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Conclusions: Bringing the agenda into action

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1 The way forward

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for action to change the course of history—to make development benefit all and to safeguard the planet for future generations. The launch of the new agenda, which will guide development in the period 2016–2030, provides a unique opportunity for governments, citizens, businesses and various stakeholder groups to assess existing institutions and practices, and to undertake necessary reforms. The SDGs are universal and ambitious, and hence could provide impetus for transformative change. But the real test for the SDGs will be in their ability to inspire and empower. Governments are expected to play a leading role in implementation; however, to bring about meaningful change the new agenda must resonate across different sectors and stakeholders (Hoekstra, R., Smits, J.P et al., 2015). This fits with the global consultation among governments, experts, and a wide range of other stakeholders that supported the formulation of the SDGs. As such, the goals represent the joint aspirations of many people and groups from all parts of the world for more balanced and inclusive forms of development (UNDG, 2014).

But the integrated and inclusive nature of the SDGs agenda also represents a fundamental challenge. The comprehensive set of development goals includes traditionally contradictory development objectives that will be difficult to reconcile without a carefully conceived plan of implementation. The stakeholders supporting those goals may or may not be willing to compromise on “their” goal to achieve others. Furthermore, as of yet, the agenda provides no guidance on how to handle potential conflicts between sectoral interests and stakeholder priorities. It has also offered limited counsel on how to minimise trade-offs, such as how to deal with the tensions that often arise between economic development, social justice and environmental sustainability (ASEF, 2014). To be sure, tough compromises will have to be made. This underlines the significance of the implementation process—of who gets involved, at what stage, and how varying viewpoints and interests are articulated, weighed, and reconciled (ESCAP, ADB, & UNDP, 2015). In other words, it underscores the critical role of the topic of this book: governance.

2 The role of governance in turning SDG aspirations into action

Governance—here broadly understood as the way authority is exercised and decisions are made and executed—will undoubtedly be a key factor behind the success or failure of the SDGs. Few would disagree with that. But governance is an inherently multifaceted concept, which can mean different things to different people. This book therefore attempts to provide some insight on which aspects of governance are likely to matter the most for the SDGs. In doing so, it both draws from the extensive literature on governance and presents studies of past agreements,

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ranging from the outcome of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, through the 1987 Brundtland report and the 1992 Rio Summit, to the more recent Millennium Development Goals, agreements on climate finance, and Rio+20—the conference that set in motion the process to define the SDGs.

The introductory chapter provided a framework to help organise different views on governance. The framework consists of three perspectives on governance and its role in promoting development: 1) the quality of public institutions; 2) international agreements and compliance by nation states; and 3) actions by various stakeholders collaborating at multiple levels. These three perspectives recur throughout the book and inform the analyses presented in the chapters. The first perspective was explored in more detail in Chapter 2, which concluded that differences in rule of law and government effectiveness can explain why some countries have made more progress on the MDGs than others. Chapter 3 took inspiration from complementarities between the second and the third perspective for its study of international agreements and high-level policy documents on sustainable development. It illustrated clear trends from a reliance mainly on top-down policy implementation by governments to broader approaches to governance emphasising also collaborative partnerships with various stakeholders. Chapter 4, in contrast, belongs in the tradition of the second perspective—how international agreements can ensure effective follow-up action at national level. Its analysis of international agreements on financing identified key elements for keeping signatories accountable. Clear commitments, strong monitoring frameworks, and substantial high-level dialogues on follow-up were

found to be essential and mutually-reinforcing elements for accountability. It also identified a need for indicators not only to monitor the input side—how much funding is provided—but also how funds are spent and how this contributes to concrete development outcomes. These findings on accountability and monitoring could apply not only to financing agreements but also to international agreements in general.

The four chapters in the second part of the book combined the three perspectives on governance in their analyses of specific sectors and issues: education (Chapter 5), water (Chapter 6), biodiversity (Chapter 7), and energy (Chapter 8). A common theme of these chapters were the strong linkages that exist between different SDGs—for example, how poverty eradication requires investments in education, how rapid expansion of renewable energy and improvements in energy efficiency are key to stabilising the global climate, how food security depends on achieving water security, and how biodiversity targets would relate to existing international agreements. These interlinkages point to the need for more integrated forms of governance that cut across traditional policy areas and economic sectors—to realise potential synergies and reduce conflicts and trade-offs. Such integrated approaches need to mobilise actors from different parts of society to identify and work towards common objectives.

The chapters on water and energy discussed the international aspects of governance and pointed out the importance of support for developing countries to achieve multiple objectives. These countries are facing the challenge of ensuring access to basic services, while at the same time striving to improve efficiency and also starting to address emerging wasteful consumption patterns. Making progress on these objectives simultaneously requires good governance at national and sub-national levels as well as international support. Of particular relevance are effective mechanisms for international collaboration to help developing countries leapfrog to sustainable systems without necessarily emulating energy- and resource-intensive solutions common in the developed parts of the world. Such collaboration implies not only sharing of technology and expertise among countries, but also that developed countries lead by example to illustrate how transitions to more sustainable societies can happen and how human well-being can be made compatible with ecological imperatives.

The rest of this concluding chapter elaborates on these findings on governance for the SDGs and provides recommendations for practitioners, especially policymakers at the national level. Finally, it offers some reflections on the role of research in the implementation of the SDGs, including suggested topics for future study.

3 Cross-sectoral and integrated governance

Managing the linkages between different goals and targets will be one of the most important but also most challenging aspects of implementing the SDGs (ICSU & ISSC, 2015). That is also a key conclusion of the studies in this book.

Governments should approach the SDGs as a system of interconnected objectives rather than a list of separate goals and targets

This requires governments to approach the SDGs as a system of interconnected objectives rather than a list of separate goals and targets. To do so in practice, governments need to adopt more integrated forms of governance that bridge traditional policy domains and span multiple

economic sectors (ActionAid, 2015; Independent Research Forum, 2014). This, in turn, requires institutional innovation and reforms of routines for operational planning, human resource management and budget allocation (Antonio, Ofei-Manu, & Olsen, 2014). Governments and state administrations must have the capacity to identify misguided solutions—policies, technologies, infrastructure designs, and institutional arrangements—that would create strong tensions among different SDG objectives, and to identify options that are more synergistic across the entire SDGs framework.

In this context, it is of particular importance to ensure that environmental objectives are not systematically compromised—as is currently often the case (Akenji & Bengtsson, 2014). The approach to implementation has to reflect that access to natural resources, intact ecosystems, and a stable climate play fundamental roles in human development and well-being (A4S et al., 2015), and that efforts to promote development at the expense of environmental deterioration are undermining themselves and will eventually fail (Griggs et al., 2013).

In this regard, it will be important for governments and other stakeholders to analyse what institutional arrangements can be the most conducive to integrated cross-sectoral policymaking. This should include a mapping of how different development objectives are linked to each other and help identify solutions with high synergies, as well as trade-offs to be avoided. Governments at all levels therefore need to institutionalise routines for screening plans and proposals that consider multiple criteria (Waage & Yap, 2015). In these processes, both civil society and the science community will play essential roles. The Box below illustrates the importance of linkages between different goals from the perspective of the SDG on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and discusses implications for governance at both national and international levels.

Governance and SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Author: Lewis Akenji

What will likely become Goal 12 of the SDGs (Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns) illustrates some of the main reasons governance is crucial if the targets and objectives of the framework are to be realised. Key reasons governance is so important include the following:

SCP is a cross-cutting theme, and an overarching objective of sustainable development. This is well reflected in the draft framework document that lists likely SDGs. SCP is needed for poverty eradication (Goal 1) and sustainable food production and distribution (Goal 2), which contributes to health and well-being (Goal 3); production and consumption are the bedrocks of the economy (Goal 8) and industrialisation (Goal 9), which affect biodiversity (Goal 15). There are many other such linkages as well. These linkages underline why SCP cannot be achieved as a standalone goal—it requires making good progress on all other SDGs as well. It also suggests why governance of SDGs would require more than just engagement of ministries of environment, and needs to involve ministries responsible for the economy, agriculture, natural resources, health, strategic planning, etc. An integrative approach to SCP would allow it to serve as means of implementation (MOI) for other goals.

There is already a UN 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), which was adopted at Rio+20. This means that there will be simultaneously an SCP goal as part of the SDGs and an international framework specifically on SCP. If these two are not properly coordinated, it could lead to unhealthy competition for resources and political attention, rather than providing synergies. Target 12.1 of the SDGs is to implement the 10YFP, though it does not say how. Thus the 10YFP and SDG 12 would need integration at the level of objectives, indicators, and monitoring and reporting frameworks. Good international governance mechanisms will be crucial here.

SCP typifies and highlights some of the more contentious practical and political differences between developed countries and developing countries, and highlights the applicability of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). To achieve the SCP SDG, proper governance at the international level would need to address three issues: 1) equity among populations and equal access to ecological resources; 2) fairness in distribution of burden and damages from historic and present unsustainable consumption and production; and 3) differences in capacities of developed and developing countries to address the problems of unsustainable consumption and production.

4 Multi-stakeholder and inclusive governance

The argument for integration across different sectors also pertains to the inclusion of different stakeholders. Multi-stakeholder engagement and participation are increasingly put forward as core elements of governance for sustainable development. This was clearly recognised in the participatory and inclusive processes to formulate the post-2015 development agenda. Decision-makers and development actors are increasingly aware of the limitations of top-down planning and implementation. Agreements and action based on consensus and an ethos of inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder engagement are thus recognised as critical (Bäckstrand, 2006; Eckley, 2001). But there also remains tension between the benefits and costs of participation.

Many studies have argued that inclusion and engagement have significant benefits. Earlier literature on environmental issues viewed participation as a normative 'good' and as an expression of a democratic society (Arnstein, 1969). Other literature on participation has argued that participation leads to better development outcomes because it reflects a broader set of development aspirations (Bass, Dalal-Clayton, & Pretty, 1995; Swidler & Watkins, 2009). This is also partly because participation creates ownership of the development process (Booth, 2012). Increasing participation and openness can also challenge existing interests and the institutional and political structures that support them. This can help ease the institutional and political reforms that would otherwise prevent transformative approaches to development.

But some would advise caution about the costs of inclusiveness. Stakeholder participation can be time-consuming and inefficient. For this reason, it may be neither desirable nor efficient to try to involve everyone in discussions on every issue (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004). A further set of concerns cautions about inclusiveness being handled through *pro forma* processes that lend legitimacy to government decisions but limits actual co-design of policies and decisions. Another possible drawback is that inclusiveness can also create so many stakeholders that it is difficult to hold any single party accountable for an outcome (Brett, 2003). Inclusiveness can thus come at the expense of accountability, especially if there is a lack of accountability mechanisms that clearly define roles and responsibilities of relevant actors.

While most of the chapters in the book underline the importance of making the policy processes as inclusive as possible, it will thus also be vital to aim for institutional arrangements that can balance the merits of inclusion while minimising its drawbacks. Striking the right balance will depend upon national and subnational contexts. And this will likely prove challenging in many parts of the world. At the very least, there will be a need to consider which stakeholders are included through which engagement mechanisms and at what stages of the decision-making processes. This will require some careful reflections from governments as they begin to get ready to implement the SDGs. It is also an area upon which the research community could shed some useful light.

5 The roles of the research community

The research community has played an active role in the design of the SDGs agenda, and it will continue to have significant roles to play also during implementation. This section identifies some areas where involvement of the research community is expected to be critical.

At the early stages of the implementation process, the research community can help countries translate the global goals and targets into national and local contexts and assist in setting appropriate targets. During planning for implementation, research can clarify how different goals and targets of the SDGs framework are related, thereby helping governments and other actors identify synergies and anticipate trade-offs. As pointed out repeatedly in this book, how these linkages are managed will be one of the most important aspects of the implementation process. Here, the research community can also assist the assessment of various solutions and help identifying options with stronger synergies and that create less tension across the SDGs. A related task is to identify the options where investments are expected to yield especially high or limited societal returns.

Another role for the research community is monitoring and evaluation. The limited availability of quality data is widely recognised as a key challenge for implementation. Researchers can contribute to the generation of data in areas that are not well covered by regular statistics. The research community can also be actively engaged in implementation activities, working directly with various stakeholders and facilitating joint learning. The complexity of the SDGs agenda necessitates an adaptive approach to implementation where experiments, quick feed-back, learning and adaptation will be essential. The research community can play an important part in facilitating such processes.

Research can also help evaluate the degree of success of different implementation arrangements. This book emphasises the need for reforms in governance and for institutional innovation towards better

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integration and meaningful participation. In these areas, the research community can assist by assessing the performance of different approaches to governance, such as of integration mechanisms involving multiple policy areas and of various models of civil society engagement. An especially pertinent research topic is to explore how participation and partnerships for sustainable development can be designed and carried out in ways that can reconcile the tensions discussed above between legitimacy and effectiveness or inclusiveness and accountability. For this, it will be relevant to analyse how multi-stakeholder partnerships can achieve high levels of accountability and legitimacy, as well as exploring how to bolster effective participation under resource constraints—when decisions about implementation have to be made with limited time, money and people.

Overall the research community will not be able to simply sit back and observe idly as the SDGs are implemented. Researchers will need to be engaged. There is a risk that one sacrifices objectivity by becoming too much a part of the process that one studies. At the same time, the study of sustainable development is not always best practiced from the detached perspective of the laboratory but from experiences of living among people and hoping for a better society. The SDGs mark an unprecedented opportunity to change the trajectory of history—too much could be lost by watching that period pass by.

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ANNEX 1

List of search terms for
Chapter 3

Annex 1 List of search terms for Chapter 3

List of search terms for Chapter 3

<i>Collaborative governance key words (17)</i>	<i>Compliance governance key words (11)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equality - Accountability - Transparency - Democracy - Agreement - Dispute settlement - Behavioral/behavioural change - Problem solving - Durability - Deliberation - Collaboration - Participation - Partnership - Engage - Involvement - Cooperation - Consult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliance - Conform - Legal - Commit - Mandatory - Sanction - Punish - Fine - Binding - Adhere - Enforce
<i>Overarching Implementation related key words (20)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOI - Resources - Inputs - Outcomes - Partnership - Commit - Finance - Technology - Institutions - Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review - Reporting - Target - ODA - Donor - Capacity - University - Common - Differentiated - Ownership

ANNEX 2

Proposed
SDG goals and targets,
as of August 2015

Annex 2

Proposed SDG goals and targets, as of August 2015

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 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
- 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
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

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

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

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2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

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

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

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

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

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

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

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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

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International

Annex 2 Proposed SDG goals and targets, as of August 2015

Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

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Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

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

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

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

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8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to

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African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

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

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

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12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

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

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

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

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13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

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14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

Goal 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

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

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15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

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

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

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

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

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Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development Finance

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity-building

17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic issues

Policy and institutional coherence

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

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

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries