



## World leaders commit to respect, safety and dignity for refugees and migrants

On 19 September 2016, Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants during the General Assembly's high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, also called the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The Declaration includes commitments to protect the rights of refugees and migrants, to save lives and to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for protecting and assisting refugees. It also puts forth a two-year process to develop two global compacts, one on refugees and one for safe, orderly and regular migration.

"The Summit represents a breakthrough in our collective efforts to address the challenges of human mobility", said the Secretary-General during the opening segment. He urged Member States to take concrete steps to implement the New York Declaration and launched a global campaign called "Together — Respect, Safety and Dignity for All" as a response to the rising xenophobia and intolerance being directed toward refugees and migrants in many countries.

Migrants and refugees themselves had an opportunity to address the international community and share their stories with the world. "After years of being voiceless and invisible, we the migrants are finally welcome here to speak," said Eni Lestari, chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, in addressing world leaders during the Summit's opening. "We are the people who have been denied the future, the rights and the dream we used to imagine."

Mohammed Badran, representing Syrian Volunteers in the Netherlands (SYVNL), touched upon the tensions that exist between refugees and host communities. “There is intense public fear about refugees,” he said. “As young refugees, we face this anger and fear every day.”

As part of the opening ceremony, the Secretary-General and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed an agreement establishing the IOM as a related organisation of the United Nations. Closer collaboration between the IOM and the rest of the UN system is expected to strengthen significantly the UN’s capacity to respond in times of crisis and its ability to contribute to improvements in the global governance of migration.

In the various plenary and round table meetings, speakers noted that large movements of refugees and migrants present some of the most challenging issues of our time and that no State is prepared to deal with such issues on its own. Moreover, it was deemed critical to prevent or resolve armed conflicts, as these are often the driver of mass displacements.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were frequently mentioned as a tool for promoting safe, orderly and regular migration and for making migration a matter of choice not necessity. Pointing to the many positive impacts of migration, Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo said that migrants “contribute to cultural diversity in host countries” and “spur economic development both in their adopted lands and back home”. Participants pledged increased resettlement slots for refugees, expanded humanitarian assistance, additional funding for development and support for conflict prevention.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General commended Member States for uniting around core commitments to refugees and migrants despite differing perspectives. He suggested that Member States may wish to take stock of the commitments made during the Summit one year later. The political commitments of the Summit on 19 September were complemented by pledges made on 20 September during the Leaders’ Summit on Refugees hosted by US President Barack Obama.

Meanwhile, not far from the Summit, the [SDG Media Zone](#) highlighted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its links to migration, featuring Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, [Thomas Gass](#) of UN DESA, and [Kyla Reid](#), Head of Digital Identity and Disaster Response of GSMA.

Missed it? The UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, including its opening and closing segments, plenary meetings and round tables, and the SDG Media Zone dialogues are available on [UN Web TV](#).

For more information:

[UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants](#)



## Happy Birthday, SDGs!

In September of 2015, leaders of the world gathered in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the most ambitious plan ever to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and create a better world. One year later, we are celebrating the first birthday of this agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), looking back at some of the key moments over this past year, including the announcement of the SDG Advocates, the agreement on global indicators to measure progress, national presentations and much more.

### Advocates help raise SDGs awareness

As the new goals entered into force at the turn of the new year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of a group of seventeen SDG Advocates to help promote the goals and encourage everyone to work towards them.

The Advocates come from various parts of the world and are united in the common task of raising awareness and foster engagement of governments, businesses, civil society and others in working towards achieving the goals.

“As we face unprecedented humanitarian crises, our collective commitment to these seventeen goals will help transform our world, as we search together for peaceful and sustainable solutions”, said one of the Advocates, actor and a humanitarian activist, Forest Whitaker. He said that the word about the SDGs is spreading and that people everywhere want to ensure we achieve their vision.



### Nations present efforts to implement goals

A milestone was achieved in March when the Statistical Commission agreed on a set of indicators that will help track progress in implementing each of the goals' 169 targets. 230 global indicators were proposed as a starting framework, allowing further development as new tools and data sources become available.

During the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development this past July, the international community heard for the first time, 22 countries share what steps they are taking to implement the goals.

“The lessons you have offered, the actions you have showcased, and the gaps you have identified they are what this Forum is about”, said Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He reiterated UN DESA’s continued support for the work of the Forum, providing analytical and research expertise.

## Young leaders for SDGs announced

As the UN high-level week kicked off in New York on 19 September, the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, announced seventeen Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals to promote the SDGs among the world’s two billion young people.

“Young people are committed, they have offered fresh ideas, and the exchange of ideas that happened today between the ministers and the young people will be very useful”, said Alhendawi. He urged Member States to make sure the voices of young people is heard during their deliberations in the General Assembly.

## Celebrating anniversary with SDG Moment

The one year anniversary was celebrated with a special SDG Moment in the General Assembly Hall on 20 September. SDG Advocates Alaa Murabit and Forest Whitaker gave a short presentation, showcasing many efforts undertaken around the world towards achieving the goals. Following their presentation, the two Advocates talked about their experiences in the SDG Media Zone, answering questions from digital media reporters.



“We can’t act on anything unless we know about it”, said Alaa Murabit, activist, medical doctor and a UN High-Level Commissioner on Health Employment & Economic Growth. “Our first job is to make sure that societies, from regional, national, local governments, to civil society, to people, students and teachers, doctors and nurses, all know about the Sustainable Development Goals”, she added.

There are fourteen years left to make sure that nations across the globe achieve all 169 targets of the seventeen SDGs. Governments are already working on developing programmes, identifying gaps and tracking progress. With the active engagement of all parts of society, the world is slowly building a better future for all.

Happy Birthday, SDGs!

For more information:

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Putting a spotlight on globalization

Globalization or protectionism? Multilateralism or nationalism? Questions that would have been resoundingly responded to in favor of openness and international cooperation until recently, have increasingly been answered with isolationist and nationalistic solutions. While globalization has long been hailed as an engine for growth and global prosperity, it is increasingly being seen as a driver of unequal and unsustainable

outcomes across the globe.

As a broad phenomenon that spans across the economic, social, environmental and political fields, globalization has impacted all of these areas. While the expansion of global trade and investment has spurred economic growth, the downsides of globalization have been felt mostly in the environmental and social fields, with global warming and a lack of labor and human rights in manufacturing the most notable challenges.

Following the economic, social and political upheavals created by the financial crisis of 2008/09, people have increasingly questioned the narrative of globalization as a force for good.

The effects of these discussions have not only impacted national political processes, but also set forces in motion that threaten the very existence of the global economic and political system. Both in developing and more and more in developed countries, discontent with globalization and the distribution of its costs and benefits have taken center stage in the political discourse.

A [joint meeting](#) of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly's Second Committee, to be held on **Friday, 7 October**, will seek to discuss how the actual and perceived ills of globalization can be addressed and how global solutions can be advanced for the global challenges that underlie the current backlash against globalization and the international system.

The theme of the meeting will be "The changing political economy of globalization: Multilateral institutions and the 2030 Agenda".

Author and New York Times Columnist, **Mr. Thomas L. Friedman**, will deliver a keynote address that will draw on his expertise and past work on globalization,

including his best-selling books, “The Lexus and the Olive Tree” and “The World Is Flat”.

Leading experts in the field of globalization and international cooperation, Prof. Alberto Alesina (Harvard), Prof. Michael Plummer (Johns Hopkins), Ms. Anu Mandavkar (McKinsey) and Ms. Mariama Williams (South Center), will discuss, among other aspects, the root-causes of the popular backlash against globalization and multilateralism as well as highlight the ways in which the 2030 Agenda could contribute to addressing the challenges associated with globalization.

For more information:

Joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly’s Second Committee

## GET INVOLVED



### Together: Respect, safety and dignity for all

“We must change the way we talk about refugees and migrants. And we must talk with them. Our words and dialogue matter. That is why today, the United Nations is launching a new campaign called “Together – Respect, Safety and Dignity for All,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said during the opening of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants which

took place at UN Headquarters in New York on 19 September.

The creation of this campaign stems from the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by world leaders at the Summit on 19 September. Containing bold pledges to address both current and future challenges, the declaration also includes commitments to strongly condemn xenophobia against refugees and migrants and support a global campaign to counter it.

The campaign will highlight the economic, cultural and social contributions that migrants and refugees make to countries of origin, transit and destination. It will also counter some of the misinformation and misperceptions on refugees and migrants and encourage contact between refugees, migrants and those in the destination countries.

“Acting together, we can respond to rising xenophobia and turn fear into hope. I call on world leaders to join this campaign and commit together to upholding the rights and dignity of everyone forced by circumstance to flee their homes in search of a better life,” the Secretary-General stressed.

For more information:

Together campaign

VIDEO: A new declaration and strong call for solidarity with refugees and migrants

Addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

## EXPERT VOICES



### Role of partnerships for Small Island Developing States

On 22 September, the first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue was held focusing on the launch of new partnerships devoted to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the launch of a new publication “Partnerships on Small Island Developing States 2016.” Following this event,

we asked Ola Göransson, Partnerships Coordinator in UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development, about the role of partnerships and some of the new pledges made in support of SIDS.

**Why are partnerships so crucial for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)?**

“The way multi-stakeholder partnerships have been leveraged to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in SIDS reflect a shift in how stakeholders work together and could offer a model for other multilateral development efforts.

Partnership as means of implementation and as a vehicle for supporting government-led actions in realizing sustainable development has increasingly been recognized through UN summits, conferences and outcomes since the turn of the century.

Member States also recognized this in 2014 at The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) by making the overarching theme of the conference “The sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships”.

The world is stronger when we work together and pool resources and expertise together. Genuine and durable partnerships are essential to successful implementation of both the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This is especially the case for SIDS, which face a set of unique challenges when it comes to sustainable development: such as small size, geographic isolation, and high vulnerability to environmental impacts. Whether in the face of sudden onset events or the day-to-day implementation of SDGs, SIDS cannot make the progress needed without close cooperation between donors and recipients. The task is too complex and dynamic to be left to one-size-fits-all approaches.

Success requires close cooperation so that both partners understand each other's expectations and constraints and the specific knowledge needed to adjust to local circumstances."

### What is the SIDS Partnership Framework and what role does it play for SIDS?

"At the SIDS Conference in 2014, we witnessed the formation of over 300 partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS. More importantly however, was the realization by Member States that the Conference should not be the end of this process, but the beginning.

This realization was enshrined in the call for the development of a SIDS Partnership Framework, which a year later was formally established by the General Assembly. The mere establishment of an inter-governmentally driven framework for follow-up and review of multi-stakeholder partnerships is first of its kind at the United Nations, and itself a tribute to multilateralism at its best.

The SIDS Partnership framework should be seen as a lighthouse when looking at successful models for both engaging various actors in driving sustainable development, as well for reviewing its work, moving towards a more sustainable future in all countries."

**In 2014, around 300 new partnerships were generated by the SIDS Conference. A new publication has just been released, "Partnerships on Small Island Developing States 2016," reviewing some of these partnerships. What are some of the main findings of this new report?**

"The publication reviews 40 partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS. Although most of these partnerships are on track with their activities, the most common challenge relates to receiving adequate and sustained funding.

Geographic distance and remoteness of SIDS also pose a significant challenge for partnerships, which often leads to increased transaction and travel costs, as well limits communication abilities with partners and stakeholders, and limited access to internet in rural areas.

Socio-cultural differences and sensitivities, as well language barriers, among SIDS, and in particular in rural areas, have also in some cases hindered progress, as have certain country specific political risks, such as change in government and political uncertainty after and before national elections.

A successful partnership relies on broad engagement with all sectors of society and its surrounding communities and people. The above mentioned challenges have in some cases hindered this type of engagement, which poses a particular challenge for the continuation of partnerships in SIDS. This, in turn, makes it particularly difficult to engage the private sector, which is driven by long term financial rewards, rather than limited short term project.

Upon reviewing the work of SIDS partnerships through the publication, it is clear that there is much work being done across all regions of SIDS through many innovation partnership arrangements, as well many challenges to overcome.

The SIDS Partnership Framework, will continue to provide a global platform for reviewing challenges and lessons learnt of SIDS partnerships, encourage reporting by all stakeholders in order to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS, promote effective and efficient follow-



up to existing partnerships, as well be a springboard for launching new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.”

**New commitments continue to be announced in support of SIDS. What are examples of some of the most recent pledges that have been made and what do they aim to accomplish?**

“Japan has recently announced the establishment of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), the result of a partnership between Japan and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The Centre, located at the campus of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in Samoa, will be a regional hub of excellence for coordination of climate change initiatives in the Pacific region. It will bring together SPREP members and partners, including peer agencies from the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific with researchers, scientists and scholars. The PCCC will be a hub for sharing of information and coordination of actions to help Pacific island countries and territories address the vast challenges of climate change they now face.

UNIDO has announced that the preparatory process for the establishment of a partnership launched at the SIDS Conference in 2014 between UNIDO, SIDS DOCK and the government of Austria – the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) – had been finalized.

The Centre will be inaugurated at the margins of the meeting of the Pacific Ministers of Energy and Transport, in April 2017, in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga. The Centre will support the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in the mitigation of existing barriers for the creation of sustainable energy markets. It will support the strengthening of local capacities for the development and implementation of sustainable energy systems, policies and standards. It will empower the local private sector and industry to take advantage of the growing sustainable energy market opportunities. The promotion of south-south and north-south partnerships for technology and knowledge transfer will be a core activity of the Centre.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has recently completed mapping of all the 300+ partnerships launched at the SIDS Conference in 2014. Out of all partnerships, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat will focus on monitoring a total of 74 partnerships in the Pacific region; ensuring commitments of those partnerships are well integrated into the Pacific SDGs Roadmap, National Development Plans and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The [SIDS Action Platform](#) continues to be a place for announcing and following up on partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS.”

**For more information:**

Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

Publication: Partnerships on Small Island Developing States 2016



## The first UN World Data Forum – a critical opportunity

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has created a new set of challenges for the world’s statistical community. Like the Goals themselves, the 169 targets and 230 indicators agreed through the SDG process are unprecedented in their scope – setting out what needs to be measured to monitor progress, inform decision-making, make sure no one is left behind, and hold governments accountable.

At the same time, the UN Member States, through the [Statistical Commission](#), have provided a crucial new opportunity to address the SDG data challenge – the first United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 15 to 18 January 2017. The event will be hosted by Statistics South Africa, with support from the Statistics Division of UN DESA.

The Commission agreed that such a Forum, to take place every two years, would be the suitable platform to intensify cooperation across the professional data community. This agreement is in line with a recommendation by the UN Secretary-General’s Independent Expert and Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, in its 2014 report, “[A World That Counts](#)”.

“I am very pleased that under the leadership of the United Nations we will be able to bring together at the first UN World Data Forum a broad spectrum of data stakeholders and communities”, said Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the Statistics Division. “Together we need to rise to this challenge – to put in place the systems to gather and analyze the data needed, and to fill the many data gaps, using all the tools at our disposal – from both traditional and innovative sources, strengthening national statistical systems and also tapping into the vast reach of the data revolution”.

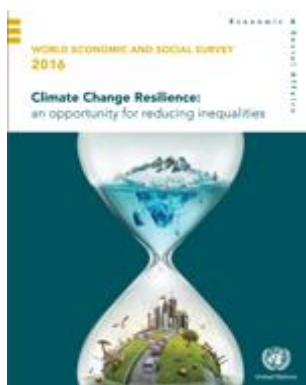
A number of major partners and players from government, the UN system, civil society and the private sector have been convened to help plan the Forum so that it will be a fruitful vehicle for collaboration, where new initiatives will be launched and solutions presented that will help deliver better data for sustainable development.

The Forum will be under the guidance of the Statistical Commission and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For more information:

[UNDataForum.org](http://UNDataForum.org)

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## The World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience – An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities

The World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience – An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities will be released on 3 October. It advances our understanding of the climate and development nexus, particularly as it relates to challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Survey builds upon the recognition that climate change and inequalities are locked in a vicious cycle: climate change triggers hazards which put at greatest risk the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized—population groups already excluded from socioeconomic progress. In order to prevent climate change from exerting further devastating impacts, countries will have to close the development gaps that leave people and communities at risk.

The Survey argues that only far reaching, transformative policies will be effective in building climate change resilience and that the best adaptation policies are those that simultaneously address immediate vulnerabilities and the root causes of inequalities. To the extent that adaptation efforts largely involve investment in public goods, the public sector has a leading role to play.

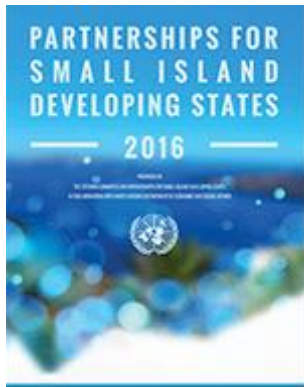
Effective policy implementation requires coherent, flexible and participatory policy systems informed by integrated assessments to account for the different dimensions of development. Furthermore, increased public financial resources (both domestic and international) will be necessary to fill the gap in areas where the private sector is unlikely to invest, particularly in projects aimed at building resilience among the most marginalized areas and population groups.

A strengthened Global Partnership for Sustainable Development has an important role to play in supporting countries' efforts to build climate change resilience, including through a substantial increase in funding for adaptation and in building the information systems and technical capacities to support policy implementation.

The report was prepared by UN DESA's Development Policy and Analysis Division, based on inputs, data and information provided by a network of contributors inside and outside the United Nations System.

For more information:

[The World Economic and Social Survey 2016](#)



## Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016

It has now been two years since the conclusion of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, its groundbreaking outcome document the SAMOA Pathway, and the announcement of over 300 partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

During the first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue held on 22 September, Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General, launched the publication "Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016."

"I am pleased to announce the launch of the first edition of a Publication on Partnerships for SIDS, which brings together a broad range of partnership initiatives that are advancing the SAMOA Pathway," Mr. Wu said.

"The publication features 40 partnerships, addressing a range of issues for partnerships working in SIDS – many success stories, but also some challenges," he added.

Many partnerships have shown considerable impact on the communities they serve, proving that genuine, durable partnerships can, and do, work. The publication serves as testament to the remarkable work that has taken place, and is ongoing, in SIDS, through partnerships.

For more information:

[Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>3 October-23 November,<br/>New York</b> | General Assembly, Second Committee, Seventy-first session                                   |
| <b>4 October-23 November,<br/>New York</b> | General Assembly, Third Committee, Seventy-first session                                    |
| <b>11-14 October,<br/>Geneva</b>           | 12th Session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters        |
| <b>18-21 October,<br/>Addis Ababa</b>      | 4th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators |
| <b>24-26 October,<br/>Helsinki</b>         | 6th Global Forum on Gender Statistics   |

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