

# VOICE

— UN DESA —

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## Sustainable development events to look out for in 2023

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As we're opening the chapter on 2023, we're entering a new and busy year, which will be critical for people, planet and our shared future. Here are the main sustainable development events to look out for this year.

### 1. Two major reports launch on population ageing and the global economy

UN DESA will kick off the year releasing two major reports: the World Social Report on leaving no one behind in an ageing world and the World Economic Situation and Prospects report revealing the economic forecast at the global and regional levels. Be on the look-out for these major reports and their findings on 12 January and 25 January respectively, on this website: [Publications | UN DESA Publications](#)

### 2. Data that make the lives of migrants visible

International migration statistics can help the international community make migrants visible to policymakers, capturing their social and economic situation, their challenges and

vulnerabilities and their contributions to countries and societies. Don't miss the [Third International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS\)](#) on 24-26 January in Santiago, Chile, aimed at finding ways to improve the collection, analysis, and use of migration data worldwide.

### **3. Partnerships to boost delivery of the global goals**

Partnerships play a critical role in our efforts to face intensified global crises around the world, and to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To boost innovative collaboration, the [2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#) will gather international actors on 31 January 2023 in conjunction with the Council's Coordination Segment. Interested actors can register [here](#) to attend either virtually or in person (deadline to register is 23 January 2023).

### **4. From potential to prosperity in the Least Developed Countries**

40 per cent of people living in poverty reside in one of the 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These countries account for around 13 per cent of the world population, but only around 1.3 per cent of global GDP. Many LDC countries are also experiencing conflict or are emerging from one. To resolve these and other challenges, the global community will convene this March for the [5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries \(LDC5\)](#).

### **5. Most important water event in a generation**

Billions of people around the globe still live without safely managed drinking water and sanitation. Many water sources are becoming more polluted, and ecosystems that provide water are disappearing. Climate change is disrupting the water cycle, causing droughts and floods. Water is everyone's business, and on 22-24 March, water action will be front and center at the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) in New York. International actors are then coming together for the most important water event in a generation.

### **6. Tracking progress on our global goals**

17 goals and 169 targets. This July, the latest data on how well the global community takes care of people, planet and safeguards our shared future through these goals and targets, will be revealed in The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023. The 2022 edition of the report painted a somber picture, as the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and an increased number of conflicts around the world have placed the goals in jeopardy. Stay tuned for the latest updates on [this page](#).

### **7. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

UN Member States, civil society, businesses, and other international actors will convene yet again for the annual [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) to assess global action on the global goals. At the Forum, taking place on 10-19 July, 41 countries will present their efforts as part of the Voluntary National Reviews. The event will be a launch pad towards the SDG Summit in September.

### **8. 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report**

This year, time has come for the independent group of scientists and experts to release the second edition of the [Global Sustainable Development Report](#). The report will offer science-based evidence and solutions that can help decision-makers worldwide to accelerate action on the SDGs.

## 9. UN Summit on the SDGs

On 19-20 September, the second [UN Summit on the SDGs](#) will be held, bringing together Heads of State and Government to assess our joint efforts to achieve the 17 SDGs. The Summit will offer a critical opportunity to set the world back on track to achieve the goals through game-changing policies, ambitious initiatives and transformative action

Stay in the know about global efforts for people and planet! Join our [Global Policy Dialogue events](#), read our newsletter [UN DESA Voice](#), keep track of events on our [website](#) and via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



### EXPERT VOICES



## Behind the scenes of two major UN DESA reports

UN DESA will kick-off 2023 with a bang, launching its two flagship reports, the World Social Report (WSR) and the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) in January. Hear from our experts in the fields of ageing, population and macroeconomics and learn more

about UN DESA's analytical work and how it informs Member States' action plans on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 1. The upcoming World Social Report will examine population ageing trends around the world. What can our readers expect to learn from the report?

*Karoline Schmid:* "Population ageing is a global human success story. Billions of people around the world have benefitted from improving living conditions that have supported the steady move from high to low levels of fertility and mortality, the main drivers of population ageing globally.

Population ageing is a defining global trend of our time. People are living longer, and more are older than ever before. Globally, a baby born in 2021 could expect to live on average almost 25 years longer than a newborn from 1950, reaching 71 years, with women outliving men by an average of five years. We also see gains in longevity at older ages. Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2019, people who had already survived to age 65, could expect to live on average an additional 18 years worldwide, making celebrating one's 80th birthday a normality than an exception as it was decades ago.

People also tend to live healthier lives. The number of years lived in good health has increased overall for most people, however, more so for older men than for older women."

### 2. In UN DESA, we are able to showcase the interlinkages among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Can you tell us more about the SDGs featured in the World Social Report? How can this analysis help us achieve the Goals?

*Daisuke Maruichi:* "With population ageing as the underlying theme, the World Social Report showcases linkages between Goal 1 (poverty), Goal 3 (health and well-being), Goal 4 (education), Goal 5 (gender), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth) and Goal 10 (inequalities).

One central message is that reaping the benefits of population ageing and ensuring the well-being of older persons start with promoting equal opportunity from a young age. Ensuring that everyone has access to quality education, health care and decent work opportunities along the life course is key to boosting economic security in old age and reducing inequality among older persons. These early investments will also help enhance the productive and human potential of older persons. The report also highlights how gender inequalities drive unequal ageing processes. It calls for rebalancing care duties within families and adopting family and labour policies that enable women and men to manage both domestic responsibilities and employment. It also provides concrete recommendations to reduce inequalities in access to old age pensions between women and men."

### **3. The world is facing multiple and intertwined global crises. What are the main challenges in economic forecasting during such exceptional times? How did the team overcome these challenges while preparing the World Economic Situation and Prospects?**

*Zhenqian Huang:* "Economic forecasting is always challenging, as forecasters need to consider many different variables, scenarios and impacts of policies. A series of unprecedented and interconnected crises in the past several years have introduced massive uncertainties to the world economy, further complicating the job.

To ensure high quality economic assessment, our forecasting team has more closely followed new developments, more quickly incorporated the very latest information, and more regularly deliberated to build common understanding of the transmission channels of certain events and their economic impacts. In parallel, we have had direct dialogues with experts from governments, international organizations, academia and the private sector to test our assessment and form meaningful policy recommendations, particularly for developing countries.

Although numbers are important, they are not the full story. Our forecasting work goes beyond short-term economic ups-and-downs, and assesses the impact of current crises and countries' policy responses on long-term economic resilience. In doing so, we help Member States in their efforts to incorporate social and environmental sustainability into economic policymaking."

Join us for the launch of the [World Social Report](#) on 12 January and the [World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023](#) on 25 January. Watch the live press briefings on [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org).





## 4 things you need to know about why migration data matters

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Are you looking to learn more about migration data and why it matters? We know the number of international migrants has grown consistently in the past two decades, but there is much we

still need to learn about who these migrants are, their conditions, motivation or impact. Scarce migration data, or existing data that is not fully used, allows for myths and misconceptions to shape public debate.

Here are 4 reasons why migration statistics are so important:

1. **Reliable data allow for the inclusion of all migrants in policy making.** Good policies depend on sound evidence and assessments, which help to decide on the best course of action. Comprehensive, disaggregated data can help policymakers develop sound, evidence-based policies and ensure they leave no migrant behind, especially the most vulnerable ones.
2. **Migration data allow for highlighting migrants' contributions.** Migrants fill essential jobs in countries of destination and have much to contribute to their countries of origin through the transfer of remittances and knowledge, trade and foreign direct investment. Having the right data can support governments and communities in harnessing that potential.
3. **Both producers and users of migration data face challenges.** While national statistical offices face multiple challenges to collect and produce relevant, timely and accurate migration data, users, including ministries, non-governmental organizations, academia and the general public may face issues to accurately interpret and apply migration data. Efforts to address both sets of challenges are needed.
4. **Evidence is required to track progress.** Data is needed to ascertain whether progress is being made. Migration statistics and indicators allow us to track the progress made towards achieving global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and those contained in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

From 24 to 26 January 2023, UN DESA, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will convene the Third International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS). The Forum will gather prominent experts from across the world in Santiago, Chile, to discuss the challenges in gathering and using migration data, and share solutions and best practices.

More information is available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migrationstat-forum-2023/index.html>



## Partnerships transform vision into reality



SDG BLOG



Li Junhua  
Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA



## Action, agility and accountability will help us deliver on the global goals

*By Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA*

I joined UN DESA in September 2022, and what a whirlwind four months it has been.

I am keenly aware that my term started at a time when a confluence of global crises has set us back in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I embarked on a “listening tour” and met with delegations, ministers, regional representatives and various stakeholders to discuss the many challenges their countries and communities are facing and the roadblocks to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. I am quite optimistic that, together, we can still accomplish our objectives.

Where is this hope coming from? At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27), I witnessed the world come together to share solutions to one of the most pressing issues of our time – the climate crisis. The creation of a “Loss and Damage” Fund is a first step in acknowledging and helping vulnerable populations who suffer the most due to climate change.

At the G20 Summit under the Indonesia Presidency, leaders committed to taking collective actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing developmental challenges by reinvigorating a more inclusive multilateralism. I expect this commitment to continue with the India Presidency and beyond.

Preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference in March are underway. UN DESA, along with UN-Water and the Governments of the Netherlands and Tajikistan, are working tirelessly to deliver a conference that will drive concrete outcomes and commitments for #WaterAction.

Global actors will gather for the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July. As this is my first HLPF as USG of UN DESA, I am particularly looking forward to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), where developing and least developed countries present the progress and pitfalls in their national implementation of the SDGs. Listening and learning from these countries’ experiences in dealing with the multiple crises that have inundated us the past three years will give all of us a better idea of how to move forward.

The HLPF will also serve as a launching pad for the SDG Summit in September, considered the mid-point review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. My sense of optimism is coupled with a sense of urgency. Not only do we need to regain lost ground, but we must also take bigger steps – more transformative action – to realize the Goals.

UN DESA is ready to support the General Assembly in its preparations for the SDG Summit where Member States are expected to adopt a negotiated political declaration. Governments, the private sector, civil society and various multi-stakeholders must work in solidarity to mobilize investments and push for actionable recommendations and impactful policies to achieve the SDGs.

Looking further ahead to 2024, we will hold the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (a ten-year follow-up to the Samoa Pathway in 2014) and the Summit of the Future, which will explore inclusive, innovative and multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow.

Here in UN DESA – the home of the SDGs in the UN system – our work will be guided by action, agility and accountability. Through our analytical and capacity-building work – backed by our data science – we will continue to support UN country teams, least developed countries and countries in special situations by providing sound advice on social, economic and sustainable development issues and policy.

And we will continue to serve and support Member States in the General Assembly and ECOSOC in the intergovernmental process and help deliver their mandates.

But we cannot make the needed impact if we work alone.

Let us all come together, in the spirit of cooperation, collaboration and camaraderie, and work towards a world that is sustainable, inclusive and resilient, for current and future generations.

We have a lot to do. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work!



# SDG 1 IN NUMBERS



## RISING INFLATION AND IMPACTS OF WAR IN UKRAINE **FURTHER DERAIL PROGRESS ON POVERTY ERADICATION**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY IN 2022



### MORE FROM UN DESA

- Cultivating and strengthening partnerships for the global goals

### COMING UP



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