

# UN and SDGs

## A Handbook for Youth

United Nations and Sustainable Development Goals



Sunyoung Hwang and Jiwon Kim

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**UN<sub>and</sub>SDGs**

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**A Handbook  
for Youth**

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## Foreword

This Handbook is an outcome of our Office's internship program that brings students closer to the work of the United Nations as well as to the achievement of the ambitious set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was formally adopted along with 17 Goals and 169 targets to end poverty, protect the planet, and bring prosperity to all human beings over the next 15 years. Youth are not just beneficiaries of this process – they are essential actors in achieving these Goals. Both young men and women have enormous ability to make change not only for themselves, but also for their societies and the rest of the world.

Young people aged between 15 and 24 in the East and North-East Asian region alone make up over 20 percent of the world's youth. As citizens of the world, youth have the right to learn and participate in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda in partnership with other stakeholders of their societies.

What is remarkable about this publication is that two individuals that had an opportunity to be with our Office for a brief while had taken the initiative to put together this very helpful publication that makes SDGs easily accessible to other members of their age group. *UN and SDGs: A Handbook for Youth* thus seeks to bridge the gap between young people and SDGs, and ultimately provide a comprehensive knowledge about the UN and its regional arm, ESCAP, in connection with the Goals.

I recommend this publication to any young readers interested in this universal, aspirational, and transformative Agenda both as a reference for what has been made and a guide for what they can do to achieve sustainable development.

**Kilaparti Ramakrishna**

**Director and Head, UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office**

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## Introduction

As young leaders of tomorrow, it is pivotal that youth are informed and engaged with the global vision for the future. Over the next fifteen years, youth will not only directly experience the outcome of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and plans, but will also be the key driver for their successful implementation. For this reason, it is vital to raise awareness about the recently adopted 17 SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among youth, build a platform for discussion, and create the conditions for active engagement.

*UN and SDGs: A Handbook for Youth* explores SDGs and the 2030 Agenda from a youth perspective. In the first chapter, it introduces the concept of sustainable development and outlines its historical development through the transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs. The second chapter discusses how youth can be harnessed as a major agent of change in achieving sustainable development, focusing on several pertinent youth issues in Asia and the Pacific. The final chapter introduces the UN system and its regional arm, ESCAP, explaining their role in the successful implementation of SDGs.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the valuable support of the United Nations ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office for the publication of this Handbook and express special thanks to Sangmin Nam, Yejin Ha, Yuko Kitada, and Min Kyung Hong from the Office for their generous assistance. We believe that there is great power and potential when youth come together. With this belief, we hope that this Handbook can contribute by channeling their passion and energy towards our collective journey to build a sustainable world for all.

Sunyoung Hwang

Jiwon Kim



# 01

## CHAPTER



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Sustainable  
Development and SDGs



# Sustainable Development

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

‘Sustainable development’ is the keyword of the United Nations’ post-2015 vision for the world. So what is sustainable development, and why is it important?



*‘My father rode a camel, I drive a Rolls Royce, my son flies a jet airplane, and his son will ride a camel’*

Arabian proverb

## “What are the biggest problems facing the world today?”

The world today prospers from the fruits of global economic growth. At the same time, it shares the fear of massive environmental degradation. Human activity has led to very real dangers such as climate change, desertification, water stress, and ecosystem degradation. We are approaching the tipping point – our “planetary boundaries,” – which once passed will risk irreversible and abrupt environmental changes.

In addition, the fruits of economic growth are far from being shared widely. We see highly unequal distribution of income both within and between countries. While billions of people thrive with increased longevity and higher levels of wellbeing, the poorest of the poor continue the daily fight for survival, lacking basic levels of nutrition, health-care, shelter, or sanitation.



We cannot support a model of development that exhausts our natural resources and destroys the environment that we coexist in and depend on for survival. Therefore, we cannot go far with a lopsided development that disproportionately benefits the few remarkably rich and leaves behind the extreme poor.

Sustainable development is a model of development that we can maintain and support. It is the shared, holistic, and long-term vision that countries have agreed upon to be the best path forward for improving the lives of people everywhere. Sustainable development promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment. We want to grow together, transforming into a more just and equitable society. We also want to prosper in the present, but without compromising the resources of the future.



▲ Family in Tariatlan, Mongolia

UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



*“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

From “Our Common Future”, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

## Sustainable Development



### PEOPLE

End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality

### PLANET

Protect our planet’s natural resources and climate for future generations

### PARTNERSHIP

Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership

### PEACE

Foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies

### PROSPERITY

Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature

► Source: Infographic from “UN Sustainable Development Platform” Facebook page

# HISTORY

Although sustainable development is now a shared and defining concept of our times, there were important steps taken throughout history to make this possible. Take a look at the history of sustainable development, and how we proceeded from 1) thinking about environmental concerns as an international issue to 2) acknowledging that our development objectives today must not neglect the needs of the future to 3) understanding the critical balance between the integrated and interdependent spheres of environment, society, and economy.

Balancing Environment and Development	Intergenerational Justice Concept	Holistic Approach
<p><b>1972: The UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference)</b></p> <p>Environmental concerns first became a major issue at the international level. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was established.</p> <p><b>1980: World Conservation Strategy</b></p> <p>The first time governments, NGOs, and experts gathered to prepare a global document on 'conservation' and acknowledge its role in development.</p>	<p><b>1987: World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission)*</b></p> <p>Presented its official report, <i>'Our Common Future'</i> and coined the landmark definition of Sustainable Development: <i>"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."</i></p>	<p><b>1992: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Conference) and Agenda 21**</b></p> <p>Integrated the 3 pillars of Sustainable Development (Environment, Society, Economy) as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars.</p> <p><b>2000: Millennium Declaration</b></p> <p>Set the global development agenda for the 21st century and the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</p> <p><b>2012: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)</b></p> <p>Adopted the outcome document titled <i>'The Future We Want'</i> whereby the 192 world leaders agreed to pursue the necessary steps to advance the world towards a more sustainable future.</p> <p><b>2015: UN Sustainable Development Summit</b></p> <p>Adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>
		

\* World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) : The Commission was created by the UN General Assembly in 1983 to garner international collaboration and re-examine critical environmental and development problems around the globe.

\*\* Agenda 21: A key outcome of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and the action plan for the 21st century. The Agenda outlined a detailed and comprehensive blueprint that individual governments and multilateral organizations could follow to promote sustainable development.

Sustainable  
Development and SDGs



**SDGs**

# FROM MDGs TO SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a follow-up effort to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in effect from 2000 to 2015. How did SDGs evolve and how are they unique?

## What are MDGs?

At the turn of the century in September 2000, leaders of 189 countries gathered at the UN Headquarters in New York and signed the historic Millennium Declaration.

This established a global partnership of countries and development partners committed to achieving a set of eight voluntary development goals called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015.

MDGs represented the ambitious moral and practical commitment to improve people's lives around the world. The Goals ranged from halving extreme poverty and hunger to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education.



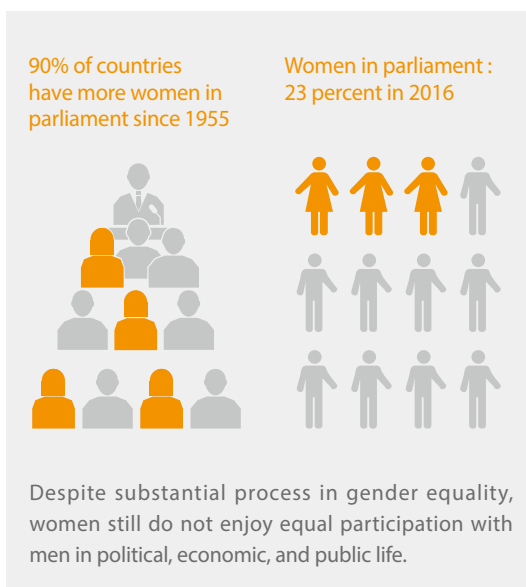
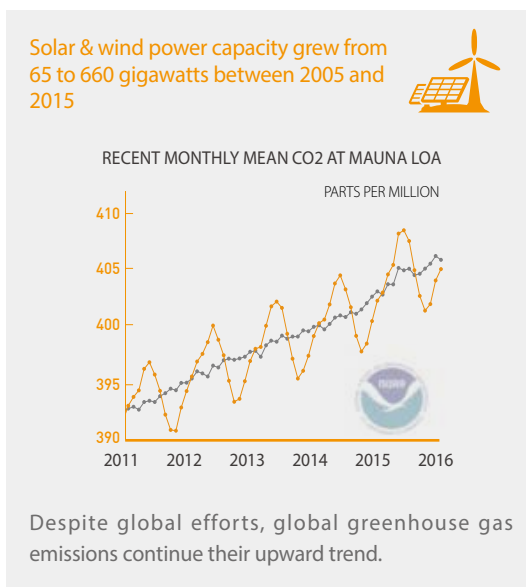
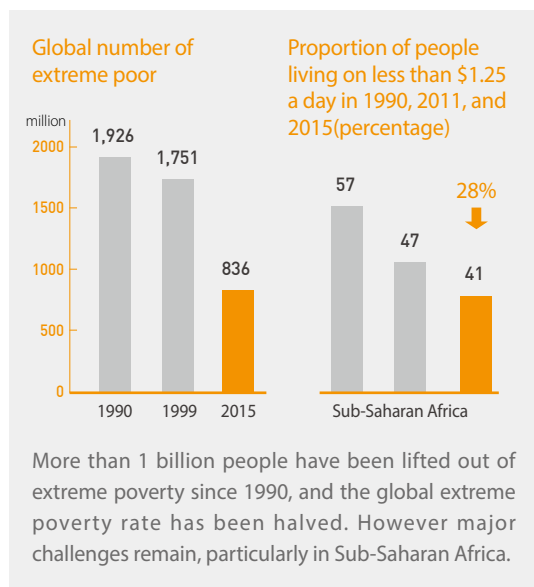
▲ World leaders gathered at the UN Headquarters for the Millennium Declaration, September 2000



▲ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

## Progress under MDGs

Although substantial progress had been made under MDGs, it was far from fully accomplished. In particular, three of the eight Goals achieved prior to the final deadline of 2015 were in fact attained unevenly within and across countries. Here are some major achievements and shortcomings:



▲ Sources: Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016



## Multi-stakeholder process for making SDGs

The Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formed through an inclusive and multi-stakeholder process that encouraged transparency and comprehensive participation. The process of arriving at the Post-2015 Development Agenda was member State-led with broad participation from Major Groups and other civil society stakeholders, while the UN provided the platform and political leadership during this process. Take a look at some of the numerous inputs to the Agenda:



### 2015 TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

#### Intergovernmental Process

Open Working Group on SDGs  
Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing  
UN Development Group  
(11 thematic areas, national and regional consultations)  
UN Regional Consultations (UNRCs)



#### UN Process

UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Report of the UN Secretary-General: *"A Life of Dignity for All"*



#### Civil Society Process

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Consultation

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Global Compact

# POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

## What are SDGs and why are they significant?

As the time frame for MDGs ended in 2015, the world and our governments needed to continue with the efforts to fully achieve MDGs and build upon them by tackling new challenges. For the last few years, the UN has been discussing what the global priorities should be for the next 15 years (2016 - 2030).

In particular, the Rio+20 conference in June 2012 galvanized a process to agree upon the post-2015 global development framework and develop 17 new Goals, or global priorities, which are called SDGs.

On 1 January 2016, SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.



▲ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

# SDGs AT A GLANCE

## The 17 Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### ● Targets and Indicators

The 17 Goals are supported by 169 targets that expand on and define them in clearer terms. For instance, under the first goal of “ending poverty in all forms everywhere” there are seven targets including: “1.1 - By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.” Beside these targets, SDGs are accompanied with indicators that focus on measurable outcomes. For instance, an indicator under the first goal includes: “1.1.1 - Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and

geographical location (urban/rural).” The country level data, goal, and regional aggregates can be found at the Global SDG Indicators Database. Determining whether or not SDGs are achieved is up to the individual government who sets its own national targets by taking into account the global level of ambition and its own national circumstances.

▲ Visit the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>) and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators website (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs>) for the full list of targets and indicators.

## Significance of SDGs

While MDGs in theory applied to all countries, in reality they were geared towards targets for developing countries. SDGs are significant in that they are much more inclusive. That is, they call for action by all countries - poor, rich, and middle-income - to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. For this reason, SDGs allow for a degree of flexibility to speak to different national circumstances. They include a global dashboard of targets and indicators under each goal from which countries can select the most appropriate and relevant.

While MDGs provided a valuable model for development, there is broad agreement that they were too narrow. SDGs go much further than MDGs in that they are more comprehensive. The 17 Goals aim to address the root causes of poverty, recognizing that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies which build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.



*"When it comes to sustainable development... every country is a developing country."*

David Nabarro, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change



# NEXT STEPS TOWARD SDGs

How can we achieve our vision for SDGs? What are the concerns and questions raised regarding the implementation of the Goals, and how can we answer them?



How can we effectively implement and monitor SDGs?



What is the role of various stakeholders?



How can we finance SDGs?







▲ Briefing on Development of Global Indicator Framework on SDGs

## Q. How can we effectively implement and monitor SDGs?

If SDGs are not legally binding, how can we hold governments accountable for the implementation of the Goals? In other words, how can we effectively implement and monitor SDGs, and what are some ongoing efforts by the UN?

### NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEWS



22 countries volunteered in 2016 to conduct national reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

▲ Check out these national reviews on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website ([sustainabledevelopment.un.org](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org)).

While SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessibility, and timely data collection.

Regional follow-up and review will be based on national level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

In addition, the existence of various targets and indicators provides the tools for objectively 'measuring' the progress of each Goal. Coupled with the enhanced accessibility and transparency to government action, means of traditional and new knowledge platforms, and social media would encourage governments to meet their Goals.

## Q. What is the role of various stakeholders?



SDGs cannot be achieved without the active participation of all sectors of society and without the help of collaborations. In particular, since there is such a wide variety of the Goals and targets, it is necessary for different actors to collaborate with local and national governments to localize and contextualize the Goals and adopt methods of accountability that reflect the unique challenges on ground. One way the UN engages multiple stakeholders in its Post-2015 Agenda for Development is introduced below:

### Stakeholder Engagement

The Rio Earth Summit in 1992 led to the development of Agenda 21, often referred to as the ‘blueprint for sustainable development’. Agenda 21 stated that broad public participation was fundamental to achieving sustainable development, and recognized nine major groups of civil society. These major groups are:

- Children and Youth
- Women
- Indigenous Peoples
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers

Major groups are the voice of the civil society who continue to demonstrate a high level of engagement and input during intergovernmental and UN processes. Collaboration and effective engagement with these sectors will provide the opportunity to ensure that there is focused attention for each agenda and comprehensive representation.



▲ Dialogue with Major Groups at Rio+20

UN Photo/Rossana Fraga

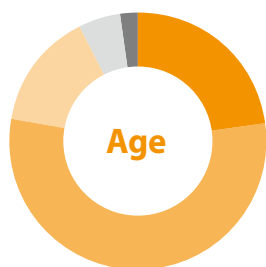


UN Photo/Ariel Alexovich

▲ Participants at the ECOSOC Youth Forum present their favorite Goals of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development

## Did you know?

### My World Survey



- ≤15(2,217,492)
- 16-30(5,269,224)
- 31-45(1,425,808)
- 46-60(508,058)
- ≥61(202,357)

*My World Survey* allowed participants to vote on world issues that are most important to them through online and offline methods from 2012 to 2015. It received more than 8 million participants from around the world – the majority of whom were under 30 years old (23 percent under 15, and 54 percent between the ages 16-30).

In addition, the UN has reached out to young people through more accessible social media initiatives, while young people shared their concerns and suggestions through social media platforms such as Twitter (#TheFutureWeWant, @MyWorld2015).

What does this mean? It means the Post-2015 Agenda for Development reflects the ambitions and vision of young people. It also means that young people can and should have a sense of ownership and play their part in the collective endeavor for achieving a more sustainable world.



◀ “*My World Survey*” (the largest global consultation program in the history of UN)



## Q. How will we finance SDGs?

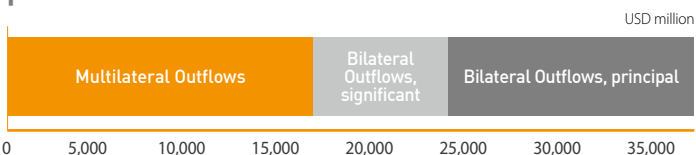
Domestic resources from both public and private sources are central to financing the implementation of SDGs. However, financial support from the international community is critical for many developing countries.

### Official Development Assistance

Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to financial support from OECD-DAC (Development Aid Committee) member countries to developing countries in order to advance economic development and promote welfare in areas such as health, sanitation, education, infrastructure, environment, etc. In addition, developed countries provide financial resources dedicated to the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and conventions on climate change, biological diversity, desertification, etc.

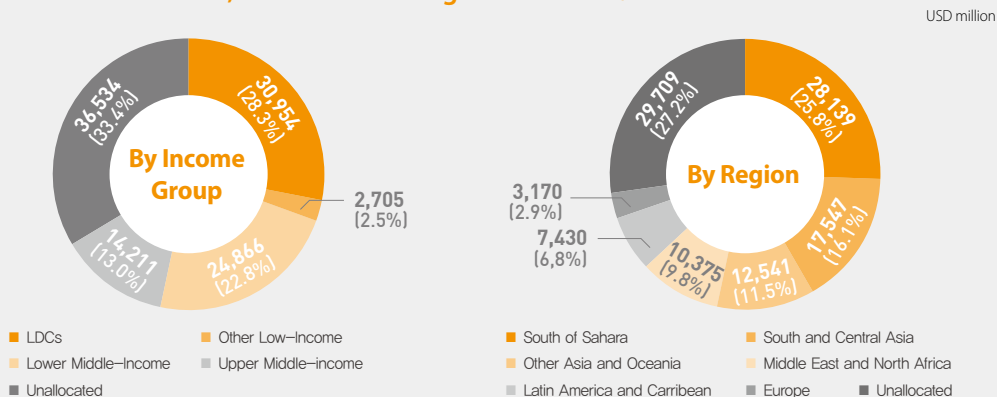


### Total commitments by bilateral and multilateral providers



▲ Climate-related development finance in 2014 (from OECD DAC statistics)

### Gross bilateral ODA, 2013-2014 average (Source: OECD Development Finance Data)



## Multilateral Development Banks

Multilateral development finance institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, work in partnership with the UN to strengthen the economies and expand the markets of developing countries around the world. These institutions provide technical assistance, grants, loans, and other forms of practical help by formulating policies, setting standards and guidelines, and mobilizing funds.



*“Achieving SDGs will require moving from billions to trillions in resource flows... We are committed to help raising an important part of the required flows, either through direct financing, leveraging our capital or catalyzing other resources.”*

Joint Statement from MDBs and IMF, April 2015



## Financing for Climate Change

One of the key areas under sustainable development and SDGs is 'climate change.' Take a look at some of the efforts taken to finance this particular area:



### Green Climate Fund(GCF)

The Green Climate Fund(GCF) was established by 194 governments to support actions on limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries, and to help adapt vulnerable societies to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Working within the framework of UNFCCC, the Fund is a central mechanism for catalyzing climate finance at international and national levels. It intends to raise \$100 billion per year by 2020.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

▲ UNDP-GEF Power Project in Beijing, China



## Global Environment Facility(GEF)

The Global Environment Facility(GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

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# Youth and Sustainable Development



# IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

Who do we mean by 'youth,' and why are they particularly significant stakeholders for the present and the future?



## Who do we mean by “youth?”

The UN defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24, the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, in which individuals gain independence and awareness of interdependence as members of a community.

## Youth as a development priority of today

We pay a high cost when our development policies and programmes fail to recognize the particular needs and aspirations of youth. For example, the lack of social protection and job security leaves youth being stuck in unemployment or vulnerable and informal employment instead of transitioning from school to the labor market. What is more, the impact of poverty is not only greater in scale, but also multi-dimensional and long-lasting. For instance, adolescents dropping out of school narrow employment opportunities and poor nutrition during adolescence often leaves chronic effects on the health of individuals when they become adults. This is why youth must be recognized as an important component and priority of our development agenda today.

## Youth as invaluable participants of our future

Investing in youth is also an investment in our future. Youth can be a positive force for development when the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive are given. Likewise, young people can create a dynamic force of political change and social transformation when they are included in decision-making processes. If we fail to realize the potential of youth, the entire society loses out greatly.

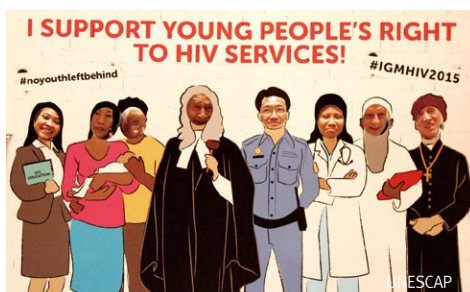


*“You have the talent, energy and ideals to prevent conflicts, defend human rights, secure peace, and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”*

UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the 2017 ECOSOC Youth Forum

## Youth and SDGs

SDGs acknowledge the centrality of youth and their role in the path towards sustainable development as they are part of the 9 Major Groups with which the UN closely collaborates to ensure broad participation and representation of all corners of the society. By definition, “sustainable development” – development that meets the needs of the present without compromising those of the future – begins with the respect for the future generation as an important stakeholder. The young people of today will mature in the next 15 years right alongside SDGs. They are the people who will experience the success or failure of the 2030 Agenda. This is why it is particularly important to engage with youth and empower them in our endeavor for a more sustainable future.

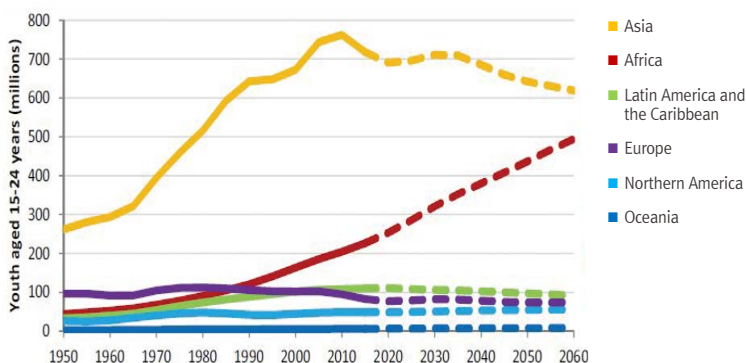


### Youth population trends and sustainable development

#### ● Youth in Numbers

Globally, we are part of the largest generation of youth in human history. Youth account for 16 percent of the world's population. The Asia-Pacific region, in particular, is home to about 700 million youth, or 60 percent of the global population aged 15 to 24 years.

By 2020, the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 percent, to nearly 1.3 billion. In contrast, young people aged 15 to 24 are projected to decline in Asia. However, the region will still be home to more youth than any other regions in the world until around 2080.



▲ Source: Youth Population Trends and Sustainable Development





I am a young person.  
I face these issues.

I am unemployed or underpaid.



I face greater risks on the road.



I live in extreme poverty.



I do not have access to quality education.



I am mentally ill but lack access to health care.



I am pregnant but without pre-natal care.



I am not represented in the political process.



I experience exploitation, trafficking, and urban poverty.



# MAJOR YOUTH ISSUES ON SDGs

Our aspiration for sustainable development can be understood through five different lenses, or the “5 Ps” - People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership. What are some of the major challenges and youth issues in the Asia-Pacific region (particularly in East and North-East Asia) as they feature in such five categories? And for each youth issue, what are the relevant SDGs and targets?

## People



### Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day**

Despite the progress made by MDGs, poverty persists and we still have a long way to go. In the Asia-Pacific region alone, 85 million youth live in extreme poverty. Ending poverty is a particularly pertinent youth issue, as those aged 15 to 24 are most likely to be among the working poor: 16 percent of all employed youth were living below the poverty line in 2015, compared to 9 percent of working adults.



### Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births**

Adolescent girls who give birth have a much higher risk of dying from maternal causes, and babies born to adolescents face a significantly higher risk of death compared to those born to older women. Despite the fact that adolescent fertility rates in the Asia-Pacific region are among the highest in the world, there is inadequate prenatal care for pregnant young women.



*Did you know?*

*Complications linked to pregnancy and childbirth are the second leading cause of death for 15 to 19 year-old girls globally.*

WHO, 2014



**3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being**

Mental health and well-being are another important issues in the region that cannot be overlooked. In particular, suicide rates for the Republic of Korea and Japan are among the highest in the OECD countries, and suicide is the leading cause of death for female youth in the Asia-Pacific region.

**3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol**

**3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents**

Too many young individuals are put at risk due to accidental or preventable causes. For instance, road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among male youth in the region, and the abuse of illicit substances, drugs, and alcohol is an on-going issue that must be addressed.

## Prosperity

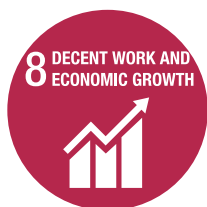


### **Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

**4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations**

It is critical that the process of increasing access to quality education for youth is inclusive and leaves no one behind. Young women do not have the same access to education and training as their male peers, which deprives them of the ability to make decisions about their lives, including the pursuit of higher education and formal employment. Empowering young women and ensuring equitable investments in their human capital are essential for sustainable development.

Countries in North-East Asia have made great progress in eliminating discrimination against women in education, but there remains a challenge in connecting this progress to actual economic and political empowerment. For instance, the gender wage gap in the Republic of Korea and Japan is among the highest in OECD countries.



## Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value**

**8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)**

Most North-East Asian countries face the challenge of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for youth. Young people are crucial stakeholders in the pursuit of decent and productive work for all. The transition of young people from schools and training institutions into the labour market is a phase marking a critical period in the life cycle. Yet, too frequently, their voices go unheard and their positive and negative experiences and viewpoints unshared, particularly with decision-makers.

In addition, young people are often trained for skills, but not matched by labor demands. This leaves many youth stuck in unemployment with their rates being significantly higher than adult rates in all geographic regions. When they do get employed, youth often end up working in vulnerable conditions – forgoing job and wage security with limited access to finance, loans, and other services.



*Did you know?  
In 2015, the youth unemployment rate globally was 15 percent – more than three times the rate for adults (4.6 percent).*

Youth Stats

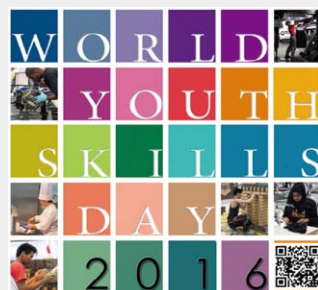
### ● Be part of the solution!

#### World Youth Skills Day

Fundamental skills provide a solid foundation to young people for further learning throughout their lives. Skills and jobs for youth feature prominently in the 2030 Agenda and are explicitly mentioned in many of the 17 SDGs and their targets, in particular, SDG target 4.4.

World Youth Skills Day raises awareness of the importance of acquiring skills as a means to address the challenges of unemployment and under employment, and as a way to achieve better socio-economic conditions for all youth. Visit the website

at [www.un.org/en/events/youthskillsday](http://www.un.org/en/events/youthskillsday), mark your calendars, and see how you can celebrate this day!



▲ 15th July, World Youth Skills Day

# Planet



## Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Rapid urbanization continues in most North-East Asian countries, and youth are at the forefront of this process with an increasing number of young people migrating from rural to urban areas.

As a result, youth are disproportionately exposed to exploitation, trafficking, and urban poverty, and they frequently live in slums and informal settlements created by unplanned and compressed urbanization, which lack basic services and pose safety, health, and security risks.



▲ A throng of shoppers in downtown Seoul

UN Photo/Kibae Park



*Did you know?*

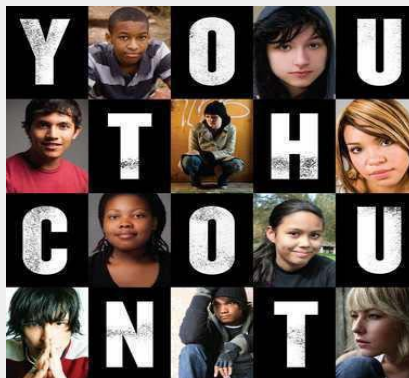
*The urban population has become increasingly younger, with as many as 60 percent of all urban dwellers expected to be under the age of 18 by 2030.*

Youth Stats

### ● Be part of the solution!

#### UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund

The United Nations empowers youth by helping them actualize their innovative projects that make our world more sustainable. In particular, the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund empowers global youth by providing grants and capacity building to selected organizations in developing countries. Visit the website at [unhabitat.org](http://unhabitat.org) and see how you can participate!





## Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

**13.3** Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning

North-East Asian countries include 4 out of top 10 carbon dioxide emitting countries in the world. Combating climate change is critical for the Asia-Pacific countries, as the region is especially vulnerable to extreme weather events with massive human and economic costs. Youth demonstrate increasingly strong social and environmental awareness, which has the power to transform our societies towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future.



*“Earth’s 2016 surface temperatures were the warmest since modern recordkeeping began in 1880...Most of the warming occurred in the past 35 years, with 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurring since 2001.”*

NASA, Jan. 2017

### ● Be part of the solution!

Like many other SDGs, every young person can make daily decisions that help achieve Goal 13. Here are some easy ways you can take action to make change right now.

- 
**LEVEL 1. SOFA SUPERSTAR**
- 
**LEVEL 2. HOEHOUSE HERO**
- 
**LEVEL 3. NEIGHBOURHOOD NICE GUY**



※ Also check out “The Lazy Person’s Guide to Saving the World” at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

## Peace



### Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

#### 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Eliminating barriers to youth's political participation, such as prejudicial sociocultural practices, is an ongoing challenge in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, we must work towards inclusive youth participation and leadership, while focusing on the marginalized groups of youth, such as young women, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, or migrant youth.

Another challenge among youth in East and North-East Asia is the distrust of the political process and low voter turnout. To address this challenge, structures and mechanisms such as youth advisory groups or youth networks for positive civic engagement can be created to advance youth participation. In addition, efforts of civic engagement initiated by youth who lead protest for social change and mobilizing others through social media must be encouraged and supported.

## Partnership



### Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

#### 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Goal 17 aims to revitalize global partnership for sustainable development, in particular by ensuring that no one is left behind in the collective endeavor towards achieving SDGs. Young people have been encouraged to join this multi-stakeholder partnership through various initiatives and programs.

For instance, one UN Youth Envoy initiative, the *"Youth Gateway,"* facilitates connecting young people with opportunities to take action for contributing to the global development locally and internationally, and also link together education, implementation, and evaluation of SDGs by youth and for youth. Previous side events, such as *"Innovative Solutions: Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development,"* provided platforms for young entrepreneurs to gather and share their creative solutions for sustainable development.

Youth and SDGs



# Youth and the United Nations





# ROLES OF YOUTH

How can we take part in achieving SDGs? Are there any existing forums or events that we can join regarding the implementation of the Goals, and how can we exchange our information?



Why should youth participate in achieving SDGs?



How are youth represented in the UN?



How can our voice be heard?



How can we share our ideas?

## Q. Why should youth participate in SDGs?

Why is it important that youth actively participate in the implementation of SDGs? And what are some channels and platforms within the UN for youth participation?

### Every youth matters.

Youth are not a homogenous group, but a truly diverse group of individuals. For instance, some youth live in rural areas, while others live in big cities. Or important factors such as the level of education and economic conditions prevailing in a country may differ greatly. Certain social groups such as young women, indigenous youth, and youth with disabilities often deal with distinct and multiple forms of discrimination.

The diversity of youth is especially true for the Asia-Pacific, being a geographically, politically, socially, culturally, and economically expansive region. To make SDGs truly meaningful, the general goals must be specified and contextualized. Each young individual has a unique story and faces unique challenges.

It is important for each and every youth to actively participate in the implementation of the Goals by offering their own perspective and playing their own part.



**Join the discussion**



**Educate yourself**



**Advocate for others**

### ● Join the discussion!

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth is the official constituency within sustainable development negotiations and processes at the UN for those under 30. Its work include: providing online/offline platforms for dialogue, training young people on the practical skills of participation, and coordinating logistics of youth participation. Once you have joined the Major Group,

there are lots of ways to get involved: you may want to be an active contributor to policy making, help facilitate a working group, inspire youth activism in your local community, or just read about what's been going on!



## Join the Discussion

Both within and beyond the UN system, there are multiple avenues for youth to participate in the global discussion for sustainable development. In fact, the UN has been working hard to bring young people right into the heart of global diplomacy through new ways of consultation and representation.

### Q. How are youth represented in the UN?



▲ UN Secretary-General's first Envoy on Youth  
Ahmad Alhendawi (2013–2017)  
UN Photo/Evan Schneider

#### UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

In 2013, the first Youth Envoy at the UN was appointed. The Youth Envoy's role is to promote the positive linkage between the UN and young people. In particular, the Envoy works to increase the UN response to youth's needs and stand up for the development needs and rights of young people, as well as providing advice to the representative of the Secretary-General on youth-related matters.



#### UN Youth Delegate Programme

The UN Youth Delegate Programme was established as another form of youth representation and participation at the UN. Young delegates are included in a country's official delegation to the General Assembly and various functional Commissions of the ECOSOC. The role of a youth representative varies from country to country, but normally includes providing input to their delegation on issues related to youth and participating in their delegation's general work by attending meetings and informal negotiations.



▲ A group photo from North-East Asian Youth Perspectives on the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda, 2013

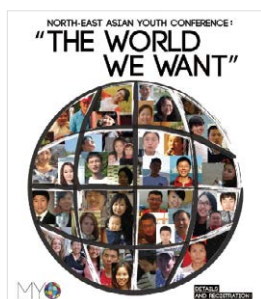
## Q. How can your voice be heard?

The UN reaches out to connect with and consult young people through various platforms. In particular, regional and subregional offices have been actively engaging with youth by facilitating youth conferences and forums to invite young people to share their perspectives and ideas for the Post-2015 Agenda.

In January 2013, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, together with the Korea Network of the UN Global Compact and Korea University, co-organized a three-day youth conference as part of worldwide UN-led consultations for the new universal development framework.

More than fifty youth representatives, including graduate students from major universities in China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Mongolia, as well as youths from diverse backgrounds, adopted a declaration on the future of global development titled '*The World We Want: A North-East Asian Youth Vision*'.

The Conference demonstrated the significance of securing youth-inclusion in the post-2015 consultation process, and participants committed to continue the discussions in their own countries after the event.



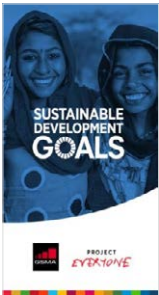




In addition, the UN tries to listen to young people from all corners of the world through more accessible online platforms. In particular, one initiative by the UN Special Youth Envoy has been to open up “online consultation platforms” which gather and reflect the opinions of youth on various global issues, ahead of having international expert meetings or forums. Check out and participate in these online platforms on the Youth Envoy website at [www.un.org/youthenvoy/](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/)!



▲ An online consultation in the lead up to an international expert meeting on rural youth and access to decent work held by Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

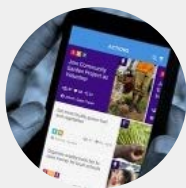


### ● Make SDGs a reality!

Download the “SDGs in Action” mobile app to take action!  
Help these important Goals become a reality.

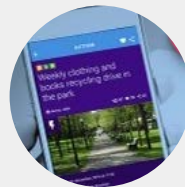
### ● HOW IT WORKS:

#### 1. BROWSE ACTIONS:



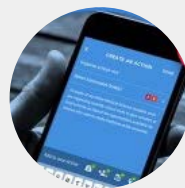
See what other people around you are doing to achieve SDGs and be inspired to take action on your own.

#### 2. JOIN AN ACTION:



See an action you like? You can take part in other people’s actions and invite your friends to join.

#### 3. CREATE AN ACTION:



Make your voice be heard by creating actions to achieve SDGs, and by inviting others to participate.

## Q. How can you share your ideas?

Youth can provide new energy, creativity, and dynamism to address the myriad of global challenges today. Young leaders have contributed fresh ideas, and many youth start-ups and initiatives today are exhibiting creative entrepreneurial skills in addressing various issues under SDGs. The UN encourages young people to share such ideas to others around the world. Here are some examples of such initiatives:



▲ The Young Leaders Initiative nominates 17 young people every year whose leadership is catalyzing the achievement of the Goals. Nominate a young leader at <http://sdgyoungleaders.org/#nominate-home>



▲ Year of Living Sustainably shares tips on how to lead a sustainable lifestyle. What are you doing to help achieve SDGs? Share your ideas at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

### ● Be part of the solution!

Be a #GlobalGoals supporter!

Tell us about your actions to achieve SDGs on social media platforms.



▲ July 15th, World Youth Skills Day

## Educating Yourself and Advocating for Others

Some of the foundational SDGs specifically revolve around youth issues, such as quality education, empowering women and girls, or ensuring decent work for all. It is pivotal that as the immediate stakeholders, young people educate themselves about such issues and further raise awareness.

Although raising awareness and advocacy may sound like grandiose tasks, they can be done without much difficulty nowadays. For instance, don't just "like," "share"! If you see an interesting social media post about women's rights or climate change, share it so friends in your network can see it, too. Talk about SDGs with people you meet! Alternatively, you can participate in various programmes initiated by the UN to raise awareness about youth issues. Look at the column on the right for some of such initiatives:

---

### International Youth Day

The UN celebrates 12th August as International Youth Day, on which youth around the world are encouraged to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country. Be part of the celebrations by organizing your own event or activity in your community, school, youth club, or workplace. Let the UN know by sending your planned event to [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org), and it will map it on the #YouthDay World Map of Events.

---

### Competitions for youth

There are numerous opportunities for young people to participate in competitions that aim to raise awareness on sustainable development and youth issues, such as the Global Youth Video Competition on Climate Change, International Day of Peace Video Competition, Film4Climate Global Competition, or Fly Your Ideas Competition. Check out more at [www.un.org/youthenvoy!](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy!)



UN Photo/Mark Garten

### ● Inspiring youth: Malala's story

In October 2012, a teenage girl named Malala Yousafzai was shot by a Taliban gunman on her way back home from school. Since her survival from the assassination attempt, Malala became a global advocate for girls' education. In particular, she established the 'Malala Fund' to bring awareness to the social and economic impact of girls' education and to empower girls to raise their voices, to unlock their potential and to demand change. Malala Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

## Websites and Social Media

Do you want to learn more about sustainable development, SDGs, youth, or the UN?

Here are some websites, social media platforms, and publications with useful information:

- UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform :  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>
- Asia-Pacific Knowledge Platform for Sustainable Development :  
<https://sustdev.unescap.org/>
- UN Major Group for children and youth : <http://childrenyouth.org>
- UN Division for Social Policy and Development, Youth division, for information on various UN youth programmes, issue briefs on youth issues, youth flash newsletter : [www.un.org/development/desa/youth](http://www.un.org/development/desa/youth)
- Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, for opportunities of youth participation, recent youth news, online platforms : [www.un.org/youthenvoy](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy)
- Youth Stats, a database for youth-related statistics :  
[www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-statistics](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-statistics)
- UN Environment Programme, youth division : [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
- UN-Habitat-Youth : <http://unhabitatyouth.org>
- World's Largest Lesson, for educational material on SDGs :  
<http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org>
- Follow the United Nations Youth on Facebook and @UN4Youth on Twitter for updates on youth news and initiatives
- Follow UN Sustainable Development Platform on Facebook and @GlobalGoalsUN on Twitter for local news and updates on SDGs



## Publications



- "Switched On: Youth at the Heart of Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific," available at UNESCAP website : [www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org)
- "The UN World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement," available at :  
<http://unworldyouthreport.org>
- YouthXchange training kit on sustainable consumption, available at YouthXchange website : [www.youthxchange.net](http://www.youthxchange.net)



# 03

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United Nations and ESCAP



**United Nations**



# UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, as well as promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

## ▼ Key Steps toward the Establishment of the United Nations



**12<sup>th</sup> June 1941**

The Allied countries came together to establish an international organization.



**1<sup>st</sup> January 1942**

The Declaration of United Nations was signed and the name "UN" was coined.



**August- October 1944**

The countries submitted a proposal for the UN structure.



**25<sup>th</sup> April 1945**

The UN Charter was drafted.



**26<sup>th</sup> June 1945**

The UN Charter was signed.



**24<sup>th</sup> October 1945**

The UN officially came into existence.

## United Nations Charter - Preamble

*"We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,*

*And for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,*

*Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims. Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations."*



UN Photo



UN Photo/Mark Garten

UN Photo/Isaac Billy

UN Photo/Logan Abassi

UN Photo/JCI - CI

## Mission

- Maintain International Peace and Security
- Promote Sustainable Development
- Protect Human Rights
- Uphold International Law
- Deliver Humanitarian Aid

※ For further information, please refer to [www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/index.html](http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/index.html)

# STRUCTURE

## Member States

Membership of the UN is open to all States that accept the obligations in the UN Charter and are able to carry them out in the judgment of the Organization. States are admitted to membership in the UN by the decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.



▲ Source: UN Official Website

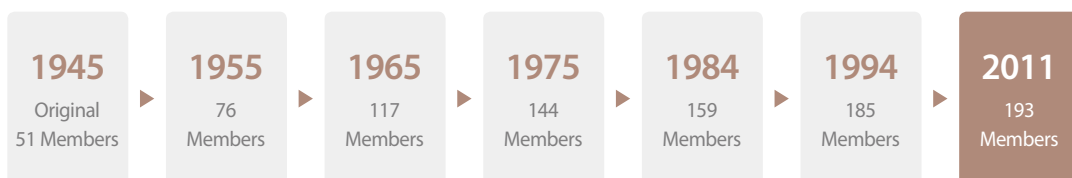
*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Only Individual Member States, and not their territories, are highlighted for the purpose of this map.*

*Dotted lines represent approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the parties.*

*Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.*

*Data Source: Treaty Collection, United Nations*

## Growth in the Membership (1945 - Present)





## Main Organs

### 1. General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ. All UN member States are represented in the Assembly, making it the only body with universal representation. The General Assembly elects a President every year to serve a one-year term of office.

### 2. Security Council

The Security Council has a major responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It has 15 Members, including 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent Members. All member States should comply with decisions by the Council.

### 3. Secretariat

The Secretariat is made up of the Secretary-General and UN staff members who carry out the daily work

of the Organization. UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in duty stations and on peacekeeping missions all around the world.

### 4. Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council is the main body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue, and recommendations on economic, social, and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed goals. It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms.

### 5. International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the UN to settle legal disputes and to give advisory opinions on legal questions. The Court is made up of 15 judges whose term of office is nine years.



1. UN Photo/Amanda Vojsard



2. UN Photo/Mark Garten



3. UN Photo/John Isaac



4. UN Photo/Eskinder Negesse



5. UN Photo/ICJ-CIJ

## Leadership

The Secretary-General is a symbol of the UN's' ideals and a spokesperson for the interests of the world's peoples. The Secretary-General is chief administrative officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.

### Secretaries-General, 1946-present



Trygve Lie (Norway)  
1946–1952



Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden)  
1953–1961



U Thant (Myanmar)  
1961–1971



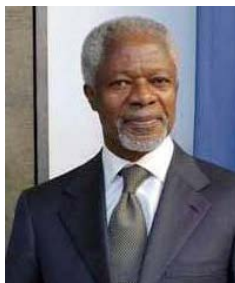
Kurt Waldheim (Austria)  
1972–1981



Javier Pérez de Cuellar (Peru)  
1982–1991



Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Egypt)  
1992–1996



Kofi A. Annan (Ghana)  
1997–2006



Ban Ki-moon (Republic of Korea)  
2007–2016



António Guterres (Portugal)  
2017–

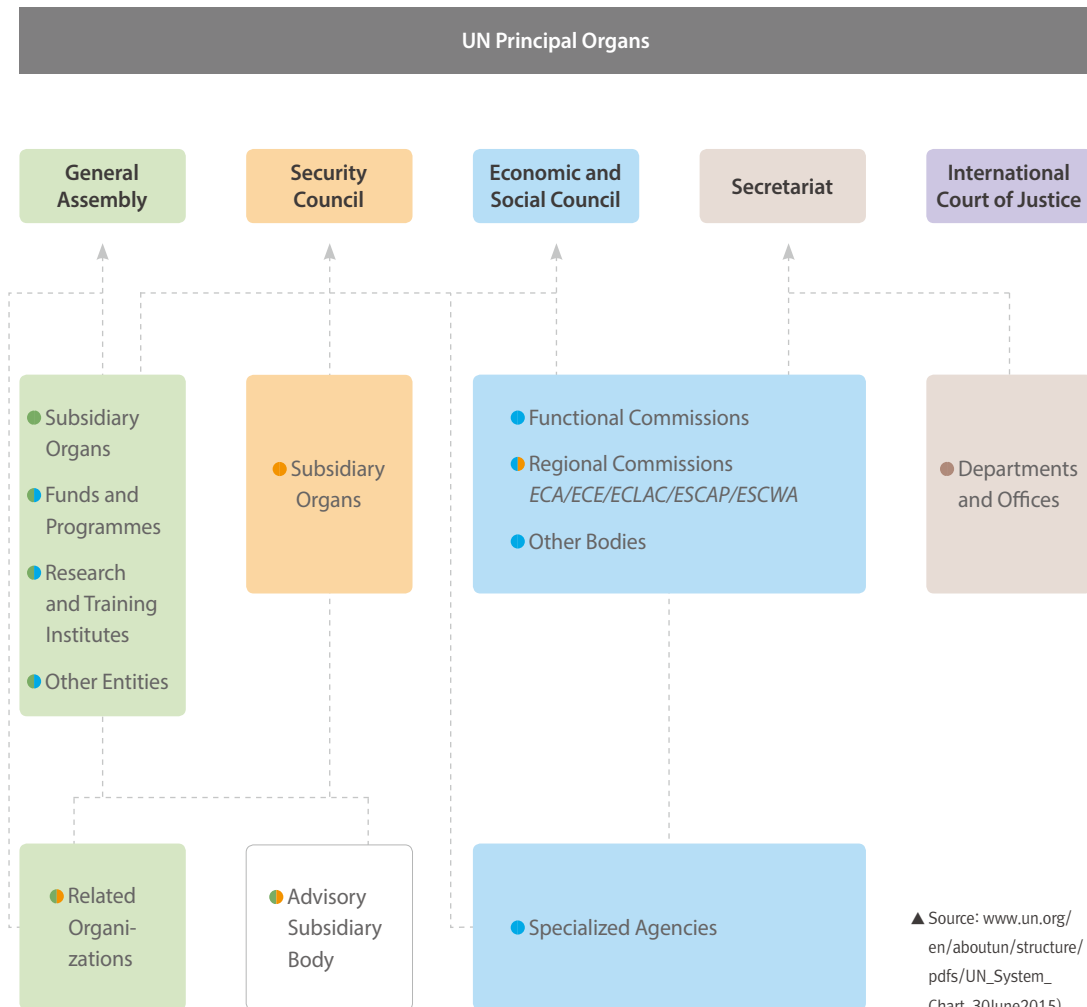
▲ Source: UN Official Website



## United Nations System (‘UN family’)

The UN system, also known as the "UN family", is made up of the UN Secretariat and many affiliated programmes, funds, and specialized agencies, all with their own membership, leadership, and budget. The programmes and funds are financed through voluntary rather than assessed contributions. The specialized agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions.

### The UN System



### Programmes and Funds

UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRWA, UN Women, WFP

### Specialized Agencies

FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, ITU, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, World Bank

### Other Entities

UNAIDS, UNISDR, UNOPS

### Related Organizations

CTBTO, IAEA, IOM, OPCW, WTO



▲ For a detailed explanation of each UN family organization, visit the UN website's section on "Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and Others". For the full name of each UN family organization acronym, see the Appendix at the end of this Handbook.



## UNITED NATIONS AND SDGs

The UN has facilitated the global dialogue on the Post-2015 Agenda, especially a set of SDGs proposed by a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly, and supported broad consultations. It also has the responsibility of supporting member States by providing evidence-based inputs, analytical thinking, and field experience.

The *High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)* is the UN's central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs. The *Partnership Exchange* is another event that serves as a forum to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development.



United Nations and ESCAP



**ESCAP**



▲ ESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand



*UN Regional Commissions are stationed in five regions of the world, namely Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Western Asia. They aim to foster economic integration at regional levels, promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed goals, and support regional sustainable development.*

The Asia and the Pacific region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the regional development arm of the UN in economic, social, and related fields for the Asia-Pacific region.

ESCAP was established in 1947 in Shanghai, China, as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) to assist in post-war economic reconstruction. It then moved its headquarters to Bangkok in January 1949. Its name was changed in 1974 to reflect both the economic and social aspects of development and the geographic location of its member countries.

With 53 members and 9 associate members, ESCAP is the most comprehensive of the five UN regional commissions and the largest UN body serving the Asia-Pacific region with over 600 staff.

## Programme

ESCAP's vision is to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

It seeks to overcome some of the Asia-Pacific region's greatest challenges by providing result-oriented projects, technical assistance, and capacity building to member States in the following areas:

- ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Environment and Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development
- Trade, Investment & Innovation
- Transport
- Energy



UN Photo/Yostorn Triyos



UN Photo/Joris Oele



World Bank/Gerardo Pesantez



UNICEF/Josh Estey



WFP



World Bank/Chhor Sokunthea



ITU/R. Farrell



UNDP Bangladesh/Nasif Ahmed



# ESCAP AND SDGs

ESCAP works with the countries of Asia and the Pacific to achieve a balance between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development, which reflects the UN's Post-2015 Agenda.

## Since the adoption of the 17 SDGs, ESCAP has focused on:

- Examining how Asia and the Pacific region is positioning itself
- Assessing national strategies for implementation of SDGs
- Reviewing how to make more efficient use of the necessary resources to support member States in bringing the economic, social, and environmental goals into national development strategies and policies





To keep track of and promote sustainable development, ESCAP holds the annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).

The first APFSD in 2014 created a plan for long-term consultation and cooperation between governments in the Asia-Pacific region to identify regional priorities on sustainable development, including SDGs and the Post-2015 Agenda.

Since its first meeting, APFSD has met each year to encourage policy-makers in the region to continue working together to establish and incorporate sustainable development practices and agendas into their planning.



## Subregional Activities for Development

Given the vast coverage and diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP's programme on subregional activities for development strengthens the Commission's presence and involvement at the subregional level.

### Key roles and responsibilities include:


- Fostering knowledge sharing, networking, and cooperation between member States
- Monitoring the implementation of SDGs
- Contributing to the development of ESCAP's analytical work to ensure greater depth and coverage of subregional dimensions
- Leveraging on this analysis to contribute norm-setting at both the subregional and regional levels
- Facilitating actions for integration in policies and strategies at the subregional and national levels


### ESCAP Subregional Offices



Stay connected with ESCAP!

 [www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org)

 UNESCAP

 UNESCAP

# ESCAP-ENEA OFFICE



The East and North-East Asia (ENEA) subregion accounts for more than 20 percent of the world's exports and imports. With an area of almost 28 million km<sup>2</sup>, the subregion constitutes more than half of the total land area of the ESCAP region. The population of ENEA also accounts for about 40 percent of the total ESCAP population and almost a quarter of the global population.

## Map of East and North-East Asia Subregion





### Member States

-  China
-  Japan
-  Republic of Korea

-  Democratic People's Republic of Korea
-  Mongolia
-  Russian Federation

### Associate Members

-  Hong Kong, China
-  Macau, China

Established by the UN General Assembly Resolution 63/260, the United Nations ESCAP's ENEA Office is the subregional platform to build and strengthen multilateral partnerships and intergovernmental cooperation for sustainable development and regional integration in North-East Asia.

The ESCAP ENEA Office works with governments as well as other stakeholders of six member States of ESCAP in the subregion, namely China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, and two associate members of Hong Kong and Macau.

The Office is also the Secretariat of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC).

IFEZ

▼ ESCAP-ENEA Office, located in G-Tower in Songdo, Incheon, together with other UN offices





## Key Areas of Work

### 1. Addressing Socio-Economic Inequalities

Promoting participation, collaboration, and sharing of good practices among member countries, in particular, in the areas of youth participation and ageing society.

### 2. Strengthening Intra-Regional Connectivity

Enhancing regional trade through fostering trade and transport connectivity and promoting shared prosperity among all member countries.

### 3. Improving Environmental Sustainability

Supporting subregional cooperation for addressing transboundary environmental challenges and promoting low carbon development through NEASPEC.

### 4. Promoting Disaster Resilient Societies

Promoting cooperation and exchange of information among the member States with a focus on building the capacity of governments to reduce and monitor disaster risks.

### 5. Facilitating Development Cooperation

Supporting dialogues on policies and practices of development cooperation in North-East Asia and developing platforms for technical cooperation beyond the subregion.

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UNESCAP-ENEA



UN\_EastAsia

# APPENDIX

## List of UN System Acronyms

### Funds and Programmes

**UNCTAD** : The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**UNDP** : The United Nations Development Programme

**UNEP** : The United Nations Environment Programme

**UNFPA** : The United Nations Population Fund

**UN-Habitat** : The United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**UNHCR** : The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**UNICEF** : The United Nations Children's Fund

**UNODC** : The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UNRWA** : The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

**UN Women** : UN Women

**WFP** : The World Food Programme

### UN Specialized Agencies

**FAO** : The Food and Agriculture Organization

**ICAO** : The International Civil Aviation Organization

**IFAD** : The International Fund for Agricultural Development

**ILO** : The International Labor Organization

**IMF** : The International Monetary Fund

**IMO** : The International Maritime Organization

**ITU** : The International Telecommunication Union

**UNESCO** : The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**UNIDO** : The United Nations Industrial Development Organization

**UNWTO** : The World Tourism Organization

**UPU** : The Universal Postal Union

**WHO** : The World Health Organization

**WIPO** : The World Intellectual Property Organization

**WMO** : The World Meteorological Organization

**World Bank** : The World Bank

### Other Entities

**UNAIDS** : The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**UNISDR** : The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**UNOPS** : The United Nations Office for Project Services

### Related Organizations

**CTBTO** : The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

**IAEA** : The International Atomic Energy Agency

**IOM** : International Organization for Migration

**OPCW** : The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

**WTO** : The World Trade Organization

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