

# 2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

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



## WHERE WE STAND

- Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) faced record-high \$1.4 trillion debt servicing costs in 2023, compounded by a \$4 trillion annual investment gap that severely constrained SDG achievement. Despite increased financial flows from official and private sources, official development assistance (ODA) declined for the first time in five years with further cuts expected through 2025.
- The share of developing countries in global merchandise exports has remained stagnated since 2015—far below the SDG target to double their share by 2020.
- Access to information and communications technology continues to expand, but the digital divide remains wide, especially in lower-income regions. While data systems and national statistical capacities have improved, many countries still lack the sustainable financing to support data infrastructure and production needed to meet growing demands.
- Accelerating progress requires renewed international cooperation to bridge the investment gap, innovative financing to reduce debt burdens, targeted digital infrastructure support, and strengthened statistical capacity for better SDG tracking and implementation.



## FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 2024, ODA by DAC member countries amounted to \$212.1 billion, or 0.33% of their combined GNI. This marks a 7.1% decrease in real term from 2023, the first drop after five years of consecutive growth. Despite this decline, ODA remained 23% above 2019 levels.
- After steady increases in the early 2000s and 2010s, the share of merchandise exports from developing regions has stagnated since 2015.
- The global share of merchandise exports from Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and LDCs showed minimal gains, each reaching only 1.1%, while Small Island Developing States (SIDS) saw their share decline slightly from 2.4% in 2015 to 2.3% in 2023.
- Global FDI flows in 2024 reached an estimated \$1.4 trillion, a 11% increase over 2023, mainly due to higher values in a few conduit economies. Excluding these, global FDI flows were 8% lower. SDG-related investments declined 11% in 2024.
- In 2023, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries reached an estimated \$648 billion, reflecting a normalization of flows following the post-pandemic robust growth.
- In 2023, 67% of the global population, or 5.4 billion people, were online, marking a 4.7% increase from 2022. The growth rate has returned to pre-pandemic levels after a surge during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2024, 159 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, up from 132 countries in 2019, and 137 countries reported implementing a national statistical plan, though only 95 were fully funded.
- The average Open Data Inventory (ODIN) scores increased sharply from 2022 to 2024 across all regions; for the first time, the global score surpassed 50 out of 100. Despite progress, increased investment in data infrastructure and production is needed across all countries. Similarly, Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI) scores rose from 58.6 in 2016 to 69.7 in 2023, owing to the heightened demand for reliable data during the COVID-19 pandemic.

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



To learn more about  
global progress on the 17  
SDGs, [click here](#) to read  
the latest Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Report 2025.

# SPOTLIGHT



The **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development** (FFD4) took place from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Sevilla, Spain, guided by the aspiration to unlock greater volumes of capital to deliver an SDG investment push and to reform the international financial architecture to enable the transformative change that the world urgently needs.

World leaders adopted **the Sevilla Commitment or Compromiso de Sevilla** (A/CONF.227/2025.L.1), which sets out a renewed global framework to finance our future. It holds the promise to catalyze investments to i) close the \$4 trillion SDG financing gap, ii) address the debt and sustainable development crisis, and iii) reform the international financial architecture for a fairer financial system.

Heads of State and Government and global leaders also launched the **Sevilla Platform for Action (SPA)**, a major step to begin implementing the Compromiso de Sevilla without delay. It brings together **more than 130 high-impact initiatives** which are designed to complement the renewed global financing frameworks adopted by world leaders and to help deliver tangible progress to finance our future. Notable initiatives include a **global hub for debt swaps for development** by the World Bank and Spain and a **debt pause clause alliance** championed by Spain and a coalition of partners, among others. Civil society organizations issued a **Declaration from the FFD4 Civil Society Forum**. Global business leaders issued a **Communiqué at the International Business Forum**, highlighting five priority areas for action to scale up private investment.

To learn more, visit [here](#).



At the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, four SDG Action Segments were organized in collaboration with key partners from the UN system and beyond around the SDGs under in-depth review at 2025 HLPF, demonstrating how innovative partnerships could be scaled up to drive SDG implementation.

[>>>LEARN MORE](#)



## UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- The **Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) Facility** is a joint initiative of **UN DESA, UNDP, OECD, UNICEF, EU** and the Governments of Italy, Spain and Sweden. It responds to the demand from countries developing integrated national financing frameworks and offers a wide range of technical expertise to support the development and delivery of INFFs.
- The **2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator** of **UN DESA**, implemented in partnership with the Partnering Initiative (TPI), aims to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement in support of the SDGs through training and advisory services to Member States and UN Resident Coordinator Offices.
- **UN DESA** and **UNCTAD** continue to coordinate the **UN Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT)**, facilitating working-level cooperation among expert staff on STI issues in the UN system across ten workstreams.
- Led by **UNCTAD** in collaboration with **UNECA, UNESCAP, UN Resident Coordinator Offices in beneficiary countries**, funded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, the **STI Parks for Sustainable Development initiative** aims to build national capacity in using STI parks to improve national technology and innovation performance and generate positive socio-economic outcomes.
- **AI for Good Global Summit**, led by **ITU** in partnership with **over 40 UN agencies**, is identifying innovative AI applications, building skills and standards, strengthening global dialogue on governance, and advancing partnerships to solve global challenges. **ITU's Digital Skills Toolkit** offers a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to support policymakers and other stakeholders to create effective national digital skills strategies and policies.
- **Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Coalition** (**ITU, UNOHRLLS, UNODET**) fosters meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, with a focus on but not limited to hardest-to-connect communities in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
- **UN Data Platform**, a collaborative effort between **UN DESA** and Google's Data Commons, empowers policymakers, researchers and the public, leveraging cutting-edge technology to provide easy access to authoritative data and information collected by the entire UN system to enable data-driven decisions and solutions.
- The **Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)** has conducted the **2025 Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework for the SDGs**.

\* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



**UN SYSTEM SDG  
IMPLEMENTATION  
DATABASE**