

Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries



What is Goal 10?

In addition to inequality among countries, there is inequality within countries. There are also many different types of inequality an individual experiences within her or his lifetime. Horizontal inequality is defined by the UN as inequality between culturally defined groups, while vertical inequality is viewed as inequality between individuals. Individuals as well as groups of people receive unequal opportunities as well as unequal treatment from others, limiting their ability to contribute to society as a whole. Economic inequality is known to damage well-being, health, and social cohesion within a society as well as promoting a system of competition among classes or groups of people which can lead to increasing violence. Overcoming inequality does not mean just creating opportunities for all, but also requires breaking down stereotypes and cultural barriers that exist and continue to create an unfair class system within and between nations.

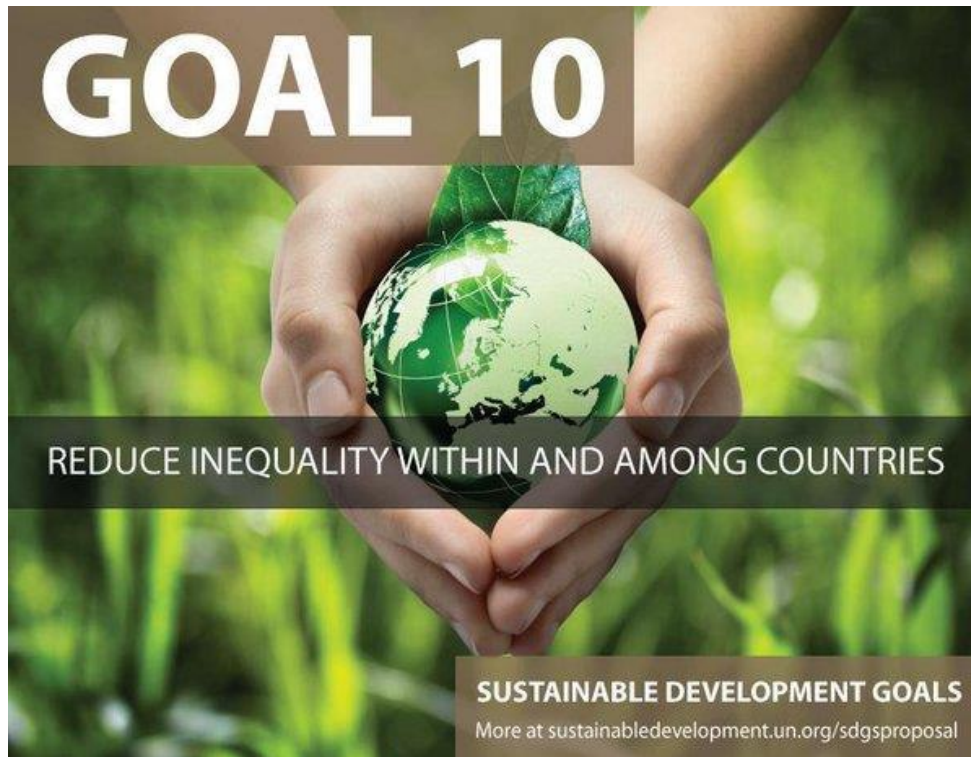
The key word used throughout all 17 Sustainable Development Goals is the word “inclusive.” This means that all persons regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnicity have the same opportunity. Inclusivity within sustainable development means ridding the world of economic and social inequalities that we see not only in developing states but also in developed states as well. The United States, among others, is currently facing rising economic inequality and continuing racial inequality, with increasing claims for social justice. Inequality is known to harm growth and stability within a country due to the lack of fulfilment and self-worth felt by the persons experiencing this disparity. If states do not begin to tackle inequality within their nations, sustainable development will be impossible to attain.

What are the Targets?

- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Means of Implementation

- Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs
- By 2030, reduce to less than 3 percent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 percent



Is this Possible?

In order for Goal 10 to be successful states and institutions will need to ensure that social and economic equality are given equal attention. States will need to address the income and wealth inequalities within their country and strategize with states that have little inequality, like the Scandinavian states, on how to proceed in creating a more equal and cohesive society. Inequality is an issue that is not only addressed within Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals, but also throughout the Sustainable Development Agenda as a whole. The targets of Goal 10 address both social and economic inequality. When implementing and monitoring these targets, states will need to be specific in how they are addressing disparities within their country. Review mechanisms will be absolutely crucial in accomplishing Goal 10, as sharing successes and failures will help ensure that resources are not exhausted and best policies are put forward. If governments are truly committed to overcoming social and economic inequality within their states, society will see a more inclusive and prosperous future for all.

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