

## **Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report**

### Brief 3 Review of progress

The Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report includes an overview of global sustainable development progress from 1950 to 2013. Such review relates closely to a core function of the high-level political forum and thus might provide the basis for a global sustainable development report which could focus on the most recent trends and progress.

#### Sustainable development trends and progress

The world has managed to feed, nurture, house, educate and employ on the order of an additional 800 million people every decade from 1970 to 2000. Today's world GDP is more than ten times larger than in 1950 and average per capita GDP is four times as large.

However, countries have not managed to employ their much greater wealth and technological capacity to eliminate poverty and hunger. And future generations will most likely face much greater challenges, such as sustaining the Earth's basic life support systems, to meet their own needs. The review of progress is structured along the development of people, economy, and society, and the sustaining communities, life support and nature (see figure below and table on next page).

#### From people to nature

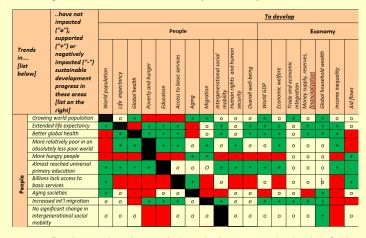


Note: purple = to develop; green= to sustain

#### **Reflection on synergies and trade-offs**

The report illustrates that trade-offs and synergies between progress in the various areas are complex - they differ at various spatial and time scales and change over time. For example, success in reducing poverty has in some cases led to a reduction in biodiversity, whereas in others it has been key to its conservation. Similarly, no country has achieved absolute decoupling between economic growth and material consumption. The report presents inter-linkages between trends in sustainable development issues at the global level from 1950 to present. It also summarizes the direction of trade-offs and synergies as they played out in aggregate at the global level from 1950 to 2013 (see example in the table below).

# Inter-linkages between trends and sustainable development issues, 1950-2013 (selection)



Notes: o" indicates that the trends have had no or no clearly identifiable impact on sustainable development, "+" (green colour) indicates a trend that supported sustainable development, and "-" (red colour) indicates a negative impact on sustainable development in the listed area over past decades. The table refers to the particular global context 1950-2013 and cannot be generalized. Inter-linkages at the national level or for various times may be different.

#### Progress in terms of international commitments

The report also reviews progress in terms of implementation of sustainable development commitments. Global progress towards achievement of existing goals or commitments has been rather mixed in the 19 focus areas that have been discussed by the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on selected international reports and assessments, 11 out of 19 focus areas are offtrack, 4 focus areas are on-track, and the remaining 4 areas are showing mixed progress.

#### More information

For further information, see the website of the Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report:

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport

Sustainability	Development
Nature	People
Anthropogenic interference with one-half of the	World population reached 7 billion people, 80 million added each year.
terrestrial ecosystems and one-quarter of the freshwater supply.	Life expectancy extended by 22 years with persistent gaps between regions and a widening gap between men and women and since 1950.
Biodiversity continues to decrease at rates 100 to 1,000 times their pre-human levels.	Better global health and shifting disease, but more years in injury and illness.
Global $CO_2$ emissions from fossil-fuel burning, cement manufacture, and gas flaring have increased at an accelerated rate. They increased from 24.8	The 2000s were the first decade since 1980 when both the absolute numbers and the proportion of people in absolute poverty declined. However, the number of relative poor in the developing world has continued to increase ever since 1980.
$GtCO_2$ in 2000 to 35.1 $GtCO_2$ in 2012 - the largest	850 million people suffer from hunger which is slightly more than in 1990 but 150 million less than in 1970.
increase in any decade in human history. 41 per cent of the oceans showed high human- induced impacts on marine ecosystems in 2012.	Universal primary education achieved in most parts of the world. The literacy rate of 15- to 24-year-olds in developing countries reached 88 per cent in 2011. In stark contrast to twenty years earlier, today women dominate tertiary education in most parts of the world.
Life support	740 million people lack access to safe drinking water (i.e., 500 million fewer than in 1990) and 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation (650 million more than in 1990). Water pollution continues to claim the lives of millions
Human settlements now cover 7% of the world's ice- free land cover and their croplands another 21%. The protected terrestrial and marine areas have been	millions. Great improvements in modern energy access since 1990, but in 2010 there were still 1.27 billion people without access to electricity and 2.59 billion without access to clean cooking fuels.
greatly expanded in developed and developing	Increased aging including in many developing countries. 810 million people are now older than 60 years.
countries.	In 2010: 215 million international migrants (59 million more than in 1990) and 740 million internal migrants.
Loss of half of the world's forests historically to domestication. Tropical forests declined at around 12-14 million hectares per year in both the 1990s and	383 million employed people getting by on less than US\$1.25 per day – half the number of 1990, but no reduction in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
2000s, and a similar amount was degraded. In	Intergenerational social mobility earning, wage and educational mobility varied widely across countries
contrast, temperate and boreal forests were reforesting since the 1980s.	Mixed progress on human security and human rights.
Global arable land and permanent crops expanded by	Overall well-being of people – as measured by HDI - has substantially improved since 1950
160 million ha since 1961, due to expansion in developing economies, but the world likely reached peak farmland by 2010.	<b>Economy</b> Affluence has increased amidst persistent poverty. The world economy doubled since 1990 to US\$69 trillion in 2012. The Genuine progress index per capita has slightly decreased since 1978.
Humanity claims about 24 per cent of the global	Consumption remains grossly inadequate for the poorest.
terrestrial net primary production, more than ever before.	Greater material consumption and less per unit of value, but progress in technology access and performance has fallen far short of the requirements for sustainability.
Local and regional freshwater shortages, and water stress was widespread in one-third of the world.	From 1988 to 2008, all gains in real income gains have been reaped by the super-rich in all countries and the rising middle-class in developing countries.
The proportion of overexploited fish stocks tripled from 10% in 1970 to 30% in 2012.	Growing income inequality in many parts of the world.
Many concentrations of local air pollutants have	Trade has grown at more than twice the rate of economic growth since 1950.
decreased, but the health burden of local air	Total assistance to developing countries more than doubled since 2000 to US\$126 billion in 2012.
pollution remains large, especially in megacities of developing countries.	The proportion of net ODA to donors' gross national income regained their 1990 levels of 0.32% in 2010, up from 0.22% in 2002. Estimates for 2012 are 0.29%.
Ozone layer on a long-term path to stabilization by 2020/2030.	Energy almost tripled between 1970 and 2010 – reaching 493EJ. Renewable energy share increased from 5.4% in 1970 to 7.0% in 2000 and 8.2% in 2010.
Degraded coastal zones where half the world population lives.	Growing but slowing water withdrawals.
	<u>Society</u> Extraordinary changes in developed and developing countries alike, in terms of values, attitudes, and actual
Community	behaviour, in particular the attitudinal and behavioral shifts in sex and reproduction, the role of women, the environment, and human rights.
More State-based armed conflicts than in the cold war.	Fewer stable families in most developed and developing countries than in past decades. In developed countries, crude marriage rate halved since 1970 and divorce rate increased. The average duration of marriages has stayed constant at 10-15 years.
Greatly reduced number of deaths from non-State armed conflicts, including terrorism.	Widening governance and globalization. Power has shifted from the nation State upward to the global level and
Diversity of cultural heritage, traditions, and traditional knowledge and 90% of indigenous languages threatened, but also indications of some revivals.	downward to the local level, and at all levels from the public to the private. Crisis of multilateralism. In most countries where a high level of societal consensus existed on intergenerational equity, it has been lost or come under pressure.
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