



**SDGs KENYA FORUM**  
For Sustainable Development



**SPOTLIGHT ON 2021**  
HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)



**LEAVE  
NO ONE  
BEHIND**

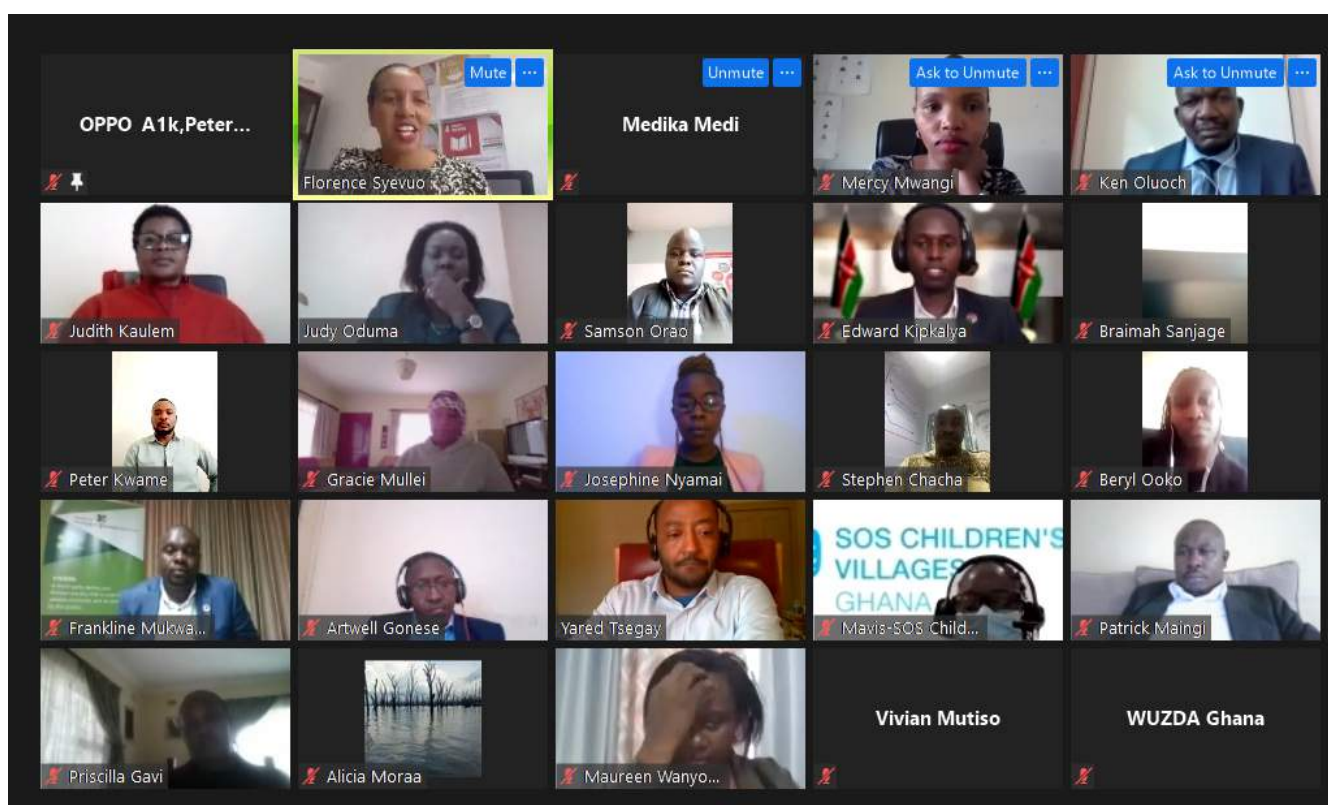




“ Let us renew our determination to build a strong, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic, and to take decisive action together to defeat the climate crisis and keep the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

**UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

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The 2021 HLPF convened in a hybrid format (both virtual and at UN Headquarters)

## SUMMARY

The outcomes from the 2021 HLPF indicated that since the last convening there has been an increased level of poverty and hunger, job losses, increased debt burdens especially in developing nations like Kenya, decreased number of children in school, growing inequalities, increased human rights violations which are directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. A scenario that SDG Kenya Forum affirms Kenya as a developing nation has undergone. Equally, from the panel discussions and side events, the deliberations indicated that solutions exist to recover and build back to a better world. The panelists focused on the importance of sustainable agriculture, financing architecture, social protection systems, digitization, creating new debt relief and stronger partnerships between civil society, the private sector, governments and the international community, among others, as the way to get back on track.

**Theme: “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.”**

**2021 HLPF IN NUMBERS:** The 2021 HLPF included more than 276 side events, 10 special events and high-level launches of reports, 17 VNR labs, and 12 virtual exhibitions. 9 Heads of State and Government, more than 100 Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and Vice-Ministers, and over 190 other speakers participated in town hall meetings, panels and fireside chats. The 2021 HLPF convened in a hybrid format (both virtual and at UN Headquarters) from 6-15 July 2021.

## OPENING CEREMONY

ECOSOC President Munir Akram (Pakistan) opened the 2021 session of the HLPF on Tuesday, 6 July. He referenced the devastating global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on the poorest people and countries. He emphasized using the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development as guides to deal with current challenges. As Chair of the HLPF, which was meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC, Akram encouraged participants to use the Forum as a platform to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Macky Sall, President of Senegal, called for equal access to vaccines and additional financing for low-income countries, especially in Africa.

Macky Sall, President of Senegal, called for equal access to vaccines and additional financing for low-income countries, especially in Africa. He noted the need to overhaul the global economic system, including reform of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) rules on credit export conditions, and clamping down on illicit financial flows and tax evasion. He welcomed the US proposal for a global minimum corporate tax rate.



## HLPF 2021 FOCUSED SDGs

HLPF 2021 session focused on No poverty, Zero hunger, Good health and wellbeing, Decent work and economic growth, Reduced inequalities, Responsible consumption and production, Climate action, Peace justice and strong institutions and Partnership for the Goals Sustainable Development Goals. The findings on the progress was made by Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. A quick snippet of the findings is as follows:

**Goal 1. No poverty:** The slowdown in progress on poverty reduction since 2015 has been further set back by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the global rate of extreme poverty rising in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years. The triple threat of COVID-19, conflict and climate change makes the global goal of ending poverty by 2030 unachievable unless immediate and substantial policy actions are taken. The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the importance of social protection systems for protecting health, employment and income, with many new social protection measures introduced in 2020 as a result.





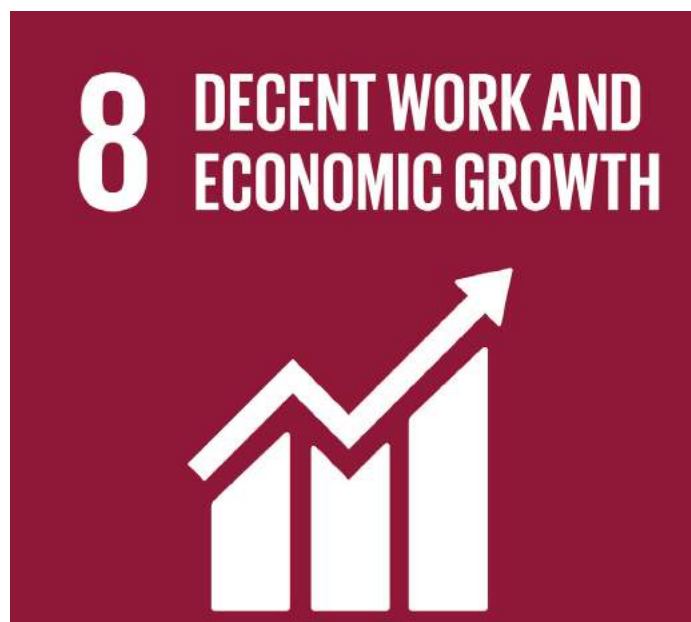
**Goal 2. Zero Hunger:** Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people experiencing hunger globally and suffering from food insecurity had been rising gradually since 2014. The pandemic has increased the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems, potentially leaving hundreds of millions of more people chronically undernourished and making the goal of ending hunger more difficult to achieve. Between 83 and 132 million more people may already have been pushed into chronic hunger in 2020.

**Goal 3. Good Health and well-being:**

Improvements in essential health services, as measured by the universal health coverage service coverage index, increased from a global average of 45 out of 100 in the year 2000 to 66 in 2017. This was driven mainly by interventions for infectious diseases. However, the pace of progress has slowed by conflicts and COVID-19. These disruptions have now halted progress and even reversed some gains made. According to a recent survey, substantial disruptions persist more than a year into the pandemic, with about 90 per cent of countries and territories still reporting one



or more disruptions to essential health services. Among the health services most extensively affected are those for mental, neurological and substance use disorders, tuberculosis, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, cancer screening, hypertension and diabetes, family planning, urgent dental care, malnutrition and immunization.



**Goal 8. Decent work and Economic growth:** In 2020, 8.8 percent of global working hours were lost compared to the figure for the fourth quarter of 2019, which is equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs and approximately four times greater than the hours lost during the global financial crisis in 2009. Young people and women in the workforce were hit particularly hard by the crisis in the labour market. The global economy is slowly recovering, although activity may remain below pre-pandemic levels for a prolonged period.



**Goal 10. Reduced inequalities:** The modest gains made in the reduction of inequality have been watered down. These inequalities partly include; reducing income inequality, preferential trade status, inequalities as a result of gender in lower-income countries. However, inequality persists, whether in relation to income, wealth, opportunity or other dimensions. The pandemic is exacerbating existing inequalities within and among countries and territories and hitting the most vulnerable people and the poorest countries and territories hardest. Globally, the number of refugees reached its highest level on record in 2020. Even with strict COVID-19-related restrictions on mobility around the world, thousands of migrants died on their migratory journey.







**Goal 12. Responsible consumption and production:**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: The three planetary crises of climate, biodiversity and pollution, all of which are linked to unsustainable production and consumption. Changes in consumption and production patterns can help to promote the decoupling of economic growth and human well-being from resource use and environmental impact. They can also trigger the transformations envisaged in global commitments on biodiversity, the climate, and sustainable development in general. The COVID-19 pandemic provides a window of opportunity for exploring more inclusive and equitable development models that are underpinned by sustainable consumption and production.



**Goal 13. Climate action:** The total climate finance reported by States parties on Climate Change continues to increase, reaching an annual average of \$48.7 billion in the period 2017–2018. The financial commitment to climate change continues growing and many countries and territories are prioritizing adaptation in their financial support provision.

**Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:**

We are still a long way from achieving the goal of building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, with millions of people living in fragile and conflict-affected States. At the end of 2019, 79.5 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide, equivalent to 1 percent of the global population. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed inequalities and discrimination and has tested, weakened, and in some cases shattered rights and protection systems in countries and territories.



**Goal 17. Partnership for the Goals:** With multilateral and global partnerships already challenged by scarce financial resources, trade tensions, technological obstacles and a lack of data, the COVID-19 pandemic has administered an unprecedented shock to the global system.



# Lessons Learned

## “Strengthening Policy Dialogue to Accelerate SDG-Implementation – **Connecting Kenyan SDG-Pioneers** for Sustainable Change”

**Date:** 13th July 2021 | **Time:** 2:00 P.M-4:00 P.M EAT

 **Facilitator:** Florence Syevuo



*Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the midst of a Global Crisis*



## KENYA’S SIDE EVENT DURING HLPF 2020

Twenty-four alumni of Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) on Policy Dialogue convened a side event during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The virtual side event happened on 13th July 2021 from 2:00 P.M to 4:00 P.M EAT. The event attracted 89 participants from Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Nigeria. Co-organized by Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC), The Royal Danish Embassy in Kenya and SDGs Kenya Forum the objective of the side event was for the DFC alumni to “Share lessons learned from the course on Strengthening Policy Dialogues to accelerate SDGs Implementation in Kenya” and highlight what they are currently working on and their undertakings with the knowledge acquired from the Policy dialogue on the SDGs program in Denmark. Ms. Cecilie Rude expressed her gratitude for being able to experience the stewardship interventions led by the DFC alumni. She emphasized and reiterated that the DANIDA Fellowship Centre will continue to provide capacity-building scholarships to partners and qualified experts as a strategy to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Developments Goals.



**ACCELERATE  
CLIMATE  
ACTION  
FOR ALL SDGs**





## MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Opening of the High-level Segment of the Ministerial Segment of HLPF ECOSOC President Akram opened the High-level Segment on Tuesday, 13 July, noting the ministerial segment is an opportunity to demonstrate international solidarity and cooperation. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed opened the VNR presentations. She said VNRs have become a centerpiece of the HLPF.

## AFRICA COUNTRIES HLPF 2021 VNR REPORT PRESENTATION

- **Angola:** Angola presents its Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the first time, committing itself to the voluntary and participatory review of its implementation and follow-up. Highlights Since 2014 the Angolan economy has been facing a recession caused by falling oil prices and declining production, and recently exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to deal with this crisis with greater resilience and revert its dependence on oil, Angola is focused on carrying out a series of important reforms in the economic domain, articulated in the National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2022) and aiming especially at macroeconomic stabilization, privatization and diversification. Challenges and opportunities: Angola is endowed with important human and natural resources, essential for structural transformation and diversification and to enhance inclusive and sustainable productivity and prosperity, underpinned by solid institutions.
- **Cape Verde:** In the last 5 years Cabo Verde faced 3 terrible years of drought but still recovered its economic growth, but in 2020, like other SID. Challenges and opportunities: S, the country faced a harsh recession of 14.8%, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. From the COVID-19 pandemic and Cabo Verde Ambition 2030, structural changes and priorities emerge, regarding the fight against impoverishment, health security and specially the diversification of the economy.
- **Chad:** This is the second time at HLPF. The countries “Vision 2030, the Chad we want”, broken down into three national development plans, Chad intends to fully and indivisibly implement the SDGs, to considerably reduce the level of poverty and inequalities, and promote empowerment of women and girls.



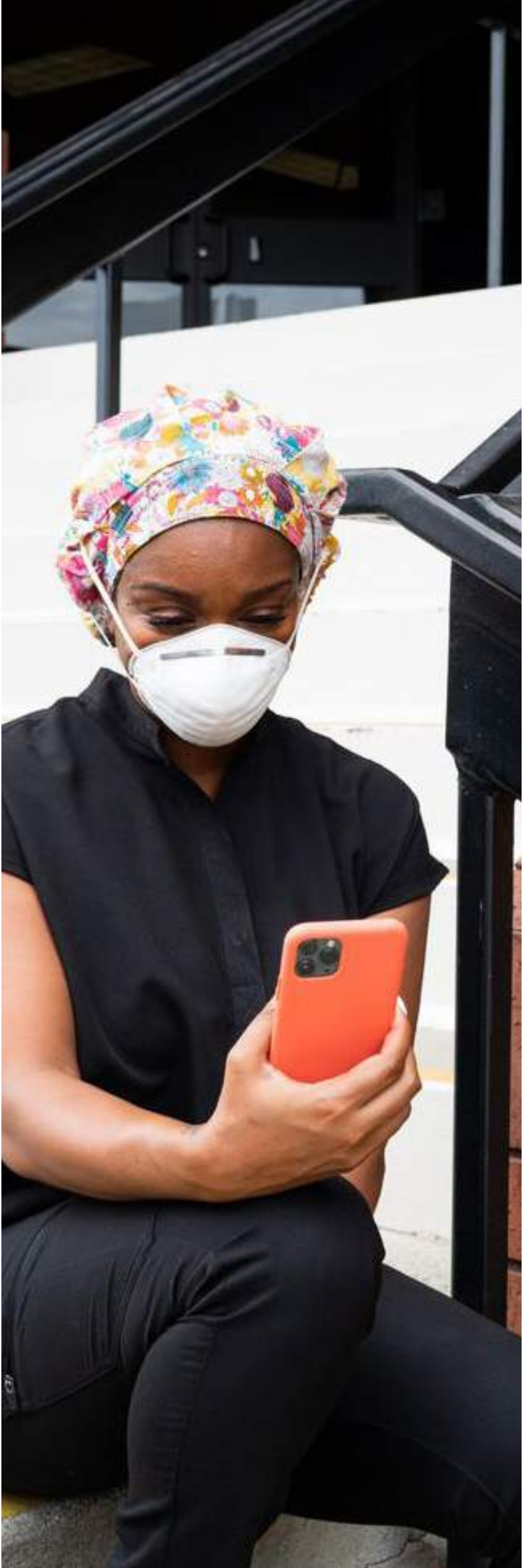
- **Egypt:** To accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and to reinforce the concept of “Leaving no One Behind”, Egypt was successful in cutting poverty which has been rising for almost 20 years with the help of better targeted social protection programs. In the same vein and in its quest to prioritize the localization of sustainable development, the GoE in collaboration with UNFPA have produced localization reports for all Egyptian governorates which depict the current values and the targets of SDGs indicators in all governorates in order to target local developmental gaps.
- **Madagascar:** Madagascar has a Multisectoral Emergency Plan to fight COVID-19 and mitigate its socioeconomic consequences. This plan provides for the allocation of resources in cash transfers, safety nets and actions in favor of vulnerable people. However, the pandemic has undermined efforts undertaken in the implementation of the SDGs. Challenges to overcome: Strengthening of the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, Resource mobilization through the establishment of a financing strategy for the SDGs, Resumption of economic growth after COVID19, Fight against food insecurity, particularly famine, which is raging in the south of the country.
- **Namibia:** Namibia volunteered to undertake a second national review of SDGs the focus was on three SDGs dimensions, namely, Economic, Social and Environmental which are comprehensively integrated in the fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5) pillars: “Economic Progression, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability and Good Governance. Lessons learned: Integration and alignment of the SDGs in national development frameworks: Namibia mainstreamed and integrated the SDG implementation into NDP 5 to secure successful implementation.
- **Niger:** Niger made significant progress from 2015 to 2020 in achieving the SDGs. The good quality of political and socio-economic governance has favored the progress of the indicators - an increase of the gross domestic product (GDP) to 16% in the last ten years. The Government will continue to translate the Niger-2035 SDDCI into inclusive development plans focused, among other things, on human capital, in particular the education of girls



and the training of women.

- **Sierra Leone:** The country remains steadfast in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs this being the third VNR report. The country's Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019 - 2023) is a strategy to ensure basic, inclusive, and free quality education and as a priority for the Government's Human Capital Development flagship program. Challenges: The Government has experienced dwindling domestic revenues, especially with the COVID pandemic that has extremely constrained private sector operations.
- **Tunisia:** This is the second Voluntary National Report. Tunisia reaffirms its determination to implement the SDGs despite the context of the pandemic of COVID 19 being extremely difficult. The implementation of the SDGs in Tunisia began with the adoption of the first post-revolution development plan (2016-2020) Tunisia has made progress on the democratic front, a young democracy born of open and inclusive dialogue, and organized free and transparent presidential and legislative elections at the end of 2019. Challenge: The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has been severe. The Tunisian economy recorded a decline of 8.8% in 2020, with the direct effects of a drop in tax revenues, an increase in the budget deficit and public debt, worrying unemployment, an increase in poverty and a decrease in investment.
- **Zimbabwe:** The country's significant progress is a result of the implementation of the current National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1, 2021 - 2025) and the country's Vision 2030 which mainstreamed the Global 2030 Agenda. Further, the government is committed to supporting full and productive employment and decent work, addressing informality, casualization of labour and erosion of the value of workers' salaries and wages. The engagement and re-engagement drive in support of a shift from traditional to economic diplomacy will improve the country's image, strengthen relations with the international community and will boost trade and investment as we march towards Vision 2030.





## KEY VNR PRIORITIES FROM AFRICA

- Investments in good governance, gender equality and human rights, reproductive health and the development of human capital.
- Alignment of national and sub-national strategies and policies to achieve the SDGs
- Decentralization as a best practice of integrated policy that contributes to achieving the SDGs on a local level, addressing inequality, and focusing on the most vulnerable
- Addressing economical and social challenges requires the development of a capable and effective State with sound institutions.
- Leaving no one behind as an overarching principle
- SIDS, highly indebted and vulnerable countries require alternative, non-traditional mechanisms and indicators for accessing development financing
- Achieving universal and sustainable access to energy, water and sanitation is crucial for leaving no behind and requires support from existing partners
- Adoption of a “green economy” as a tool to achieve sustainable development
- Capacity-building support targeting civil society to enhance and broaden participation in the implementation.





## IMPACT AND ADDRESSING COVID 19

Tedros Adhanom, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO), described how the COVID-19 response has become an issue of the “haves versus have-nots.” He encouraged continued commitments through the COVAX initiative to ensure developing countries have access to more vaccines, data, information, resources, technology, and health tools so that every nation can keep its people safe. He said the WHO urges Member States to focus on three key priorities: sharing vaccines; providing financing to ensure countries have the health tools to combat the virus; and sharing mRNA technologies as well as scientific and technological capacities and capabilities.

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), drew attention to the fact that for the first time in 20 years, the fight against poverty is falling behind. She encouraged countries to mobilize additional resources and finance, focusing on the private sector to spur growth. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO), stressed that the WTO has played a crucial role during the pandemic by urging Member States to exercise restraint on trade restrictions. She called on Member States to free up vaccine supply chains by lowering restrictions, work with developing countries to identify supply bottlenecks, and share intellectual property, technology, and knowledge on vaccine production. Michael Kremer, University of Chicago, Development Innovation Lab, Becker Friedman Institute for Economics and Nobel Laureate 2019, spoke about the role of innovation in promoting sustainable development. He highlighted the position of governments and institutions in providing both physical and policy innovations that address the issues of the global pandemic.



## THE HLPF 2020 MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

The 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration reaffirms the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action and global blueprint to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, build back better, and prevent future pandemics. The Declaration acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic has already undermined years of development efforts and recognizes the equitable, affordable access to vaccines as the mainstay of global recovery and that public immunization is a global public good. It further:

- supports the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its COVAX facility, and calls on the public and private sector to fill funding gaps.
- encourages countries to actively support COVAX and the WHO, including by sharing excess vaccine doses.
- welcomes access to concessional financing and other financial measures to help developing countries meet national immunization requirements, improve national health systems and infrastructure, and progress towards universal health coverage;
- calls for the rapid scaling up and expansion of vaccine production globally, in accordance with WTO rules.
- stresses that to achieve a full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts must be enhanced to realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and, by 2030.

**More on Ministerial Declaration can be found on this link:** [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28939Draft\\_HLPF\\_HLS\\_Ministerial\\_Declaration\\_14\\_July.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28939Draft_HLPF_HLS_Ministerial_Declaration_14_July.pdf)







## CONCLUSION

Four million lives were lost as a result of Covid-19. More than 100 million people were pushed back into poverty. This was not the future anyone expected when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015.

**“Global poverty is now expected to be at 7 percent by 2030—only marginally below 2015 levels. And with the global temperature increase already at 1.2°C, we are on the verge of the abyss,”** warned UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Throughout the eight-day meeting, participants delivered stark messages about the dramatic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This brief analysis examines what we learned from the review of the implementation of the SDGs at HLPF 2021, framed in excerpts from Secretary-General Guterres’ statement to the HLPF.



## **HLPF 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS**

The HLPF track and assess progress on the 2030 Agenda: HLPF 2021 did manage to instill momentum into SDG implementation. The Forum reviewed 42 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and the sessions and panels were diverse and included the participation of nine Heads of State and Government, over 100 ministers and other high-level officials, demonstrating continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

We are moving farther away from our goals: COVID-19 also brought much-needed attention to the digital divide and its increasing role in either separating or bringing together the “haves and have-nots.” This was particularly apparent in discussions on education, where only those with internet access were able to continue their schooling. Many, particularly girls, may never return to school, contributing to a surge in child marriage.

We have the technology, the knowledge, the science, and the resources to do so: Many solutions to global financial challenges were identified, especially with regard to debt relief, boosting liquidity, social, green and sustainability bonds, South-South cooperation, and scaling up private sector funding. The role of multilateral development banks, blended finance to acquire clean technologies, and a global database to connect stakeholders and options for investments were also mentioned. Clamping down on illicit financial flows and tax evasion, and the US proposal for a global minimum corporate tax rate were also mentioned.

What we need is unity of purpose and effective leadership: The Ministerial Declaration was negotiated in advance of the HLPF so none of the discussions or virtual energy from the Forum played into this outcome document. Unlike in 2020, when lack of consensus blocked the adoption of the declaration. “Rarely has a society been given the opportunity for such a radical change,” said UN General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir. For the first time in generations, we have widespread public and political support for transformational change, he added. The question remains, can we turn this opportunity into reality?



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Third Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:** This meeting will advance preparations for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF). The negotiating process will culminate in the adoption of a GBF by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). dates: 23 August - 3 September 2021 location: virtual [www: www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03](http://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03)
- **UN Food Systems Summit 2021:** The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. dates: September 2021 location: UN Headquarters, New York [www: un.org/en/food-systems-summit/](http://un.org/en/food-systems-summit/)
- **UN High-level Dialogue on Energy:** The High-level Dialogue will be structured around five overarching themes (energy access; energy transition; enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions; innovation, technology and data; finance and investment) to ensure an inclusive process for the Member States and other stakeholders to identify, develop and accelerate action for universal energy access, energy transitions and energy's interlinkages with other SDGs. dates: September 2021 location: UN Headquarters, New York [www: un.org/en/conferences/energy2021](http://un.org/en/conferences/energy2021)
- **SDG Moment:** The second SDG Moment of the Decade for Action to deliver the Global Goals will convene as part of the 76th session of the UNGA. dates: September 2021 location: UN Headquarters, New York [www: un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdgmoment/](http://un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdgmoment/)
- **Youth4Climate - Driving Ambition:** The meeting will offer young people worldwide the opportunity to develop concrete proposals ahead of UNFCCC COP 26. It will have four major themes: youth driving ambition; sustainable recovery; non-state actors' engagement; and climate-conscious society. dates: 28-30 September 2021 location: <https://minambiente.it/pagina/towards-cop26-pre-cop-and-youth-event-youth4climatedriving-ambition>
- **Pre-COP Milan:** This meeting will provide a selected group of countries with an informal setting to discuss and exchange views on some key political aspects of the negotiations and offer political guidance for subsequent negotiations at UNFCCC COP 26. dates: 30 September-2 October 2021 location: Milan, Italy [www: ukcop26.org/pre-cop/pre-cop-milan/](http://ukcop26.org/pre-cop/pre-cop-milan/)
- **UN World Data Forum 2021:** This forum will bring together data and statistical experts and users from all sectors to spur data innovation, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data, and build a pathway to better data for sustainable development. dates: 3-6 October 2021 location: Bern, Switzerland and virtual [www: unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/)
- **2021 UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 15):** The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. dates: 11- 24 October 2021 (TBC) location: Kunming, China [www: cbd.int/meetings/UN](http://cbd.int/meetings/UN)
- **UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference:** This conference builds on the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in 2016 in Turkmenistan. It will underscore the importance of sustainable transport for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. dates: 14-16 October 2021 location: Beijing, China [www: un.org/en/conferences/transport2021/](http://un.org/en/conferences/transport2021/)
- **World Health Summit:** The Summit is a strategic global health forum convening leaders in politics, science, medicine, the private sector and civil society, with the SDGs at its core. Central topics in 2021 are: vaccines, the role of the EU in global health, mental health, artificial intelligence, lessons learned in pandemic preparedness, and the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All. dates: 24-26 October 2021 location: Berlin, Germany and virtual [www: worldhealthsummit.org/summit.html](http://worldhealthsummit.org/summit.html)
- **UNFCCC COP 26:** The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. dates: 31 October - 12 November 2021 location: Glasgow, Scotland, UK [www: unfccc.int/process-andmeetings/conferences/glasgow-climate-change-conference](http://unfccc.int/process-andmeetings/conferences/glasgow-climate-change-conference)
- **5th Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA):** The second part of UNEA-5 will take place under the theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals." date: 28 February-2 March 2021 location: Nairobi, Kenya [www: environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/unea5](http://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/unea5)
- **Stockholm +50:** Sweden will host an international event marking the 50th anniversary of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment and the creation of UNEP. dates: 2-3 June 2022 location: Stockholm, Sweden [www: government.se/governmentpolicy/stockholm50/](http://government.se/governmentpolicy/stockholm50/)
- **HLPF 2022:** The 10th session of the HLPF will take place over eight days in July 2022 to review implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. dates: July 2022 location: UN Headquarters, New York [www: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf)

For additional upcoming events, see [sdg.iisd.org/](http://sdg.iisd.org/)

## BACKGROUND

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. HLPF was established in July 2013 by UN General Assembly (UNGA). In 2021, 43 countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and discussion was on progress and challenges experienced in implementing nine SDGs: Goal 1 (no poverty), Goal 2 (zero hunger), Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and Goal 17 (partnership for the Goals).



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ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



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