



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Integrating SDGs and Delivering a Sustainable Future: 2030 and Beyond

A Zoom Webinar on Saturday, 21 September 2024 from 8:30 – 10:00 AM EST (New York)

Organized by Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future in Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme in New York and co-sponsored by the Dominican Republic, Norway, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Background on the event

This side event provided an intergenerational, inclusive, and interactive platform to discuss two key issues facing the SDGs: why SDG progress has been so slow to date, and whether new and emerging issues not fully addressed in the SDGs may need to be considered in any post-2030 sustainable development agenda. The event brought together senior figures involved in the development of the SDGs, directors of key UN agencies responsible for SDG implementation, and a younger generation of SDG enthusiasts, spanning youth, NGOs, academia, and business, to share their views on these issues and the future of the SDGs. The event, co-sponsored by the Dominican Republic and the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, highlighted the need to strengthen the effectiveness of integrated approaches to SDG implementation up to 2030 and in any post-2030 sustainable development agenda. The discussions also drew on the experiences with Communities of Practice (dedicated to enhancing integration for the SDGs) that were launched at the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by [IntegrateSDGs](#), a project of [Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future](#) supported by the UNEP and the European Commission. In total, 644 registered for the event, and 171 joined with 125 attending consistently throughout.

Key Issues discussed

- With only 17% of targets proceeding as planned, it is clear that the SDGs will not be met by 2030 which raises challenging questions of what will follow. Up to now, there has been an understandable reluctance on the part of governments and the UN to discuss a post-2030 agenda out of concerns that any discussion on the SDGs beyond 2030 would divert attention from the focus on the implementation of the current agenda and attainment of the SDGs.

- The Pact for the Future adopted by the General Assembly includes a mandating paragraph to consider the SDGs beyond 2030 at the SDG Summit in 2027. The organizers of this side event were thanked for providing a platform to discuss in a non-political manner what form any post-2030 agenda might take.
- Issues surrounding any post-2030 agenda were highlighted such as slow progress on the SDGs, fragile multilateralism, differing critiques of the SDGs, and challenges and opportunities posed by new technologies. Various options for extending the SDGs to 2050 were proposed, including setting interim targets, adding SDGs to account for new developments, and raising ambition on some SDGs.
- Factors holding back SDG implementation were highlighted, including insufficient resources, knowledge, collaboration, and integrated articulation. Among these, it was generally held that integration/integrated approaches to SDG implementation remains a key challenge to achieving meaningful progress on the SDGs.
- Integrated approaches to SDG implementation were discussed from a variety of angles, including the role of youth, broad stakeholder engagement, and communities of practice in overcoming siloed SDG actions. Discussants highlighted that although there has been some progress on integrated approaches, notably at the local level, in research and by some governments to institutionalize more intersectoral approaches, progress has been gradual, and insufficient attention is given in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the importance of integration.

Key recommendations for action

- Several speakers highlighted that the SDGs are the best compromise we have and that most governments see the importance of and the need for a continuation of the SDGs and their integrated framework in the post-2030 period.
- It was recommended that more discussions of a multi-stakeholder, inclusive, and non-political character be convened in the run-up to the 2027 Summit to best consider what form a post-2030 sustainable development agenda should take.
- There was a broad consensus among speakers that the SDGs should be extended beyond 2030. Several recommended greater ambition on some existing goals/targets, such as development and climate finance, and reducing emissions, and additional Goals to account for new developments, such as youth, AI, and new technologies.
- It was recommended that greater attention be given to strengthening integration and integrated approaches to the SDGs up to 2030, including to the issue of synergies and trade-offs at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and in any post-2030 agenda.
- It was highlighted that inclusive communities of practice incorporating intergenerational partnerships are an important tool for the integration of SDG actions and advancing integrated approaches to the SDGs up to 2030 and beyond.

Visit the [IntegrateSDGs website](#) to view the webinar recording, and to download the background document and programme.