

Achieving Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities

USN Partner Days

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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



**NO
POVERTY**



**ZERO
HUNGER**



**GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**



**QUALITY
EDUCATION**



**GENDER
EQUALITY**



**CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION**



**AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**



**DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



**REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**



**SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES**



**RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION**



**CLIMATE
ACTION**



**LIFE
BELOW WATER**



**LIFE
ON LAND**



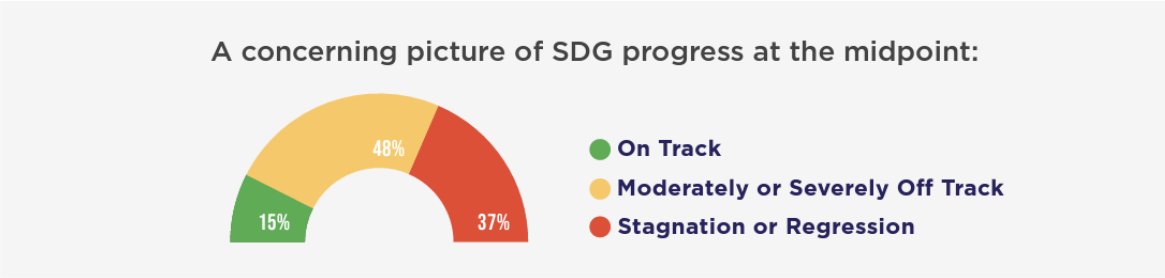
**PEACE, JUSTICE AND
STRONG INSTITUTIONS**



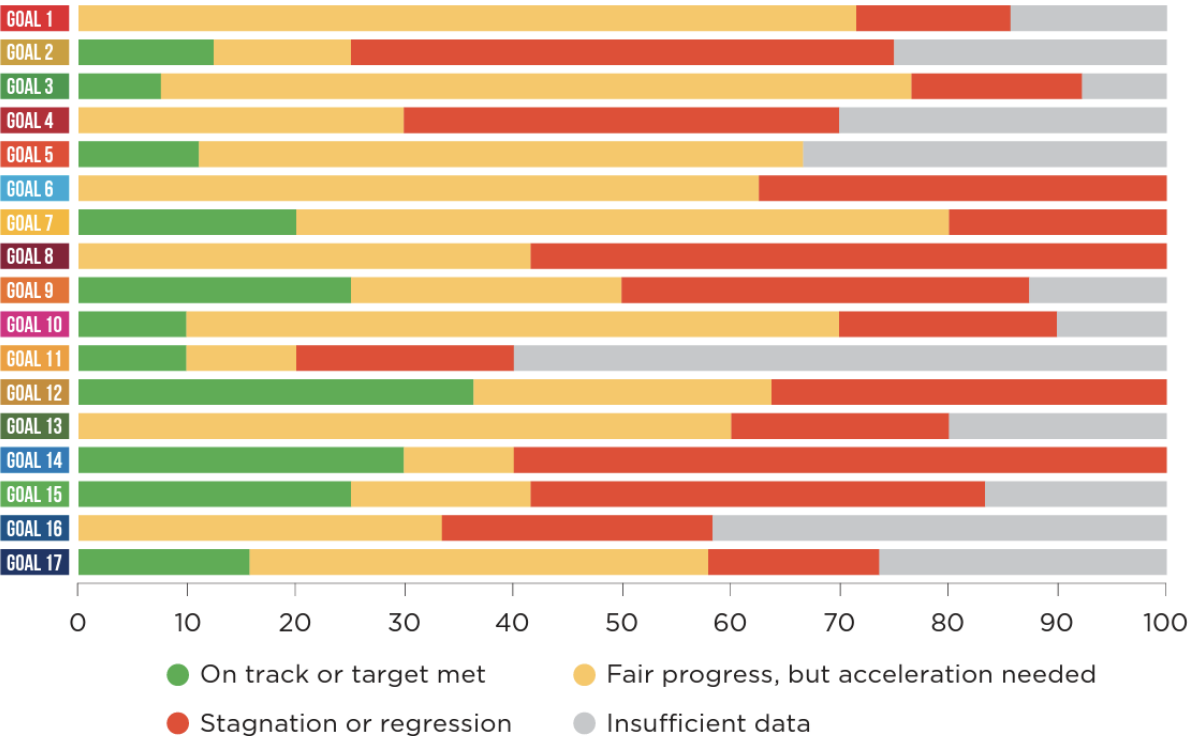
**PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Where are we now and where are we heading?



Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



South-South Cooperation

Over the past two decades the rise of BRICS and G20 has led to an increasing counterweight to traditional dominance of the G7 countries.



World problems through a western lens

Climate change vs. economic growth



Knowledge collaboration

Educational programs

Understanding how
others live



THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

**Dilemmas of sustainable
development**



Flying and carbon emissions



- Changing behavior
- Zoom and Teams are necessary but not sufficient
- Knowledge and capacity

Cooperation for sustainable development

Democratization of knowledge



The way forward

POLICY FORUM

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Four governance reforms to strengthen the SDGs

A demanding policy vision can accelerate global sustainable development efforts

By **Frank Biermann**¹, **Yixian Sun**², **Dan Banik**³, **Marianne Beisheim**⁴, **Michael J. Bloomfield**², **Aurelie Charles**², **Pamela Chasek**⁵, **Thomas Hickmann**⁶, **Prajal Pradhan**^{7,8}, **Carole-Anne S nit**¹

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly agreed on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although the SDGs, which are to be achieved by 2030, are not the first attempt to guide policy actors through global goals, they go far beyond earlier agreements in their detail, comprehensiveness, and ambition. Yet the 2022 SDG

income countries to stronger and more concrete action. In principle, the SDGs lay down normative aspirations for all countries, and here they differ from earlier goal-setting efforts such as the Millennium Development Goals that focused on low-income countries. The SDGs are presented as universal, indivisible, and interlinked, even though many targets remain qualitative and all governments are allowed to set their own national implementation targets, which may consider their special circumstances while still being guided by the global level of ambition.

This approach was progressive in bringing high-income countries under the UN normative framework (3). Yet in practice, it also

global pandemics, persistent extreme poverty, and rising inequalities. Similar to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and its ratcheting-up process, the SDGs should undergo regular rounds of revisions by which countries can raise their ambition.

For this purpose, the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which reviews progress on the existing goals and targets, must evolve into a mechanism that over time also adjusts these targets to the exigencies of multiple global crises. Governments should view this process as an opportunity for more effective peer learning, leveraging synergies, tackling trade-offs, and overall increasing ambition (6). During