



The SDG Series is an initiative of the **Environment and Natural Resources Program** at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, organized by a group of research fellows working on EU sustainability issues. This series of events involves conversations with high-level authorities and discussion panels with international experts, who are invited to make short presentations on subjects related to the SDGs.

## Background:

In 2015, Heads of State and Governments committed at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which comprises of 17 goals and 169 targets. For the first time in history a sustainable development agenda has been designed with major inputs from all governments and several civil society actors. It is not only the commitment of a few countries but of the entire UN membership, and this creates significant implications on the accountability mechanisms within the international community. The universal nature of these goals requires a constant engagement of their signatory nations in order to ensure an effective implementation process.

The 2030 Agenda is among the three major agreements that took place in 2015, aiming to direct the way international community acts in the coming decades.

- The 2030 Agenda collects under a single umbrella the principles of sustainability and global action on development cooperation, providing a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better future.
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) represents a new international framework to ensure financing and means of implementation.
- The Paris Agreement clearly defines the boundaries in which these actions should take place in order to not further endanger the future of human kind on Earth.

The aspirational goals and targets defined and agreed at the UN are already transforming societies and institutions, while altering daily lives around the world. However, some questions remain open: How can we speed up the transformation process? What are the main implementation challenges of reaching these goals? How will governments and the UN system adapt to these challenges? What does accountability look like in implementing such universal goals? What is the role of environmental technologies and scientific research to help meet these targets? The SDG Series represents an opportunity to explore innovative solutions and provide answers to these questions linked to the implementation of the commitments.

### UN Sustainable Development Goals:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

### See more about the SDGs at:

[www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals)

### Contact for SDG events:

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