

# SDG Acceleration Actions

## Information Note

June 2019

### 1. Introduction

In September 2019, Heads of State and Government will meet at the United Nations in New York to discuss the critical issues of global concern. This year, in addition to the general debate of the General Assembly, world leaders will also participate in a series of summits and high-level meetings to accelerate progress on sustainable development and boost action on climate change, aimed at securing healthy, peaceful and prosperous lives for all.

Events during the UN high-level week in September 2019<sup>1</sup> present an important opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). While each meeting is distinct, they are intrinsically linked in their ambition to fast-track efforts towards zero poverty and lives of dignity for all, on a safe, healthy and peaceful planet.

With just over a decade to go until 2030, it is clear that in spite of progress that has been made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related agreements, much remains to be done to realize the Agenda in time. The high-level week events provide an important moment to scale-up action and ambition by governments and other stakeholders alike. The acceleration commitments, partnerships and other actions to be announced at the various meetings should be seen within the context of high-level week as a whole, in order to maximize the impact on overall SDG action.

#### **Commitments and actions to be announced at the High-level SDG-related meetings during UN General Assembly high-level week**

- “SDG Acceleration Actions” at the SDG Summit;
- “Ambitious Partnerships” at the SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review;
- “Transformational Initiatives” will be launched at the Climate Action Summit;
- “Moving Together to Build a Healthier World” at the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage; and
- “High impact multi-stakeholder initiatives” at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

<sup>1</sup> Summits and high-level meetings to be held during the United Nations High Level week of September 2019:

- 1) [Climate Action Summit](#), 23 September 2019
- 2) [High-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#), 23 September 2019.
- 3) [SDG Summit](#), 24-25 September 2019
- 4) [High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#), 26 September 2019.
- 5) [High-Level Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway](#), 27 September 2019

All high level events are featured at [www.un.org/en/summits2019](http://www.un.org/en/summits2019).

## 2. SDG Summit: Registry of Voluntary SDG Acceleration Actions

On 24-25 September, the [United Nations High Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF) under the auspices of the General Assembly, “[The SDG Summit](#)”, will provide the central focus for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and identify ways to accelerate progress. In addition to the inter-governmentally agreed political declaration, voluntary SDG acceleration actions towards implementation will be announced before and during the SDG Summit.

“[SDG Acceleration Actions](#)” are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by countries and other actors to contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Such acceleration actions can be registered by national Governments, local and regional governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional financial institutions, major groups and other stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the scientific community, and other actors - individually or in partnership.

### 3.1 How to launch and register acceleration actions?

Any voluntary action meeting the below criteria can be [registered as an acceleration action](#). Acceleration actions can also be announced by Heads of State and Government on the margins of the SDG Summit or during the Leaders Dialogues if relevant to the theme.

Governments, businesses and all stakeholders can register acceleration actions within their own sphere of influence or SDG. Acceleration actions can reflect a more ambitious target, a new policy or programme, new investments or increased financial or other support to specific SDGs and/or groups of the population or other countries, for example.

Registration is now [open online](#) and will serve as the basis for the SDG Summit Registry of acceleration actions.

More information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit#acceleration-actions>

### 3.2 What are the criteria for acceleration SDG actions?

SDG Acceleration Actions should:

- Facilitate and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, reflect interlinkages among goals and contribute to policy coherence;
- Respect principles of the United Nations Charter and the 2030 Agenda;
- Build on existing successful efforts/initiatives (scaling up, new phase, etc.) or introduce new ones;
- Include means of implementation such as finance, technology or capacity building as an element to help ensure longevity and sustainability of the initiative;

- Follow the SMART Criteria – a commitment that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable Resource based, with Time-based deliverables;
- Provide access to additional information on the actions (e.g. website, contacts).

### ***3.3 Launch and follow-up of SDG Acceleration Actions***

The United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) will review all SDG Acceleration Actions and will make them available at a dedicated portal.

The online registry will also provide a space for all stakeholders to record the actions and report on their implementation. Countries can also report on follow-up to their SDG Acceleration Actions through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

UN DESA will include information regarding these acceleration actions in relevant reports, including synthesis reports on the implementation of partnership commitments. The SDG Acceleration Actions registry also provides for a reporting and monitoring function to ensure that acceleration actions are properly followed-up.

UN DESA and the Department of Global Communication (DGC) will collaborate on advertising selected initiatives in the lead up, during and after the SDG Summit.