



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Towards 2030 and Beyond: Accelerating the SDGs through Access to Evidence on What Works

21 September, 16:00-17:15, CR7 UN Secretariat

Organized by: the Malawi Mission to the United Nations, the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, UNSDG System Wide Evaluation Office, the International Network for Governmental Science Advice, the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition, UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, UNICEF Evaluation Office, and UK Research and Innovation

Background on the event

This event marked a significant milestone in the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: Wellcome Trust and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) announced a total of US\$74 million of new investments in SDG evidence to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda through evidence synthesis. The initiative will focus on consolidating existing evidence and making it accessible to decision-makers worldwide. Supported by the governments of Malawi and the United Kingdom and the UNSDG System Wide Evaluation Office, as well as the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition and the International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA), the event further highlighted the transformative role of AI in evidence synthesis and the urgency of collective action to get the SDGs back on track.

Key Issues discussed

- The importance of improving decision-makers' access to up-to-date evidence on what works to achieve the SDGs.

- The role of science, digital technologies, and AI in accelerating progress toward the SDGs.
- Member State perspectives from Canada, Malawi, Kenya, Spain and the United Kingdom on priorities in international collaboration to support evidence-based decision-making, and achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- Stepping up international scientific collaboration and impact to produce and use evidence in equitable ways to address global challenges.
- The transformative potential of AI in improving the speed and accuracy of evidence synthesis.
- The efforts of the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition's in improving evidence access for decision-makers.
- Strengthened global efforts and new funding commitments from UKRI and the Wellcome Trust to make better use of evidence to address global challenges.
- Engaging international institutions and academia to ensure evidence-based responses to global challenges.

Key recommendations for action

- **Improve Access to Evidence:** Ensure that decision-makers, especially in low and middle-income countries, have timely and reliable access to synthesized evidence to accelerate SDG progress.
- **Leverage AI for Efficiency:** Utilize AI technologies to enhance the speed and accuracy of evidence synthesis, ensuring that evidence-based decisions can be made more quickly to address pressing global challenges.
- **Support International Collaboration:** Foster stronger international collaboration in evidence generation and sharing, particularly through initiatives like the Global SDG Synthesis Coalition, to tackle global issues collectively.
- **Promote Inclusive Evidence Practices:** Ensure that evidence synthesis includes diverse perspectives, languages, and contexts, particularly from underrepresented regions, low and middle-income countries and marginalized groups.
- **Address Inequality with Technology:** Ensure that the benefits of innovations like AI and evidence synthesis reach low and middle-income countries and marginalized populations, avoiding the risk of deepening global inequalities.

Webpage to find more information:

<http://www.sdgsynthesiscoalition.org/>