

# VOICE

UNDESA

VOLUME 21, NO.07 – JULY 2017

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### 44 countries to present their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at HLPF 2017

Member States and leaders from civil society, business, UN System, specialized agencies, academia and other stakeholders will convene in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017 for the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) to review progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Forum is the central UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, its theme this year will be “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. The Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth in 2017 are:

- 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 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Goal 17, which aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, will also be considered in depth, as it is every year.

Various perspectives on these 7 SDGs are explored in a weekly [HLPF Blog series](#) that has seen 16 entries by a broad range of stakeholders. In the very first entry, the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, highlighted a key function of the Forum: “Of vital importance will be to regularly hear from countries and other stakeholders about their experiences and lessons learned in implementing the SDGs. A key task of the HLPF, as the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, is to provide a forum for inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and to facilitate peer-learning and exchange,” he said.

In his blog entry, UN DESA’s Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo emphasized the importance of continued commitment to the HLPF and the SDGs: “In a world that is going through rapid change, staying committed to the SDGs and multilateralism is essential to ensuring peace and security, the well-being of the planet and shared global prosperity,” he said.

## Reviewing progress towards the SDGs

True to its multi-stakeholder nature, this year’s HLPF is expected to bring together Member States with representatives of the UN system, intergovernmental organizations and a record number of different experts and stakeholder actors. At the heart of the Forum are the Voluntary National Reviews of progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

44 Member States will be conducting such reviews during the three-day ministerial segment of the Forum from Monday, 17 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017. The reviews are state-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants, and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The Forum will also see the presentation of the Secretary-General’s Report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides a global overview of the current situation of the Goals, on the basis of the latest available data for indicators in the global indicator framework.

The outcomes of the historic Ocean Conference held on 5-9 June 2017 at United Nations Headquarter will be provided as an input to the HLPF for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum will look at the interlinkages of SDG 14 on oceans and seas with other SDGs as well as the follow-up to the Ocean Conference.

## Ministerial declaration

The Forum will conclude in a negotiated ministerial declaration. The co-facilitators leading the consultations for the declaration in 2017 are Ambassador Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations and Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations. Draft Elements for the Ministerial Declaration can be viewed on the HLPF website.

## Events and activities

The eight-day programme of the HLPF is filled with a wide range of events and activities. The ‘SDGs Learning, Training and Practice 2017’, a capacity building and networking event in finding solutions to sustainable development challenges, is offering a total of eight courses to registered HLPF participants between 10 and 14 July.

A Partnership Exchange special event on 17 July will review the work of multi-stakeholder partnerships and other voluntary initiatives in driving implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17.

The second annual SDG Business Forum on 18 July will convene leaders from business and government, together with the heads of UN agencies, key international organizations, and civil society groups to delve into the role business will play in delivering the 2030 Agenda.

There will be over 100 side events taking place in the margins of the HLPF, as well an SDG live event with media interviews, brief panel discussions and other activities.

For more information:

2017 High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

## HIGHLIGHTS



### ECOSOC convenes high-level segment putting spotlight on poverty eradication

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will hold its High-level Segment from 17 to 20 July 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, culminating the Council's annual cycle of work on the 2017 ECOSOC theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges". The Segment convenes a diverse group of high-level representatives from Government, the private sector, academia and the multilateral system for policy dialogue, review and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda.

Over the course of its current cycle, the Council's work has repeatedly highlighted the significant challenges that remain for poverty eradication in its most extreme forms and for addressing the different forms and multiple dimensions of poverty in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

For example, many people with jobs do not earn enough to escape poverty, and an estimated 80 percent of the global population has little or no access to comprehensive social protection. Additionally, the inability to access key resources for sustainable development – such as broadband Internet services; reliable public transport infrastructure; and high quality education – limits the potential of people to participate in and contribute to their societies.

To further examine how to address poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the High-level Segment will include a Thematic Discussion on "Reducing multidimensional

poverty in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) era". The Discussion will focus on how the SDG Indicator Framework and national poverty reduction strategies can be used for assessing progress in reducing multi-dimensional poverty, drawing on presentations by policy makers from select Member States, as well as cutting edge research and analysis.

For poverty eradication and SDG achievement to be successful at the national level, the global economy will need to be stable, conducive to growth and part of an enabling international environment supported through multilateral cooperation. The High-level Segment will convene a dialogue of the Executive Heads of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group, the World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UN DESA to present their respective institutional perspectives on the state of international trade and finance as well as short- and medium-term projections for global economic growth. The discussion will also focus attention on the intersection of these trends with the recent rise in scepticism regarding the benefits of globalization, economic integration and international cooperation, particularly as they relate to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2017 High-level Segment (HLS) of ECOSOC will also include the three-day ministerial meeting of the [High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\) on Sustainable Development](#), convened under the auspices of ECOSOC (17-19 July 2017). The HLPF has the aligned theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and will also consider specific SDGs. A joint Ministerial Declaration containing key conclusions and recommendations at the national, regional and international levels will be adopted at the conclusions of the HLPF and ECOSOC HLS.

For more information: [ECOSOC High-level Segment](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS



World population projected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100

The current world population of 7.6 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to a new United Nations report launched on 21 June. With roughly 83 million people being added to the world's population every year, the upward trend in population size is expected to continue, even

assuming that fertility levels will continue to decline.

*The World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides a comprehensive review of global demographic trends and prospects for the future. The information is essential to guide policies aimed at achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals.

## Shifts in country population rankings

The new projections include some notable findings at the country level. China (with 1.4 billion inhabitants) and India (1.3 billion inhabitants) remain the two most populous countries, comprising 19 and 18% of the total global population. In roughly seven years, or around 2024, the population of India is expected to surpass that of China.

Among the ten largest countries worldwide, Nigeria is growing the most rapidly. Consequently, the population of Nigeria, currently the world's 7th largest, is projected to surpass that of the United States and become the third largest country in the world shortly before 2050.

## Most of the global increase is attributable to a small number of countries

From 2017 to 2050, it is expected that half of the world's population growth will be concentrated in just nine countries: India, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uganda and Indonesia (ordered by their expected contribution to total growth).

The group of 47 least developed countries (LDCs) continues to have a relatively high level of fertility, which stood at 4.3 births per woman in 2010-2015. As a result, the population of these countries has been growing rapidly, at around 2.4 % per year. Although this rate of increase is expected to slow significantly over the coming decades, the combined population of the LDCs, roughly one billion in 2017, is projected to increase by 33 % between 2017 and 2030, and to reach 1.9 billion persons in 2050.

Similarly, Africa continues to experience high rates of population growth. Between 2017 and 2050, the populations of 26 African countries are projected to expand to at least double their current size.

The concentration of global population growth in the poorest countries presents a considerable challenge to governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to end poverty and hunger, expand and update health and education systems, achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, reduce inequality and ensure that no one is left behind.

## Slower world population growth due to lower fertility rates

In recent years, fertility has declined in nearly all regions of the world. Even in Africa, where fertility levels are the highest of any region, total fertility has fallen from 5.1 births per woman in 2000-2005 to 4.7 in 2010-2015.

Europe has been an exception to this trend in recent years, with total fertility increasing from 1.4 births per woman in 2000-2005 to 1.6 in 2010-2015.

More and more countries now have fertility rates below the level required for the replacement of successive generations (roughly 2.1 births per woman), and some have been in this situation for several decades. During 2010-2015, fertility was below the replacement level in 83 countries comprising 46 % of the world's population. The ten most populous countries in this group are China, the United States of America, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Japan, Viet Nam, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thailand, and the United Kingdom (in order of population size).



## Lower fertility leads also to ageing populations

The report highlights that a reduction in the fertility level results not only in a slower pace of population growth but also in an older population.

Compared to 2017, the number of persons aged 60 or above is expected to more than double by 2050 and to more than triple by 2100, rising from 962 million globally in 2017 to 2.1 billion in 2050 and 3.1 billion in 2100.

In Europe, 25% of the population is already aged 60 years or over. That proportion is projected to reach 35% in 2050 and to remain around that level in the second half of the century. Populations in other regions are also projected to age significantly over the next several decades and continuing through 2100. Africa, for example, which has the youngest age distribution of any region, is projected to experience a rapid ageing of its population. Although the African population will remain relatively young for several more decades, the percentage of its population aged 60 or over is expected to rise from 5% in 2017 to around 9% in 2050, and then to nearly 20% by the end of the century.

Globally, the number of persons aged 80 or over is projected to triple by 2050, from 137 million in 2017 to 425 million in 2050. By 2100 it is expected to increase to 909 million, nearly seven times its value in 2017.

Population ageing is projected to have a profound effect on societies, underscoring the fiscal and political pressures that the health care, old-age pension and social protection systems of many countries are likely to face in the coming decades.

## Higher life expectancy worldwide

Substantial improvements in life expectancy have occurred in recent years. Globally, life expectancy at birth has risen from 65 years for men and 69 years for women in 2000-2005 to 69 years for men and 73 years for women in 2010-2015. Nevertheless, large disparities across countries remain.

Although all regions shared in the recent rise of life expectancy, the greatest gains were for Africa, where life expectancy rose by 6.6 years between 2000-2005 and 2010-2015 after rising by less than 2 years over the previous decade.

The gap in life expectancy at birth between the least developed countries and other developing countries narrowed from 11 years in 2000-2005 to 8 years in 2010-2015. Although differences in life expectancy across regions and income groups are projected to persist in future years, such differences are expected to diminish significantly by 2045-2050.

The increased level and reduced variability in life expectancy have been due to many factors, including a lower under-five mortality rate, which fell by more than 30 % in 89 countries between 2000-2005 and 2010-2015. Other factors include continuing reductions in fatalities due to HIV/AIDS and progress in combating other infectious as well as non-communicable diseases.

## Large movements of refugees and other migrants

There continue to be large movements of migrants between regions, often from low- and middle-income countries toward high-income countries. The volume of the net inflow of migrants to high-income countries in 2010-2015 (3.2 million per year) represented a decline from a peak attained in 2005-2010 (4.5 million per year). Although international migration at or around current levels will be insufficient to compensate fully for the expected loss of population tied to low levels of fertility,

especially in the European region, the movement of people between countries can help attenuate some of the adverse consequences of population ageing.

The report observes that the Syrian refugee crisis has had a major impact on levels and patterns of international migration in recent years, affecting several countries. The estimated net outflow from the Syrian Arab Republic was 4.2 million persons in 2010-2015. Most of these refugees went to Syria's neighbouring countries, contributing to a substantial increase in the net inflow of migrants especially to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

## About the report

The 2017 Revision of World Population Prospects is the 25th round of official UN population estimates and projections that have been prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The 2017 Revision builds on previous revisions by incorporating additional results from the 2010 and 2020 rounds of national population censuses as well as findings from recent specialized sample surveys from around the world. The 2017 Revision provides a comprehensive set of demographic data and indicators that can be used to assess population trends at the global, regional and national levels and to calculate other key indicators for monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information: [The 2017 Revision of World Population Prospects](#)

## GET INVOLVED



## Live Facebook chat on how to combat social exclusion

Humankind has achieved unprecedented social progress over the past several decades. Poverty has declined dramatically around the world, and people are healthier, more educated and better connected than ever before. However, progress has been uneven. Social and economic inequalities persist and, in many cases, have worsened. Virtually everywhere, some individuals

and groups confront barriers that prevent them from fully participating in economic, social and political life.

- What are the different political, economic and cultural aspects of social exclusion?
- What can we do to combat social exclusion?
- How can we tackle discrimination?

These are some of the questions that the online community might be interested in asking the team behind the Report on the World Social Situation 2016 (RWSS2016) in

UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) on 6 July when they will be hosting a Facebook chat.

The chat will allow for a global discussion on some of the key issues in the RWSS2016, themed: "Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development".

"This chat will give people the opportunity to engage and raise awareness about social exclusion and advocate for more socially-inclusive policies and programmes" says Marta Roig, lead author of the report.

Taking place from 11 am to 12 pm EDT, the RWSS2016 team will be ready to discuss key aspects of social exclusion and policy imperatives for social inclusion. It is recognized in the report that promoting inclusion will take time and political determination. Raising awareness about the consequences of leaving some people behind and recommending actions that governments can take to avoid doing so can help generate political will.

"The Report on the World Social Situation 2016 contains an examination of the patterns of social exclusion and consideration of whether development processes have been inclusive, with particular attention paid to the links between exclusion, poverty and employment trends," says Marta Roig, as she welcomes the online community to join the chat with her team and the authors of the report.

Join the Facebook chat and post your questions at <http://bit.ly/EndExclusion> or via Twitter using the hashtag #EndExclusion.

For more information and to access the Report on the World Social Situation 2016: <http://bit.ly/RWSS2016>.

## EXPERT VOICES



## Promoting the skills of young people

Every year on 15 July, the importance of youth skills development is in focus at the UN and around the world. This is the day when the World Youth Skills Day is being celebrated, putting a spotlight on the need to promote education, training and jobs for young people. Ahead of this year's event, UN DESA Voice spoke with Elizabeth Niland, Social Affairs Officer in UN DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, about our joint efforts to

promote youth development around the globe.



## How does the UN work to help empower youth around the world?

“The Focal Point on Youth (in the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) in UN DESA) aims to build an awareness of the global situation of young people, as well as to promote their rights and aspirations.

The Focal Point also works towards greater participation of young people in decision-making as a means of achieving peace and development. In co-chairing the Inter-agency Network on Youth Development, we work with over 50 UN entities to enhance collaboration and coordination on youth issues across the UN System.

Through the UN Youth Delegate Programme and our work with youth civil society, we promote youth participation at the United Nations and beyond. Our World Youth Report also helps shine a spotlight on pressing issues for youth around the world.”

## What are some of the most pressing challenges for young people around the globe today?

“The transition from youth to adulthood marks a key period characterized by greater economic independence, political involvement, and participation in community life. However, the socioeconomic and political environment in which young people live can have a serious impact on their ability to engage,” stated the World Youth Report 2016.

For example, unemployment and under-employment are a concern almost everywhere. Youth are three times more likely than adults to be unemployed and despite great efforts, youth unemployment still hovers around the 13% mark globally, and as high as 30% in some regions. Meanwhile, a staggering number of young people are not in education, or training, and many education systems are ill-equipped to meet the changing and diverse needs of today’s labour market.

Many youth have also lost faith in their political and governance structures, reflected by declining levels of electoral participation. Street protests and demonstrations, demanding more open and effective governance reflect a general dissatisfaction with ‘business as usual’. Ensuring youth are empowered to participate and be the leaders of today and tomorrow is critical to building strong and sustainable institutions.

For vulnerable and marginalized youth, and those who face enhanced discrimination, such as indigenous youth, youth with a disability, girls and young women, migrant youth, youth with mental health conditions, and so forth, these issues and access to participation in all aspects of life can prove even more challenging. Efforts to ensure inclusivity of all youth at all levels, is critical.”

## Can you give some examples of efforts taken to help young people develop their skills and abilities so that they can better cope with these different challenges?

“The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, led by ILO, is the first-ever, comprehensive United Nations system-wide effort for the promotion of youth employment worldwide. It brings together the vast global resources and convening power of the UN and other global key partners to maximize the effectiveness of youth employment investments and assist Member States in delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. You can read more about the initiative [here](#).”

How does the World Youth Skills Day play a role for young people, and what does it aim to achieve?

“Youth Skills Day is an important opportunity for highlighting the role that skills development plays in youth development and working towards better employment opportunities for young people. Ensuring youth are equipped with the skills to meet the demands of today’s and the future labour market is critical for creating the foundations for strong and stable societies.”

For more information:

Focal Point on Youth, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) in UN DESA  
Stay updated on efforts to promote youth development with the Youth Flash Newsletter

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Countries agree on decisive and urgent actions to restore marine world to health as Ocean Conference concludes

The 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously agreed to a set of measures that will begin the reversal of

the decline of the ocean’s health as the five-day Ocean Conference concluded on 9 June. The outcome document, together with more than 1,300 commitments to action, marks a breakthrough in the global approach to the management and conservation of the ocean.

The Ocean Conference, the first UN conference of its kind on the issue has raised global consciousness of ocean problems ranging from marine pollution to illegal and over fishing, from ocean acidification to lack of high seas governance. By including all stakeholders in the discussions, the Conference produced a comprehensive and actionable range of solutions.

“The Ocean Conference has changed our relationship with the ocean,” said the President of the UN General Assembly Peter Thomson. “Henceforth none can say they were not aware of the harm humanity has done to the ocean’s health. We are now working around the world to restore a relationship of balance and respect towards the ocean.”

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Ocean Conference, said the Conference marked a major step forward

for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. “Participants from Member States, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community and academia engaged in wide-ranging discussion and shared state-of-the-art knowledge and latest information on marine science and challenges,” he said.

“They showcased and put forward many innovative solutions, which can help us achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14, and through its interlinkages the other SDGs and targets.”

## Conference outcomes



Recognizing that the well-being of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health and productivity of the ocean, countries collectively agreed in the Call to Action “to act decisively and urgently, convinced that our collective action will make a meaningful difference to our people, to our planet and to our prosperity.”

While the ocean partnership dialogues focused on the multiple problems and challenges the ocean is facing, all participants offered solutions and commitments to reverse these challenges.

The Call for Action was formally adopted at the conclusion of the Conference today, as well as the reports from the seven partnership dialogues that have focused on scaling up solutions, and the voluntary commitments to action.

In the Call for Action, countries agree to implement long-term and robust strategies to reduce the use of plastics and microplastics, such as plastic bags and single use plastics. Countries also agreed to develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation measures that address ocean and coastal acidification, sea-level rise and increase in ocean temperatures, and to address the other harmful impacts of climate change on the ocean. The Call recognizes the importance of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The Call for Action also includes measures to protect coastal and blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass and coral reefs, and wider interconnected ecosystems, as well as enhancing sustainable fisheries management, including to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield. Countries are called upon to decisively prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The commitments, in turn, address all the issues needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14—Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources—and produced significant results:

- Commitments made at the Conference indicate that the world is well on track to protect over 10 per cent of the globe's marine areas by 2020. The commitments made during the conference add 4.4 per cent of marine areas to the existing number.
- Many countries announced steps to reduce or eliminate various single use plastics, such as plastic shopping bags, which ultimately find their way to the ocean.
- Numerous countries announced that they were stepping up their efforts to reduce the amount of sewage and pollution entering the ocean from land-based activities.
- Many commitments focused on expanding scientific knowledge about the ocean and developing and sharing innovative technologies to address ocean challenges.
- There were new commitments to protect and manage fisheries. Some countries announced “no-take zones” for certain fishing.
- Commitments were made to establish systems that allow consumers to source sustainable fish.
- New commitments were also made to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to curtail fishing subsidies that are working to deplete fish stocks.

For more information: [Ocean Conference](#)

## MORE FROM UNDESA



## Launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2017: Reflecting on 70 years of development policy analysis

The World Economic and Social Survey is celebrating 70 years of publication!

The Survey is the oldest continuing publication dedicated to recording and analyzing the performance of the global economy and global development while offering relevant policy recommendations. The first World Economic and Social Survey was called the “Economic Report: Salient Features of the World Economic Situation 1945-47”, launched at Lake Success, NY in January 1948. Over the 70 years, the Survey has taken on different names. In 1947, it was called the Economic Report; and from 1948 to 1954, the World Economic Report. In 1955, the publication was renamed the World Economic Survey. Since 1994, it has been called the World Economic and Social Survey. The year 1999 marked the launching of a companion publication entitled World Economic Situation and Prospects.

Since the publication of the first issue, the World Economic and Social Survey has promoted a broader understanding of development, emphasizing the importance of advancing the structural transformation of the economy, progress in social development and environmental sustainability.

This year's edition, reflecting on 70 years of development policy analysis, shows that many parallels can be drawn between the challenges currently facing the international community and those that confronted the world in the past. These lessons from the past are relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, the Survey highlights the importance of a stable global economy supported by coordinated global actions, well-functioning international trade and monetary systems, respect for national policy space, international solidarity and development planning.

Watch the launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2017 on 13 July 2017, 11 am EDT at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org).



## The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017

Two years after the world leaders adopted the transformative and ambitious 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, how is the world progressing in delivering on the Goals and targets? The two progress reports on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an overview: the report of the Secretary-General: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66) and The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017. The reports review progress made towards the 17 Goals in the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda highlighting the most significant gaps, challenges and progress made.

The reports show that while considerable progress has been made over the past decade across all areas of development, the pace of progress observed in previous years is insufficient to fully meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets by 2030. Time is therefore of the essence. Moreover, progress has not always been equitable. Advancements have been uneven across regions, between the sexes, and among people of different ages, wealth and locales, including urban and rural dwellers. Faster and more inclusive progress is needed to accomplish the bold vision articulated in the 2030 Agenda.

Current data indicate that an estimated 767 million people still lived below \$1.90 a day in 2013 — down from 1.7 billion people in 1999; the under-5 mortality rate fell 44 % from 2000 to 2015, but 5.9 million children under 5 died in 2015. About 793 million people are undernourished globally in 2014-2016. Between 2000 and 2015, there was a 46 per cent reduction in HIV incidence and a 41 per cent decrease in the incidence of malaria. About one in four women between the ages of 20-24 reported being married before age 18. Ocean acidification is substantially above pre-industrial levels and 31% of marine fish stocks were overfished in 2013.

The Report of the Secretary-General: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66) was made available on 8 June 2017 as an input into the deliberations of Member States for the HLPF. The report is prepared annually by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system and is based on the global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 will be launched on 17 July 2017 during the Ministerial Segment of the HLPF. The report presents data and analysis on SDGs for a wider audience with charts, infographics and analysis on selected indicators for which data are already available.



The reports were prepared by the UN DESA's Statistics Division and will be presented in an interactive platform on the Statistics Division website on SDG indicators at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>5-7 July, New York</b>   | Eighth Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing   |
| <b>10-19 July, New York</b> | High-level political forum on sustainable development  |
| <b>12-14 July, New York</b> | Expert Group Meeting on the Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics |
| <b>17 July, New York</b>    | Partnership Exchange   |
| <b>17-20 July, New York</b> | ECOSOC High-level segment  |

FIND US ALSO ON:



© United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
[Unsubscribe](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Copyright](#)