

**2025 HLPF Thematic Review**  
**Briefing on the outcomes of Expert Group Meetings on in-focus SDGs in  
preparation for the 2025 High-level Political Forum**

**Draft Remarks for Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Director, OISC**

Thursday, 27 February 2025

Conference Room 12

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this briefing on the outcomes of the preparatory Expert Group Meetings, held in advance of the in-depth reviews of several Sustainable Development Goals at the 2025 High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

10 years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, progress towards the SDGs is insufficient with only 17 per cent of targets with data on track for achievement by 2030. This alarming data underlines the need for coordinated and focused action over the next 5 years.

The theme of the 2025 HLPF is “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind”. The HLPF is our opportunity to rally around the SDGs. With collective action and political will, we can still make huge strides, in the time remaining till 2030.

The 2025 HLPF will have an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and 17 –

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

As a central component of the 2025 review, UNDESA, together with UN partners, organized a series of Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) to assess progress to date on these in-focus SDGs, to identify current challenges and opportunities for accelerating achievements, and to highlight innovative solutions for advancing interlinked progress across Goals and Targets. Three EGMs - on SDGs 3, 5, 8 respectively - have already taken place. A webinar on SDG 14 is forthcoming later this spring, minimizing duplication with the Third UN Ocean Conference. SDG 17 is considered as a cross-cutting matter in all of these discussions. We are especially grateful for the invaluable contributions from across the UN system to help organize these meetings, and especially for our co-organizers – UN-Women, the World Health Organization, the UN Population Fund, and the International Labour Organization.

The success of the EGMs also benefited from the contributions of Major Groups and other Stakeholders who were generous with their support and engagement.

The EGMs successfully convened stakeholders from academia, civil society, international organizations, youth and the private sector. Academics shared the results of their research; practitioners shared their deep experience. Together the experts identified the most impactful actions that can be taken now, for acceleration on these SDGs.

An important theme across the EGMs on SDG 3, 5 and 8 was the interlinkages among the Targets and Goals. For example, progress on universal health covered by SDG 3, access to sexual and reproductive health covered by SDG 5, and women's abilities to join the labor force, under SDG 8, are not independent facts. They are intertwined and reflective of the holistic vision of the 2030 Agenda. The way forward on the SDGs is to leverage these, and other, connections and build on synergies across goals and targets.

Another theme was around collaboration and innovation in partnerships. The EGMs brought together stakeholders with many different experiences and vantage points. Sharing knowledge and reaching across aisles allowed experts to envision systemic action and identify networks to drive change. Particularly today, in the context of crisis and uncertainty, the EGMs underscored that progress depends on diverse coalitions and multilateral solutions.

Further messages at the EGMs focused on strengthening the means of implementation for delivering on the in-focus Goals. In an era of rapid technological change, experts stressed the importance of leveraging digital tools and making them accessible and affordable. Likewise, innovative and secure financing, and resolving debt constraints, is paramount for sustained progress and leaving no one behind.

Across the discussions there were references to the unique opportunities this year, including at the HLPF, to leverage the agreement reached by world leaders at the Summit of the Future, and also to tap into the ongoing efforts around the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Third UN Ocean Conference and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2015, the global community made a commitment to end poverty and hunger, reign in climate change and biodiversity loss, to safeguard the health of the planet and the oceans, and to create a more equal and just world. Today, we need an all-hands-on-deck approach, grounded in evidence and oriented toward solutions, to make these aspirations a reality.

We still choose hope. People from all walks of life continue to move the needle on the SDGs. Many of them came together to present their tested ideas at the EGMs.

We humbly offer these ideas for your consideration as you prepare for the HLPF and its Ministerial Declaration.

We at UN DESA stand ready to support you every step of the way to accelerate the transformations needed for the achievement of the SDGs.

I thank you.