

2026 HLPF SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAMME

DATE	TIME	SPECIAL EVENT NAME AND ORGANIZER(S)	LOCATION
7 Jul	8:00am - 9:30am	2026 SDGs in Practice - A Decade of Learning: What Capacities Matter Most for Accelerating SDG Implementation? (UN DESA and UNITAR)	Virtual
7 Jul	11:00am - 1:00pm	UN Decade of Sustainable Transport Annual Stocktake 2026 (UN DESA)	CR 11
7 Jul	3:00pm - 6:00pm	SDG 6 Special Event (UN Water)	CR 11
8 Jul	10:00am - 1:00pm	Implementing the Global Plan of Action for the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All to 2030 (UN DESA with support from UN Energy)	CR 11
9 Jul	8:00am - 10:00am	2026 HESI Global Forum: Reimagining Higher Education for Global Transformation Toward a Sustainable Future (UN DESA, UNESCO IESALC, UNU, SULITEST)	Virtual
9 Jul	10:00am - 1:00pm	Science Day 2026: The Science-Policy Imperative for the Final Stretch to 2030 and Beyond (ISC, SDSN, SEI, UN DESA, UNDP)	CR 3
9 Jul	3:30pm - 5:30pm	We the Peoples: Shaping the Future of the UN (EOSG)	TRI
9 Jul	3:00pm - 4:30pm	Bridging Systems, Building Trust: Advancing Water, Energy, Innovation and Sustainable Cities through Coordinated Policy Actions - A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue	CR 6
14 Jul	8:00am - 9:30am	2026 SDG Global Business Forum: Business and the Real Economy: Delivering Sustainable Development in a Changing Global Context (UN DESA, UNGC, IOE, UNIDO)	Virtual
14 Jul	10:00am - 1:00pm	Special Event on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026: Understanding and Addressing the High Costs of Healthy Diets (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO)	CR 6
14 Jul	10:00am-1:00pm	Parliamentary Forum at the 2026 HLPF (IPU)	CR 1
14 Jul	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Local and Regional Governments Forum 2026 (UN DESA, Global Task Force, Local2030, UNDP, and UN-Habitat)	CR 2
15 Jul	3:00pm-6:00pm	Local2030 Coalition Special Event 2026 (Local2030 Coalition)	CR 11



In collaboration with key partners, the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** curates a set of high-profile special events for the **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)** to galvanize broad ownership and engagement on the SDGs from key sectors, such as higher education institutions, private sector, local authorities, parliamentarians, among others. Most of these events are recurring every year under different themes. The 2026 special events will be held in-person at the UNHQ in New York or virtually.



2026 SDGs in Practice - A Decade of Learning: What Capacities Matter Most for Accelerating SDG Implementation? (UN DESA and UNITAR)

7 July 2026, 8:00am - 9:30am, Virtual

The 2026 edition of SDGs in Practice marks ten years of practical learning to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event will reflect on lessons from a decade of capacity-building and explore which capacities matter most for accelerating SDG progress in the years leading to 2030 and beyond. The event aims to identify priority capacity needs, inform the future direction of the SDGs in Practice series, and contribute to broader reflections on effective capacity-building for sustainable development. Participation is open to all interested stakeholders.

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United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport - Annual Stocktake 2026 (UN DESA)

7 July 2026, 11:00am - 1:00pm, CR11

This first annual stock-take of the newly launched UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026 - 2035 will highlight the role sustainable transport can play in accelerating SDG implementation. Focusing on all modes of transport, passenger and freight, the event will showcase sustainable transport solutions that can provide synergies for economic growth, sustainable infrastructure, decent jobs, gender equality, sustainable energy, sustainable cities, climate action, and health, among others. The event will contribute to monitoring of progress during the UN Decade, spotlight the work done by the organizations behind the Sustainable Transport Action Commitments, and share information regarding available support for ambitious action on sustainable transport.

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SDG 6 Special Event (UN Water)

7 July 2026, 3:00 - 6:00pm, CR11

The UN-Water Chair and the Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA will co-host the sixth annual SDG 6 Special Event during the High-level Political Forum. Progress on water-related goals and targets at the country level demonstrates synergistic effects on SDG implementation, and peer-to-peer learning has emerged as an innovative and effective way to strengthen cooperation. In this spirit, UN-Water will launch its fifth iteration of the SDG 6 Country Acceleration Case Studies, showcasing practical examples of successful policies. This will be followed by the launch of the 2026 SDG 6 Synthesis Report. The SDG 6 Synthesis Report is a flagship publication of the United Nations prepared by UN-Water Members and Partners that is strategically timed as an input for the periodic in-depth review of SDG 6 during the HLPF.

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Implementing the Global Plan of Action for the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All to 2030 (UN DESA)

8 July 2026, 10:00am - 1:00pm, CR11

SDG7 stands out as one of the most transformative and catalytic goals, which has since its inception improved the lives of hundreds of millions worldwide. Yet, we are still off-track to achieving any of its targets. To accelerate action, the United Nations General Assembly in resolution [80/142](#), called for the implementation of the updated [Global Plan of Action for the Extension of the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All until 2030](#). The Plan sets out a range of measures to be taken by Member States, the United Nations system, and other multistakeholder partners to further accelerate progress on energy-related goals and targets, while strengthening synergies across the 2030 Agenda and advancing just energy transitions to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This special event will bring together global leaders to share experiences and highlight opportunities, including those relevant to the most vulnerable countries, towards a more secure, resilient, and sustainable future for people, planet, and prosperity. It will also feature the launch of UN-Energy's Work Programme for 2026-2030.

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2026 HESI Global Forum - Reimagining Higher Education for Global Transformation Toward a Sustainable Future (UN DESA, UNESCO IESALC, UNU, SULITEST)

9 July 2026, 8:00am - 10:00am, Virtual

The HESI Global Forum 2026 will showcase the critical role of higher education in advancing sustainable, inclusive, and science-based solutions, bringing together academia, policymakers, students, civil society, and the private sector to explore how universities can drive interdisciplinary, data-informed action on the SDGs.

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Science Day 2026: The Science-Policy Imperative for the Final Stretch to 2030 and Beyond (ISC, SDSN, SEI, UN DESA and UNDP)

9 July 2026, 10:00am - 1:00pm, CR 3

Building on the 2023-2025 editions, Science Day 2026 convenes the science community, policymakers, and societal actors at a critical juncture for multilateral cooperation. As the 2030 Agenda enters its final implementation phase, Science Day provides a focused space to examine how scientific knowledge is being used within multilateral processes to accelerate delivery, where it is falling short, and what is required for science-policy collaboration to remain credible and effective under current global conditions.

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Bridging Systems, Building Trust: Advancing Water, Energy, Innovation and Sustainable Cities through Coordinated Policy Actions - A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue (UN DESA)

9 July 2026, 3:00pm - 4:30pm, CR6

Join UN DESA for a fast-paced, 90-minute hybrid Global Policy Dialogue at UN Headquarters in New York and online bringing fresh ideas to the water-energy-innovation-cities nexus. This session will zoom in on how together we can accelerate SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 as climate risks grow, inequalities widen, demographics shift, and public trust frays. Two lively panels will mix perspectives from the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs (HLAB) with youth voices, spotlighting people-centred solutions, social investment, and institutional innovation. The online and in-person audience will be able to participate in online polls and a moderated Q&A. Multilingual captioning and international sign interpretation will help everyone take part.

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We the Peoples: Shaping the Future of the United Nations (EOSG)

9 July 2026, 3:30pm - 5:30pm, TRI

We the Peoples: Shaping the Future of the UN is the flagship civil society gathering to reflect on the Organization's next 80 years and its long-term vision. The opening segment will build on the UN's recent journey, covering the 2017/2018 reforms of the development system, peace & security architecture and management, UN75, Our Common Agenda, and the Pact for the Future and UN80 Initiative, highlighting how these milestones have sought to strengthen multilateralism in the face of complex global challenges. As the UN faces a world marked by geopolitical tensions, widening inequalities and rapid technological disruption, speakers from diverse constituencies and regions will exchange perspectives on the Organization's evolving role and the institution they envision for the decades ahead. The discussion will also highlight practical ways to deepen and structure collaboration with civil society in support of a more inclusive and responsive multilateral system.

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2026 SDG Global Business Forum - Business and the Real Economy: Delivering Sustainable Development in a Changing Global Context (UN DESA, UNGC, IOE, UNIDO)

14 July 2026, 8:00am - 9:30am, Virtual

Held as a high-level special event alongside the 2026 HLPF, the Forum will bring together leaders from business, government, civil society and other sectors to discuss how to foster a more enabling environment for private sector contributions in support of sustainable development. This year's discussions will place a particular focus on SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and on implementation of Action 55(c) of the Pact for the Future. Outcomes will inform key intergovernmental processes, including the 2026 Private Sector Forum and the 2026 United Nations Water Conference.

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Special Event on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 - Understanding and Addressing the High Costs of Healthy Diets (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO)

14 July 2026, 10:00am - 1:00pm, CR6

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO will hold a Special Event on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 dedicated to the theme of Understanding and Addressing the High Costs of Healthy Diets. Despite its critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, approximately one-third of the global population does not have access to a healthy diet. Following the 2025 report and special event focusing on the general issue of food inflation, this year we will explore in detail the cost of healthy diets, the methodology applied to compute this indicator, as well as factors influencing and possible solutions to tackle these costs.

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Parliamentary Forum at the 2026 HLPF (IPU)

14 July 2026, 10:00am - 1:00pm, CR1

The Parliamentary Forum at the HLPF engages parliamentarians in assessing progress toward the SDGs at the global level. It provides an opportunity for parliamentary oversight of government action as well as for an exchange of best legislative practices on sustainable development from parliaments around the world. This year's Parliamentary Forum will begin with a focus on SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, one of five goals under review at the 2026 HLPF. The rest of the session will be devoted to a discussion on the SDG framework as a whole and the way forward for sustainable development after 2030.

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Local and Regional Governments Forum 2026 (UN DESA, Global Task Force, Local2030, UNDP and UN-Habitat)

14 July 2026, 3:00pm - 6:00pm, CR2

The 9th Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF) Special Event will highlight the contributions of local and regional governments to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Bringing together local and regional governments, United Nations entities, Member States and key stakeholders, the Forum will integrate territorial perspectives across all discussions and emphasize multilevel governance, public service delivery and partnerships as critical enablers of SDG implementation. Discussions will consider the strategic contributions of local and regional governments to global processes, promote SDG localization across priority areas, and leverage the New Urban Agenda and the final stretch of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while fostering coherence and forward-looking policy dialogue.

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Local2030 Coalition Special Event 2026 (Local2030 Coalition)

15 July 2026, 3:00pm - 6:00pm, CR11

The Local2030 Coalition will convene its Special Event at the 2026 HLPF to demonstrate how localization is accelerating delivery of the 2030 Agenda and shaping the next generation of sustainable development action. At a moment when SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda are under review, the session will highlight how localization provides pathways for implementation, with sustainable cities and communities serving as a strategic entry point for broader transformation. Bringing together ministers, mayors and governors, civil society, youth, and the private sector, the event will showcase practical tools and methodologies that strengthen national-local alignment, enable coherence, and scale territorial solutions. The session will connect key global processes—including the Local2030 Coalition's Road to Baku: The Local Way toward the World Urban Forum 13—contributing to the SDG 11 and New Urban Agenda review, with a view toward the 2027 SDG Summit, while highlighting progress under the High-Impact Initiative on SDG Localization.

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