



2016 INCHEON COMMUNIQUÉ

SUMMARY OF THE 2016 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRANSITION FORUM
27 OCTOBER, 2016

1. The fourth annual Sustainable Development Transition Forum (SDTF), hosted by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, welcomed 100 representatives and experts of country governments, the United Nations system, policy think tanks and academic institutions from around the world in Incheon, Republic of Korea from 25-27 October 2016.
2. The Forum served to link the 2016 and 2017 meetings of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) by featuring mainstreaming and means of implementation discussions for the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the context of 'leave no one behind' and 'eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.' Some of the key insights emerging from the SDTF were the following:
3. **Leaving No One Behind:** Ensuring that 'no one is left behind' requires: *Identification*—Who is left behind? *Diagnostics*—Why are they left behind? and *Action*—What can be done to reach those left behind?
4. **Adapting SDGs to National Contexts:** Developing and developed countries alike are learning lessons and making progress on adapting SDGs to their national contexts, proving the universal applicability of the 2030 Agenda. Forums like the HLPF and the SDTF, among others, provide an important and practical means for all countries to share experiences on governance and implementation of the SDGs as we navigate this complex journey together.
5. **Multi-stakeholder Approaches and Partnerships:** The choice of which type of multi-stakeholder approach may best serve a country in mainstreaming and implementing the 2030 Agenda is context specific. Where formal multi-stakeholder bodies do exist, these can facilitate national dialogue on adapting the SDGs. Where they do not exist, forums consisting of civil society, private sector and other stakeholders can self-organize to fill the gap and provide motivation for governments to mainstream the 2030 Agenda.
6. **Institutional Mechanisms for Understanding SDG Inter-linkages and Creating Policy Coherence:** There is no stereotype institutional arrangement for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and adapting SDGs to a national context, owing to uniqueness in history, values and culture. In some contexts, existing coordinating bodies may be adequate while in others new inter-agency mechanisms will have utility. In all contexts, whole-of-government approaches for planning, implementing and monitoring are beneficial for complex agendas and 'teaching silos to dance' can enhance policy coherence.
7. **Analytical Tools for Understanding SDG Inter-linkages and Creating Policy Coherence:** Country experience is showing that tools which analyse inter-linkages among SDGs not only help to create shared mental models of causality, they also illuminate new partnership opportunities for transformative progress on SDGs.
8. **Monitoring, Follow-up and Review:** Monitoring and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are a means to further implementation. An inclusive VNR process can enhance mainstreaming and national ownership of the 2030 Agenda. Undertaking sub-national voluntary reviews could further amplify the benefits of VNRs by localizing SDGs and fostering the disaggregation of data.
9. **The 18th SDG:** Forum participants reflected on the notion of an 18th SDG, not as an actual new SDG, but rather as a conceptual reminder of the audacity of sustainable development, that it is a living and moving target necessitating an ongoing conversation about what it means to 'us' and why it is so important to 'everyone'.

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