



UN Major Group for  
**Children and Youth**  
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

# UN Major Group for Children and Youth

## Sectoral Position Paper

### Table of Contents

Glossary	3
Introduction	4
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	4
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	4
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	6
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable / New Urban Agenda / Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	8
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns / 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP)	10
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 / Convention on Biodiversity / UN Forum on Forest	11
Goal 17/ FfD. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	12
Emerging Issues and Systemic Barriers	13
Coherence and other Sustainable Development Frameworks	15
CSW/Gender	15
Humanitarian Affairs	15
Migration:	15
Disaster Risk Reduction / Sendai Framework for DRR	16
SPI	17
UNEA 4	17

## Glossary

<b>SFDRR</b>	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>NUA</b>	New Urban Agenda
<b>Agenda 2030</b>	Transforming our world Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
<b>HLPF</b>	High Level Political Forum
<b>UNMGCY</b>	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Funds
<b>OECD</b>	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>SPI</b>	Science-Policy Interface
<b>STI</b>	Science, Technology & Innovation

## Introduction

This paper details the inputs of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) to the 2018 High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) corresponding to its theme, *“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”*. It addresses challenges, obstacles, and opportunities as well as policy recommendation for implementing Agenda 2030 and sustainable development frameworks at the national level, highlighting young people’s priorities. This also tackles emerging issues as well as engagement by Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

## 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

SDG 6 is dedicated to realise the human rights to water and sanitation. It deals with all aspects of water availability, access and use. The targets within this goal are closely linked to one another and also to other goals. SDG 6 calls upon all nations to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. It places water and sanitation at the core of sustainable development, cutting across sectors and regions.

Brief status of implementation of the goal

Monitoring systems: A Study by [End Water Poverty](#) and consortium (2018) reports that many countries are still in the initial stages of developing of monitoring systems to assess progress toward SDG 6. Some other countries have just finalized or are in the process of conducting gap analyses to align their national monitoring mechanisms with 2030 agenda. After three years, there is still much more work to done on it.

Accountability mechanisms: The same study that covered national studies from 27 countries concludes that almost none have clearly allocated responsibility for achieving SDG 6. Accountability mechanisms and tools used in these countries so far are ad hoc and lack a comprehensive approach. The same study highlights that many CSOs are confused about their roles and mandates regarding SDG 6.

Progress on monitoring:

- UN-Water’s synthesis report will be critical to provide new insights on progress toward SDG 6 and the inter-linkages between SDG 6 and other SDGs.
- As challenges exist to the capacity of national statistical offices, the input and data gathered by NGOs and groups become an important asset to monitor progress of the implementation of the SDGs. The study ([EWP, 2018](#)) highlights that many CSOs are confused about their roles and mandates regarding SDG 6. We recognise this confusion. Therefore, we call for better information for CSOs on how to contribute to monitoring of SDGs, especially on how information can be gathered and shared with the global community.

## Policy recommendations

### ***For national implementation:***

- Develop formal accountability mechanisms at national and local levels, allowing meaningful consultation of all stakeholders, including youth. Citizens engagement should be made mandatory with specifically allocated resources.
- Prioritise data disaggregation in accordance with A/Res/68/261. Data disaggregation has been left behind for SDG 6. Specific attention for certain groups such as women, refugees, disabled people and youth is extremely relevant for SDG 6, as it provides insights on who and where to focus attention<sup>1</sup>
- Ensure data is openly and easily accessible, to provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to effectively contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Investments should be made to empower civil society, including young people, to interpret data and develop activities to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Contributing to shadow reports is not always feasible due to technological and time constraints.
- Develop monitoring systems that allow tracking progress for the most marginalized groups.

### ***For international implementation:***

- Monitoring mechanism should designate space for stakeholders, including youth-led organisations.
- Need for including an indicator on capacity development to capture. For instance: how many people are educated on water in each of the countries; how much resources are being allocated nationally to ensure capacity development of public staff as well as other youth working for CSOs etc.

### ***How can we make sure that private sectors align with this framework/SDG***

- Although the World Bank estimates that SDG 6 targets will cost (for constructing new infrastructure) about US \$114 billion a year and ODA is about \$18 billion a year, this does not necessarily call for blind Public Private Partnership (PPP). Often PPP is inadequate and unsuccessful for critical infrastructure. Publicly financed project is essential for moving forward.
- The activities and contribution of private stakeholders could be expressly defined in legally binding agreements with explicit reference to the right to water in all its aspect as the primary goal of these agreements.
- Different settings – public resources, the local needs and specificities – require different solutions and because there is no one unique and universal model concerning the monitoring or management of freshwater resource and sanitation States may have recourse by choice or necessity to private stakeholders or water managements including privatization. In order to make sure that private actors comply with the duty to respect the enjoyment of the right to water and sanitation for individuals, especially through the criteria of affordability for all the population including the most vulnerable

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<sup>1</sup> see. [Winkler and Roaf, 2015](#)

among them – such as children, women, slum dwellers, people living in rural areas, people living in poverty, indigenous groups, minorities, or person with disabilities – States actors are strongly invited to : use adequate oversight and regulation, including effective monitoring and complaint procedures ; national legal mechanisms preventing corruption in all the aspect of their cooperation with private stakeholders; national legal framework and legally binding agreements, which clearly define their rights and obligations, and promote pro-poor and non-discriminatory service provision.

- The voluntary submissions by companies of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities programs to the UN Special Rapporteur On The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation give information on their charitable and voluntary actions related to water, but in order to bring guarantees that they align with the rights to sanitation and water in a domestic use, private stakeholders should be more explicit concerning the way they are concretely comply with their human rights responsibilities related to this SDG in their core business.

### ***Emerging issues and Barriers***

- There are no concrete modalities set out by CSOs for independent monitoring, progress assessment and reporting on SDG 6.
- The rising privatization of water resources and services is leading to issues linked to pricing, provision and access. To address this so that ‘no one is left behind’ to secure access to safe drinking water, public sector must work together and relevant policies should be devised to address this growing challenge.
- Climate change and human rights to water and sanitation are intrinsically linked to each other. Policy addressing either one possible impacts on another negatively. It is important to have a ex-ante assessment through engagement of stakeholders in order to avoid unpredicted outcome.
- The right to water cannot be analyzed in isolation from other human rights.

## **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.<sup>2</sup>**

Recognizing affordable, renewable energy availability, and energy efficiency as a standalone goal has been a key to understand the many interlinkages of energy field to the other SDGs. It is important that the communities understand the different forms of energy sources, conversion methods and the related emissions in overall processes. The transition is a steady process that takes time and there are important junctures within this transition which needs attention like the available of jobs and job transitions for youth, continuous evaluation of grid/off grid implementation needs, appraisal of new technology availability, and possibility of technology transfer.

Brief status of implementation of the goal

### ***SDG7 Global Conference Bangkok***

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<sup>2</sup> Link to the full position paper which was prepared for SDG7 EGM in Bangkok: [link](#)

- The Global SDG7 conference served as a global preparatory meeting in support of the first review of SDG 7 at the 2018 UN HLPF. It offered the first substantive review inputs and highlighted the strategic interlinkage between SDG 7 and other SDGs. As put by the SDG 7 Outcome document *“achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy is inextricably interlinked to almost all the SDGs, including poverty eradication; food security; clean water and sanitation; health; education; prosperity; job creation; and the empowerment of youth and women”*.
- Two youth speaking slots were granted to UN-MGCY to contribute as lead discussants at the SD7 Global Conference main event.
- Over 1 billion people still live without access to electricity while about 3 billion people live without safe cooking fuels or technologies.
- There need for closer cooperation between the private and public sector to bridge the financing gap in achieving SDG 7
- The conference made no specific effort at youth inclusion in the the process. There very limited participation of young people in a sector which their effort at advocacy, monitoring, innovation and implementation is widely acknowledged and needed.
- The conference agreed that future policies should accommodate gender dimensions and should be inclusive of women, children, youth and civil society for effective results.
- Continuing the SDG7 related work initiated during the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2018, a position paper was forwarded to the UN-Energy and other stakeholders in collaboration with YOUNGO.

#### Progress on monitoring:

- IRENA 2018 report shows that renewables employs 10.3 million people globally showing a consistent rise for at least the past three years
- There is a growing acceptance and investment in clean energy by the private sector and this growth is expected to continue
- Most governments of developing countries are not too willing to commit funds to ambitious clean energy projects but more likely to come on board when international partners are supporting
- There is still a resistance in some countries from the fossil fuel companies/players who prevail on the government influence to make policies unfavourable to the goals of SDG 7

#### Policy recommendations

##### ***For national implementation:***

- Ensure the robustness, resilience, responsiveness and flexibility of energy systems in the regions impacted by climate change and other forms of natural and human-induced disasters (including conflict). This entails making the energy infrastructure more resilient and constructing them in a manner that is environmentally and socially responsible.
- Create spaces for young practitioners to gain access to knowledge and information on sustainable energy tools, renewable energy technologies, supportive policy

frameworks, innovative business models and methods of implementation, follow-up and review.

- There is need for robust civil society engagement in this sector especially youth organizations, to boost monitoring. It currently looks like a closed space for only industry players.
- Sufficient capacity building is needed for NGOs and organizations involved in review to understand the scope of SDG 7 and where exactly to engage. It will help converge efforts.

### ***For international implementation:***

- Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries

### Emerging issues and Barriers

- Lack of designing and implementing suitable policies and regulations considering the decreased prices in Solar power generation through PV and the other Renewable Energy Systems [RES].
- The competing energy sources in relation to the ability to manage the fluctuating behaviors of availability (intermittent availability)
- Lack of suitable energy storage technologies to harness the full potential of the RES.
- Intended short term solutions for energy crises being used exceeding their original timeline.

## **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable / New Urban Agenda / Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

### Brief status of implementation of the goal

Considering territorial dimensions provides important insights into the space-based and place-specific conditions influencing progress towards the 2030 Agenda and other relevant frameworks. SDG 11 and other goals and targets with spatial dimensions, as well as other international agendas including the New Urban Agenda (NUA), reaffirm the global commitment to sustainable urban development (SUD) as a critical step in realizing sustainable development as a whole, in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels.

Recognizing the indivisibility of Agenda 2030, achieving SUD hinges on making significant progress towards each SDG. Given the ongoing urbanization of the world's population, the urban dimensions of each SDG must be adequately considered in both implementation and

monitoring. To this end, it is crucial to ensure that rigorous follow-up and review mechanisms are in place for the NUA.

Cities cannot be considered sustainable if they are not safe for all. Globally, it is estimated that up to 50 percent of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16, yet reliable data on the scale and nature of this on that national level is limited. In a poll commissioned by WAGGGS, 60% of girls said they had experienced harassment in public, 50% of them reporting physical or sexual harassment. Harassment that takes place on streets, in public transport, on route to and within schools often happens in broad daylight - in the places and spaces where girls and young women should be guaranteed their safety - violates their rights and contributes to their invisibilizing as development agents.

The successful implementation of SDG 11 and its targets is contingent on expanding the notions of territories and settlements beyond “cities” to include all forms of human communities. This will require viewing both the formal and informal parts of territories within the same framework and implementing just and inclusive spatial planning strategies that consider the needs, as outlined by internationally agreed human rights, and purchasing power of the most vulnerable groups, as well as respecting planetary boundaries and biologic carrying capacities.

Measuring risks in a systematic, disaggregated, and standardized way is fundamental to designing effective disaster risk reduction strategies, allocation of scarce resources, and monitoring progress. Of relevance, UNISDR recently launched the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) as a tool to track progress in implementing the seven targets of the SFDRR as well as its related dimensions reflected in SDGs 1, 11 and 13. Understanding unique attributes, risks, and vulnerabilities of urban areas (e.g. population growth, resource depletion, pollution, political instability, etc.) is important to guide rapid urbanization in ways that plans for current and future needs. Urban resilience is a measure for withstanding and maintaining continuity through risks while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability. In this sense, UN-Habitat developed an urban system methodology (City Resilience Profiling Tool) as a model through which a comprehensive resilience diagnosis of a city can be achieved.

## Policy Recommendations

Successful implementation requires developing national and local urban policies that balances the three dimensions - economic, social, and environmental - of sustainable development. Recommendations for transforming cities into sustainable societies are the following:

- Ensure the availability of decent and affordable housing dedicated specially for the low income groups through moving beyond private sector engagement and focusing on community-led upgradation models as well as cooperatives.
- Cities must be treated not only as a space for economic function but also as a creative and critical space where each individual is encouraged to express and practice their social, political and cultural beliefs in ways that promote sustainable livelihoods.
- The built environment of the cities are becoming more exclusionary which is a threat to the essence of public space. The cities must have the public space which is accessible for all beyond class and groups.

- Expand the number and capacity of revenue tools available to local governments with due consideration of horizontal inequality between municipalities. It is often the case that the local governments have so much mandate with little finance. The municipality should have adequate resources to meet their mandatory delivery through transfers from national governments and allocate youth-led responsive budgeting.
- Promote horizontal and vertical integration of governance in order to address the territorial continuum as such, as opposed to rural and urban dichotomy.
- Achieve necessary financial resources as well as providing a flexible economy, such as through a minimum and maximum income ratio. This also tackles the perpetual dichotomy where the informal sector in urban areas is considered wrong while formalism is a fundamental solution. By providing a social protection floor, it can provide the liveable space for all.
- The public transportation model of the cities are not only becoming unaffordable but fail to meet trajectories for decarbonizing the economy and meeting targets outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement. Therefore, besides environmental policies, there also should be monitoring on the vehicle related taxation both for the buyer and producer.
- The principle of intergenerational equity must be placed at the centre of national, subnational, and local housing policy. Establishing enabling frameworks, including housing finance and land use regulation, compatible with the full spectrum of housing tenure arrangements is crucial to ensuring current and future generations have access to affordable and adequate housing.
- Private sector and businesses should take into consideration corporate social responsibility that sustains cultural values, environment and promote equitable urban development.
- Prioritize equal access to public spaces and services to citizens most vulnerable to rights violations such as public harassment; specifically girls and young women.

#### Emerging Issues and Barriers:

- Guaranteeing local community engagement in implementing global agendas is imperative but requires overcoming languages, cultural, social, economic, and administrative barriers, as well as addressing digital skills gaps and shrinking civil society spaces.
- Urban planning has mostly been focused on the spatial dimension of the rural-urban linkage. It has yet to strengthen the social, economic and cultural transition and integration of connecting both, and is often gender-blind or lacking in focus to address the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Retaining the practices, knowledge and culture of Indigenous peoples and use this for better territorial planning including protecting the environment from degradation.
- Human rights violations against the urban poor is becoming more embedded in the urban development policies that seeks to develop the physical infrastructure of the cities through exclusionary processes.
- The ongoing 'financialization of housing', referring to the expanding role of global capital markets in the housing sector, presents a barrier to achieving safe, affordable, and adequate housing for all.

## **Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns / 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP)**

The important transversal role of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda has been clearly affirmed with the inclusion of a standalone goal (SDG12), and the importance of 10YFP is highlighted in target 12.1 target

In terms of SCP, the UNEP has been requested to act as the Secretariat of the SCP-10 Year Framework and to establish and administer a Trust Fund to Support the implementation of SCP standards in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The GA in its 67th Session (UNGA67) nominated ECOSOC as the interim body to receive reports and decided to establish a Board composed of ten members, at the rate of two members for each regional group of the United Nations. All governments have been invited to nominate national focal points in SCP, as well as the Major Groups to name their focal points of relevant actors.

The changes of consumption of fossil energy to sustainable energies, the promotion of programs for sustainable technology, are good advances towards achievement of SCP, but not enough. Transfer of knowledge, sustainable culture, change of actual patterns, data management and others are fundamental keys to advance.

### Policy Recommendations

- Developed countries have responsibilities to support developing countries with technology, sharing experiences and financial support to programs for SCP.
- Investment in education for the development of technologies for SCP, and in youth researchers for SCP are essential
- Set up a mandatory framework to reshape and redesign the behaviours of private sectors in its supply chain.
- Achieve the integration of all countries and their national or sectoral plans to 10YFP, fostering sustainable technological development.
- Achieve an ecological management of chemical products, waste and garbage, minimizing its impact on the environment, through different programs.
- Integrate the environmental externalities (risk associated with and exaggerated by environmental degradation ) into internarity of economy through taxation.
- Promote sustainable tourism and local products.

## 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 / Convention on Biodiversity / UN Forum on Forest

### Brief status of implementation of the Goal

SDG 15 will not be achievable without taking into account the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Global Forest Goals. The annual progress report on SDGs shows that despite improvements towards a sustainable management of forests and protected areas, the declining trends in land productivity, degradation, biodiversity loss, poaching and trafficking of wildlife are still not slowing down and are far from being reversed. There is also a lack of political will to address some of the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss such as perverse subsidies and the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into other sectors. Equally, the lack of technical and financial capacities is underlined by many governments in their VNRs. It is crucial to increase the capacities of the teams in charge of the implementation of the biodiversity related commitments in developing countries, especially those considered mega-diverse countries.

### Provide policy recommendation for national + international implementation

- The indicator for the targets 15.a and b is the Gross disbursements of total ODA from all donors for Biodiversity. While this is a good indicator, it may be insufficient without differentiating the quantity vs. quality of finance. Tied aid is not always effective for the distribution of financial resources for conservation, as often most of the financial resources are lost in the process (e.g. consultant salaries) and do not go into the local stakeholders that are implementing the conservation strategies. Lack of secure financial contribution hinders the recipient countries from planning for the long-term. Additionally, available amounts are not enough to reach the estimated financial need between \$74 and \$120 billion, less than 6,9% of the annual world military budget, to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. But the amount spent on biodiversity is far lesser than this.
- Implementation of effective management strategies relating to SDG15 requires support from all stakeholders. Informing and involving local communities - especially young people through education - is imperative, so that their connection to and understanding of nature more readily allows yield the much-needed support from stakeholders for effective implementation of nature conservation/ restoration efforts.
- An underlying condition for yielding said support is the creation of the greatest possible (transnational) transparency regarding carbon data and forestry data in order to empower people from all kinds of communities to partake in the realization of the management strategies relating to SDG15.

## Emerging Issues and Barriers

- Habitat loss and invasive alien species
- Widespread poaching and trafficking of endangered species and products
- Increased threats to mountain ecosystems and pollinators

## Goal 17/ FfD. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

### Brief status of implementation of the goal

Global financial landscape has been opening up its window to sustainability in concerning about climate change, exploited labour rights, and both private and public investors value the sustainability in its portfolio management. While trends are certainly borne, we are urged to create more rapid and dynamic policy for what financial instruments and mechanisms are wished for the era of sustainability, and for how flow for sustainable development is captured.

To clarify the financial instruments for sustainability and accurately capture the full potential of financial flow for sustainable development, below are several best practices;

Data has also become a central feature of the development agenda that requires a purpose-driven data revolution to turn “big data” into impactful and relevant bits. Numbers are often used to justify policy action and demonstrate effects of policy decisions. However, this can often be politicized to influence the allocation of limited resources under the false impression of “evidence-based” practices.

The notion of “objectivity” in data is difficult to defend, as there is always a degree of subjectivity, whether in establishing inclusion/exclusion principles in data or its interpretation. Data, nevertheless, remains a powerful tool with the potential to provide unique insights into complex systems. To fully reap the benefits of data and avoid the perpetuation of uncertainty that can arise, below are several recommendations:

### Emergent issues

- Ensure that Stock Exchanges make a listing requirement mandatory to report ESG annually or explain why not doing so by 2023/2027/2030.
- Concrete initiatives like UNEP’s Ecological Risk Integration into Sovereign Credit (E-RISC), and Ecological Tax Reform (ETR- shifting base from value addition to extraction and pollution) should be expanded and applied universally, as a step towards internalising externalities
- Addressing the issue of stranded assets and the carbon bubble
- Under the Basel convention, MSs should add a clause to incorporate ‘ecologically sound’ banking practices, and facilitate a transition from fractional to full reserve banking,
- Convene a process to address SDG 16.4 aiming to significantly reduce Illicit Financial Flows and to implement the *Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)*.
- Convene a process at the global level, through ECOSOC, to ponder, evaluate, and define common standards on Public-Private Partnerships.

## Data

- Establish best practices for the appropriate collection, interpretation, and reporting of data to minimize bias;
- Promote transparency and openness to allow users to assess the saliency, legitimacy, and credibility of the process and tools used for collecting data, as well as designing technically informed policy recommendations;
- Complement data from various sources, including citizen-generated data, and that from different knowledge streams, including traditional indigenous and non-formal knowledge systems, including both quantitative and qualitative variables;
- Validate the source of data to screen for conflicts of interest and potential bias;
- Enhance the statistical capacity at all levels
- Establish the international standard monitoring systems for capturing several financial instruments;

## **Emerging Issues and Systemic Barriers**

### Militarised Political Economy

Militarised political economies have been the root causes of many social issues such as poverty, inequalities, and interventionist-imperialist war against the developing countries. At national level it also prioritise defence expenditures over social sector spending. This long-due trend is contradictory to the right to development.

While the World Bank, IMF, OECD, and developed countries consistently prioritise the private sector over public finance on the basis that the ODA and available finance in public sectors are too short to fill the gap towards “trillion” of financial needs, global military expenditure was more than 12 times global expenditure for ODA in 2010. Women major group in 2017 calculated that “income of the global feminist movement (\$106 million for 740 women’s organizations) was less than the cost of a single F-35 Fighter plane (\$137 million)”.

Cost of Legal and/or illegal arms transfers in human rights, peace, and sustainable development is uncalculatively large. Despite the infamous human rights records of countries who continue to airstrike and conduct bomberment in Yemen, arms transfers from the United Kingdom, USA, Sweden, Germany<sup>3</sup>, and France continued its exportation to those countries. The 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without immediately stopping those anti-human rights behaviours and prioritisation of war and conflict economies. This masculine dominance models are not conducive to sustainable development and double standards by those arm exports should be condemned publically.

### **Degrowth/alternative measures of progress**

Our social and economic systems are built on the assumption that an increase in economic growth, measured through GDP, produces benefits for all and improvements in quality of life. High growth rates have become to be seen as a mark of success in their own right, rather than

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<sup>3</sup> Recently, the government halted its arms transfer.

as a means to an end. Governments all over the world have been willing to sacrifice everything from public service to equality of opportunity to clean air for a few percentage points in GDP growth.

GDP does not, and is not intended to, measure wellbeing. It measures the sum total of everything we produce over a given period, without valuing what is produced against ethical standards or sustainability. GDP is growing and hence the economy is said to be doing 'well' when environmental pollution creates new production such as medicine to treat the adverse health effects caused by air pollution. GDP, as an aggregate number, also completely ignores how the fruits of that growth are invested or shared.

The real problem with GDP as a metric, however, is its effects on policy making. What gets measured gets managed. In search for economic growth, governments have adopted a set of resource-intensive measures greatly contributing to climate change. The elusive quest for GDP-driven growth has fostered a consumerist culture across the world for those who can afford to participate in it, whereby people are reduced to 'consumers' and societies to 'markets'. Socially, it has led to the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of fewer and fewer individuals. In and of itself, economic growth will not reduce poverty or inequality, as has been proven in many regions. A reliance on GDP measures makes us complacent because they hide the true cost of growth for people and planet.

Economic growth should no longer be seen as an end in itself, but as one possible means of supporting the wellbeing of people, as long as it does not cause adverse environmental impacts. Governments and international institutions must contribute to change by initiating a fundamental debate on what progress means and how society can be structured towards the achievement of collective wellbeing and adopting alternative measures of progress based on sustainable development and the real wellbeing of people and planet in line with SDG target 17.19.

**Future of work:** The future of work is strongly linked to sustainable development and will impact many dimensions of life in and beyond employment. Moreover it will affect all members of society including those who work, those who cannot work, and those who are unable to find work.

Governments and other stakeholders must work together now to explore and address these challenges to ensure a future labour market that is both sustainable and inclusive. To address the megatrends and challenges influencing the world of work (e.g. digitization & automation, ageing population; globalization/business re-organization), new structures need to be created. The objective should be to connect and reinforce different projects that are able to drive and inspire people-centred work environments enabling employability and inclusive labour markets.

## **Coherence and other Sustainable Development Frameworks**

### **CSW/Gender**

The successful delivery of all the SDGs is contingent on the empowerment of women and girls, as illustrated by the inclusion of targets across the goals that consider gender inequalities as barriers to implementation. Essential to overcoming structural barriers that serve to limit agency or influence of girls and young women is the inclusion of their voices in spaces that concern them. This can only be achieved by recognising them as legitimate actors in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and by counting and considering their concerns.

Data collection is vital for tracking the implementation of the targets and indicators of the SDGs. However, there are few formal channels to collect the voices or experiences of young people, especially girls and young women, within the SDG monitoring and review processes. As the empowerment of women begins with empowering girls, it requires holistic legal and legislative changes, as well as targeted efforts by States to commit budget to consult women when building gender-sensitive, sustainable responses and funding of policy implementation, including the training of law enforcement.

### **Humanitarian Affairs**

The world has been experiencing humanitarian crises that are not only large in magnitude but also more complex due to socio-political factors. There is no safe human settlement without peace. The world must not become numb with the continuous violations in international laws and ruthless attacks to civilians. Member states must continue to promote harmonisation and maintain the humanitarian corridor in which all civilians and humanitarian workers are safe. On the other hand, various humanitarian organisations must be held accountable to all their interventions with technical and ethical standards, such as in accordance to the SPHERE guidelines in relation to Goal 6 for access to quality water and sanitation. It should also be noted that, as seen in such example, climate change and environmental degradation may further threaten effective humanitarian response. Everyone has a moral obligation and a role in ensuring the continuous mitigation of risks, as well as improvement of both local and international responses to emergencies. The human potential of young people are often underused if they are only considered as a vulnerable population. UNMGCY applauds to the growing companionship with various international organisations to uphold the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, which recognises the rights and responsibility of the next generation at all local, regional and global levels.

### **Migration:**

The Migration Working Group of the UN MGCY is helping to facilitate youth engagement with the Global Compact on Migration.

The issue of migration has been always linked to the following SDGs targets 10.7/10.7.2/8.7 and G 17. However, the UN MGCY Migration working group is highlighting the interlinkages

between migration and other SDGs e.g: SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 3. Additionally, the MWG is advocating for more collaboration between the 2030 agenda and the GCM especially in the implementation, and the follow up and review.

The UN MGCY recommendation on the Implementation, Follow up and Review:

This section needs to make specific references to rights holders including the major groups and other stakeholders. This should draw on language that has already been inter-governmentally agreed to through universal consensus in GA Res. 67/290.

It lays down very specific modalities for Major Group and Other Stakeholders, including migrants and families especially in paragraphs (paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 24.) It is important to specially focus on paragraph 14 which “Encourages MGoS to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation.....”. More specifically, Children, Youth, and women should be added to Paragraphs: 41 and 43.

We welcome the initiative of the capacity building around the GCM and as part of the implementation, however, the capacity building should be a clear mechanism, and including the funding mechanism. We believe that the allocation of funding should take into consideration the national capacity of the states.

The GCM needs to understand youth resilience, build the capacity for their wellbeing, and address their needs by effectively engaging them in ongoing migration policies and collaborations, migration has the potential to have positive impacts on the development prospects of young people and also for the society that are hosting these youth potentials.

## **Disaster Risk Reduction / Sendai Framework for DRR**

The UN MGCY DRR Working Group is the facilitation mechanism of the children and youth stakeholder group within the Sendai Framework on DRR 2015-2030 implementation, follow up and review.

### **Brief status of implementation of the Sendai Framework**

The Policy & Advocacy strategy strives to facilitate a minimum 3 consultations per region, and produce regional DRR position papers, which feed into a global position paper. As part of our strategy to evolve the DRR WG to be inclusive, we are introducing a MENA WG this year. They, with the other working groups, have been preparing to take an active role in their regions in preparation for the local platforms. Our youth actions can be mapped to showcase youth actions in regional & global platform, as well as social media.

Additionally our capacity building strategy aims to disseminate the the Seeds for Safer Tomorrow Toolkit which was produced and presented in a webinar and at the GPDRR in 2017.

Our knowledge stream helps disseminate data through open platforms. Since Sendai, we have been taking collective actions, and reporting on their progress. Some of these are:

- First, the Young Scientist Roadmap launched at the Science and Technology Conference in January 2016. This was designed to further enhance and support the UNISDR science and technology Roadmap.

- Second, the Youth Engagement Platform (YEP). This is the primary mechanism developed by UN MGCY in consultation with UNISDR to mobilise youth regionally and globally to meaningfully contribute to the Sendai Framework's priority areas.

## Provide policy recommendation for national + international implementation

Youth constituency has made the following key recommendations and committed to being partners in the following actions to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the PoA across the globe:

1. Promote the building of DRR culture by ensuring broader engagement and coordination of decision makers in bridging the gap between communities, practitioners, science and technology community, private sector and civil society organisations
2. Organise consultations on the draft programme for the 2018 Regional Platforms to mobilize broader and more inclusive participation to find challenges and trends in DRR.
3. Support the development/updating of sub regional national and local DRR Strategy and plans in line with the Sendai Framework for Action and the PoA.

## How can we make sure that private sectors align with this framework/SDG

Through sustainable consumer behavior and social pressure, the private sector can be influenced to align with the Sendai framework. Working in a bottom - up approach, the people, with an adequate background in the capacities of the Sendai framework, can start the discussion to put pressure on the private and public sectors around them to keep them safe when hazards appear.

## Emerging issues

The GPDRR could be more transformative if we systematically designated a space to discuss emerging issues in the context of a changing climate or anthropogenic hazards. The new trends in hazards can either hinder or enhance resilience. These emerging issues should be captured and integrated into national and local DRR strategies through an adaptive management approach.

Additionally, one of the biggest challenges for capacity building implementation is the recognition of needs and demands of people (or stakeholders), especially those considered a vulnerable community (e.g. children, women, elderly, indigenous, socio-economically disadvantaged, or people exposed to frequent hazards). There is a need to ensure that capacity building for DRR is coherent with other agendas/frameworks and SDG's and stakeholders while efforts are also met within a short-time and those in more fragile contexts.

## SPI and STI

The role of technology for the implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development frameworks needs to be qualified to ensure it is used in a inclusive and appropriate way. This includes people-centered, planet-sensitive, and context-specific design, development, deployment, and disposal of technologies.

Through online and offline consultation, the UN MGCY compile a report to share youth perspectives on UN DESA's survey with regards to the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/242 on the "Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals". While the report is neither a comprehensive nor exhaustive reflection of the constituency's positions, we encourage continued dialogue and engagement of all stakeholder groups in the process, as reflections will inevitably change in response to information we learn with time.

Several recurring themes emerge from the report:

- Technology justice as an integral part of development justice, addressing inequalities is of priority;
- Emerging technologies make it increasingly difficult to hold people or institutions accountable;
- Embedded in the discussion will always be a dimension of uncertainty, much of which can be influenced by the way information is perceived, collected, analysed, and communicated;
- Risk reduction frameworks and technology governance is central to mitigating unwanted hazards and maximizing benefits, while recognizing the integrated nature of systems;
- Narratives around the implications of technology change, albeit with global trends, are locally and context-dependent as the realities of technology use and access are not uniform across space/time;
- Decisions made today have implications on capacities for accelerating progress towards the SDGs in the future, policy responses should be carefully considered and discussed an inclusive way.

#### **UNEA 4**

The next United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) to be held in march 2019 have as theme " Innovation Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production", that shows SCP is a priority on the agenda in different international spaces. Also some Regions have a Regional Consumption Strategy in Sustainable Consumption and Production for the implementation of the SCP 10 Year Framework Programme (10YFP) to support all national policies and plans that will help to achieve SDO 12.