



## High-level Political Forum gathers thousands to assess global efforts to realize Sustainable Development Goals

Are we on track to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030? Where are we making progress, and where do we need to step up efforts? On 9-18 July 2018, the world will come together at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to evaluate where we stand in this joint quest for a prosperous, equal and healthy future for people and planet. 47 countries stand ready to share their efforts, lessons learned and experiences to meet the globally agreed goals.

For the third consecutive year, UN Member States, business leaders, mayors, the scientific community, foundations, UN agencies and civil society organizations will assess efforts to make the global goals a reality for people and communities on the ground. More than 2000 representatives are expected to attend the meeting this year, taking place under the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

To help guide the debate, new data showing our performance on the 17 SDGs, have just been released and presented in the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 (SDGs Report 2018). While the report shows that more people are living better; it paints a picture of mounting challenges for countries to overcome to realize the goals. Climate change, conflicts, inequality, poverty, rapid urbanization, rising trade tensions, elevated debt levels and a rise in hunger are among those hurdles.

At this year’s HLPF, the spotlight will shine especially bright on six goals and world leaders will agree on further actions to achieve them: Water and sanitation (Goal 6); affordable and clean energy (Goal 7); sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11);

responsible consumption and production (Goal 12); life on land (Goal 15); and strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (Goal 17).

## Making every drop count

Water is life; and it is a basic human right. Yet today, 3 in 10 people lack safely managed drinking water and a majority live without safely managed sanitation services. According to the latest SDGs Report 2018, conflict, violence and instability are factors hampering progress on water and sanitation.

“You may ask, what is the big deal about investing in provision of safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene?” wrote WaterAid’s Savio Carvalho in a [recent HLPF 2018 blog post](#). “But these basic needs – these human rights – have huge impacts on every facet of people’s lives, and we will end neither inequalities nor poverty without ensuring they are met. Living without these essentials is holding billions of people back in poverty.”

Aiming to tackle the global water crises and moving closer to achieve Goal 6, the HLPF will kick off its annual session and programme on 9 July with this goal first on the agenda.

## Ensuring access to clean energy

The international community will then debate how to achieve affordable and clean energy as outlined in Goal 7. The latest figures reveal that at the current pace, progress towards achieving this goal is too slow for a successful outcome. If we do not step up efforts, we will not be able to reach the energy targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This means that 674 million people might still live without electricity by 2030 and that a large proportion of the global population might still live without access to clean cooking fuels and technologies (the current number stands at 41 per cent).

We also need a faster uptake of modern forms of renewable energy. The share of renewables in our energy consumption increased modestly, from 17.3 per cent in 2014 to 17.5 per cent in 2015.

## Resilient cities and sustainable lives

Sustainable cities and sustainable living will be other topics for discussion, with Goal 11 and 12 on the agenda on 11 and 12 July respectively.

Currently, 9 out of 10 city dwellers breathe polluted air and many countries face insufficient basic urban services and infrastructure. To ensure that all urban inhabitants have access to safe and adequate housing, clean air, sustainable transport, basic services and live in resilient and sustainable communities, efforts must be redoubled according to the latest SDGs data.

But there are positive trends as well. The data also show that 152 countries have developed national urban policies to meet these challenges and to support sustainable urbanization.

## Forests crucial for healthy people and planet

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the crucial role that forests play for sustainable development. Covering 30.7 per cent of the Earth’s land, they are essential to human well-being and to the health of our planet.

However, the latest SDGs data show that forest areas continue to shrink, down from 4.1 billion hectares in 2000 to about 4 billion hectares in 2015. To halt deforestation, the full implementation of sustainable forest management plans is needed. The data also show

that land degradation is increasing due to competing pressures for food, energy and shelter and that biodiversity loss is occurring at an alarming rate.

As Goal 15 will be under review, the international forest community will showcase how sustainably managed forests provide a broad range of products, services and offer unique opportunities to promote sustainable natural resource use. UN DESA's Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) is organizing a pre-HLPF event on 8 July on "Forest-based Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies: Lessons Learned and Success Stories," to highlight forest-based solutions and demonstrate how implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 can leverage co-benefits and address trade-offs with other goals and commitments.

The Forum Secretariat is also teaming up with partners to present the "Forests for Fashion: for Sustainable Development Goals" exhibit during the HLPF, showcasing the role of forest products in fashion and featuring 15 mannequins each wearing unique outfits made from forest-derived materials.

## Businesses and mayors join events in large numbers

In addition to the SDGs in review and 47 national presentations, UN Headquarters will be buzzing with a large number of special events during the eight days of the Forum. In keeping with tradition, the Partnership Exchange event will take place on 13 July, gathering some 300 participants to showcase, explore and scale up partnerships to realize the SDGs. On 16 July, more than 100 mayors from all regions of the world will join the Local and Regional Governments' Forum, to discuss the role that subnational governments play to realize the goals. Business leaders and corporations will then set the stage for the SDG Business Forum on 17 July, bringing together some 580 participants to foster public-private dialogues, catalyze new partnerships and alliances, and explore innovative business solutions to accelerate the realization of the SDGs.

Voluntary National Review Labs, eight of them in total, will focus on taking stock of the experience thus far with the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) from 16 to 18 July. Several sessions of the VNR Lab will focus on a specific cross cutting theme related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They will allow a few countries having conducted a VNR between 2016 and 2018 to share their progress, policies, lessons learned, and experiences at the national level. Other countries and actors will have the opportunity to share their own experience and provide advice and support in response to challenges identified by the selected VNR countries.

Film buffs will be happy to know that this year's Forum will also feature a film festival taking place on 11 and 17 July, featuring the screening of the top six entries to the "Heroes on the Ground" SDG Film Competition, as well as of the documentary "Wasted! The Story Of Food Waste." In addition, many interesting discussions on the goals and action on the ground to achieve them, will be streamed live from the SDG Media Zone on 16 and 17 July. Most events happening during the HLPF will also be broadcast live via UN Web TV.

The world is three years into this plan that has the potential to completely reshape our future for the better. But to achieve it by 2030, we need to do more, faster. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres wrote in the foreword to the SDGs Report 2018: "With just 12 years left to the 2030 deadline, we must inject a sense of urgency. Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires immediate and accelerated actions by countries along with collaborative partnerships among governments and stakeholders at all levels."

For more information:

[High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)

[Voluntary National Reviews Database](#)

[HLPF 2018 blog series](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Countries embrace efforts to achieve SDGs amid mounting global challenges

A fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, persistent pockets of poverty and hunger and rapid urbanization are challenging countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to UN DESA's report launched in New York on 20 June. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 found that conflict and climate change were major contributing factors

leading to growing numbers of people facing hunger and forced displacement, as well as curtailing progress towards universal access to basic water and sanitation services.

For the first time in more than a decade, there are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. According to the report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries. In 2017, the world experienced the costliest North Atlantic hurricane season on record, driving the global economic losses attributed to the disasters to over \$300 billion.

At the same time, the Report found that more people are leading better lives than they were just a decade ago. The proportion of the world's workers living with their families on less than 1.90 per person a day declined significantly over the past two decades, falling from 26.9 per cent in 2000 to 9.2 per cent in 2017.

The under-five mortality rate dropped by almost 50 per cent and in the least developed countries, the proportion of population with access to electricity has more than doubled between 2000 and 2016. However, in 2015, 2.3 billion people still lacked even a basic level of sanitation service and 892 million people continued to practice open defecation. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria compared to 210 million cases in 2013 and close to 4 billion people were left without social protection in 2016.

The SDG Report, presents an overview of progress toward achieving the Goals, which were unanimously adopted by countries in 2015.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin said "Transitioning towards more sustainable and resilient societies also requires an integrated approach that recognizes that these challenges—and their solutions—are interrelated."

As the global community moves forward to achieve the SDGs and address existing challenges, reliable, timely, accessible and disaggregated data is critically needed. This requires technology and innovation, increased resources and political commitment to build strong data and statistical systems in all countries.

Other findings of the Report include:

- Rates of child marriage have continued to decline around the world. In Southern Asia, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has dropped by over 40 per cent between 2000 and 2017.
- Nine out of 10 people living in cities breathe polluted air.
- In 2016, the absolute number of people living without electricity dropped below the symbolic threshold of one billion.
- Land degradation threatens the livelihoods of over one billion people.

For more information: [Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS



### How higher education initiatives contribute to the 2030 Agenda

Higher education institutions are one of the key actors that contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Established in 2012 in the lead up to the Rio+20 Conference, the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), offers higher education institutions an opportunity to share their innovative work towards the realization of the SDGs with the support of several prominent UN agencies. On 11 July, during this year's High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, HESI partners will be showcasing how the SDGs are being integrated into sustainability strategies, research, teaching, pedagogy and campus practices.

Through its strong association with the United Nations, HESI provides higher education institutions with a unique interface between higher education, science, and policy making. It amplifies the voices and outreach efforts of higher education institutions, as well as incorporates their contribution to the goals. It also offers one of the most comprehensive and concrete opportunities to connect young people to the 2030 Agenda, ensuring that the future generation has the knowledge and capacity to achieve the SDGs. Through education of new knowledge and technology of sustainable development, higher education institutions will bring up future leaders and citizens with full awareness of the SDGs, building more sustainable societies.

All the higher education institutions part of HESI have committed to teach sustainable development across all disciplines of study; encourage research and dissemination of sustainable development knowledge; green campuses and support local sustainability efforts; and engage and share information with international networks. Their commitment ranges from building sustainable campuses, include the SDGs in their curricula, engage in local sustainable development projects to report and share their best practices.

During the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the HESI partners will be organizing an event for higher education institutions to showcase how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is being integrated into sustainability strategies, research, teaching, pedagogy, and campus practices, and to position higher education institutions as key drivers for achieving the SDGs. Participants of the HESI event will include government officials, academia, university administrators, UN representatives, sustainability professionals, major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The event, held on 11 July, will feature workshops on 'Leveraging innovative partnerships with higher education institutions towards sustainable and resilient societies and 'Student engagement towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The event's plenary segment will be held in the afternoon and will include sessions on 'Highlighting innovative collaborations between Higher Education Institutions and the United Nations' and 'How are Higher Education Institutions mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into curricula, research and programmes.'

HESI is a partnership between UN DESA, UNESCO, UN Environment, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) Initiative, United Nations University, UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD and UNITAR.

For more information: [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative \(HESI\)](#)

## GET INVOLVED



### Be the change: Take daily actions for the SDGs!

Judging from statistics, we have many reasons to celebrate the achievements we have made since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted three years ago. The under-five mortality rate has dropped, the global labor market witnessed an increase in productivity and 108 countries put policies and initiatives in place to make production and consumption more sustainable. But we still have a lot of work to do to achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals. You can be part of these efforts!

Although more people are living better than a decade ago, the latest data of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018, released on 20 June, reveal gaps that need to be closed if we are to reach our targets by 2030.

We still need to enable more than half of the world's children and adolescents to access quality education; to make clean energy affordable to the 1 billion people still without electricity; and to regulate carbon emissions and battle climate change.

On 9-18 July, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development will gather representatives from UN Member States to share progress and experiences, strengthen joint efforts and improve strategies. While this event is mainly for policy makers, there are many actions that ordinary citizens can take to help accelerate progress towards a sustainable future.

In addition to some obvious activities, like reusing shopping bags and saving on electricity, find more tips here on ways to take daily action for the SDGs:

- Shop local and shop smart. Support neighborhood businesses that employ local people and help reduce long-distance transport. Use shopping lists and avoid marketing tricks that tempt you to buy more than you need. This saves your money and the resources of our planet.
- Use your power to shape businesses as a customer. You can for example ask, “do you serve sustainable seafood?”, when ordering seafood in restaurants. Let businesses know that ocean-friendly seafood is on your shopping list.
- Calculate your carbon emissions via [Climate Neutral Now](#) to make them easier to regulate and reduce. Show your support for the Paris Agreement on blogs, social media, and every media channel you can access.
- Know your rights at work and raise your voice against any violation of them in your workplace. When everyone works together, we can achieve an environment free from inequality and discrimination.
- Exercise your voting rights and vote for leaders who are committed to work for a sustainable future, benefitting both people and the planet.

More ideas can be found in [The lazy person's guide to saving the world](#).

For more information:

[Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018](#)

[High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)

## EXPERT VOICES



### GDP growth, interest rates, global debt – is our economy sustainable?

The state of the global economy is currently showing mixed trends. Global GDP is expected to grow, but insufficient infrastructure, financial instability and increasing interest rates are holding many developing countries back from enjoying the revived economy. Trade growth is also accelerating, while the

recent G7 summit witnessed crucial challenges to the multilateral trading system. To reach a more sustainable economy, what obstacles do we need to overcome? The team behind the World Economic Situation and Prospects report and monthly briefings in the Global Economic Monitoring Branch in UN DESA's Economic Analysis and Policy Division, share their insights.

Global GDP growth is expected to reach 3.2 per cent this and next year, but not all countries are sharing this uptrend. How can we build a more equal global economy?

“While we have seen a relatively broad-based upturn of economic activity, we expect only modest growth in the coming years for many countries in Central, West and Southern Africa, Western Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. In most cases, this subdued outlook reflects long-standing structural weaknesses such as fragile security situations, political instability, high commodity dependence and severe macroeconomic imbalances.

To overcome these obstacles, we need a combination of policy efforts at the national level, which aim to strengthen economic resilience and promote diversification, and a supportive international environment. The latter can only be guaranteed through a multilateral approach to international policy making. The international community needs to ensure that an open, fair and rules-based global trade system is preserved.

We also need to further strengthen global financial stability and ensure that available financial resources are channeled towards socially beneficial investment. And, there is an urgent need to help climate-vulnerable developing countries better cope with the impacts of climate change.”

In recent years, we have seen a notable increase in government debt levels across many developing economies. Is this a cause for concern?

“The extended period of low global interest rates has allowed many governments to increase debt levels with only a limited impact on debt servicing costs. As global financial conditions tighten, debt servicing costs are also likely to rise in many countries.

Notably, countries with large fiscal deficits, high levels of maturing debt, and a substantial amount of foreign-currency-denominated debt are particularly vulnerable to an abrupt tightening of global liquidity conditions, given their high exposure to refinancing and currency mismatch risks. In some cases, high interest burdens have already started to divert a growing share of public resources away from infrastructure, social protection, and other areas crucial to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Any cutback or delays to critical infrastructure investment will worsen existing structural bottlenecks and constrain productivity growth, impeding the realization of sustainable development.

In addition, rollbacks on policy measures to address structural challenges, including measures to tackle high unemployment and rising inequality, could risk triggering political and social unrest.”

The recent update to UN DESA’s World Economic Situation and Prospects report projected a sharp drop in global economic output if trade tensions continued to escalate. After the recent G7 summit, are we already on this downward spiral?

“The recent G7 summit was one of the clearest indications yet that the world economy is facing a fundamental challenge to the multilateral trading system and multilateralism more broadly. As a consequence, the world economy certainly has entered more treacherous territory and it remains to be seen how far the open trade disputes will escalate.

While the magnitude of specific tariff measures that have been introduced to date remain relatively limited, the move towards conducting policy-making in a selective and unilateral fashion leaves firms exposed to a high level of uncertainty in terms of the regulation and policy that they will face when buying and selling products in international markets. Anecdotally, this has already started to deter some investment, and increases the probability of a more severe shock to the world economy.”

Certain groups, such as women, youth, older workers, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups face higher



unemployment rates and more workplace discrimination. Does this bear an economic cost, and how can we achieve a more inclusive economy?

“Discrimination can bear a heavy economic cost, over and above its impediment to social progress. In the workplace, we can distinguish between discrimination related to prejudicial hiring or promotion practices, and discrimination related to inequalities in opportunity, for example in terms of access to high-quality education, which impacts the relative qualifications and capacities of potential candidates. Regardless of when and where the discrimination occurs, the end result means that an economy’s most valuable resource – its human capital – is not used to its full potential, dampening economic activity.

The SDGs provide crucial guidance in this regard, including a range of targets to make the economy more inclusive, by leaving no one behind in all levels of education, by creating lifelong learning opportunities, by broadening access to finance, by opening-up the labour market to all social groups and by economically empowering all stakeholders of the society.”

Do you think we can reach SDG 8 “decent work and economic growth” by 2030 with the current economic growth rate? If not, what do we need to speed up?

“After a prolonged period of subdued growth, the world economy is currently strengthening and GDP growth projections have been revised upwards for the coming years. While this is a positive development, it is not sufficient to ensure a more sustained, widespread, and inclusive growth in the medium term. In fact, some countries and regions are not benefiting from the global cyclical upturn.

A critical step towards achieving SDG 8 of “decent work and economic growth” by 2030 is strengthening investment rates across both developed and developing countries. While we have seen a revival in investment in many countries since early 2017, this follows an extended period of relatively weak global investment growth since the global financial crisis, and the recovery has not yet brought investment rates up to the level needed to achieve a more robust and sustained growth.

The composition of investment is also not necessarily well-directed. For example, in many low-income countries investment remains concentrated in extractive industries, rather than laying foundations for a more diversified economy. Policies are needed that encourage both an adequate level and composition of productive investments, to support productivity growth and medium-term potential and accelerate progress towards sustainable development.”

*We thank all the experts in the Global Economic Monitoring Branch for sharing their thoughts: Dawn Holland, Grigor Agabekian, Helena Afonso, Matthias Kempf, Poh Lynn Ng, Ingo Pitterle, Michał Podolski, Sebastian Vergara and Yasuhisa Yamamoto.*

Every month, this team brings you the latest in the global economy. You can find the latest issues [here](#).

For more information:

UN DESA’s Economic Analysis and Policy Division

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## Advancing the rights of persons with disabilities

Cementing and protecting the rights of around 1.5 billion people around the world in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is a “moral imperative”, said UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 12 June, as he addressed the opening of the 11th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD at UN Headquarters in New York. He described

the Convention, adopted in 2006 and entering into force in 2008, as one of the most widely-ratified international human rights treaties, reaffirming that people with disabilities are entitled to the same treatment as everybody else.

“But signing and ratifying the Convention is not enough. Implementation is essential,” Mr. Guterres said. “Societies must be organized so that all people, including those with disabilities, can exercise their rights freely.”

This is exactly the purpose of the Conference of States Parties, which meets annually to assess the Convention and its realization across the globe. As this year’s meeting concluded on 14 June, we asked Daniela Bas, Director of UN DESA’s Division for Inclusive Social Development, about the current status of the Convention and about the outcome of this year’s event.

The international community met to assess how the world is doing when it comes to realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). What did the event conclude; how are we doing?

“States parties [...] recognized that, while great progress has been made over the ten years since the CRPD entered into force, there is still much to be done to achieve sustainable development for persons with disabilities, really ensuring no one is left behind in our society.”

This event, the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, meets every year. What did we accomplish this year? Were we able to advance the CRPD?

“This year’s Conference was another success. Over 1400 delegates from 180 States Parties participated, including a Vice president, a First Lady and more than 30 ministers, high-level officials, and the UN Secretary-General. Moreover, 68 events were organized on the sidelines. And the conference held elections that made the Committee more gender balanced. The great and high-level participation and the substantive discussions significantly promoted the implementation of the CRPD and also the achievement of the SDGs for all.”

177 countries have so far ratified CRPD, can we expect more countries to get on board soon?

“Yes, 177 countries are leading by example, and with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more will join to leave no one behind.”

How are the SDGs helping in advancing and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities?

“The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) are a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world. They are for all people of all ages and have a positive impact on the lives of everyone.”

For more information:

11th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

Video: #COSP11 – Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

## Sustainable societies through cooperation



Sustainability is a key principle of the international cooperative movement – from sustainability of local communities to sustainability of our planet, as captured in the internationally-agreed Sustainable Development Goals. In a world of waste and want, the cooperative movement has decided to commemorate the International Day of Cooperatives 2018 under the theme “Sustainable Production and Consumption”.

The International Day is celebrated on the first Saturday of July every year. This year, cooperatives in all countries of the world will be celebrating the day on 7 July 2018, reaffirming commitments to this important cause.

UN DESA’s Division for Inclusive Social Development, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), is organizing a high-level symposium on 5 July at the United Nations in New York, as a prelude to the International Day.

The slogan of the Day, “Sustainable societies through cooperation,” was selected by cooperators from around the world. Through the International Day, local and global policymakers can learn how cooperatives contribute to more sustainable and resilient societies and work towards including cooperatives in policy processes related to sustainability issues.

Cooperatives have two centuries’ experience building sustainable and resilient societies. Agricultural cooperatives work to maintain the longevity of the land where they grow crops through sustainable farming practices. Consumer cooperatives support sustainable sourcing for their products and educate consumers about responsible consumption. Housing cooperatives help ensure safe dwellings. Utility cooperatives are engaged in the transition to cleaner electricity and rural access to energy and water. Worker and social cooperatives aim to provide goods and services in an efficient, planet-friendly way while creating long-term, sustainable jobs.

The 2018 IDC theme is also aligned with that of the 2018 High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), which is: “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

For more information about the Day, please visit: <http://bit.ly/UN-IDC2018>

# Advancing youth skills for sustainability and innovation



Today there are 1.2 billion people aged 15-24 in the world, and these young people are arguably part of the most educated and innovative generation that has ever existed. Many youth are growing up in a more connected world, with instant access to information and technology. To the extent possible, young people are leveraging the potential of technological advancements for innovative environment, economic, and social development. It was against this backdrop that the UN General Assembly in December 2014 declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day.

The 4th Industrial Revolution, characterized by advancements in technology including Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data and machine learning has greatly changed the nature of work. The World Programme of Action on Youth (WPAY), highlighted information and communications technology as a priority area for youth development, and since its adoption, there is a higher demand for digital and soft skills. However, the lack of skills coupled with skills erosion and mismatch have become the norm for today's youth who are entering the global workforce.

The current generation of youth are exploring their own interests with more flexibility and innovation in pursuit of finding more sustainable and innovative ways to contribute to a sustainable future. Youth are increasingly adopting social entrepreneurship and social enterprises to address different challenges from climate change, food security, green jobs, education etc. potentially contributing to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, there is need for greater support to advance and invest in youth skills in both the formal and informal sectors to promote sustainability, innovation and economic security especially for those transitioning from school to work.

For more information: [World Youth Skills Day](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8 July, New York** Forest-based transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies; lessons learned and success stories
- 9-18 July, New York** High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- 16-19 July, New York** 2018 High-level Segment of ECOSOC
- 19-20 July, New York** Supreme Audit Institution Leadership and Stakeholder Meeting
- 23-26 July, New York** Ninth Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

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