

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
xx

Original: English

**Advance unedited version**

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**High-level political forum on sustainable development****Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals****Report of the Secretary-General*****Summary***

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/1, the present report provides a global overview of the current situation of the Sustainable Development Goals using inputs from more than 50 international and regional organizations. The data contained herein are derived from indicators in the global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017 (see resolution 71/313).

## Introduction

1. As the world enters the third year of the COVID-19 crisis, the catastrophic effects on people's lives and livelihoods and on global efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals is now beyond dispute.
2. Despite continued data gaps at national and sub-national levels, the present report shows that years, or even decades, of development progress have been halted or reversed. <sup>1</sup> As of end of 2021, more than 5.4 million people worldwide had died directly due to COVID-19 with estimates suggesting that excess deaths were nearly 15 million. Global health systems were overwhelmed, and many essential health services were disrupted, posing major health threats and undermining years of progress fighting other deadly diseases. Furthermore, an additional 75 million to 95 million people will live in extreme poverty in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic level. Billions of children significantly missed out on schooling and over 100 million more children fell below the minimum reading proficiency level and other areas of academic learning. This generation of children could lose a combined total of \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings in present value. Women have also been disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic, struggling with lost jobs, increased burdens of unpaid care work and domestic violence.
3. In 2021, the global economy started to rebound, with the global output expanding by 5.5%. However, new COVID-19 variants and continued vaccine inequity, together with rising inflation, major supply-chain disruptions, policy uncertainties, and unsustainable debt in developing countries, caused the global economy to slow down again at the end of 2021.
4. The world is also witnessing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, with approximately 2 billion people living in conflict-affected countries by the end of 2020. Refugees were at the highest absolute number on record in 2021 and forced displacement has continued to occur and even grow. These numbers will only increase with the war in Ukraine creating one of the largest refugee crises of modern time. As of the April 2022, more than 5.3 million refugees had fled Ukraine (most of the who are women and children) and a further 7.7 million had been displaced inside the country. Another 13 million were stranded in conflict areas. Added to this, Russia and Ukraine are large producers and exporters of key food items, fertilizer, minerals and energy. These two countries represent more than half of the world's supply of sunflower oil and about 30% of the world's wheat. At least 50 countries import at least 30% of their wheat from Ukraine or Russia, with 36 importing at least 50%, and most of them are African and least developed countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The indicator framework, a statistical annex to the report and the Global Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Database are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>.

5. The conflict has caused food, fuel and fertilizer prices to skyrocket, disrupted supply chains and global trade, and caused distress in financial markets. Together with the refugee crisis, the impacts of the conflict may lead to a global food crisis and deal a significant blow to SDG progress. It is estimated that the war could cut global economic growth by 0.9 percentage point in 2022 and have implications for aid flows. In essence, those with the highest exposure to the three-dimensional food, energy and financial crisis are being hit the hardest.
6. The impacts of climate change are already being felt across the world and COVID-19 further delayed the urgently needed transition to greener economies. While the economic slowdown and COVID-19 lockdowns led to the temporary reduction of CO2 emissions in 2020, global energy-related CO2 emissions rose by 6.0% as demand for coal, oil and gas rebounded with the economy in 2021. Based on current national commitments, global emissions are set to increase by almost 14% over the current decade, which could lead to a climate catastrophe unless governments, the private sector and civil society work together to take immediate action.
7. The multiple and interlinked global crises we are facing – the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine and elsewhere – are putting the very viability of achieving the SDGs by 2030 at great risk. An urgent rescue effort is needed to rapidly change course, grounded in a comprehensive response to these interlinked global crises and a renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation as called for in Our Common Agenda.
8. To get the SDGs back on track and to keep the 1.5-degree goal alive, we need to capitalize on the opportunity afforded by the recovery to adopt low-carbon, resilient and inclusive development pathways that will reduce carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, transform our food systems, create better jobs and advance the transition to a greener, more inclusive and just economy.
9. In tandem, we must urgently redouble our efforts to tackle the pandemic and aim to vaccinate 70% of people in all countries by the middle of this year. To do so, we need address the vaccine inequity by ensuring all countries and all manufacturers suspend patents, prioritize vaccine supply to COVAX and to create the conditions for the local production of tests, vaccines and treatments.
10. To recover from the pandemic and rescue the SDGs, will also require a full-scale transformation of the international financial and debt architecture. In the immediate term, concrete and coordinated action is needed to provide countries with the adequate fiscal space and liquidity, including by re-channelling unused Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to countries in need, providing effective debt relief and suspending or cancelling all IMF surcharges in the interim. In the longer term, this will require lowering the cost of borrowing on the market, integrating

disaster clauses into debt contracts to protect countries from future shocks, and aligning all forms of finance with the SDGs and Paris Agreement for Climate Action. Creating a global economy that works for all, will require a new social contract to rebuild trust and pool resources to deliver global public goods. It will also require us to radically rethink the skills needed for tomorrow's economy. In this respect, the Transforming Education Summit that I will convene in September, the Biennial Summit as well as workstreams of Our Common Agenda such as the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, work on gender and youth inclusion can all contribute to a renewal of the social contract.

11. In all this, improving our data capabilities will be key. While considerable progress has been made in building stronger data and statistical systems for SDG monitoring, significant data gaps still exist. Gaps in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness and the disaggregation levels of global indicators, make it difficult to fully comprehend the pace of progress, differences across regions and who is being left behind. Greater investment in data and strengthened data capabilities will also be crucial in getting ahead of crises and triggering earlier responses, anticipating future needs, preventing crises from becoming full blown conflicts and designing the urgent actions needed to realize the 2030 Agenda.
12. Today, we stand on the precipice of a critical moment. Either we fail to deliver on our commitments to support the world's most vulnerable or together we turbo-charge our efforts to rescue the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and planet by 2030 – stepping up our work to transform the international financial architecture; driving major economic transitions and renewing the social contract; and investing in data systems.

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### **Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

13. ***The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reversed the steady progress of poverty reduction over the past 25 years. This unprecedented reversal is further exacerbated by rising inflation and the impacts of the war in Ukraine. It is estimated these combined crises will lead to an additional 75 million to 95 million people living in extreme poverty in 2022, compared to pre-pandemic projections. Almost all countries have introduced new short-term social protection measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis to protect people's health, jobs and income. If these measures continue, they will provide the needed assistance for the poor and help them move out of poverty.***
14. Between 2015 and 2018, global poverty continued its historical decline, with the global poverty rate falling from 10.1% in 2015 to 8.6% in 2018. Nowcasts suggest that the global poverty rate sharply increased from 8.3% in 2019 to 9.2% in 2020 due to COVID-19, representing the first increase in extreme poverty since 1998 and the largest since 1990, and setting back poverty reduction by around three years. The losses have been much higher for low-income countries,

which have been set back by 8-9 years. Although the poverty rate is projected to decrease to 8.7% in 2021, it was still higher than the pre-pandemic level.

15. In 2020, for the first time in two decades, the world's share of workers living with their families below the international poverty line increased from 6.7% in 2019 to 7.2%, pushing an additional 8 million workers into poverty. Although the working poverty rate decreased slightly in 2021 to 6.9%, it was still higher than the pre-pandemic rate.
16. By 2020, only 47% of the global population were effectively covered by at least one social protection cash benefit, leaving 4.1 billion people unprotected. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, more than 1700 social protection measures (mostly short-term) were announced by 209 countries and territories.
17. Based on reporting from 80 countries on disasters of all origins, including COVID-19, the estimated disaster-mortality rate is 5.74 persons per 100,000 population in 2020. While significantly under-reported, this figure is already in stark contrast to the prior period between 2015-2019, when disaster-related mortality rate averaged at 0.93 person per 100,000 population. At least 80% of the disaster-related mortality in 2020 is estimated to be due to COVID-19. The pandemic has considerably reversed the trend in reducing disaster-related mortality since the beginning of the decade.
18. While countries were coping with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 33 countries reported \$16.55 billion of direct economic losses in 2020 due to other disasters, which amounted to 0.14% of national GDP. Beyond monetized disaster-related losses, several countries have reported losses in housing, critical infrastructure, and other sectors.
19. Expenditure on education decreased in 2020 but bounced back in 2021 as schools reopened. The median value of the proportion of government expenditure on education decreased from 13.5% in 2019 to 12.6% in 2020, then bounced back to 14.6% in 2021.

## **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

20. *Between 2014 and the onset of the pandemic, the number of people going hungry and suffering from food insecurity had been gradually rising. The COVID-19 crisis has pushed those rising rates even higher. The war in Ukraine is further disrupting global food supply chains and creating the biggest global food crisis since World War II. The COVID-19 crisis has also exacerbated all forms of malnutrition, particularly in children.*
21. In 2020, between 720 and 811 million people in the world were suffering from hunger – as many as 161 million more than in 2019. In the same year, over 30% – a stunning 2.4 billion people –

were moderately or severely food insecure, lacking regular access to adequate food. This represents an increase of almost 320 million people in just one year.

22. Globally, 149.2 million or 22.0% of children under age 5 were suffering from stunting (low height for age) in 2020<sup>2</sup>, decreasing from 24.4% in 2015. These numbers may, however, become higher due to continued constraints in accessing nutritious diets and essential nutrition services during the pandemic, with the full impact possibly taking years to manifest. To achieve the target of a 50% reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025, global efforts must double the annual rate of decline from its current annual reduction rate of 2.1% per year to 3.9% per year.
23. In 2020<sup>2</sup>, wasting (low weight for height) and overweight affected 45.4 million (6.7%) and 38.9 million (5.7%) children under age 5, respectively. Wasting will be one of the conditions most impacted by COVID-19 in the short term, and around 15% more children than currently estimated may have suffered from wasting, due to deterioration in household wealth and disruptions in the availability and affordability of nutritious food and essential nutrition services. Childhood overweight may also be on the rise in some countries where unhealthy food replaced fresh, nutritious food, and movement restrictions constrained opportunities for physical activity for long periods of time.
24. In women, anaemia increases the risk of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes. Since 2015, the prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age has been stagnant globally, with over half a billion women aged 15-49 years with anaemia in 2019 -- a prevalence of 29.9% (29.6% in non-pregnant women and 36.5% in pregnant women).
25. In three quarters of the limited number of countries with data, small scale food producers show an average annual income of less than half that of large-scale food producers. Similarly, the labor productivity of small-scale food producers continues to lag behind those of larger-scale producers. Among small-scale food producers, the income of women-headed production units is systematically lower than the income of those headed by men, only 50-70% of the income of those headed by men in half of the countries.
26. The world is still far from maintaining the genetic diversity of farmed and domesticated animals, either in the field or in genebanks. For 62% of local livestock breeds, the risk status remains unknown. Of the limited number of surveyed local livestock breeds, 72% are deemed at risk of extinction. At the same time, only 277 out of a global total of 7704 local livestock breeds have sufficient material in genebanks to reconstitute the breed in case of extinction.
27. The share of countries afflicted by high food prices, which had been relatively stable since 2016, rose sharply from 16% in 2019 to 47% in 2020, mainly reflecting trends in international markets. International prices of food items soared in the second half of 2020, more than offsetting declines

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<sup>2</sup> The 2020 estimates do not account for the full impact of COVID-19 as household survey data on child height and age were not collected in 2020 due to physical distancing policies.

in the first five months of the year, supported by the increase in international demand for cereals, vegetable oils, sugar and dairy products with the easing of the COVID-19 related restrictive measures. In domestic markets, upward pressure was also exerted by rising costs of freight and agricultural inputs as well as logistical bottlenecks and market uncertainty.

### **Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

***28. As of April 2022, COVID-19 had infected more than 500 million people and killed more than 6.2 million worldwide. However, the latest estimates suggest the global “excess deaths” directly and indirectly attributable to COVID-19 could be as high as three times this number. The pandemic has severely disrupted essential health services, shortened life expectancy, and exacerbated inequities between countries and people in access to basic health services, threatening to undo years of progress in some health areas. Furthermore, immunization coverage dropped for the first time in ten years, and deaths from tuberculosis and malaria increased.***

### **Reproductive, maternal and child health**

29. Based on data from 2015-2021, 84% of births worldwide were assisted by skilled health professionals, including medical doctors, nurses and midwives, an increase from 77% in 2008-2014. In sub-Saharan Africa, coverage is 20 percentage points lower. Available data does not reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the disruption of services, which may reverse gains made over the past decades.
30. The global under-5 mortality rate fell by 14% from 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 37 deaths in 2020, while the global neonatal mortality rate fell to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020 from 19 deaths in 2015, a 12% reduction. Even with that progress, 5 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 2020 alone—down from 5.9 million in 2015. Almost half of those deaths, 2.4 million, occurred in the first month of life.
31. The proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern contraceptive methods had stagnated around 77% between 2015 and 2022. However, sub-Saharan Africa has seen the largest increase, by almost 5 percentage points. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may lead to a reversal of this trend because of supply-chain disruptions and decreased access to family planning services.
32. The adolescent birth rate has fallen worldwide from 56 births per 1,000 adolescents aged 15-19 years in 2000 to 45 in 2015 and 41 in 2020. The largest declines are occurring in Central and Southern Asia, from 70 births per 1,000 adolescent women in 2000 to 24 in 2020. Early adolescent childbearing, that occurs in the 10–14-year age group, is much more common in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean than in other parts of the world.



## **Infectious diseases**

33. An estimated 1.5 million new HIV infections and 680,000 deaths from AIDS-related causes occurred in 2020. The incidence of HIV infections globally declined by 39% between 2010 and 2020, far less than the 75% target agreed by the UN General Assembly in 2016. Measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the additional strain the new pandemic has placed on health systems have disrupted HIV services.
34. In 2020, an estimated 9.9 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) worldwide. COVID-19 caused a rise in TB deaths for the first time in a decade, from 1.2 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2020 (excluding TB deaths in people with HIV). TB incidence is falling at about 2% per year, which is much slower than the 4–5% annual decline that was required to achieve the 2020 milestones of the End TB Strategy. Between 2018–2020, TB treatment reached 20 million people, only half of the global target.
35. There were an estimated 241 million malaria cases and 627,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2020. This represents about 14 million more cases in 2020 compared to 2019, and 69,000 more deaths. About two thirds of the additional deaths were linked to disruptions in the provision of malaria services during the pandemic. Africa was home to 95% of malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths.
36. Despite significant disruptions to health services caused by COVID-19, the global number of people requiring treatment and care for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) decreased from 2.19 billion in 2010 to 1.73 billion in 2020. Notably, in least developed countries (LDCs), 48% of the total population required NTDs treatment and care in 2020, down from 79% in 2010.

## **Non-communicable diseases, mental health and environmental risks**

37. Globally, 74% of all deaths in 2019 were caused by noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The probability of dying from any of the four main NCDs (cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease) between age 30 and 70 declined from 19.9% in 2010 to 17.8% in 2019. This rate of decline is insufficient to meet this SDG target.
38. Tobacco use rates have declined in 150 countries, contributing to the decline of the global average prevalence rate from 24.4% in 2015 to 22.3% in 2020. In fifteen countries, tobacco use rates are either steady or still going up.
39. Global suicide death rate declined by 29% from 13.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 2000 to 9.2 deaths in 2019. Although the available data do not show an increase in suicide rates during the first months of the COVID-19 crisis, the pandemic has had a severe impact on the mental health and wellbeing of people around the world. In 2020, there was an 25% increase in prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide.



## Health Systems and Funding

40. Infant immunization coverage dropped to 83% in 2020 from 86% in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated disruptions have resulted in 22.7 million children missing out on vaccinations, 3.7 million more than in 2019 and the highest number since 2005. Moreover, 17.1 million children did not receive vaccines through the routine immunization programme, an increase from 13.6 million. Measles is a highly contagious disease and the current coverage levels of 70% with 2 doses are insufficient to prevent measles outbreaks illness, disability and deaths caused by complications associated with the disease. The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, targeting 9-14 years old girls to prevent cervical cancer, was offered in 111 countries in 2020, but is still yet to reach the poorest countries.
41. Improvements in essential health services, as measured by the universal health coverage service index, increased from a global average of 45 out of 100 in 2000 to 67 in 2019, with the highest score in Europe and Northern America (81), and the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (45). The pandemic is likely to halt the continuous progress made in service coverage expansion over the past 20 years as health systems face challenges to ensure the continuity of essential health services.
42. Even before the pandemic, the global proportion of the population with out-of-pocket health spending exceeding 10% of their household budget was on the rise, exceeding 13%. With the combined health and economic impacts of COVID-19, people are likely to face greater financial constraints to access care and, among those paying out-of-pocket for health, financial hardship is likely to further worsen, particularly among already disadvantaged populations.
43. Health and care workers remain at the fore front of the COVID-19 pandemic response. In the period between January 2020 and May 2021, the pandemic may have claimed the lives of 115,500 health and care workers, globally.
44. Data for 2014-2020 show that the density of nursing and midwifery personnel in Northern America remains the highest, over 152 per 10,000 population— close to 4 times the global average of 40 per 10,000 and over 15 times that of sub-Saharan Africa and 8 times that of Northern Africa and Southern Asia. Despite a steady increase in the density of medical doctors per 10,000 population globally, the disparities between regions remains high—from an estimated 40 medical doctors per 10,000 population in Europe, to only 2 in sub-Saharan Africa.

## **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

45. *The COVID-19 outbreak has caused a global education crisis. Most education systems in the world have been severely affected by education disruptions and faced unprecedented challenges. School closures brought by the pandemic have had devastating consequences for*

*children's learning and wellbeing. It is estimated that 147 million children missed more than half of their in-class instruction over the past two years. This generation of children could lose a combined total of \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings in present value. School closures affected girls, children from disadvantaged backgrounds, those living in rural areas, children with disabilities and children from ethnic minorities more than their peers.*

46. The percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 54% in 2015 to 58% in 2020, slowing down relative to its progress in the preceding five-year period. It is too early to predict the effect of COVID-19 on completion. Early indications from low-income countries based on phone surveys indicate a small decline in attendance upon a return to school but a larger increase in repetition, which may increase dropouts in coming years.
47. Data from 73 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries for the period of 2013-2021, indicate that around 7 in 10 children aged 3 and 4 are developmentally on track, with no significant differences by child's sex.
48. The participation rate in organized learning one year before the official primary entry age rose steadily in the years before COVID-19, from 69% in 2010 to 75% in 2020, but with considerable variation between countries (ranging as low as 13% to nearly 100%). This progress is threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, as early childhood education and early grades school children – especially from low- and middle-income countries, are the most affected by education disruption. In most countries, early education facilities and schools were partially or fully closed for more than a full school year.
49. Based on data for 2016-2018, the participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months among sub-Saharan Africa countries with data is typically around 5% or less, compared to over 40% in Northern American and many European countries.
50. Insufficient skills are often mentioned as an impediment to effective Information Communication Technology (ICT) use. Based on data for 2017-2020, in only 10% of countries, more than 70% of individuals can carry out one of the activities that compose basic skills in the last three months, such as sending an e-mail with an attachment. In only 15% of countries, more than 40% of people have standard skills, such as creating an electronic presentation with presentation software.
51. Despite improvements, disparities in educational participation and outcomes are persistent. Gender inequalities remain for many indicators. For example, most countries with data have not achieved gender parity in the proportion of children meeting minimum learning proficiency standards in reading, and in the lower secondary completion rate. For the lower secondary completion rate, only one sixth of countries with data had parity between rural and urban areas, and almost no countries achieved parity between children of the richest and poorest households.

52. Basic school infrastructure is far from universal. In 2020, approximately a quarter of primary schools globally do not have access to basic services such as electricity, drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. Figures are substantially lower for other facilities such as ICT facilities and the disability adapted infrastructure, with around 50% of primary schools with access. Shares among LDCs tend to be substantially lower, at approximately one half to two-thirds of the global average. During the global pandemic, schools in comparatively disadvantaged areas were less equipped to keep children and staff safe.
53. In 2020, there were about 12 million pre-primary school teachers, 33 million primary school teachers, and 38 million secondary school teachers working in classrooms around the world, of which 83% of primary and secondary school teachers are trained.

### **Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

54. *The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030 and has been pushed further off track by the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic. Women and girls remain disproportionately affected, struggling with lost jobs and livelihoods, derailed education, increased burdens of unpaid care work and domestic violence. Over 100 million women aged 25-54, with small children at home, are out of the workforce globally in 2020, including the more than 2 million who left the labour force due to the increased pressures of unpaid care work. Women's health services faced major disruptions and undermined women's sexual and reproductive health. And despite women's effective and inclusive leadership in responding to COVID-19, they are excluded from decision-making positions. Further, many countries do not have comprehensive systems to track budgets for gender equality, limiting the allocation of public resources for implementation of laws and policies. Efforts must be strengthened to ensure laws, policies, budgets and institutions advance gender equality.*
55. Discriminatory laws and legal gaps continue to prevent women from enjoying their human rights. Based on 2020 data from 95 countries and territories, more than half lacked quotas for women in the national parliament; while 83% included budgetary commitments to implement legislation addressing violence against women, 63% continued to lack laws defining rape based on the principle of consent. Although over 90% mandate nondiscrimination based on gender in employment, almost half continued to restrict women from working in certain jobs or industries; and almost a quarter of countries did not grant women equal rights with men to enter marriage and initiate divorce.
56. Violence against women and girls is prevalent across countries and affects women of all ages. Globally, over 1 in 4 (26%) ever-partnered women aged 15 years and older, that is 641 million women, have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner at least once in their lifetime in 2018. Data on violence experienced by older women, including on specific forms such as being restrained, being ostracized or neglected, is urgently needed but

remains largely unavailable. Only less than 10% of eligible data on intimate partner violence captures the prevalence of this violence against women aged 50 and older.

57. One in five young women worldwide (19%) were married in childhood in 2021. Child marriage is most common in sub-Saharan Africa, a region where progress has been modest, followed by South Asia, which has achieved greater declines. Globally, the prevalence of child marriage has declined by about 10% in the past five years. However, the profound effects of COVID-19 are threatening this progress, with up to 10 million additional girls at risk of child marriage in the next decade because of the pandemic.
58. The practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) has proved remarkably tenacious, despite efforts spanning nearly a century to eliminate it. At least 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to FGM, based on the latest available data from 31 countries, where the practice is concentrated. Nevertheless, several countries have seen some declines in the practice compared to 30 years ago.
59. On an average day, women spend about 2.5 times as many hours on unpaid domestic work and care work as men, according to the latest data from 90 countries and areas collected between 2001 and 2019.
60. As of 1 January 2022, the global share of women in lower and single houses of national parliaments reached merely 26.2%, up from 25.6% in 2021. Women's share is slight over one third in local governments (in 135 countries with data). Well-designed legislated gender quotas, zero tolerance for violence against women in politics, and gender-sensitive and safer political environments are key to fast-track and sustain women's equal representation in decision-making.
61. Working women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They accounted for 39.4% of total employment before the pandemic in 2019, but made up nearly 45% of global employment losses in 2020. The share of women in managerial positions worldwide has shown only a slight improvement over the last two decades, rising from 25.3% in 2000 to 28.3% in 2019, and remained unchanged in 2020.
62. Based on data from 64 countries for 2007-2020, only 57% of married or in-union women aged 15 to 49 make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. While women seem to have the most autonomy in deciding to use contraception, with 92% empowered, only three in four women can decide on their own health care or say no to sex.
63. Among the 115 countries with data in 2022, countries have in place, on average, 76% of the laws and regulations needed to guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, strongest in terms of enabling laws and regulations is HIV and HPV (81%), followed by contraceptive services (76%), maternity care (74%), and sexuality education (65%).

64. Available data from 36 countries for 2009-2020 show that, in 30 countries, less than 50% of women have ownership and/or secure tenure rights over agricultural land. In 18 countries, the corresponding share of men was twice as high. In addition, the share of men among landowners reaches over 70% in 9 countries; and only in 8 countries, women had a higher share than men among the landowners.
65. Data available from 52 countries for 2019-2021 reveal that about 46% of legal frameworks offer limited protection of women's land rights, while nearly 25% offer medium levels of guarantees. Only 29% of reporting countries include enough provisions in their legal frameworks offering good protection of women's rights to land. The most prominent areas in which positive results have been achieved are in succession rights (64% of the countries) and in protection of being disposed in land transactions (56% requiring spousal consent). By contrast, joint land registration and protection of women's land rights when customary law is legally recognized continue to be a concern in many countries.
66. Ownership of mobile phones has been shown to be an important tool to empower women. In 30 of 70 countries with data for 2017-2021, gender parity in mobile phone ownership has been achieved, and in 13 more countries, more women than men own a mobile phone.
67. Socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 requires effective and gender responsive public finance management systems. Based on data reported by 105 countries and areas for 2018-2021, 26% of countries globally have comprehensive systems in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality, 59% have some features of a system in place, and 15% do not have the minimum elements of these systems.

## **Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

68. *Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. Billions of people will lack access to these basic services in 2030 unless progress quadruples. Demand for water is rising due to rapid population growth, urbanization and increasing water needs from agriculture, industry, and energy sectors. Decades of misuse, poor management, over-extraction of groundwater and contamination of freshwater supplies have exacerbated water stress. In addition, countries are facing growing challenges linked to degraded water-related ecosystems, water scarcity caused by climate change, underinvestment in water and sanitation, and insufficient cooperation on transboundary waters.*
69. Between 2015 and 2020, the population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 70% to 74%, the population with safely managed sanitation increased from 47% to 54%, and the population with access to handwashing facilities with soap and water in the home increased from 67% to 71%. Rates of progress for these basic services would need to quadruple to reach universal coverage by 2030.

70. Assessment of rivers, lakes and aquifers in 97 countries in 2020 shows that 60% of water bodies assessed have good water quality. Of the 76,000 water bodies that were reported on in 2020, only 1% were from the poorest countries. For at least 3 billion people, the quality of the water they rely upon is unknown due to a lack of monitoring.
71. Water use efficiency rose from \$17.4/m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 to \$19.4/m<sup>3</sup> in 2019 worldwide, which represents a 12% efficiency increase. Around 57% of countries presented a water use efficiency equivalent to \$20/m<sup>3</sup> or less in 2019.
72. Across the world, water stress levels remained safe at 18.6% in 2019, though this hides large regional variations. Southern Asia and Central Asia registered high levels of water stress at over 75%, whereas Northern Africa registered a critical water stress level of over 100%. Since 2015, water stress levels have increased significantly in Western Asia and Northern Africa.
73. To ensure a sustainable and equitable distribution of water to meet domestic, industrial, agricultural and environmental needs, the average global rate of implementation of improved management of water resources – from 49 in 2017 to 54 in 2020 – needs to urgently double. With political will and adequate financing, 22 countries made significant gains between 2017 and 2020, showing that real and rapid progress is possible and providing tangible examples for the 107 countries that need to significantly accelerate implementation.
74. Transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers are shared by 153 countries around the world. Ensuring that these waters are managed equitably, sustainably, and peacefully, particularly in the context of climate change, requires countries to put in place operational arrangements for water cooperation. Data from 2017 and 2020 suggests slow progress, with only 32 countries having 90% or more of their transboundary waters covered by such arrangements.
75. Over the past 300 years, wetland ecosystems have experienced an 85% loss in extent despite the very high value goods and services they provide. Additionally, the extent of surface water bodies, including lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, is rapidly changing across the entire planet, with one in five river basins experiencing high - above natural - fluctuations in surface water during the last 5 years. Population growth, changes to land cover and land use, and climate change are key drivers of these changes to freshwater ecosystems.

#### **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

76. *Despite progress, there are still over 700 million people globally living in the dark and 2.4 billion cooking with harmful and polluting fuels. Although the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency has improved, progress is not fast enough to achieve SDG 7. The war in Ukraine is driving up global energy prices and increasing energy insecurity in Europe. To respond to the energy crisis, some European countries plan to speed up renewables transition and increase investments in renewables and energy efficiency, while some other countries plan a resurgence of coal, putting the green transition at risk.*



77. Between 2010 and 2020, the world population with access to electricity reached 91%, up from 83%, with 1.3 billion people gaining access. This still leaves 733 million people in the dark-- more than three quarters of them living in sub-Saharan Africa. In the 2018-2020 period, the annual access growth was 0.5 percentage points, which should accelerate to an annual average of 0.9 percentage points to achieve universal access by 2030, requiring significant efforts to reach the ones living in low-income and fragile and conflict-affected countries.
78. In 2020, 69% of the global population had access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. While more than half of those without access to clean cooking fuels live in Asia, 19 out of the 20 countries with the lowest percentage of people having access to clean cooking were LDCs in Africa.
79. The share of renewable sources in total final energy consumption amounted to 17.7% globally in 2019 - this is less than one percentage point higher than in 2015. The electricity sector records the largest share of renewables in total final energy consumption (26.2% in 2019) and drives most of the growth in renewable energy use, while the heat and transport sectors have seen limited progress.
80. The global primary energy intensity—defined as the ratio of global total energy supply per unit of GDP—improved from 5.6 megajoules per dollar (2017 PPP) in 2010 to 4.7 megajoules in 2019. Since 2015, global energy intensity has improved by 1.6% per year on average, which is still short of the 3.2% annual rate now needed to reach SDG 7.3.
81. International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean and renewable energy reached \$10.9 billion in 2019, 23.6% lower than in 2018, showing a contraction even before the COVID-19 pandemic. A longer five-year moving average trend shows that average annual commitments decreased for the first time since 2008 by 5.5% from \$17.5 billion in 2014-18 to \$16.6 billion in 2015-19.
82. Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries reached a record 245.7 Watts per capita in 2020. Since 2015, renewable capacity per capita increased by 57.6%, but SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs lagged behind—it would take LDCs and LLDCs almost 40 years and SIDS almost 15 years to reach the same progress as the developing countries reached on average in 2020.

**Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

83. *The COVID-19 pandemic caused the worst economic crisis in decades in 2020, severely damaging working time and income. Although the global economy started to rebound in 2021, waves of spreading COVID-19 infections, together with rising inflation, major supply-chain disruptions, policy uncertainties, and unsustainable debt in developing countries, caused the*



***global economy to slow down at the end of 2021. The conflict in Ukraine is expected to seriously set back global economic growth in 2022.***

84. Following an increase of about 1.4% in 2019, global real GDP per capita decreased sharply by 4.4% in 2020. Global real GDP per capita is estimated to rebound at a growth rate of 4.4% in 2021 and projected to increase again by 3.0% in 2022 and 2.5% in 2023 based on pre-war estimations. The war in Ukraine is likely to downgrade global growth. The real GDP of LDCs increased by 5.0% in 2019 and showed no growth in 2020 because of the disruption caused by the pandemic.
85. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented and volatile developments in labour productivity levels. Globally, output per worker grew at an average annual rate of 1.6% between 2015 and 2019. In 2020, the output per worker dropped by 0.6%, the first such decline since 2009. Global labour productivity rebounded sharply in 2021, rising by 3.2%.
86. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, informal employment represented 60.2% of global employment in 2019. COVID-19 containment measures and mobility restrictions prevented labour reallocation to informal employment. Rather than becoming unemployed or shifting to informal jobs, as in previous crises, laid-off employees and self-employed workers alike left the labour force. A disproportionate impact on informal workers was reflected in a decline in the informal employment rate in some countries at the height of the crisis, which has left informal workers and their families in a highly precarious position, exposed to sudden income losses and heightened risks of falling into poverty.
87. Equal treatment in employment is part and parcel of decent work. Globally women continue to be paid 19% per cent less than men based on an ILO 2018/2019 study. In 87% of countries with recent data, professionals earn per hour on average more than double what workers in elementary occupations earn.
88. In 2021, the global unemployment rate declined slightly to 6.2%, which is still well above the pre-pandemic rate of 5.4%. The ILO projects that unemployment will remain above its 2019 level until at least 2023. Meanwhile, the level of unemployment underestimates the full employment impact of the crisis since many who left the labour force have not come back. It also does not reflect the reduction in working hours for those that remained employed. In 2021, 4.3% of global working hours were lost compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, which is equivalent to a deficit of 125 million full-time jobs (assuming a 48-hour working week).
89. The proportion of the world's youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) is now at its highest level since 2005. The NEET rate had remained unchanged from 2015 to 2019 at 21.8%, but increased to 23.3% in 2020, an increase of almost 20 million youth. Although youth

represented only 13% of total employment before the crisis, they made up 34.2% of the 2020 decline in employment. Meanwhile, both technical and vocational education and on-the-job training suffered massive disruption, forcing many young people to quit their studies.

90. Latest estimates indicate that the number of children in child labour rose to 160 million (63 million girls and 97 million boys) worldwide at the beginning of 2020 – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years. This translates to almost 1 in 10 of all children in child labour worldwide.
91. Global GDP from tourism nearly halved between 2019 and 2020, and the sector faced its worst crisis in recent history with businesses, employment and livelihoods around the world severely impacted. After a marked positive trend over the past decade and reaching \$3.4 trillion in 2019 or 4% of global GDP, the economic contribution of tourism plummeted to \$1.8 trillion or 2.3% of world GDP in 2020.
92. Access to finance has continued to rise worldwide since 2015, with new modes of access playing an increasingly important role in more recent years. Globally, the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults grew from 65.3 in 2015 to 67.3 in 2020. By contrast, the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 decreased slightly from 15.2 in 2015 to 14.4 in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to have reinforced the use of digital modes of financial access further, whereas both indicators declined globally and in most regions from 2019 to 2020.
93. The development and implementation of national youth employment strategies is increasing across most regions. Out of 81 countries reporting in 2021, more than half have operationalised such strategies, while slightly less than one third have developed one but did not provide conclusive evidence on implementation.

***Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation***

94. ***The manufacturing industry showed recovery from the pandemic in 2021, though the rebound is uneven across countries, with stagnations in LDCs. Almost one in three jobs in the manufacturing industry had been negatively impacted during the pandemic. Higher technology industries had a better performance and recovered faster, providing a strong example of how important technological innovation is to achieve SDG 9.***
95. In 2021, global manufacturing activity rose above the pre-pandemic level, but the recovery remains incomplete and unequal. Manufacturing in LDCs stagnated owing to subdued and volatile global demand and disruption to global trade, in addition to tighter domestic economic policies. Despite the pandemic disruptions, the global share of manufacturing value added (MVA) in total GDP increased from 16.2% in 2015 to 16.9% in 2021. While MVA per capita in

Europe and Northern America reached their all-time high of \$5,006 in 2021, in LDCs it decreased to \$134.

96. Because of the pandemic, nearly one in three jobs in manufacturing supply chains globally are likely to have undergone termination, a reduction in working hours or payment, or other worsened conditions. The share of manufacturing employment in total employment thus decreased significantly from 13.7% in 2019 to 13.1% in 2020.
97. Small industrial enterprises are more vulnerable to economic downturns than larger firms due to their limited financial resources and greater supply chain dependencies. Although governmental support plays a key role in supporting small enterprises to survive and thrive during and after the crisis, such a stimulus is hardly available in low-income countries. Only 15.7% of small-scale industries in sub-Saharan Africa received loans or lines of credit, compared with 44.2% in Latin America and the Caribbean, based on survey data from 2006-2020.
98. Global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions declined by 5.8% in 2020, or almost 2 billion tons – the largest decline since 1990 and almost five times greater than the 2009 decline that followed the global financial crisis. Despite the decline in 2020, global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions remained at 31.5 billion tons, which contributed to CO<sub>2</sub> reaching its highest average annual concentration in the atmosphere. In 2021, global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rose by 6.0% to 36.3 billion metric tonnes, their highest ever level, as demand for coal, oil and gas rebounds with the economy.
99. Most of the industries using medium- and high-technology have reached pre-pandemic levels, except for motor vehicles and other transport equipment. The production of motor vehicles is facing larger challenges worldwide due to supply chain disruptions of resources and intermediate goods. However, the share of medium- and high-technology manufacturing in total manufacturing was only 21.4% in sub-Saharan Africa and 10.5% in LDCs, compared to 47.7% in Europe and Northern America in 2019.
100. In most developing countries, mobile broadband (3G or above) is the main way—and often the only way—to connect to the Internet. Now 95% of the world population has access to a mobile broadband network. Between 2015 and 2021, 4G network coverage doubled to reach 88% of the world’s population. However, the coverage gap remains significant in LDCs and LLDCs, where 17% of the population remains without any access to a mobile broadband network.

## **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

101. *The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated global income inequality, partly reversing the decline of the previous two decades. Weak recoveries in emerging markets and developing economies are expected to raise between-country inequality. Globally, refugees were at the highest absolute*

*number on record in 2021. The war in Ukraine is creating one of the largest refugee crises of modern times.*

102. Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, more than three-fifths of countries with available data saw higher growth in household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population than the national average. The pandemic is threatening to reverse this trend. In 2020 many countries saw declines in the growth of the bottom 40% of greater magnitude than the national average.
103. Banks' profitability weakened in 2020 mostly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, although reported asset quality remained good. Based on financial soundness indicators data for 2015 - 2020, the fraction of countries reporting return on assets (ROA) above 1.0% declined to 48% in 2020 from 72% in 2019, and the median ROA declined from 1.5% to 1.0%.
104. IOM's Missing Migrants Project recorded 5,895 deaths on migratory routes worldwide in 2021, surpassing pre-pandemic figures and making it the deadliest year on record for migrants since 2017.
105. By mid-2021, the number of people who were forced to flee their countries due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order had grown to 24.5 million, the highest absolute number on record. For every 100,000 people, 311 are refugees outside their country of origin – this is an increase from 216 in 2015. In addition, as of 12 April 2022, around 4.7 million refugees from Ukraine crossed borders into neighbouring countries.
106. Globally, in 2021, 62.3% of 138 countries with data reported having a wide range of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, defined as having policy measures for 80% or more of the 30 sub-categories under the six domains of the indicator.
107. The proportion of tariff lines applied to imports admitted duty free from LDCs, SIDs, and developing countries have remained relatively stable in recent years, at around 64.5%, 65% and 51%, respectively.
108. The global average cost of sending \$200 decreased from 9.3% in 2011, to 7.42% in 2016 and 6.3% of the amount sent in 2021, getting closer to the international target of 5%.

#### **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

109. *As epicentres of the COVID-19 crisis, many cities have suffered from insufficient public health systems, inadequate basic services, a lack of well-developed and integrated public transport systems and inadequate open public spaces, as well as the economic consequences of lockdowns. As a result, the pandemic is likely to further increase the number of slum dwellers. To improve the lives of over one billion slum-dwellers, there is an urgent need to focus on*

***policies to improve health, affordable housing, basic services, sustainable mobility and connectivity.***

110. Over the years, the number of slum dwellers continues to grow and it was over one billion in 2020. Slum dwellers are most prevalent in three regions, which are home to about 85% of the slum residents in the world -- Central and Southern Asia (359 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (306 million), and sub-Saharan Africa (230 million).
111. Data for 2020 from 1,510 cities around the world indicates that, on average only about 37% of the urban areas are served by public transport, measured as a walking distance of 500 metres to low-capacity transport systems (such as buses or trams) and/or 1,000 metres to high-capacity systems (such as trains and ferries). With variations in population concentrations within the cities, this translates to only about 52% of the world population having convenient access to public transport.
112. In 2022, the global average municipal solid waste (MSW) collection rate in cities is at 82%, and the average MSW managed in controlled facilities in cities is 55%. The MSW collection rates in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania are less than 60%. Uncollected waste is the source of plastic pollution, GHG emissions, and incubation for infections.
113. Data for 2020 from 1072 cities point to a poor distribution of open public spaces in most regions. In these cities, only about 38% of the urban areas are located within 400 meters of walking distance to an open public space, which translates to only about 45% of the global urban population having convenient access to these spaces.
114. As of March 2021, 156 countries have developed national urban policies, with almost half (74) already in the implementation stage. A further breakdown shows that 40% of the countries are in the early stages of developing their plans, while 12% are monitoring and evaluating how well these plans are functioning.
115. By the end of 2021, 98 countries have reported having local governments with disaster risk reduction strategies, an increase from 51 countries in 2015.

**Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

116. ***Developing countries bear a large part of the climate, biodiversity and pollution impacts of resource intensive production processes, while not reaping their benefits. This situation has been made worse by the impacts of the pandemic. As part of sustainable global pandemic recovery strategies, the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) will maximize the socio-economic benefits of resource use while minimizing their impacts.***

117. In 2021, 83 policy instruments supporting the shift to SCP were reported by 26 countries, bringing the total number of policies developed, adopted and/or implemented up to 438 (reported by 59 countries and the European Union for 2019-2021). However, the distribution of reported SCP policies has so far been uneven, with 79% of policies reported from high and upper-middle income countries, 0.5% from low-income countries, and only 7.7% from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
118. The global material footprint continues to grow, although the pace has slowed. The average annual growth rate of the global material footprint for 2015–2019 was 1.1%, compared to 2.8% for 2000–2014, indicating a slowdown in the growth of economic pressure on the environment.
119. The proportion of food lost globally after harvest on farm, transport, storage, wholesale, and processing levels, is estimated at 13.3% in 2020, with no visible trend since 2016, suggesting that structural patterns of food losses have not changed. At the regional level, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest losses at 21.4%, with food being lost in large quantities between the farm and retail levels.
120. In addition to food loss, it is estimated that 931 million tonnes of food, or 17% of total food available to consumers in 2019, was wasted at household, food service and retail level. Subsequent evidence suggests that household food waste declined during COVID-19 lockdowns but has since returned to pre-pandemic levels.
121. COVID-19 aggravated the global crisis on pollution, in particular plastics pollution, making the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions so much more urgent and important. The year 2021 was marked by the establishment of a new global regime for controlling trade of plastic wastes for better transparency and tracing following the adoption of the Plastic Waste Amendments to the Basel Convention in 2019.
122. A preliminary analysis from a sample of over 10,000 public companies around the world shows that over 60% of large companies published sustainability reports in 2021, a twofold increase from 2016. The sustainability indicators that are most widely disclosed by companies include direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, board diversity, and the number of board meetings, while the least disclosed ones include ozone-depleting substances, gender pay gap, and bribery and fraud controversies.
123. As of December 2020, 40 countries had reported on Sustainable Public Procurement policies and action plans (or equivalent legal dispositions), to encourage the procurement of environmentally-sound, energy-efficient products, and to promote more socially-responsible purchasing practices and sustainable supply chains.
124. In 2020, governments spent \$375 billion on subsidies and other support for fossil fuels. While consumer subsidies decreased compared to 2019, this is largely due to low oil prices and decreased demand during the pandemic rather than structural reforms.



### **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

- 125. Increased heatwaves, droughts and floods caused by climate change are destroying the planet and affecting billions of lives worldwide. Despite the temporary reduction of CO2 emissions in 2020, global energy-related CO2 emissions are projected to rebound and grow by 4.0% as demand for coal, oil and gas rebounds with the economy in 2021. Based on current national commitments, global emissions are set to increase by almost 14% over the current decade, which could lead to a climate catastrophe unless governments, the private sector and civil society work together to take immediate action. However, the war in Ukraine threatens to become a huge setback for concerted efforts to speed up climate action.*
126. As of 31 December 2021, 123 countries have reported the adoption of national disaster risk reduction strategies, an increase from 55 countries in 2015. The number of countries with disaster risk reduction strategies that promote policy coherence with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, has reached 118, compared to only 44 in 2015. The COVID-19 crisis highlighted a further accelerated global effort and a more systemic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction strategies.
127. As of April 2022, 193 Parties (192 countries plus the EU) had communicated their first nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and 13 Parties have submitted their second NDCs. The NDCs illustrate that countries are articulating more quantified targets and indicators for adaptation, and identifying links between adaptation, SDGs, and other frameworks.
128. As of 31 March 2021, 125 of 154 developing countries are undertaking measures for national adaptation plans (NAPs) and are prioritizing formulation and implementation of NAPs in their adaptation efforts. Six LDCs (including three SIDS) and additional four SIDS have completed a NAP. More LDCs have a draft NAP and are on track to complete and submit these in line with the vision of all LDCs having their NAPs by 2021.
129. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, scientists recommend that by 2030 global emissions should be cut by 45% compared to 2010 levels. According to current national commitments however, global emissions are set to increase by almost 14% during the rest of the decade.

### **Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

- 130. The world's oceans and seas continue to struggle against increased acidification, eutrophication and plastic pollution, endangering the planet's largest ecosystem and billions of livelihoods depending on them. The pandemic has not eased that burden, where plastic waste has steadily entered the global ocean due to an increase in single-use plastic primarily*



*from medical waste. Due to initial lockdowns from the COVID-19 pandemic, most countries experienced a 40% to 80% decline in fish production, with small-scale fisher communities hardest hit. The pandemic also led to a dramatic reduction in tourism, causing substantial income losses for coastal and island communities.*

131. The satellite-derived eutrophication indicator shows an increasing trend from 2016 to the present. While COVID-19 may have caused some reduced coastal pollution in some areas due to reduced tourism and activity, the pandemic does not appear to have globally reduced eutrophication. In fact, there was over 23% increase in the peak values of the indicator for the 2020 and 2021 calendar year average, compared with the mean value for previous years.
132. Ocean acidification is the consequence of uptake of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by the ocean, resulting in a decreasing pH and increasing acidification of the ocean, thereby negatively affecting marine organisms and ocean services. Data collected from 308 stations from 35 countries in 2022 highlights the growing capacity of countries to observe the continued decline of ocean pH in the global ocean as well as the strong regional differences in the pace of change.
133. Between 2018 and 2022, the average degree of implementation of international instruments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as measured by the indicator has improved across the world. In this period, the global aggregated indicator has risen from 3 to 4 (out of a maximum score of 5). Countries have thus made good overall progress with close to 75% scoring highly in their degree of implementation of relevant international instruments in 2022 compared to 70% in 2018.
134. In the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022, the degree of adoption of regulatory frameworks supporting small-scale fisheries and promoting participatory decision-making has improved worldwide. The average global score has risen to 5 out of 5 in 2022, up from 4 out of 5 in 2020 and 3 out of 5 in 2018.
135. Overall, many States have ratified or acceded to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (168 parties) and its implementing agreements (151 parties for the 1994 Part XI Agreement and 91 parties for the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement). Many States have implemented these instruments through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, but this remains an area for further progress in several developing countries, in particular LDCs.

**Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

136. *Continued global deforestation, land and ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss pose major risks to human survival and sustainable development. Even as efforts are made in sustainable forest and natural resource management, commitments and instruments designed*

*to protect, restore and sustainably use forests and biodiversity need to be urgently carried out to ensure healthy, resilient societies.*

137. The world's forest area continues to decrease but at a slightly slower rate compared to previous decades. The proportion of forest area fell from 31.9% of total land area in 2000 to 31.2% in 2020. Despite the overall loss of forest, the world continues to progress towards sustainable forest management. Between 2010 and 2020, the share of forests under certification schemes, the proportion of forest within protected area and the proportion of forests under a long-term management plan increased globally.
138. Safeguarding Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) through the establishment of protected areas or other effective area-based conservation is an essential contribution towards SDGs 14 and 15. Globally, this coverage of marine, terrestrial, freshwater, and mountain KBAs has increased from around a quarter of each site on average covered by protected areas 20 years ago to nearly half in 2021.
139. Vegetation coverage of the world's mountains remains roughly stable at approximately 73% since 2015. Disaggregated data by mountain class shows that green cover tends to decrease with mountain elevation, evidencing the strong role of climate in mountain green cover patterns.
140. As of February 2022, 129 countries had committed to set their voluntary targets for achieving land degradation neutrality, and in 71 countries, governments had already officially endorsed these targets. Overall, commitments to land restoration are estimated at 1 billion hectares, out of which over 450 million hectares are committed through land degradation neutrality targets.
141. The Red List Index shows continuing deterioration in species extinction risk around the world, based on repeated assessments of the extinction risk of all amphibians, birds, mammals, corals, and cycads- about 25,000 species in total. The index went from 0.80 in 2000 to 0.72 in 2022. The prevalence and rate of extinction risk is particularly severe in Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-east Asia, and in SIDS. COVID-19 impacts on species extinction risk are likely mainly negative because of reduced conservation capacity and resources, along with increased threats.
142. At the end of 2021, 68 countries had at least one legislative, administrative or policy measure in place to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol. Furthermore, 79 countries reported measures in place to implement the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
143. Nearly all countries (98%) have adopted national legislation relevant to the prevention or control of invasive alien species, although there is wide variation in the coverage of this legislation across sectors.

144. There has been a steady upward trend in the number of countries incorporating biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems. Most countries have established national targets in relation to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2. However only about a third of countries are reporting that they are on track to reach or exceed their national targets. Despite progress, Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 was not met by 2020.
145. As of March 2022, 89 countries and territories have implemented the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) to make nature count in policies and build back better through accounts for natural resources and/or ecosystems. This number is unchanged from 2021. Four countries started compiling the newly adopted SEEA Ecosystem Accounting in 2021.
146. In 2021, a total of 234 biodiversity-relevant taxes are in force, spanning 62 countries. While these policy instruments provide incentives for SCP and thus, to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, they also generated revenue in the order of \$8.9 billion a year (2017-2019 average).
147. In 2020, DAC members' ODA in support of biodiversity was \$7.2 billion, an increase of 3% in real terms over 2019

**Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

- 148. Pleas for global peace are growing louder as the world witnesses the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, with approximately 2 billion people living in conflict-affected countries by the end of 2020. Amid these crises and despite COVID-19 pandemic movement restrictions, forced displacement has continued to occur and even grow. As of the end of 2020, 82.4 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide— meaning 1 in 95 persons is now forcibly displaced. These numbers will increase as the war in Ukraine is estimated to have already displaced over 7 million people in the country. The costs of war and conflict are high, affecting the poorest and most vulnerable the most and leading to global impacts and escalating humanitarian needs.*
149. Globally, around 437,000 people were victims of homicide in 2020. Between 2015 and 2020, the global homicide rate declined by 5.2% (from 5.9 homicides per 100,000 population to 5.6). Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by lethal violence in the home, accounting for around 60% of all homicide victims killed by intimate partners or other family members.
150. The UN recorded at least 11,075 civilian conflict-related deaths in 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts in 2021. This translates to 4.1 civilians per 100,000 population; one in eight of those deaths was a woman or child. Compared to 2020, the number of deaths decreased by 26% and by 80% compared to 2015. Despite the overall reduction, many of these situations are fragile with growing and ongoing risks of escalation and associated violations of international

human rights and international humanitarian law. As of 12 April 2022, OHCHR recorded 1,932 civilians killed in Ukraine conflict and the actual figure is considerably higher.

151. Based on survey data from 114 countries, on average, approximately 69% of the population report feeling safe or very safe walking alone around the area they live after dark, which has remained stable over 2016-2021. Women continue to feel significantly less safe than men.
152. Violence against children is widespread, affecting children regardless of wealth or social status. In 76 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries with available data from 2013 to 2021, 8 in 10 children aged one to 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the previous month.
153. In 2018, for every 10 victims of human trafficking detected globally, about five were adult women and two were girls. About one third of the overall detected victims were children. The sharp increase in unemployment rates brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to increase trafficking in persons. Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, are also particularly at risk of human trafficking and exploitation.
154. Only 60 countries (mostly low- and middle-income) have internationally comparable data on sexual violence in childhood against girls and only 12 have produced such data for boys. Across regions with representative estimates in 2020, the prevalence of sexual violence in childhood among young women aged 18-29 ranges from 2% in Central and Southern Asia to 7% in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).
155. By the end of 2020, 11.2 million people were held behind bars compared to just under 11.8 million people in 2019—the first decrease in the last two decades. This reeducation can be attributed to various reasons, including the emergency release of prisoners and reduced admissions of new detainees due to court delays or reduced crime and/or law enforcement activities during the lockdown measures following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the share of prisoners held in detention without being sentenced was roughly 1 in every 3 prisoners, the same level since 2000.
156. On average, Member States with available data successfully traced 28% of seized weapons that are potentially traceable between 2016 and 2020. In 2018-2019, according to available data, national authorities destroyed on average 48% of the weapons seized, found and surrendered.
157. Globally, almost one in six businesses face requests for bribe payments by public officials, based on establishment-level data from 145 countries surveyed during 2006-2021.
158. Parliaments and their leaders have become younger and more gender-diverse in the past five years. Youth representation (aged 45 or below) stood at 28.1% in 2018, climbed to 31.1% in 2021, and then dropped to 30.2% in 2022. The proportion of women Speakers rose gradually from 17.3% in 2018 to 22% in 2022. Yet it continues to be below the global average of women

in parliament (26.1%). The proportion of women committee chairs fell from 26.8% in 2021 to 26.2% in 2022. Male parliamentarians aged 46 and above continue to dominate leadership positions in parliament, holding 71.8% of Speaker posts and 60.5% of committee chairs.

159. By providing all children with proof of legal identity from day one, their rights can be protected and universal access to justice and social services can be enabled. Yet the births of around 1 in 4 children under age 5 worldwide today have never been officially recorded based on data for 2012-2021. Only half of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa have had their births registered.
160. Access to information (ATI) laws have been adopted by 135 countries as of 2021, with at least 30 adopting such guarantees since 2015. However, implementation of these guarantees could be improved. Out of 91 countries and territories with ATI laws, only 44% had data in 2020 on the number of requests for information received, indicating some difficulties faced by public bodies to treat and follow up ATI requests during the COVID-19 pandemic.
161. Progress in establishing or strengthening national human rights institutions (NHRIs) decelerated in 2021. On average, four new NHRIs applied for accreditation every year for the period 2015-2017 compared to only one new application for NHRI accreditation per year for the period 2018-2021. Only 43% of countries currently benefit from independent NHRIs.

### **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

162. *Despite a strong rebound of global foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittance flows, many developing countries are left with competing priorities for limited fiscal space and finding it harder than ever to recover economically. With the pandemic far from over and vaccine distribution grossly unequal across the globe, there is threat of a 'two-tiered' COVID-19 recovery. With the global system facing a multitude of crises across the social, health, environmental and peace and security spectrum, there is an urgent need for scaled up international cooperation to find lasting solutions.*

### **Finance**

163. Based on most recent data, across approximately 130 economies, government revenue accounted for approximately 34% of GDP on average in 2020. In addition, the average overall tax burden or revenue in the form of taxes, is 25% of GDP amongst advanced economies and 16% of GDP amongst emerging market and developing economies.
164. Net ODA flows were \$177.6 billion (current price) in 2021, an increase of 3.3% in real terms compared to 2020, reaching a new peak. This is equivalent to 0.33% of DAC donors' combined gross national income, up from 0.32% in 2020 but below the target of 0.7% ODA to GNI. Since the SDGs were adopted in 2015, net ODA has increased by 20%.

165. Global FDI flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77% to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from less than \$1 trillion in 2020, surpassing their pre-COVID-19 level.
166. Despite COVID-19, remittance flows to low and middle-income countries were projected to have grown a strong 7.3% to reach \$589 billion in 2021.

### **Information and communications technology**

167. The latest data show that uptake of the Internet accelerated during the pandemic. The number of users surged by 782 million to reach 4.9 billion people in 2021, or 63% of the population, up from 4.1 billion people in 2019. Globally, in 2020, 62% of men were using the Internet, compared with 57% of women.
168. Fixed broadband subscriptions continue to grow steadily, attaining 17 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants on a global average in 2021. In the LDCs, despite double-digit growth, fixed broadband remains a privilege of the few, with only 1.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.
169. Growth in trade of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) over 2015-2020 was 5% which, while positive, represented a drop in the overall growth rate prior to COVID-19 (8% growth rate over 2015-2019). While the pandemic has had a negative impact on international trade, those countries with strong economies, large manufacturing and/or financial bases and a focus on innovation are increasing their investment and trade in ESTs.

### **Trade**

170. Tariff rates have remained unchanged amid the pandemic. The worldwide weighted tariff average remains stable at around 2%. The latest figures from 2020 indicate that agriculture and clothing products continue to face the highest tariff rates at about 6%, followed by textiles at 4% and industrial products at 1.4%.
171. In 2020, the share of LDCs' exports in global merchandise trade amounted to 1.03%. The target of "doubling the share of LDCs' exports" by 2020, from its value of 1.03% in 2011, has therefore not been met. The share of all developing countries' exports in global merchandise trade reached 45.9% in 2020, a share 0.6 percentage points larger than in 2015.
172. The special tariff treatment developed countries offer to developing countries, SIDs, and LDCs remains unchanged. This is equally true when data is analysed at a sectoral level. The average tariff applied to developing countries' products has remained stagnant since 2011, highest for clothing and agriculture (both at 8%) and textiles (5%).

### **Data, monitoring and accountability**

173. In 2021, 142 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation compliant with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, up from 136 in 2020 and 107 in 2016.
174. In 2021, 150 countries and territories reported implementing a national statistical plan, up from 132 in 2020, with 84 of those fully funded. The pandemic has delayed the development of new national statistical plans worldwide, meaning many NSOs are implementing expired statistical plans that may not fully cover their evolving development objectives.
175. Between 2018 and 2019, ODA for data and statistics rose to \$662 million. However, this amount is less than the commitment received in 2016 (\$674 million). The overall trend of funding for data and statistics has also remained stagnant in recent years, with only 0.3% of total ODA dedicated to this area.
176. For 2016-2020, 148 countries have birth registration data that are at least 90% complete and 154 countries have death registration data that are at least 75% complete. Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the lowest birth and death registration completion rate, followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and Oceania.