

Sustainable Development Goal 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



What is Goal 17?

The final goal of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals incorporates and truly embodies the transformative, aspirational, and comprehensive nature of this Agenda. Divided into five sections — finance, technology, capacity building, trade, and systemic issues — Goal 17 emphasizes how important a revitalized global partnership is for the achievement of poverty eradication and sustainable development. In 2014, official development assistance was over US\$135 billion, the highest it has ever been. This pattern must continue, because financing is crucial in order to allow all countries to develop and grow sustainably while leaving no one behind. This means that developed and developing states must ensure continuing cooperation through foreign investment, technology transfer, capacity building and more.

The seventeenth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals seeks to ensure the achievement of all 17 SDGs through comprehensive and effective means of implementation, which will be achievable only through a revitalized global partnership. A fundamental theme at the intergovernmental negotiations on the sustainable development agenda in summer 2015 focused on the importance of including all major stakeholders throughout the entire process. This Agenda has set a groundbreaking precedent, beginning with the Rio conferences in 1992 and 2012, to the inclusive nature of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, through the adoption of all 17 goals and 169 targets by the United Nations General Assembly at the Summit on Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015. The task now is ensuring further cooperation between and among states, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. A major factor will be the ability to share knowledge and successful practices, learning from neighbors what will and will not work. Technology must be shared throughout the world in order to accurately measure and monitor progress. States continue to be the driving force in

creating national plans of action, with assistance from civil society, the private sector and local and regional governments as well as regional and international organizations.

What are the Targets?

Finance

- Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistant commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
- Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity Building

- Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

- Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

- Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systematic Issues

Policy and Institutional Coherence

- Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- Encourage and promote effective, public, private-public and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, Monitoring and Accountability

- By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregation by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries



Is This Possible?

The prospects for achieving Goal 17 are currently quite optimistic. There has been a real sense of urgency and desire to participate coming from all stakeholders throughout the process. The international community has seen the successes and failures of the MDGs, and has pledged to take greater action to ensure that the SDGs achieve their goals of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030. However, with the inclusion of more stakeholders comes the need for greater monitoring and accountability. Coordination between and among states, international organizations, civil society and businesses will be crucial to ensure that no resources or time are wasted due to lack of communication and unclear objectives.

Disaggregated data remains a crucial element for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Taking stock of current conditions as a baseline is critical, along with continuous monitoring through country-specific indicators which can be gathered, analyzed and disseminated. In many developing countries, their capabilities must be assisted through technology and knowledge transfers to allow for the accurate measurement of policies and programs and their impact. In addition, financial means such as foreign direct investment, debt sustainability, and adequate tax regimes all remains a critical aspect. Without funding, compliance institutions, investments in infrastructure and renewable energy will not be possible.

Commitments to North-South and South-South Cooperation are seen as vital and have already begun, like that of the [Southern Climate Partnership Incubator](#) (SCPI) led by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The private sector has also mobilized immense resources through hundreds of partnerships and programs for multinational corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises. Corporate social responsibility is being realized through adoption of voluntary

guidelines like the UN Global Compact and through public-private partnerships such as [Business for 2030](#), showcasing and stimulating past and current partnerships in the hope to inspire others to join this global fight. We are at a critical juncture in our world, where we have the resources to combat climate change and to be the first generation to end poverty. This aspirational agenda can be achieved by 2030; however, it will become a reality only through effective implementation and monitoring institutions and the commitment to a true and equitable global partnership among all stakeholders.

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