



**TASK FORCE - 6** —————

**ACCELERATING SDGS**

**EXPLORING NEW**

**PATHWAYS TO THE**

**2030 AGENDA**

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# WORKSTREAMS

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- FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION, AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
- WATER SECURITY AND CONSERVATION
- PROMOTING HOLISTIC OUTCOMES IN HEALTH
- PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY AND BLUE ECONOMY
- GENDER-SENSITIVE SDG PROGRAMMES AND INVESTING IN CHILDREN
- AGENDA 2030, AAAAA, AND PARTNERSHIPS

# ABOUT THE TASKFORCE

Policies for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be designed to reach every individual and be implemented with humane principles at their core. Issues such as climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, sustainable blue economy, and water conservation must be addressed to deepen sustainability efforts. What can the G20 countries do to create and strengthen institutions and collaborations to ensure, among other things, food and nutrition for all, universal digital access, inclusive healthcare, and access to broad-based financial products? Gender outcomes remain a cause for concern, and women-led development processes will require significant policy support to promote entrepreneurship and allied fields to increase female labour force participation. Recent reversals in SDG progress due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis have highlighted the importance of societal resilience. Revitalising development cooperation in its various forms remains critical to attaining the SDGs. Science, technology, and innovation remain key means of SDG implementation, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and 2030 Agenda.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This Task Force Statement collates the primary ideas and recommendations of the Task Force members, shared over the course of the year through meetings, convenings, and working groups. The Task Force comprises 16 members from 15 institutions.

# PREAMBLE



The adoption of three landmark global agreements in 2015—the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (which establishes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for development—marked a crucial shift in the development paradigm. However, at a mid-point to the 2030 deadline, most developing countries are not on-track to achieve the SDGs; indeed, their progress in several indicators has been reversed. The UN estimates that the polycrisis comprising the COVID-19 pandemic, the humanitarian and energy security challenges resulting from geopolitical conflicts, and the global debt crisis are threatening to push more than 175 million people back into extreme poverty. The most vulnerable populations are being affected disproportionately by these crises and inequalities are widening.

The SDGs call for proactive initiatives by all countries—poor, middle-income, and the rich—to promote prosperity while protecting the planet and fulfilling the United Nations (UN) goal of ‘leaving no one behind’. Although gender equality and women’s economic empowerment have been mainstreamed in the SDGs, gender inequality in many spheres of economic activity continues to contribute to the lack of sustainable and equitable growth, affecting the health of the community, investment in children, and lifestyles and the environment. More inclusive participation by women in the economy will lead to a more sustainable future.

The G20 countries have committed to the SDGs and have enacted policies and infused resources to achieve them. However, these efforts are inadequate, given the enormity of gaps and challenges. Fiscal constraints arising from the pandemic and high debt burden in many developing countries have widened the recovery gap, thereby threatening the achievement of the SDGs. Faced with significantly higher borrowing costs and reduced capacity to access international financial markets, many developing countries have experienced severe shortfalls in SDGs

financing. Before the pandemic, the UN estimated that developing countries faced an annual financing shortfall of US\$2.5 trillion to advance on the SDGs. The pandemic has widened this gap substantially by adding another US\$1.4 trillion to the shortfall. It is estimated that incremental SDG financing needs are significant, ranging from 10 percent to 20 percent of GDP for many low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Therefore, the enormity of gaps and challenges requires a more substantial commitment and effort to mobilise resources at all levels.

India took over the G20 presidency at a critical juncture. Part of its task is to lead efforts at addressing the spillover effects of the pandemic and the supply value chain disruptions arising from ongoing geopolitical crises, which have affected food security and fuel and fertiliser prices. The challenge of short-term crisis management should not cloud the criticality of longer-term systemic transformations in global governance for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable outcomes.

Task Force 6 has extensively deliberated on the theme 'Accelerating SDGs: Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda' within its six work streams and has organised several side events for exchanging ideas. Based on these deliberations and the outcomes of side events, the task force recommends the following to build new pathways to achieve the SDGs.

# ACTION POINTS





The SDGs are crosscutting, and policy recommendations for their implementation necessitate global collective action. Policy initiatives and governance to achieve SDGs should focus on four core tenets:

- 1. Fostering a community-centric approach:** The implementation of the SDGs must adopt a ‘whole of community’ approach that focuses on sustainable outcomes for the entire community and the environment where they live. The aim should be to preserve and restore biodiversity and interspecies balance through the empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable communities, particularly harnessing women-led development and the involvement of local communities.
- 2. Developing a technology-enabled ecosystem:** New technologies should be utilised judiciously to create an ecosystem that improves accessibility, scalability, governance, and transparency to accelerate SDGs and societal progress.
- 3. Creating a future-ready society:** Resilience, preparedness, and inclusiveness should form the basis of a future-ready society by addressing opportunities and challenges, and augmenting capacities to meet future requirements.
- 4. Reinvigorating global partnerships:** All forms of global partnerships, including North-South, multilateral development banks (MDBs), Global South, and triangular cooperation, should be strengthened to facilitate technology and resource transfers and capacity building in developing countries, especially the LDCs, for more sustainable and equitable development.

## **SECTOR-SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES FOR ACCELERATING SDGS**

### **1. Food Security, Nutrition, and Climate-Smart Agriculture**

- Incentivise partnerships between governments, agricultural organisations, and private companies to improve access to resources, technology, and markets for small farmers, especially vulnerable groups.
- Enhance coverage, adequacy, and comprehensiveness of nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection systems to support the most vulnerable, marginalised, and at-risk sections of societies, such as informal and migrant

workers, refugees and displaced populations, and older people, people with disabilities, women, and children.

- Promote technological innovations and their pathways through increased financial allocation towards research and development (R&D) for precision agriculture and climate-smart agriculture to build food and nutritional security.
- Promote data-driven analysis at various stages of production across the agricultural value chain by leveraging technology enablers to collect and provide data-based insights that can be used to improve agricultural production and food security.
- Ensure that food supply chains are insulated from the impacts of global pandemics and geopolitical crises by adopting a global commitment to not willfully disrupt distribution networks.
- Evolve a G20 commitment to facilitate the earmarking of resources by multilateral channels for the cultivation of nutrition-rich and climate-resilient crops (such as millets, pulses, vegetables, and fruits), and to invest in nutrition-preserving processing infrastructure to prioritise nutrition security amid climate change.

## **2. Water Security and Conservation**

- Evolve a framework for sharing indigenous and traditional practices by involving local communities in the policy processes to design sustainable water solutions.
- Promote a greater role for science in decision-making around, and the management of water resources, and design programmes to measure environmental parameters and benchmarks for water-use efficiency.
- Increase investment in R&D and technology transfer efforts for water management, storage, and conservation to improve water quality and water use efficiency.

### **3. Promoting Holistic Outcomes in Health**

- Emphasise primary health and preventive care models, including traditional and modern medicine systems involving private healthcare service providers, to improve the quality and equity of healthcare delivery.
- Formulate strategies to operationalise a 'One Health' approach on a sustainable basis, particularly in developing countries, and commit resources to strengthening health systems, especially those essential for preventing and responding to zoonotic diseases.
- Prepare for future pandemics by committing resources to the Pandemic Fund and setting up a distributed network of pandemic supplies to be used in the event of shocks.
- Emphasise the urgency of the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) challenge by committing to update all national AMR action plans to align with the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan, and allocating resources for research on antibiotic substitutes and non-antibiotic growth promoters.
- Set up a Global Initiative on Digital Health to create a connected digital health ecosystem that converges global efforts in scaling commitments and investments of relevant stakeholders and digital solutions as digital public goods to aid universal health coverage (UHC) and accelerate the process to achieve 'Health for All'.
- Consider the development of G20 frameworks to promote international collaboration in vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics among various stakeholders, and work towards removing intellectual property rights barriers during instances of global public health emergencies, thus enabling accelerated and equitable access to vaccines.

### **4. Preserving Biodiversity and Blue Economy**

- Adopt coherent policies to preserve fish stocks and fishing communities' livelihoods by ensuring the latter have access to alternative sources of income and/or social protection support during closed fishing seasons.

- Ensure the effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework by setting up appropriate institutional mechanisms with adequate funding to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, and connectivity.

## **5. Gender-sensitive SDGs Programmes and Investing in Children**

- Increase female workforce participation by focusing on gender budgeting, developing the capacities of women to be recruited by emerging and growing sectors, and promoting gender-transformative employment policies to support women's economic participation, especially those in the informal economy.
- Create a specialised fund to finance and promote the growth of women-owned micro and small enterprises, including through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Develop a well-thought-out, well-governed, and inclusive care system that is affordable to the poorest and supported by public-private financing, which generates decent work opportunities, especially for women, and strengthens the resilience of economies and societies to enable the economic participation of women with family responsibilities.
- Eliminate the gender digital divide through targeted digital literacy schemes to directly provide digital assets to women to ensure they can leverage the benefits of the growing digital economy.
- Invest in children by ensuring cash transfers to families for education, school feeding schemes, affordable public-private financed creches, and access to menstrual hygiene products for young girls at school.
- Build and catalyse institutional systems with an emphasis on women farmers and producers as suppliers to government food procurement, processing, and value-addition programmes at the national level, drawing from successful experiences in a number of G20 countries.

## **6. Agenda 2030, AAAA, and Partnerships**

- Increase concessional resources to close the financing gaps for SDGs in developing countries. Achieving the SDGs will require access to affordable, long-term, and stable sources of financing. Financing will need to come from a

combination of global and domestic sources and also public and private sources, including through the enhanced capital bases of MDBs, official development assistance, bilateral arrangements, and new innovative sources of revenue (such as the international financial transaction tax, global philanthropies, blended financing, national development banks, public-private partnerships, private sector participation, and national governments). Although the Debt Service Suspension Initiative was made available to tide over the pandemic-induced crisis for several debt-ridden countries, further financing was available only at higher costs, shorter maturities, and greater volatility.

- Create an effective G20 platform to share development experiences and good practices, including innovative ways of raising resources, appropriate incentives, and stable regulatory environments to encourage public and private sector investments in projects that facilitate and cater to a just clean energy transition, including aspects related to ESG (environmental, social, and governance) investing, corporate social responsibility, impact investing, carbon pricing, and green bonds.
- Ensure that green taxonomy frameworks and global carbon pricing decisions, especially by developed countries, are based on inclusive and transparent principles that do not create negative spillovers, especially for developing countries.
- Advocate for building and strengthening the capacities of national statistical offices to collect and provide access to credible and timely data for SDGs indicators for effective monitoring and policymaking.
- Promote research collaborations across the G20 countries to innovate solutions for achieving the SDGs, and to develop and promote the technical and institutional capacities of local and national governments.
- Foster sustainable structural transformation in developing countries, especially green industrial transition, to build productive capacities that are critical for green job creation, poverty reduction, and sustainable prosperity, including through reforms of the multilateral trade architecture to provide policy flexibilities, market access, and technology transfers as part of global partnerships.

- Create an enabling environment through appropriate incentives and a conducive regulatory framework to encourage global organisations, for-benefit private enterprises, and philanthropies to prioritise sustainable production and consumption that is also socially inclusive and gender-sensitive and can directly contribute to accelerating the SDGs.

## **INITIATIVES AND PLATFORMS FOR THE G20**

- Support, develop, and strengthen knowledge and capacity-building platforms, such as the UHC2030 Partners and Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators, to accelerate learnings across countries in all six workstreams identified under Task Force 6. Create a pool of innovative technologies and public digital infrastructure that can be leveraged by developing countries to improve access to healthcare, education, food security, climate-smart agriculture, and other SDGs.
- The G20 members should commit to working as lead nations in developing and co-creating global public investment as a new paradigm in international public finance.

## **NORMATIVE ROLES**

In an increasingly interdependent world, developed and developing countries should work in close coordination to establish a just and fair global order, strengthen MDBs and regional development banks, and increase development assistance to provide the additional funding required to accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs.

There is a need to establish an institutional framework at the global and national levels that support the adoption of innovative policy solutions, and a regulatory framework for promoting sustainable growth models that are aligned with environmental goals and integrate well with social and economic priorities that are more aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

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