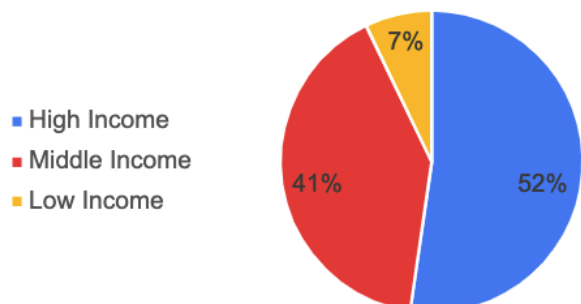


Regions

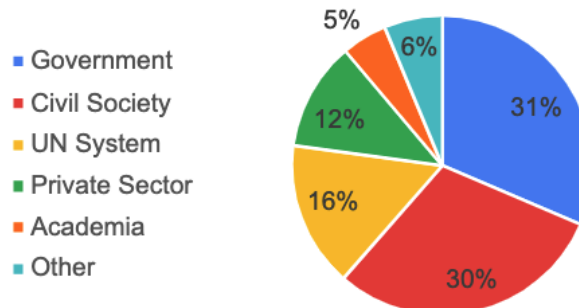


In terms of country breakdown by GDP (ppp), 52% of submissions are from high-income countries, while 41% from middle-income countries and 7% from low-income countries. There is a scope for mobilizing more SDG Acceleration Actions from the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and post-conflict and fragile states as they account for 9%, 2% and 11% of total actions published, respectively. Governments have submitted the majority of SDG Acceleration Actions (31%), followed by civil society organizations (30%), UN entities (16%) and the private sector (12%).

Income Status



Sectors



EXAMPLES OF SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

- 🕒 The [Government of Spain](#) is investing over 1,642 million euros, through the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan to prevent land degradation and to restore areas affected by desertification, while promoting the sustainable management of natural resources.
- 🕒 The [Government of Mongolia](#) is aiming to increase renewable energy generation from 7.5 % in 2014 to 30 % by 2030 through its Northeast Asia Power System Interconnection (NAPSI) initiative, in line with the Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030.
- 🕒 The [Government of Burundi](#), led by the presidential office and through the coherent coordination among its four line ministries, is aiming to plant 3 million trees every year to protect its terrestrial ecosystems and forest.
- 🕒 The [Government of Paraguay](#) is employing SDG-responsive budgeting to align its implementation and monitoring of national sustainable development strategy with SDGs.
- 🕒 The [Government of Malawi](#), led by Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), is embarking on a public-private partnership to reach 2,000 youth (55% female) with climate education coupled with hands-on climatic actions by Dec 2022.
- 🕒 The [Government of Qatar](#) is planning to launch the world's third-largest solar power plant through its 800 MWp Al Kharsaah project (800 MW) near Doha by 2022, in close collaboration with the private sector companies and academic institutions.
- 🕒 [Belarus' Ministry of Environment and UNDP](#) are partnering on a project to foster multi-country cooperation over conjunctive surface and groundwater management in the Bug and Neman Transboundary River Basins and their underlying aquifer systems.
- 🕒 Cameroonian NGO, [AJEMALEBU Self Help \(AJESH\)](#), in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), is aiming to settle 1500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in constructed low-cost houses by 2024.
- 🕒 [Portuguese National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development](#) (CNADS) promotes the localization of the SDGs among all Portuguese municipalities using dynamic technology-based online portal, which allows the visualization and monitoring of the progress and contributions of each municipality in relation to the various SDGs.
- 🕒 770 Brazilian cities are monitoring the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, using [Sustainable Cities Development Index – Brazil \(IDSC-BR\)](#) initiative developed by the Sustainable Cities Institute (ICS).
- 🕒 Green Quarter, the green consulting firm in Malaysia, launched the [Honda 3S Centre project](#) aimed at maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing water usage, with the aim of off-setting 20% energy consumption and 45% reduction in portable water.
- 🕒 [Aspire-Transform-Inspire Foundation](#) in line with SDG 3, aims to stop preventable deaths from cardiac arrest by educating all Ghanaians on CPR through systematic training programme for volunteers and secondary school students.
- 🕒 [Peru's 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Platform](#) is an independent, inclusive space aimed to engage the civil society, academia and the private sector in the concrete monitoring, advocacy and implementation processes of the localized SDGs with a view to enhancing the institutional capacities of all actors through training.
- 🕒 [Intergenerational Dialogues for Change](#) (IDC) is aimed at developing pilot actions in support of the SDGs by May 2023 with a view to promoting a network of civic spaces in each of 8 Canary Islands and enhancing trust and cooperation amongst the groups of different ages.
- 🕒 The [University of Surrey](#) is collaborating with the Government of Malaysia and various energy and chemical companies as well as 4 academic institutions in ASEAN countries to help both governmental and industrial policymakers to identify achievable emissions targets and optimal paths to achieve them through a range of technologies.
- 🕒 [Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture \(WASAG\)](#) is a partnership hosted by FAO and consisting of governments and multi-stakeholders aimed to enhance the field capacity for the adaptation of agriculture to water scarcity.