

2023 UN SDG Summit

18 - 19 September 2023 | UN Headquarters, New York City | [Official Website](#)

What is it?

The 2023 SDG Summit will take place on 18-19 September 2023 in New York. It will mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030.

Convened by the President of the UN General Assembly, the Summit marks the **half-way point to the deadline set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be the centerpiece of the High-level Week of the UN General Assembly. The “Summiteers” will have to effectively address the impact of multiple and interlocking global crises and reignite a sense of hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda.

Issues at hand

According to the [2023 Special Edition of the SDG Progress Report](#), approximately 140 targets with data shows that **only about 12 per cent are on track**; 30 per cent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline.

Confronted with the priority to “rescue” the SDGs, the S-G has proposed an **SDG Stimulus** of “[\\$500 billion US dollars per year for investments in sustainable development and climate action](#)” that “[provide support to countries of the Global South, including the vulnerable middle-income ones](#)”. This plan has been a point of contention during the negotiations on the

Summit’s Political Declaration, with some Member States deeming it as essential with others not convinced..

Financing has been an overarching theme in the negotiations, with the Global South emphasizing as critical the adequate and non-debt generating financing for the full range of challenges from implementing the 2030 Agenda to fighting the climate crisis.

“At the mid-way point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is time to face the facts. Without a surge in commitment, solidarity, and transformative action, we will miss the headline targets of the 2030 Agenda to end poverty, reduce inequality and protect the environment. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit to be held in September 2023 provides a unique opportunity to fundamentally change course. I count on your support to ensure it delivers the breakthroughs our world desperately needs.” [S-G’s Letter to All Heads of State and Government](#)

“During the #SDGSummit civil society will convene for its own meeting across the UN building, the Global #PeoplesAssembly, to provide its perspective & remind world leaders of their promises” [@democracywithoutborders](#)

“UNRC @beckyadda highlighted the game-changing power of collaboration during the Multistakeholder Dialogue on Malawi’s SDG Commitments. With all hands 🙌 on deck a more sustainable future is possible.” [@UNMalawi](#)

Documents

1. [The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](#)
2. [2023 SDG Progress Report & Global Sustainable Development Report \(GSDR\)](#)
3. Report of the Secretary-General (special edition) entitled "[Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet](#)"
4. [UN Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus Plan](#)
5. [Analysis and inputs from the UN system, think tanks and others](#)
6. [More background documents *here*](#)

Political Declaration for SDG Summit

Here are some excerpts from the [declaration](#) (as of 1 September 2023):

"We commit to accelerate the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to take further actions to scale up financing for sustainable development, and provide means of implementation for developing countries, including the following:

- i. ... ensure **significant mobilization of resources** from a variety of sources, including through **enhanced development cooperation, strengthening the capacity** to mobilize domestic resources and private sector investment...
- ii. We urge developed countries to scale up and fulfill their respective ODA commitments...
- iii. We call for **improved international debt mechanisms** to support **debt review, debt payment suspensions, and debt restructuring** ... We recognize the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability
- iv. We welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to address the SDG financing gap through an **SDG stimulus**...
- v. We call for **scaling up debt swaps for SDGs**...while **recognizing that debt swaps cannot replace broader debt treatments** in unsustainable debt situations...
- vi. We recommit to preventing and **combating illicit financial flows** and strengthening international cooperation and good practices on assets return and recovery
- vii. We call for an urgent **voluntary re-channeling of Special Drawing Rights** to countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks...
- viii. We support **reform of international financial architecture**... The international financial architecture, including its business models and financing capacities, must be made more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries...
- ix. We urge **multilateral development banks to bring forward actions to mobilize and provide additional financing** within their mandates to support developing countries to achieve the SDGs... including through **securing increases to grants and concessional finance, better leveraging their capital bases and considering ways for the respective boards of the MDBs to increase their capitalization** and encourage dialogue between multilateral development banks and other financial institutions.
- x. We recommit to the promotion of a universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, as well as meaningful trade liberalization...
- xi. We confirm our political commitment to **explore measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product**...
- xii. We encourage the international community to consider multidimensional vulnerability, including the potential use of a **multidimensional vulnerability index, as criteria to access concessional finance**.
- xiii. ...to the deliberations on convening a **fourth international conference on financing for development in 2025**.
- xiv. We look forward to the beginning of **inter-governmental discussions in New York** at United Nations Headquarters on ways to strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation."

Programme

Full programme and background note

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| “Setting the Stage” | Introduction on what has been achieved, where there is a lag, and what needs to be done to restore credibility on the promise of a sustainable transformation |
| Plenary | Opportunity for statements on behalf of groups of States outlining joint actions and commitments |
| 6 Leaders’ Dialogues | Setting out from Heads of State and Government their concrete national commitments to SDG transformation, with interventions from the UN system, CSOs, private sector, intergovernmental organizations, and academia |
| Closing | Opportunity for reporting back from Leaders’ Dialogues and other Summit components and summarizing the outcomes of the event |

Related Events

High-level Political Forum (HLPF) (annual)
SDG Summit 2019
Financing for Development Forum (High-Level Dialogue 2023; FfD Forum tentatively scheduled for 2025)
Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (2023)
UNGA High-Level Week (to be updated for 2023)
 UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 28
UN Summits & Conferences 2023

Opportunities for Civil Society

SDG Action Weekend 16 – 17 September 2023

SDG Mobilization Day (Saturday, 16 September 10:00 – 17:30):

Opportunity for stakeholders from all sectors to convene inside the UN Headquarters and mobilize towards an ambitious SDG Summit and UN General Assembly High-Level Week.

SDG Acceleration Day (Sunday, 17 September 09:00 – 17:00):

Profile actions, investments and support to accelerate implementation at the country level between now and 2030. Expected participants include Heads of State, Ministers, UN Principals and representatives from the private sector, civil society and other actors.

Timeline

