STAKEHOLDER INPUTS TO INFORM GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2027

OPEN CALL SUMMARY REPORT

JUNE 2026

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report seeks to provide a summary of the inputs from a broad range of stakeholders received in an open call for stakeholder inputs convened online by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to inform the work of the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) drafting the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). It is prepared by Catarina Vita, Lisa Hotter and Anna Beckmann under the supervision of Meng Li and Naiara Costa.

Design and Layout: Meng Li

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DISCLAIMER

The summary report intends to present a synthesis of views and opinions expressed by stakeholders in response to an open call for inputs held between 23 February and 31 March 2026 and does not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations. Reference herein to any specific organization, partnership, process, service, website, or otherwise, does not imply endorsement or recommendation from the United Nations and shall not be used for advertising or service endorsement purposes. Hyperlinks in the report are included as a convenience to readers. The United Nations has no control over external sites and is, therefore, not responsible, or legally liable for their content. The United Nations reserves the right to delete any input at any given time if its content is perceived as not aligned with the United Nations Charter or the principles and purposes of the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report.

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INTRODUCTION

The Global Sustainable Development Report

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) originated in "The Future We Want," the outcome of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development, when Member States were laying the groundwork for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The negotiators knew that the 2030 Agenda would be complex, and unprecedented in ambition, and that a siloed approach to development would not be adequate. They recognized the power of science to understand and navigate relationships among social, environmental and economic development objectives, and so they called for a report to strengthen the science-policy interface.

Member States decided in 2016 that the GSDR should be produced once every four years, to inform the quadrennial High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit), and that it should be written by an Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, which would consist of 15 experts representing a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines and institutions, ensuring geographical and gender balance.

Building on the legacy of previous reports, The Future is Now (2019) and Times of Crisis, Times of Change (2023), the next GSDR is scheduled to be released in September 2027 in advance of the 2027 SDG Summit, providing scientific guidance on the state of global sustainable development, addressing emerging challenges, and offering actionable recommendations for governments and other stakeholders. It will aim to strengthen the science-policy-society interface and serve as a robust, evidence-based tool to support policymakers in accelerating progress toward poverty eradication and sustainable development in the final push to 2030. It will be accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, business leaders, civil society organizations, and the general public.

| Previous Editions

GSDR 2019

GSDR 2023

The Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) 2025-2027

Following an extensive consultation process, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed a group of independent scientists to draft the 2027 GSDR. The 15-member group represents a wide range of disciplines, expertise, and geographic backgrounds. (For detailed biographies of its 15 members, please visit the 2027 GSDR website.)

The IGS is being supported by a United Nations system task team comprising six organizations: the United Nations Secretariat led by UN DESA, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD and the World Bank. This team coordinates inputs from a broad network of stakeholders, including the UN system, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

Open Call for Stakeholder Inputs

To support the work of the Independent Group of Scientists drafting the 2027 GSDR, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) convened an Open Call for Stakeholder Inputs from 23 February to 31 March 2026, with a view to:

- understanding stakeholder expectations for the 2027 GSDR, including what characteristics would make the report most relevant and useful;
- gathering examples of good practices and lessons learned in SDG implementation from practitioners working to strengthen science-policy-society interfaces at all levels, including what works at the local level and where the gaps are;
- identifying additional peer-reviewed assessments to complement the IGS' own research.

Guided by the IGS, the open call included the following sections and questions:

SECTION 1 - Understanding Stakeholder Expectations *The 2027 GSDR is expected to inform the SDG Summit in 2027 by providing scientific evidence on the state of sustainable development globally and ways to accelerate progress and address emerging challenges. The Report aims to offer actionable and evidence-based recommendations for governments and other stakeholders to drive integrated action across social, environmental and economic dimensions in the last three years to 2030 and beyond. This section is designed to understand stakeholders' expectations for the 2027GSDR.*	
1	Please identify the top three priority issues where stronger scientific synthesis and policy-relevant guidance in the 2027 GSDR are most needed to support integrated SDG implementation. (Open ended, Maximum 150 characters per response, max 3 answers per submission.)
2	What type of guidance do you wish to see in the 2027 GSDR about how countries can advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond? (Open ended, maximum 500 characters)
3	If you are asked to name one thing that the 2027 GSDR could do to strengthen the effectiveness and usability of the report, what would that be? (Maximum 500 characters)
SECTION 2 - Identify evidence-based good practices and lessons learned from SDG implementation to inform the GSDR *This section aims to identify concrete examples of integrated SDG implementation including policy tools, institutional arrangements, or implementation strategies that link social, environmental and economic objectives. The IGS are especially seeking cases from experience where integrated approaches have delivered results, addressed barriers, or produced useful lessons for policymakers, particularly welcoming inputs from low-resource settings, countries in special situations, as well as grassroots organizations.*	
4	Based on your experience, what is the main challenge that needs to be addressed to strengthen integrated approaches to SDG implementation? (Open ended, Maximum 500 characters per submission)

5	Please share a good practice/case study/policy tool from your work illustrating integrated implementation of the SDGs. (Maximum one per submission) • Short summary about the good practice/case study/policy tool (500 characters max) • Partners involved (500 characters max) • Short summary of barriers faced and how they were overcome (800 characters max) • SDG result/impact achieved (500 characters max) • Relevant link
SECTION 3 - References to Peer-Reviewed Materials to Further Strengthen 2027 GSDR's Scientific Base *(Optional, Targeting Scientists and Researchers)* *Considering the "assessment-of-assessments" nature of the GSDR, this section is designed for scientists and researchers to share scientific references that are relevant to the GSDR themes to complement the IGS' own research and strengthen the scientific base of the 2027GSDR. In providing the scientific references, please follow the UN Style Guide.*	
6	If and only if you are a scientist or a researcher, please share scientific references to recent peer-reviewed assessments, systematic reviews/meta-analyses, and major scientific syntheses relevant to the priority issues you have identified in Question 1 above. Please provide hyperlinks if available.

The questionnaire also collected information about participants' region, country, stakeholder type, gender, profession and organization in order to provide context for the inputs received.

A compilation of all responses considered in this summary can be found here, which has been shared with the Independent Group of Scientists and made publicly available.

This summary report presents the key messages from the stakeholder inputs generated from this open call that are most relevant to the emerging themes and focus areas of the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report. It does not intend to comprehensively cover all inputs received.

The section below provides an overview of geographical, age, gender, sectoral distributions of these responses.

RESPONSES IN NUMBERS

347

RESPONSES

78

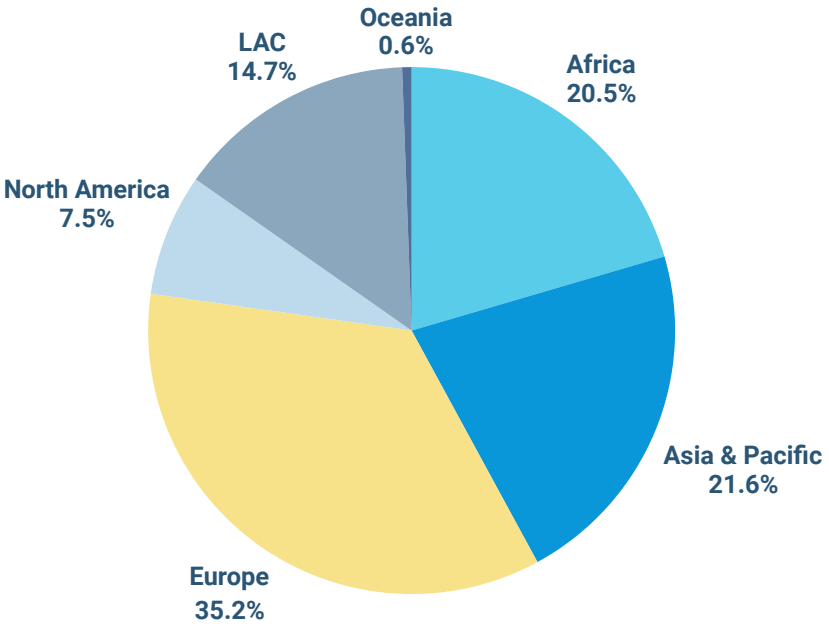
COUNTRIES

19%

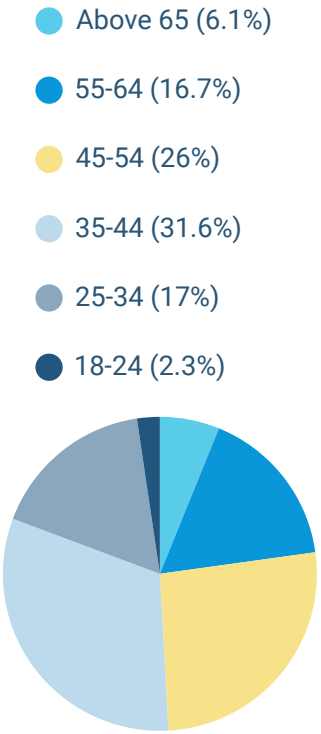
UNDER 35 YEARS OLD

A total of **347 substantive responses*** from interested stakeholders were considered for this analysis. They originated from **78 countries**, covering all **regions** of the world. More than 40% of them were submitted by stakeholders based in Africa (20.5%) and Asia and Pacific (21.6%). Oceania was the least represented region (0.6%).

With regards to **age**, almost four-fifths of the responses came from stakeholders 35 and older (with a combined percentage of 79%.) The combined percentage of those under 35 years old is 19%. (See details below.)



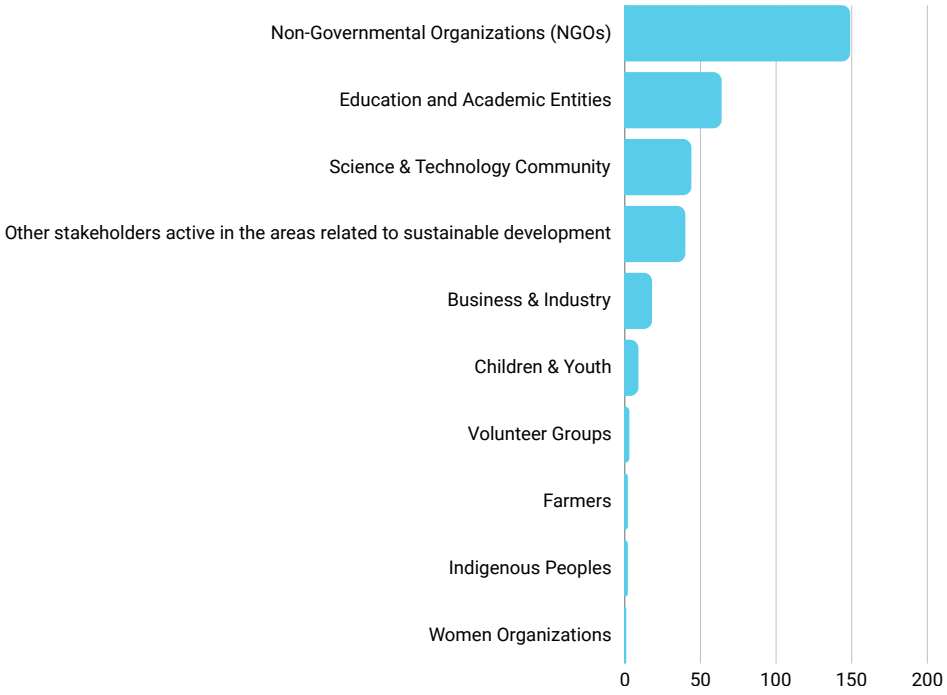
Distribution of submissions by region. Source: UN DESA



Age distribution of responses. Source: UN DESA

The 78 countries include: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte D'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, The Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of The), Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

** The consultation registered a total of 347 responses. A few duplications and unverifiable responses were identified and not considered for this analysis.*

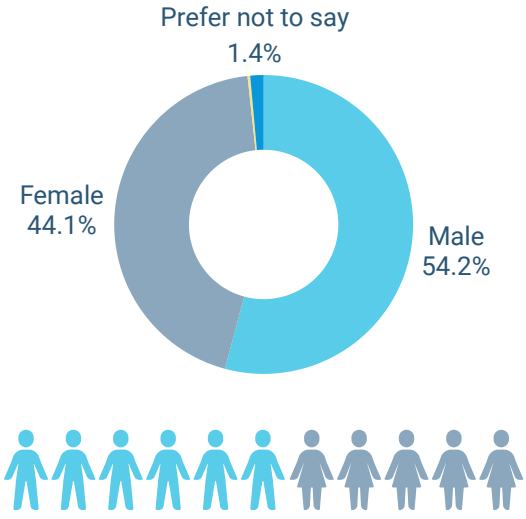


Distribution of submissions per sector. Source: UN DESA

43%

From Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Over 40% of the stakeholders contributing to the open call for inputs self-identified as representatives from non-governmental organizations (**NGOs)– 43%**.



Gender distribution of responses. Source: UN DESA

44.1%

From Female Contributors

With regards to **gender**, 54.2% of the contributors self-identified as male, only 10% more than female contributions (44.1%).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Stakeholder Inputs to Inform
GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2027

Top 10 Priority Issues to Address According to Stakeholders

Based on 347 stakeholder responses from 78 countries, the following are the top 10 priority issues where stakeholders believe stronger scientific synthesis and policy-relevant guidance in the 2027 GSDR are most needed to support integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

READ MORE

The Climate-Energy-Food-Water-Biodiversity Nexus

Digital Transformation and AI Governance

Sustainable Finance and Reform of the Global Financial Architecture

Education as a Systemic Accelerator

Overcoming Institutional Fragmentation

Strengthening Data Systems and Disaggregation

Transitioning to Circular and Regenerative Models

Tackling Structural Inequalities

Local Action and Community-based Transformation

The Climate-Health-Equity Nexus

Guidance Expected on Sustainable Development by 2030 and Beyond

Institutionalizing Policy Coherence and Accountability

Integrated Planning and Management

Participatory Science-Policy-Society Interface

Disaggregated Data and Inclusive Monitoring

Practical Implementation Playbooks

Stewardship towards Just Transition

Localization and Multi-Level Governance

Sustainable and Equitable Finance Reform

Paradigm Shift Beyond GDP

Differentiated and Context-Sensitive Pathways

When asked what type of guidance they wish to see on how countries can advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, stakeholders shared the following key expectations:

READ MORE

CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL LIST OF STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES

DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Ways to Strengthen Effectiveness and Usability of 2027 GSDR

Stakeholders shared concrete recommendations on ways to make the Report more useful and effective. Key suggestions include the following, some of which echo the suggestions in their responses to the previous questions:

READ MORE

Practical Implementation Toolkits

Plain-Language Communication & Accessibility

Inclusive Platforms to Translate to Local Languages and Contexts

Interactive Digital Navigators or Dashboards

Grounded Case Studies Showcasing the Why and How

Voices from the Margins

Main Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned from Stakeholders on Integrated Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Fragmented Governance & Institutional Siloes

Misaligned & Fragmented Financing

Data Gaps & Incompatible Systems

Institutionalizing Mandatory Convergence

Complementing Science with Local Wisdom

Leveraging Co-Benefits and Managing Tradeoffs

CHALLENGES → LESSONS

Weak Science-Policy-Society Interface

Structural Exclusion of Marginalized Communities

Capacity and Awareness Gaps

Insufficient Political Will and Short-Termism

Building Capacity and Trust through Active Local Engagements

Bridging Financing Gaps with Creativity

Stakeholders shared concrete examples from their integrated SDG implementation, highlighting main challenges, lessons learned and good practices.

READ MORE

SECTION I:

UNDERSTANDING STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS

The 2027 GSDR is expected to inform the SDG Summit in 2027 by providing scientific evidence on the state of sustainable development globally and ways to accelerate progress and address emerging challenges. It is expected to offer actionable and evidence-based recommendations for governments and other stakeholders to drive integrated action across social, environmental and economic dimensions in the last three years to 2030 and beyond.

This section included three questions, with a view to unpacking stakeholders' expectations for the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report, from priority issues to be covered, to the type of guidance on advancing sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, and to suggestions for consideration to improve the effectiveness and usability of the report.

Question 1. Please identify the top three priority issues where stronger scientific synthesis and policy-relevant guidance in the 2027 GSDR are most needed to support integrated SDG implementation.

In their responses, stakeholders highlighted what they believe are the top three priority issues where stronger scientific synthesis and policy-relevant guidance are needed for the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). The word cloud below illustrates a snapshot of these priority issues, which is followed by a summary of the top 10 issues that emerged from the inputs.

Word cloud of priority topics mentioned by stakeholders in their inputs to inform the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report, UNDESA, generated using wordart.com

The Climate-Energy-Food-Water-Biodiversity Nexus

Stakeholders call for scientific guidance to manage the water–energy–food nexus alongside biodiversity conservation to more effectively navigate resource scarcity and climate shocks. Policies must move beyond sectoral silos to identify synergies where nature-based solutions and integrated resource planning simultaneously ensure food and energy security while protecting ecosystems. Synthesis is needed on managing these trade-offs to deliver a just transition that stays within planetary boundaries.

"Climate-water-energy nexus: science-based pathways for resilient, low-carbon resource systems and risk-informed planning" - India Water Foundation, India

Digital Transformation and AI Governance

Stakeholders seek guidance on ways to ensure that Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies serve as tools for inclusion rather than widening the digital divide. Stakeholders advocate for ethical frameworks that protect human rights, reduce algorithmic bias, and integrate local and Indigenous knowledge into digital systems. They call for policies that empower marginalized communities to use digital tools for essential services like healthcare and education while maintaining sovereignty over their data.

"Guidance on governing AI and digitalization for inclusive, low-carbon growth" - QFBA Northumbria University, Qatar

Sustainable Finance and Reform of the Global Financial Architecture

Reforming the international financial system is seen as a prerequisite for integrated SDG implementation, particularly for nations under debt stress. Guidance is needed on bridging the funding gap through innovative mechanisms such as blended finance and green bonds. Stakeholders call for aligning public and private capital with long-term sustainability outcomes rather than short-term profits. Policies should focus on providing the fiscal space for developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDS, to invest in resilient infrastructure and poverty reduction while ensuring equitable resource distribution.

"Debt, inequality and SDG financing: reform the global financial system to unlock sustainable investment." - International Helping For The Young, Chad

Education as a Systemic Accelerator

Stakeholders view education as a key driver for behavioral change and societal transformation. Stakeholders therefore seek guidance on transforming national curricula to embed sustainability, climate literacy, and the "green skills" required for future job markets. Policies

should focus on whole-of-institution approaches that empower youth to lead development initiatives. By linking quality learning with community needs, education can serve as a powerful tool to overcome social and economic barriers and prepare a workforce capable of delivering sustainable outcomes.

"Scale education transformation as a horizontal accelerator to bridge learning gaps and build capabilities for the second half of the 2030 Agenda" - Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (OEI), Spain

Overcoming Institutional Fragmentation

Fragmented governance is identified as a major obstacle to effective implementation. Stakeholders call for models that break down administrative silos and improve coordination across different levels of government and between various ministries. Guidance should focus on institutionalizing decision-making processes that account for cross-sectoral impacts and trade-offs. Policy-relevant synthesis is needed on creating shared accountability frameworks and integrated budgeting systems that prioritize collective wellbeing and systemic health over isolated departmental mandates.

"Institutionalizing integrated, anticipatory policy assessment" - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria

Strengthening Data Systems and Disaggregation

Closing the "invisible population" gap requires more granular, disaggregated data that accounts for age, disability status, gender, and geography. Stakeholders emphasize integrating citizen-generated data and local knowledge into official monitoring frameworks to ensure policies reach those furthest behind. Guidance is needed on strengthening national data ecosystems to be more transparent, interoperable, and inclusive. Reliable, real-time information is essential for tracking progress, managing trade-offs, and holding institutions accountable for their commitments.

"Stronger synthesis on disability disaggregated access to social protection in fragile and crisis contexts." - Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International, Germany

Transitioning to a Circular and Regenerative Economy

Shifting from linear "take-make-waste" models to circular systems is critical for resource efficiency. Stakeholders seek guidance on scaling the use of bio-based materials and establishing waste-to-resource value chains. Policy should focus on aligning market incentives with environmental and social costs to reduce material footprints. Guidance is needed on creating inclusive "green jobs" within a regenerative economy that protects natural resources while supporting sustainable industrial growth and community resilience.

"Scaling circular and sustainable fashion systems to cut waste, reduce emissions and end labour exploitation while creating inclusive green jobs." - GCBR and TCSL Campaign, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Addressing Structural Inequalities and Human Rights

Stakeholders advocate for a rights-based approach to tackle systemic inequalities and structural exclusions. Guidance is needed to move marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples, from being passive beneficiaries to active leaders and contributors for development. Policy should prioritize the legal protection of Indigenous rights and ensure that climate action and economic transitions are inclusive and just. Addressing the root causes of exclusion is essential to ensure that progress truly leaves no one behind.

"Inclusive climate resilience for children and disabilities: evidence-based inclusive adaptation and protection to reduce inequities" - Akdeniz University, Türkiye

Local Actions and Community-Based Transformations

Translating global targets into local action is identified as a vital implementation path. Stakeholders call for models of multi-level governance that align national planning with sub-national budgets and community needs. Guidance should provide tools for place-based assessments to identify local disparities and empower municipalities to lead their own transitions. Grounding sustainable development in territorial realities ensures that policies are culturally relevant, socially inclusive, and more likely to achieve long-term institutional success.

"Integrating the SDGs into local public planning and budgeting based on evidence and territorially-specific indicators." - Municipality of Vitória da Conquista, Brazil

The Climate-Health-Equity Nexus

Stakeholders report that global health is under immense pressure from a confluence of crises, including the lingering impacts of COVID-19, escalating climate-related health hazards such as heat stress and zoonotic diseases, and a worsening mental health crisis, exacerbated by institutional fragmentation. Stakeholders call for integrated guidance that translates the climate–health–equity nexus into actionable national roadmaps, recommending "infrastructure convergence" to move away from disease-specific funding toward resilient health systems that can simultaneously manage NCDs, infectious diseases, and environmental shocks. They specifically advocate for guidance on disaggregated data systems that incorporate "functioning" as a core health metric to ensure that progress in participation and well-being reaches those with disabilities and populations furthest behind.

"Weak rural healthcare and low climate-health learning in schools leave marginalized communities unprepared for heat, disease, and disasters." - YOUNGO, India

Question 2. What type of guidance do you wish to see in the 2027 GSDR about how countries can advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond?

In Question 2 responses, stakeholders outlined several key expectations for the type of guidance the 2027 GSDR should aim for regarding how countries can advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.

Institutionalizing Policy Coherence and Accountability

Stakeholders expect guidance on deploying the Governance lever to dismantle institutional silos. This includes practical models for horizontal coordination (across ministries) and vertical coordination (across administrative levels). Guidance could focus on legislative reforms that mandate SDG alignment and the adoption of results-based budgeting to ensure that financial allocations directly drive integrated systemic health rather than isolated sectoral targets.

"The 2027 GSDR should provide actionable frameworks for shifting governance from siloed SDG implementation to integrated, systems-based planning. Guidance should emphasize long-term thinking, regenerative policy design, and alignment of incentives across ministries, finance systems, and education. Countries need tools that connect climate resilience, mental health, economic stability, and institutional accountability into coherent national strategies." - Taylor's University, Malaysia

Differentiated and Context-Sensitive Pathways

There is a high demand for the report to move beyond uniform prescriptions and provide differentiated pathways tailored to diverse national realities, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Middle-Income Countries (MICs). Guidance should offer staged diagnostics that reflect varying fiscal capacities and geographies, ensuring that local implementation strategies are grounded in the specifics of the local contexts.

"GSDR should provide differentiated, actionable pathways tailored to countries' varying capacities, geographies, and fiscal realities — not uniform prescriptions." - India Thowheed Jamaath Trust, India

Strengthening Science-Policy-Society Interfaces

Stakeholders expect guidance on institutionalizing permanent science-policy-society platforms for co-designing sustainable development solutions, which would ensure a continuous flow of knowledge, in both directions, to further align global scientific synthesis and national decision-making cycles. These interfaces must ensure real agency for marginalized groups, such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, among others, transforming them from passive beneficiaries of policies into active leaders and knowledge brokers who inform national and global decision-making.

"The 2027 GSDR should ... offer practical tools for strengthening science-policy-society interfaces to accelerate integrated SDG progress." - Ain Shams University, Egypt

Practical Implementation Playbooks

Stakeholders call for guidance that functions as a how-to manual for advancing sustainable development. This includes modular "playbooks" that translate scientific synthesis into modular implementation frameworks, decision-support tools, and step-by-step pathways for sequencing reforms, with clear indicators and pathways that allow practitioners to move from theoretical commitment to measurable systemic transformation.

"A practical implementation playbook: integrated policy bundles with sequencing, costs, enabling conditions, and measurable indicators; plus country examples showing how to align budgets, institutions, and partnerships to deliver at the last mile." - World Roma Federation, United States of America

Sustainable and Equitable Finance Reform

Stakeholders seek guidance on closing the SDG financing gap, including through systemic reforms of the international financial architecture, maximizing domestic resource mobilization, exploring blended finance, debt relief, and the alignment of public and private capital with long-term sustainability goals to provide the necessary fiscal space for vulnerable nations to lead their own transitions.

"With shrinking fiscal space globally, the 2027 GSDR must provide actionable, country-specific guidance on maximizing domestic resource mobilization, improving expenditure efficiency, and leveraging innovative financing instruments to sustain SDG implementation through 2030." - Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Nigeria

Disaggregated Data and Inclusive Monitoring

Stakeholders hope to see guidance on closing the data gap, including through enhancing data disaggregation —by age, disability status, gender, and geography, among others. There is a strong expectation for the report to provide frameworks for integrating citizen-generated data and local evidence into official monitoring, ensuring that the Principle of Leaving No One Behind is operationalized through targeted measures.

"Guidance should center the disability and development gap, demonstrating both the costs of exclusion and the development gains of inclusion. The report should feature policy and practice case studies where governments, in partnership with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and other stakeholders, analyze disability-disaggregated data by impairment type and collaborate to close gaps across health, education, social protection, and other sectors." - Special Olympics, Inc., Switzerland

Stewardship Towards Just Transition

Guidance is needed to manage the confluence of transitions in digitalization and renewable energy, including the impact of AI and emerging technologies, ensuring that they serve as accelerators for inclusive development rather than new divides.

"The Global Sustainable Development Report should provide frameworks on how Member States can leverage emerging technologies including Generative Artificial Intelligence and Digital Public Goods to translate high level technical Sustainable Development Goal targets into accessible localized data for non expert citizens. -UISC, Japan

Integrated Planning and Management

Stakeholders expect to see guidance on integrated, "nexus-oriented", "systems-based" approaches that take into account the interlinkages among the SDGs, through a systems lens that manages trade-offs and unlocks synergies, which will enable governments to identify high-leverage entry points where a single intervention can deliver multiple gains across social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

"Guidance that supports systemic change by helping countries map interlinkages across sectors and identify leverage points for coherent SDG action. It should include concrete examples of transformative shifts in energy, food and mobility systems." - The Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development, Finland

Local Action and Multi-Level Governance

A key expectation of stakeholders is to see guidance on localizing the 2030 Agenda and beyond. Stakeholders seek replicable models of multi-level governance that translate global targets into territorially-grounded action. This includes tools for aligning national planning with sub-national budgeting cycles and empowering local governments to serve as primary drivers of local transformations.

"The GSDR should provide practical, context-sensitive guidance on how to translate global SDG targets into territorial action. This includes policy coherence tools, models for multi-level governance, financing strategies aligned with equity and climate resilience, and examples of co-produced knowledge between governments, science and civil society. Clear pathways for accelerating implementation in the final years to 2030, especially in low-resource settings, are essential." - FUDESO, Chile

Paradigm Shift Beyond GDP

Stakeholders expect the 2027 GSDR to offer a vision for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond that moves beyond GDP. Guidance is needed on developing and institutionalizing new metrics centered on planetary health, human capabilities, and societal well-being, reframing sustainable development as a resilient, generational imperative that persists despite short-term geopolitical and economic volatilities.

"Guidance on how member states can move beyond siloed SDG implementation towards more integrated, systems-based approaches... developing metrics complementing and going beyond GDP." - Beyond Lab, Switzerland

Question 3. If you are asked to name one thing that the 2027 GSDR could do to strengthen the effectiveness and usability of the report, what would that be?

Question 3 of the open call was designed to help the 2027 GSDR identify potential ways to further strengthen its effectiveness and usability. Key suggestions include the following, some of which echo the suggestions in their responses to the previous questions:

- **Practical Implementation Toolkits:** Stakeholders strongly recommend that the GSDR provide practical, step-by-step guidance and "modular implementation frameworks" that translate scientific evidence into actionable policy options. This includes creating an "Actionable Technical Navigator" or "SDG Delivery Playbook" that pairs findings with country-adaptable policy sequencing, cost-benefit analysis, and measurable milestones.

- **Enhanced Accessibility and Plain Language Communication:** A recurring suggestion is to translate complex scientific jargon into accessible, "plain language" narratives and localized policy briefs for non-expert citizens and local authorities, including exploring “visual summaries” to enhance accessibility. Key messages could be extracted for social media use to enhance the reach of the report’s messages.

- **Voices from the Margins:** The 2027 GSDR should formally recognize and integrate Indigenous and local knowledge, grassroots shadow reports, and the lived experiences of marginalized groups as actionable evidence. This includes establishing "Community-Led Data Protocols" to bridge the gap between global datasets and the territorial realities of those furthest behind.

- **Interactive Digital Navigators and Dashboards:** To enhance usability, stakeholders suggest launching an AI-powered, role-based digital interface that transforms static reporting into modular knowledge synthesis. This platform should include real-time dashboards for monitoring SDG interlinkages, assessing trade-offs, and providing decision support to guide resource allocation.

- **Grounded Case Studies**: Instead of theoretical models, the report should feature grounded case studies and "living labs" that distill the "why" and "how" of successful transitions. These should be presented as concise "Action Briefs" that highlight transferable lessons for diverse contexts, especially for countries in special situations, such as Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

- **Inclusive platforms to translate to local languages and contexts:** Strong and inclusive science-policy-society platforms or hubs could help translate scientific guidance into local languages and contexts, promoting multi-stakeholder collaborations and co-designing scalable solutions for SDG implementation.

The quotes below are only some of the suggestions and do not represent the full set of recommendations from stakeholders. The full set of responses are accessible here to gain a more comprehensive overview of stakeholder recommendations.

"The report would benefit from applied implementation toolkits and empirically grounded case studies from developing contexts, bridging scientific evidence with policy and practice through simplified, actionable models such as local governance frameworks, participatory planning tools, and partnership mechanisms,while emphasizing scalable and replicable approaches that help governments and practitioners translate SDG commitments into tangible and sustainable local outcomes in diverse fragile settings."
- Opinions without Borders Center for Sustainable Development, Jordan

"Dedicate space to Voices from the Margins : testimonies from Global South researchers and conflict zone practitioners." - Independent Researcher, Algeria

"Enhance accessibility through layered outputs that are easy to download, search and cite: concise policy briefs, executive dashboards, and interactive digital tools alongside the full report. Clear visual syntheses of system interactions and trade-offs would improve usability. Modular, searchable formats would increase uptake among policymakers, practitioners and researchers." – All Seeds Academy, Canada

"The report should create stronger mechanisms that systematically connect scientific research with local practitioner knowledge, especially from youth networks, farmers, and community organizations. Elevating field evidence and lived experiences into global assessments will help policymakers design solutions that are grounded, inclusive, and responsive to real challenges faced in implementing the SDGs." - Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global, Liberia

"Establish inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms that translate scientific findings into local languages and contexts. This would empower grassroots communities, indigenous groups, and local policymakers to co-create solutions, ensuring scientific guidance is accessible, actionable, and reflective of diverse societal needs for effective SDG implementation."
- The Thorium Network, United States of America

"The GSDR should create a practical 'science-to-action' layer: concise Action Briefs translating SDG science into policy options and trade-offs, combined with structured channels for cities and local communities to feed implementation data back into the report. This two-way interface would bridge global science with national policy and societal accountability, ensuring the report is a dynamic tool for localized delivery rather than a static global assessment." -Ennova Partner / JFCCT, Thailand

"Communication! SDG language is so technical and political that is far from what normal people understand and care." - Observatory of Sustainability, Universidad Autonoma de Occidente, Colombia

"Establish a structured mechanism for integrating local and Indigenous knowledge into global scientific assessments, ensuring that community-based perspectives and traditional practices are systematically included alongside peer-reviewed research. This could be done through regional "knowledge dialogues" or partnerships with grassroots organizations, and should be accompanied by clear protocols for ethical engagement and recognition of knowledge holders." - Centro de Investigación de la Universidad del Pacífico (CIUP), Peru

"Establish a practical global framework for science-policy-society collaboration that institutionalizes co-production of knowledge. This should include standardized tools for participatory evidence gathering, integration of local and indigenous knowledge, and structured policy labs linking researchers, governments and civil society. Embedding accountability and feedback mechanisms would ensure evidence informs decisions and communities see measurable impact." - National Forum for Human Rights, Yemen

"Move from 'what' to 'how': include implementation playbooks with real cases showing how countries translate recommendations into deployable systems. This means concrete tools (such as international standards, conformity assessment, financing models), appropriate institutional arrangements to maximize capacity, and sequencing steps. A strong focus on usability, especially for policymakers in low-resource settings, would significantly increase impact." - Research Institute for Sustainabililty at GFZ, Germany

"Position the GSDR as an "implementation guide" by embedding replicable delivery models. Present structured pathways showing how scientific knowledge is translated into action through capacity building, institutional coordination, and iterative learning, enabling adaptation across different country contexts." - WFEO Engineering Capacity Building for Africa Programme (ECBAP), China

"Include a section on citizen-level behavioral dimensions of sustainable development. The GSDR synthesizes evidence at macro and institutional levels. Adding a behavioral layer, drawing on UNDP behavioral insights work and emerging identity-verified measurement methodologies, would make the report actionable for practitioners designing interventions requiring population-level engagement and position the GSDR as forward-looking for post-2030 frameworks where behavioral metrics will be essential." - Aiwah Foundation Inc., United Arab Emirates

"Integrate local community evidence and lived experience into national and global policy frameworks to ensure scientific knowledge translates into practical, inclusive, and scalable SDG solutions. This includes strengthening collaboration between researchers, governments, civil society, and youth to co-design policies, improve accountability, and ensure implementation reflects real-world challenges, especially among vulnerable populations. - Uganda Youth Development Link, Uganda

"Include short, actionable implementation playbooks per thematic priority. Each should outline recommended indicators, datasets, validation steps, uncertainty communication methods, governance requirements and financing models. A technical annex with reproducible workflows and metadata standards would enhance transparency, comparability and long-term uptake, especially for countries with limited capacity" - European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC), Belgium

"Le GSDR 2027 devrait renforcer l'interface science-politique-société en intégrant systématiquement les données et les expériences des organisations de base, dans le but de formuler des recommandations plus réalistes, inclusives et adaptées aux défis locaux." - Haitian Cultural League for Human Rights, Haiti

"Include visual summaries and concise, actionable briefs for each key finding. These tools would make the report's insights more accessible for policymakers and stakeholders, helping them quickly grasp complex evidence and directly apply recommendations. This stronger focus on clear, user-friendly communication will bridge the gap between science, policy, and society, making SDG implementation more effective." - University of Chicago, United States of America

"Establish an inclusive global platform that regularly connects scientists, policymakers, civil society and youth to co-produce evidence, share best practices, and translate research into actionable policy tools that support integrated, equitable SDG implementation." - Technical Centre for Fine Arts and Computer Studies, Cameroon

"Establish a co designed open access science policy society platform that integrates data models and local knowledge enabling real time decision support transparency and continuous dialogue between scientists policymakers and communities." - Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco

SECTION II:

MAIN CHALLENGES, GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Independent Group of Scientists are keen to identify cases from experience where integrated approaches have delivered results, addressed barriers, or produced useful lessons for policymakers, particularly those from low-resource settings, countries in special situations, as well as grassroots organizations.

With this in mind, Section 2 of the open call for stakeholder inputs aimed specifically at identifying challenges and collecting concrete examples of lessons learned, good practices from integrated SDG implementation, including policy tools, institutional arrangements, or implementation strategies that link social, environmental and economic objectives.

Question 4. Based on your experience, what is the main challenge that needs to be addressed to strengthen integrated approaches to SDG implementation?

Question 4 was designed with a view to identifying stakeholders' pain points in integrated SDG implementation. The infographic below illustrates some of the key challenges emerged from their responses.

Key Challenges Encountered by Stakeholders In Integrated SDG Implementation

Fragmented Governance & Institutional Siloes	Misaligned & Fragmented Financing	Data Gaps & Incompatible Systems	Weak Science-Policy-Society Interface	Capacity and Awareness Gaps	Structural Exclusion of Marginalized Communities	Insufficient Political Will and Short-Termism
Sectors and different levels of governance operate in silos, causing fragmented policies and isolated actions.	Disconnected budgets, earmarked fundings, and short-term priorities in silos hinder integrated planning.	Data gaps, lack of data disaggregation, incompatible data systems limit integrated and evidence-based solutions.	Weak Science-Policy-Society Interface leads to disconnect between research agenda and the guidance needed in policies and actions.	Lack of capacity and awareness leads to a "translation gap" preventing the integrated SDG solutions from reaching people on the ground.	Marginalized groups are often overlooked in planning and data systems, leading to structural exclusion and missed opportunities for targeted solutions.	Short-term priorities, democratic erosion, and shrinking civic space undermine progress on sustainable development.

1.Fragmented Governance & Institutional Siloes

One of stakeholders' main sources of frustration comes from the fact that different sectors and different levels of governance operate in silos, leading to fragmented policies and isolated actions. With each institution, each sector prioritizing its own mandates, budgets, indicators or timelines, trade-offs and co-benefits are often not properly taken into account.

"The main challenge in strengthening integrated approaches to SD and the SDGs is overcoming fragmented governance and siloed thinking. Many institutions operate independently, limiting coordination across sectors like infrastructure, finance, and environment. Weak data systems, misaligned incentives, and limited capacity further hinder integration. Addressing this requires coherent policies, shared data frameworks, cross-sector collaboration, stronger institutional alignment, and political will." - World Federation of Engineering Organization, United States of America

2.Misaligned & Fragmented Financing

Separate budgets, disconnected financing streams and short-term priorities within silos hinder integrated planning. Stakeholders pointed out that public budgets and donor fundings are frequently earmarked for single-sector outcomes. Aligned financing mechanisms is essential to enable coherence and integrated implementation.

"SDG actions are planned and funded in silos (sector-by-sector), with weak local data, limited coordination across ministries and CSOs, and short-term project cycles that prevent integrated, community-led delivery and scaling - especially in fragile and low-resource settings." - Appui Solidaire Pour Le Renforcement De L'Aide au Developpement, Mali

3. Data Gaps & Incompatible Systems

Fragmentation of data systems is another factor hindering integrated and evidence-based solutions. Improving data interoperability, enhancing data disaggregation, linking data with budgeting and policymaking could turbocharge integrated SDG implementation.

"The main challenge is fragmentation across sectors, governance levels, funding, data, and stakeholders. ... Integrated implementation requires cross-sectoral, place-based governance, indicators, and support tools." - Cluster of Bioeconomy and Environment of Western Macedonia (CluBE), Greece

4. Weak Science-Policy-Society Interface

Stakeholders point out that research agendas are often not co-designed with policymakers and not informed by local actions. Communities often come in too late in the design of solutions. Research questions should be framed in ways that push scientific frontiers while delivering practical solutions for local actors.

Le principal défi pour renforcer les approches intégrées des ODD est la coordination entre secteurs et acteurs. Trop souvent, les politiques restent cloisonnées, ce qui limite l'impact global. Il faut dépasser les silos institutionnels, harmoniser les priorités et créer des mécanismes de gouvernance partagée. Sans une coopération réelle entre science, politique et société, les efforts risquent de rester fragmentés et d'affaiblir la mise en œuvre durable." - ONG ADOKA, Côte D'Ivoire

5. Capacity and Awareness Gaps

Stakeholders identify a "translation gap" between integrated SDG policy guidance and community-level implementation. Especially in low-resource settings, SDGs are poorly understood, with local actors lacking the technical capacity, fiscal autonomy, and/or disaggregated data to effectively implement integrated SDG solutions.

"The main challenge is bridging the gap between scientific research, policy, and local practice. Effective SDG implementation requires translating innovations into accessible, practical solutions, building farmer capacity, strengthening extension services, and ensuring coordinated, inclusive policies that link science, society, and government for sustainable, resilient development outcomes." - National University of Samoa, Samoa

6. Structural Exclusion of Marginalized Communities

Stakeholders flag that marginalized communites, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, women and girls are sometimes systematically overlooked in planning and data systems, which could result in structural exclusion, weakening social, environmental and economic outcomes. Local innovations, youth-led initiatives, and community solutions are sometimes not systematically integrated into national policy frameworks.

"A key challenge is the exclusion of Indigenous Peoples and pastoralist communities, particularly women and girls, from SDG decision-making, limiting integration of local knowledge and weakening social, environmental, and economic outcomes." - Association Dewran, Switzerland

7. Insufficient Political Will and Short-Termism

When Governments deprioritize sustainable development in favor of other immediate concerns, such as geopolitical competition and national security, the prospect of achieving the SDGs are heavily impacted. Stakeholders shared concerns about democratic erosion and shrinking civic space that hinder sustainable development overall.

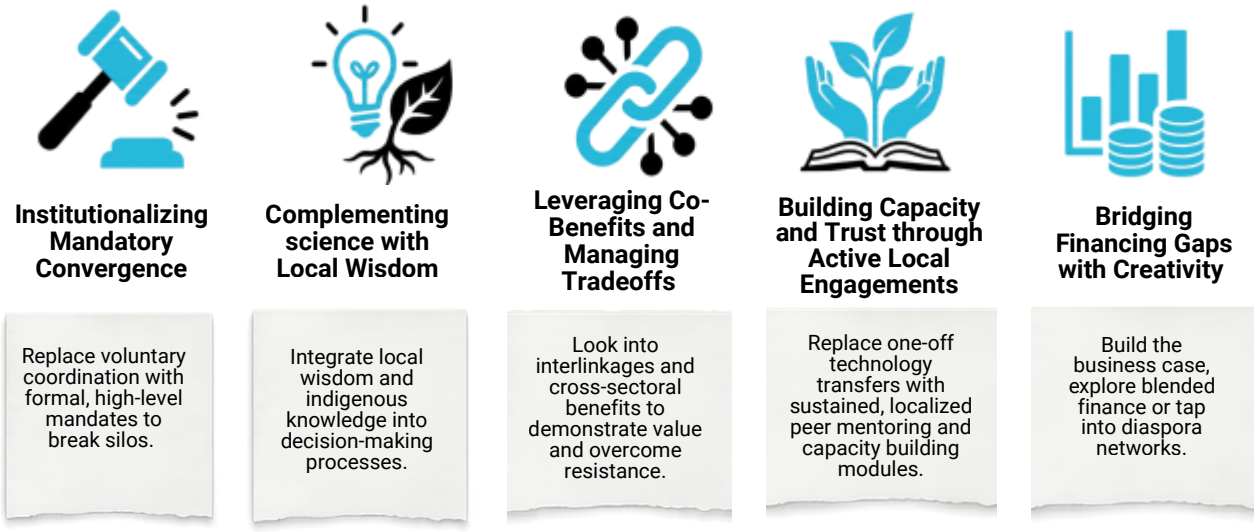
"The main challenge is lacking political will among governments, coupled with a trend towards autocratization in many countries." Lund University, Sweden

Question 5. Please share a good practice/case study/policy tool from your work, illustrating integrated implementation of the SDGs. Please include:

- A short summary about the good practice/ case study/ policy tool;
- Partners involved;
- A short summary of barriers faced and how they were overcome;
- SDG result/impact achieved; and
- Relevant link for more information.

Responses from stakeholders contain many concrete examples of integrated implementation of the SDGs on the ground, including barriers faced and how they were overcome, as well as the results achieved. The infographic below illustrates some of the lessons learned in overcoming challenges emerged in stakeholders' responses.

Lessons Learned from Stakeholders On Integrated Implementation of SDGs



The section below presents some of the concrete examples submitted, with a view to showcasing the details of some of the success stories, lessons learned, how barriers were overcome in integrated implementation of the SDGs, including in low resource settings. This section does not intend to be a comprehensive list of all submissions. The full set of stakeholder responses could be found here, which contains richer material for further reference.

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES) PROGRAMME (COSTA RICA)

In the words of stakeholder from Global Interfaith University, Nigeria

WHAT IS IT?

"Costa Rica's Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program integrates environmental conservation with social and economic goals. It incentivizes landowners to preserve forests, supporting SDGs on climate, life on land, and poverty reduction. This policy fosters collaboration among government, communities, and the private sector, demonstrating effective integrated SDG implementation through financial incentives and ecosystem preservation."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"The program has faced barriers such as limited funding, landowner skepticism, and ensuring long-term ecological monitoring. To overcome these, the government secured international funding, including from the Global Environment Facility, and built stakeholder trust through transparent processes and community engagement. Academic institutions provided scientific validation, strengthening credibility. Policy adjustments, including flexible payment schemes and capacity-building initiatives, helped address landowner concerns. These strategies fostered widespread participation, ensuring program sustainability and successful SDG integration."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"Notable Academic partners include Universidad Nacional and Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio). These institutions provide scientific research, ecological data, and monitoring expertise to evaluate ecosystem services and biodiversity impacts. Their collaboration ensures evidence-based policy design, strengthens local capacity, and promotes sustainable practices, exemplifying effective academia-government partnerships for SDG integration."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

" The program has significantly advanced SDGs by conserving over 2 million hectares of forest, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable land use. It has improved water quality, enhanced climate resilience, and supported local livelihoods through payments to landowners. The program has fostered inclusive participation, benefiting indigenous communities and smallholders "

LEARN MORE

COMMUNITY-BASED WASTE-TO-RESOURCE BIOGAS MODEL (NAMIBIA)

In the words of stakeholder from University of Namibia (UNAM)

WHAT IS IT?

"Our "Community-Based Waste-to-Resource Biogas Model" in Namibia illustrates integrated SDG implementation. By converting organic waste into clean energy, the project simultaneously addresses SDG 7 (Affordable Energy), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The model succeeds by integrating Adult Learning and Education (ALE) to provide localized technical skills, ensuring that high-level circular economy theories are translated into sustainable community practices."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"This initiative was spearheaded by the University Research Chair for Climate Change, Environment and Resilience at the University of Namibia (UNAM), in strategic collaboration with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the University of Johannesburg. Implementation was further supported by regional partners within the CLARE and CO-CAT projects, alongside local community stakeholders and municipal authorities in Northern Namibia to ensure grassroots ownership."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"The primary barrier was a Technical-Capacity Gap in low-resource settings, where sophisticated waste-to-energy infrastructure often fails due to a lack of localized maintenance skills. Initial resistance stemmed from traditional waste management perceptions and high upfront costs. We overcame these challenges by integrating Adult Learning and Education (ALE) directly into the technical rollout. By establishing "Living Labs" and community-led training modules, we shifted the project from a top-down technology transfer to a grassroots circular economy model. We leveraged strategic partnerships with UNAM and the University of Johannesburg to provide scientific oversight, ensuring that the solutions were low-maintenance, culturally adapted, and driven by local ownership."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

" The project diverted 45% of organic waste from local landfills, significantly reducing methane emissions while providing clean biogas to 200+ households. This directly advanced SDG 7 and SDG 13. Furthermore, by integrating Adult Learning (ALE), 50 community members received technical certification, enhancing local employability and long-term infrastructure resilience. This model proves that circular economy targets are best met through localized, skill-based interventions."

LEARN MORE

COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING WITH SATELLITE DATA (GHANA)

In the words of stakeholder from GMES & Africa - University of Ghana

WHAT IS IT?

"GMES & Africa/University of Ghana (MarCNoWA) uses satellite data, vessel tracking, training and regional cooperation to support fisheries management and maritime security in West and North Africa. It helps reduce illegal fishing, improve marine governance, and link biodiversity protection, food security, livelihoods and institutional capacity. A key lesson is that integrated SDG implementation works better when technology, policy, regional collaboration and user needs are developed together."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"Key barriers included limited access to relevant ocean and fisheries data, inadequate computing infrastructure for processing large datasets, and weak dissemination pathways for operational outputs. These were addressed through access to Copernicus Earth observation and model products, together with AIS data; the use of relatively affordable GPU-based computing and open-source tools to process large data volumes; and the development of web-based platforms to disseminate digital charts and decision-support products to users."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"African Union Commission, European Union Commission, University of Ghana and Regional and National institutions from the 18 coastal countries from Nigeria to Egypt"

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"Strengthened institutional capacity to monitor fisheries, detect illegal fishing, and support marine governance using earth observation and vessel tracking data, contributing to biodiversity protection, food security, regional cooperation, and resilient coastal livelihoods."

LEARN MORE

BRIDGING THE DATA-TO-ACTION GAP IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In the words of stakeholder from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada

WHAT IS IT?

"IISD's Tracking Progress platform democratizes SDG localization by providing a scalable, low-cost digital infrastructure for data. By lowering technical barriers, it enables cities to bridge the "data-to-action" gap, facilitating evidence-based Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Supporting a network of 25+ cities, including Winnipeg's MyPeg, the tool transforms community indicators into strategic policy drivers, empowering local governments to steer inclusive, data-driven transformations. "

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"Partners at the local level are municipalities, local philanthropy, community organizations, schools, and universities. In Canada partners included the United Way Winnipeg, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Government (VLR support). International implementations were supported by Universities (Houston and Bangkok) and Germany's GIZ (Baguio, Drenas, and Pereira)."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"The main obstacle is the "pilot trap"—the systemic difficulty in securing long-term investment for digital infrastructure beyond initial project cycles. Both subscription-based and partnership-driven funding models have struggled to sustain these ecosystems. This is compounded by a misconception that AI eliminates research costs for the foundational data required for accuracy. COVID further diverted resources toward immediate emergency response, marginalizing data as non-essential. To stay relevant, we pivot from passive visualization to active decision-support utility. By demonstrating that high-quality local data is an indispensable public good and the prerequisite for any reliable AI application, we secure the multi-stakeholder buy-in necessary to sustain localized SDG transformation."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"Tracking Progress facilitates statutory SDG alignment and monitoring. In Winnipeg, MyPeg informed the OurWinnipeg 2045 plan, establishing a formal mandate for localized SDG oversight. The 2021 VLR pioneered dialogues on Indigenous-led implementation, while the framework scaled VLR processes in Baguio and Pereira. Nationally, Canadian Community Foundations leverage these indicators to align Vital Signs grantmaking with the 2030 Agenda, bridging localized data with global strategic goals. "

LEARN MORE

THE INDIGENOUS NAVIGATOR IN NEPAL

In the words of stakeholder from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark

WHAT IS IT?

"The Indigenous Navigator is a global Indigenous-led framework linked to the SDGs that uses tools such as surveys, indicators and training resources to collect data on how Indigenous Peoples' rights are respected and fulfilled. In Nepal, communities generate and use their own data to raise awareness of their rights, advocate for evidence-based policies and strengthen self-determination. By shifting from data subjects to data producers, they identify local priorities and engage decision-makers."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"Lawyers Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) coordinated the national implementation; Indigenous communities including Magar, Santhal and Majhi partake in the initiative; the Danish Institute for Human Rights developed the data collection tool with close participation of Indigenous Peoples from around the world; IWGIA coordinates the Indigenous Navigator project; European Union is the project donor which is now running its 12th year."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"Data collection is often treated as a technical task, leaving little room for culturally sensitive methods. In the Indigenous Navigator, global indicators and questionnaires are standardized and not always easy to translate across the diversity of Indigenous communities, including in Nepal. During the pilot phase, this challenge became clear. It was addressed through preparation, adaptation and localization of questionnaires for each community where data is collected. This process is carried out with community leaders to ensure the language used in focus group discussions is appropriate and relatable. Facilitators also draw on local stories to explain key issues, clarify the purpose of the data, and focus discussions on priorities most relevant to the community."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"The Magar community successfully advocated for mother-tongue education, prompting the local government to allocate budget for Indigenous language instruction in schools. Similarly, the Santhal community obtained provincial funding to establish a Museum of the Santhal Community, while the Majhi community secured local government support for a women's empowerment initiative to protect cultural traditions and promote Majhi language training, contributing to SDGs 4, 5, 10, 11.4, 16."

LEARN MORE

WHO DISABILITY INCLUSION GUIDE FOR ACTION (GFA)

In the words of stakeholder from the WHO Disability Health Equity Network in Switzerland

WHAT IS IT?

"The WHO Disability Inclusion Guide for Action helps Ministries of Health embed disability inclusion in governance, planning, and monitoring, using practical tools and participatory methods across four phases. Aligned with the primary health care framework, it is now used in 14 countries across five regions, and participating governments are integrating disability inclusion into national health policies and developing long-term action plans based on its recommendations. "

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"CSOs often spark the GFA process by advocating to national governments. Once launched, a Working Group of 15–25 experts from health and other ministries, WHO, OPDs, CSOs, academia, UN agencies, and donors guides the government throughout the process. Each country holds multiple consultations with persons with disabilities to inform the situational assessment and development of an action plan. "

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"Barrier: Limited disability data - lack of routine collection of disaggregated data hinders assessment of inequities. Solution: The GFA helps develop disability-inclusive indicators and integrate them into national monitoring systems to enable data collection and disaggregation.

Barrier: Weak political will - Implementation often stalls. Solution: A multisectoral working group sustains progress; embedding disability-inclusive actions into existing programs avoids new infrastructure needs.

Barrier: Financial constraints - Action plan implementation is delayed. Solution: The GFA minimizes costs by using existing planning cycles; expenses focus on consultations, data work, workshops. When resources are scarce, governments can start with low-cost steps such as OPD engagement and workforce training."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"Tangible impact figures are not yet available as countries are in the process of implementing the GFA. Impact that cannot be quantified includes Ministries of Health strengthened governance structures, including establishing national multistakeholder working groups, as well as strengthened participation of persons with disabilities in health sector decision-making. "

LEARN MORE

ASIAN TRANSPORT OBSERVATORY (ATO)

In the words of stakeholder from the Asian Transport Observatory, Philippines

WHAT IS IT?

"A regional platform integrating data, policy tracking, and analytics across 52 economies. It links transport indicators (climate, air quality, access, safety) with policy measures, enabling benchmarking and trend analysis. By connecting evidence to decision-making, ATO supports more coherent, cross-sector SDG implementation and helps move from reporting toward more outcome-oriented policy and investment alignment."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"ATO was initiated and is spearheaded by the Asian Development Bank, and is also being supported by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank"

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"Barriers included fragmented data systems, limited comparability across countries, weak links between indicators and policy, and varying institutional capacity.

These were addressed through ATO's core principles—transparency, policy relevance, and iterative improvement. ATO curates and harmonizes data from multiple sources, documents methodologies clearly, and integrates policy tracking to better link indicators with decision-making. Through partnerships and capacity building, it enables more consistent benchmarking and policy-relevant analysis, helping countries move from fragmented reporting toward more integrated, evidence-informed SDG implementation."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"ATO has strengthened the evidence base for SDG implementation by improving availability, accessibility, and comparability of transport data across 52 economies. It supports SDG 3 (health), 9 (infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities), and 13 (climate) by enabling countries and partners to better track progress, identify gaps, and align policies and investments. Its main impact is shifting from fragmented reporting toward more integrated, data-informed decision-making. "

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MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI)

In the words of stakeholder from the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford, United Kingdom

WHAT IS IT?

"MPIs provide an 'information platform' to identify who is poor and how are they poor. They are key to inform policies and programmes and report SDG 1.2.2. National MPIs are country-owned and led, the global MPI - same methodology- offers a comparable measure of acute multidimensional poverty. Costa Rica and Viet Nam, 2 examples, implemented a national MPI and used it for budgetary planning, evaluation and geographical targeting of programmes improving 6 SDGs. Poverty has been reduced strongly."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"National MPIs– 56 countries 25 in progress– are developed by national statistic offices, usually with the support of OPHI and international agencies, in consultation with ministries and civil society. In Costa Rica, the MPI was implemented by the Vice Presidency and Horizonte Positivo an NGO, its use for budget allocation was adopted by Presidential decree. Costa Rica was introduced to the MPI by the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network –66 countries 23 agencies– focused on knowledge exchange."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"First challenge: government coordination versus a siloed approach. Multidimensional Poverty indices informs the allocation, monitoring and evaluation of social programmes. Cost-savings come from lower transportation and staff costs while visible and recognized reductions in poverty reduction boost local staff morale. Poverty was reduced without budget increases.

Second Challenge: beneficiaries of social protection programmes needed to apply to be added to programmes. The poverty reduction strategy Bridge to Development addressed this issue by raising awareness, connecting households to the information and increasing the beneficiaries applying to programmes."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"The Cost Rica MPI guided the poverty reduction strategy including direct investment for SGDs. Poverty (SDG1). Between 2014 -2018. 20,000 people received health insurance (SDG3), 50,000 scholarships for primary and secondary school (SDG4), 13,500 beneficiaries of programmes for unemployed women with caring responsibilities and child nutrition (SDG 2 & 8), 931 received adequate housing (SDG 6,7,11), 10,000 elderly population were trained for employment (SDG8). MPIs can be reported against SDG 1.2.2 "

LEARN MORE

SAFE BIRTHS + HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAMME (UGANDA)

In the words of stakeholder from Let There Be Light International, United States of America

WHAT IS IT?

"The Safe Births + Healthy Homes program uses SDG 7 to drive health (SDG 3) and gender (SDG 5) outcomes. By electrifying rural clinics and gifting solar lights to mothers who give birth in these facilities, the program has increased attended birth rates by up to 400%. This integrated approach reduces maternal mortality, eliminates hazardous kerosene use, and saves families 20% of their income, proving clean energy is a catalyst for the 2030 Agenda."

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"The Safe Births + Healthy Homes initiative involves a diverse multi-stakeholder network. Let There Be Light International provides funding and oversight, while local NGOs and solar partners manage on-the-ground implementation and technical maintenance. Rural health clinics and their medical staff are central, offering 24/7 care. Most importantly, expectant mothers and their families participate as key beneficiaries, transitioning from kerosene to clean energy for safer deliveries."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"Safe Births + Healthy Homes faces several integrated barriers. Logistically, reaching remote "last-mile" clinics involves navigating poor road infrastructure, making the delivery and maintenance of solar equipment difficult. Financially, the high upfront cost of clinic-grade solar installations requires consistent philanthropic support. Beyond hardware, institutional silos often separate energy and health departments, complicating the coordinated policy and funding needed for long-term sustainability. Finally, cultural barriers and a lack of awareness regarding the dangers of kerosene can slow the transition to clinic births. Overcoming these requires deep community trust and local partnerships to ensure the technology is both accepted and maintained for the long term."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"The Safe Births + Healthy Homes program achieves significant multi-SDG impacts: SDG 3 (Health): Clinic birth rates have surged by up to 400%, while neonatal mortality has dropped to 15.8 per 1,000 live births—surpassing national targets. SDG 7 (Energy): 96.8% of mothers have replaced kerosene with solar light. SDG 1 (Poverty): 84% of families save 10–30% of their income, previously spent on fuel. SDG 5 (Gender): Mothers report increased domestic agency and social status."

LEARN MORE

RESHAPING COMMUTING IN MEGACITIES USING URBAN SYSTEMS MODELING (CHINA)

In the words of stakeholder from the University of Hong Kong, China

WHAT IS IT?

"This case applies urban systems modelling to improve commuting in China's megacities. By combining spatial analytics, behavioural modelling and multi-source mobility data, it identifies hidden jobs–housing mismatches, diagnoses sector-specific commuting inefficiencies, and tests planning scenarios. The work supports more integrated decisions on transport, land use and accessibility, moving from descriptive evidence to decision-ready tools for sustainable urban policy. "

PARTNERS INVOLVED

"The initiative involved university-based researchers, planning and transport-related public agencies, and science-policy platforms that supported dissemination and uptake. According to the ISC publication, findings informed planning departments in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, were incorporated into senior civil servant training in Hong Kong, and were further shared through the UN-Habitat Global Urban Lectures."

BARRIERS OVERCOME

"A key barrier was fragmented evidence and siloed governance. Commuting outcomes are shaped jointly by land use, housing, employment geography and transport provision, but these are often analysed and managed separately. Conventional indicators can therefore miss structural inefficiencies and unequal burdens across sectors and places. This was addressed by integrating mobile data, travel surveys and behavioural modelling to generate more accurate commuting maps, reveal hidden mismatches, and simulate policy alternatives such as transit investment and zoning reform. The emphasis was not only on explanation, but on building decision-ready tools that planning departments could use directly."

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"The case helped translate urban systems science into practical action for more sustainable and inclusive commuting strategies. The ISC publication reports that the tools informed planning and policy discussions in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, supported transit-oriented development, zoning reform and strategic transport investment, and strengthened science-policy capacity through civil servant training and international dissemination."

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SECTION III:

PEER-REVIEWED MATERIALS RECOMMENDED BY STAKEHOLDERS

The GSDR is mandated to be “assessment-of-assessments", which leads the Independent Group of Scientists to seek additional inputs from stakeholders to identify scientific references that are relevant to the theme of the report, to complement the group’s own research and strengthen the scientific base of the report.

This section contains only one question, targeting specifically at scientists and researchers.

Question 6. If and only if you are a scientist or a researcher, please share relevant scientific references to recent peer-reviewed assessments, systematic reviews/ meta-analyses, and major scientific syntheses.

Scientific references submitted by stakeholders are compiled below, grouped in five focus areas:

Focus Area 1:

Understanding Today's Pressures

Focus Area 2:

Overcoming Barriers to Integrated Action

Focus Area 3:

Reducing Inequalities and Advancing Justice

Focus Area 4:

Accountability as a Driver of Transformation

Focus Area 5:

Achieving Sustainable Development Beyond 2030

Focus Area 1: Understanding Today's Pressures

Climate Change: Compound Risks and Systemic Threats

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