

INFORMATION BRIEF ON SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

20 February 2020

BACKGROUND

The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit¹ stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the SDG Summit, UNDESA set up an online platform (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>) to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions. Moving ahead on the Decade of Action for SDG implementation by 2030 launched by the Secretary-General², this platform will continue to mobilize ambitious actions and track their progress.

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 20 February 2020, a total of **147 Acceleration Actions have been published**, including major commitments from Finland, United Kingdom and India. Actions submitted by a significant number of countries (79%) aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages, while 21% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 147 registered actions, SDGs 16 and 17 have mobilized the largest number of actions, followed by SDGs 13, 8, 5 and 1. With regard to geographical location of initiatives, 41% of registered actions come from Europe; 20% from Latin American and the Caribbean; 13% from Asia and the Pacific; 11% from North America; 8% from Africa; and 5% from West Asia.

WHAT IS AN SDG ACCELERATION ACTION?

SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate the SDG implementation by national governments and any other non-state actors - individually or in partnership. Any new action or action that builds on existing efforts (scaling up, new phase, etc.) could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action. Examples include: announcement of a new or enhanced policy, programme, or project—or financing of a project—related to the achievement of one or more of the 17 SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda.

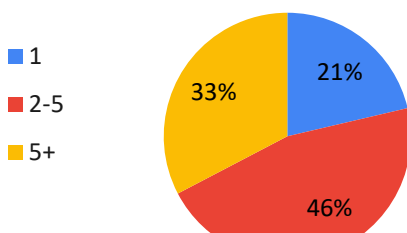
IMPACT?

Registered actions will be highlighted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and other key global meetings, including the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and through UNDESA's Acceleration Action platform and social media channels.

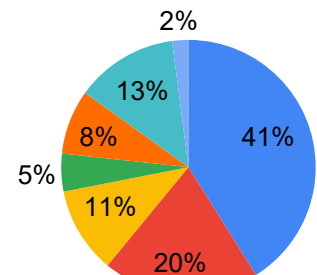
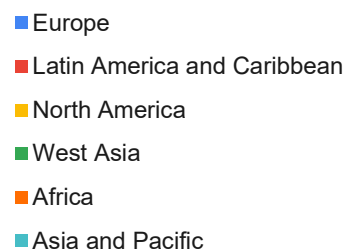
HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Registration is [open](#) online. Submissions will be reviewed by UNDESA in accordance with a set of criteria ([click here](#) for more information).

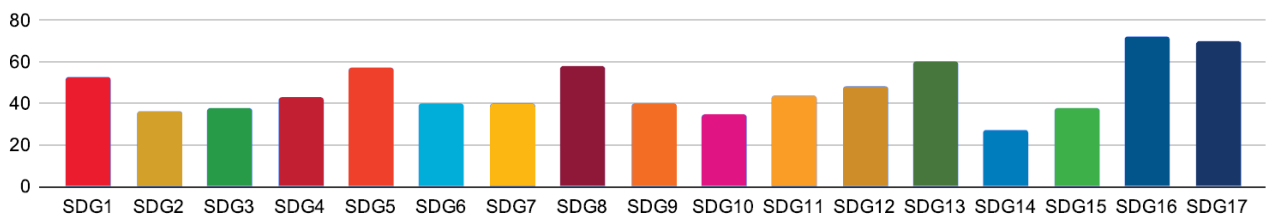
Number of SDGs Addressed



Regions



Number of Acceleration Actions per SDG



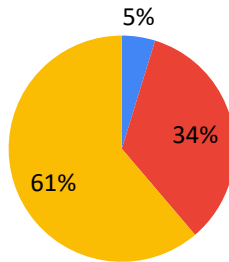
¹ A/RES/74/4

² For more information, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>

In terms of country breakdown by GDP (ppp), 61% of submissions are from high-income countries, while 34% from middle-income countries and 5% from low-income countries. There is a scope for mobilizing more SDG Acceleration Actions from the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) as they account for only 5% and 1% of total actions published. Civil society organizations have submitted the majority of SDG Acceleration Actions (35%), followed by national Governments (32%), UN entities (18%) and the private sector (9%).

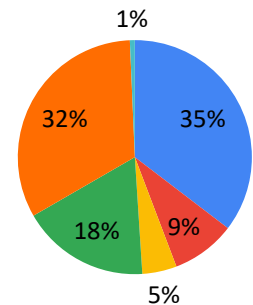
Income Status

- Low Income
- Middle Income
- High Income



Sectors

- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Academia
- UN System
- Government
- Other



EXAMPLES OF SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

- 🕒 The [Government of Finland](#) has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 and to become carbon negative soon thereafter.
- 🕒 The [United Kingdom](#) announced a £515 million education package for reaching the most marginalized girls in Africa and investing in new financing facility for education³ that combines guarantees and grants of donors to leverage additional finance for girls’ education in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).
- 🕒 [The Government of India](#) has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.
- 🕒 [The World’s Largest Lesson](#) is a global project to engage all children in learning about the SDGs. The World’s Largest Lesson in Nigeria will teach some 500,000 children about the goals.
- 🕒 In Denmark, [Youth Climate Council](#) has been set up with its youth-led advisory board surveying the opinions of youth and informing government policies on climate change aimed at translating youth driven ambitions into concrete policies.
- 🕒 [Kadiwaku Family Foundation](#), a philanthropic organization in DRC, is promoting inclusive entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities and has trained 650 youth with disabilities so far.
- 🕒 [Siemens Stiftung](#), a philanthropic organization in Germany, offers young learners high-quality science and technology education, employing design-thinking structured around 17 SDGs.
- 🕒 [Global Health Progress](#), an interactive knowledge hub of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), a business association based in Switzerland, runs over 250 global health programs, which connects the innovative bio-pharmaceutical industry with more than 1,000 cross-sector partners in support of the SDGs.
- 🕒 [Namati](#) in the US convenes the Global Legal Empowerment Network, a growing community of over 2,000 NGOs which aims to advance justice by unlocking the potential of community paralegals who provide essential legal support to communities, including especially most marginalized populations.
- 🕒 The [Dzivarasekwa Community Waste Transfer Centre](#) in Zimbabwe is a place in which members of community can come with their wastes and instantly get paid by recycling companies – the programme, which has been providing an additional source of income and livelihood to the community, is raising environmental protection awareness while reducing the amount of waste produced by the community.
- 🕒 [UNDP Colombia](#) is aiming to improve connectivity and biodiversity conservation by strengthening local institutions and organizations in the Amazon region to ensure comprehensive low-carbon management and peace-building.

³ International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd).