**Faithfulness Score**: 100/100 - Excellent

# “Key Insights and Progress from the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2021-2023)”

**Date**: 2024-05-22

**Location**: The principal location where the events/documents originate is **New York, United States**. This is indicated by the references to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) sessions are convened.

## Executive Summary

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, convened under the Economic and Social Council, has faced significant challenges in recent years, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, including the war in Ukraine. The 2023 session emphasized the urgent need for transformative actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key discussions highlighted the interconnected crises of poverty, food insecurity, and climate change, stressing the importance of inclusive recovery strategies that prioritize vulnerable populations. The forum saw participation from 38 countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews, showcasing efforts to integrate SDGs into national policies. The upcoming SDG Summit is viewed as a critical opportunity to renew commitments and mobilize resources for sustainable development. Overall, the HLPF calls for enhanced international cooperation, innovative financing solutions, and a focus on localizing the SDGs to ensure no one is left behind.

## Characteristics

* The HLPF sessions focus on sustainable development, addressing the impacts of COVID-19, climate change, and geopolitical crises on the SDGs.
* Emphasis on multilateral cooperation, innovative financing, and partnerships to achieve the 2030 Agenda and leave no one behind.
* Key themes include gender equality, youth engagement, and the need for inclusive policies to support vulnerable populations.
* The importance of data collection, technology transfer, and capacity building is highlighted for effective SDG implementation.
* Countries present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to share progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs, fostering accountability and collaboration.
* The 2023 SDG Summit aims to renew commitments and catalyze action towards achieving the SDGs amidst ongoing global challenges.

## Actors

| Category | Actors |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | 1. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); 2. United Nations; 3. Secretary-General of the United Nations; 4. Heads of State and Government; 5. Ministers and Vice Ministers; 6. European Union; 10. Local authorities; 14. Small Island Developing States (SIDS); 15. Least Developed Countries (LDCs); 16. Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs); 17. Middle-Income Countries (MICs); 18. International organizations; 20. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); 23. World Trade Organization (WTO); 25. UN Women; 26. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); 27. International Labour Organization (ILO) |
| Civil Society Actors | 7. Major Groups and other stakeholders; 8. Youth representatives; 9. Civil society organizations; 12. Indigenous communities; 13. Women and girls; 19. Non-governmental stakeholders |
| Economic Actors | 11. Private sector; 21. World Bank; 22. International Monetary Fund (IMF) |
| Research and Innovation Actors | 24. International Resource Panel |

### Main Actors Descriptions

* **Political Actors:**
  + **Governments**: National administrative bodies and authorities participating in the HLPF.
  + **Government Officials**: Heads of State, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, and Vice Ministers from various countries.
  + **Policy Level Representatives**: Officials involved in the creation and implementation of policies related to the SDGs.
  + **European Union**: Political and economic union of European member states, presented its first voluntary review.
  + **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States**: Regional bloc of Latin American and Caribbean nations involved in discussions.
  + **United Nations**: International organization promoting global cooperation, with various entities participating in the HLPF.
* **Research and Innovation Actors:**
  + **UN Environment Programme**: Provided the secretariat for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.
  + **International Resource Panel**: Provided insights on resource management and sustainable consumption.
  + **Technology Providers**: Companies and organizations involved in providing technological solutions for sustainable development.
* **Economic Actors:**
  + **Private Sector Representatives**: Individuals representing business interests, emphasizing the role of partnerships in achieving the SDGs.
  + **International Financial Institutions**: Entities like the World Bank and IMF, discussing financing needs and debt relief for developing countries.
  + **Development Banks**: Institutions supporting development in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on sustainable financing.
* **Civil Society Actors:**
  + **Civil Society Organizations**: Non-profit groups advocating for social and political issues, emphasizing the need for inclusive participation in decision-making.
  + **Youth Representatives**: Advocates for the inclusion of youth voices in discussions and decision-making processes related to the SDGs.
  + **Women’s Advocacy Groups**: Organizations focusing on gender equality and women’s empowerment, highlighting the disproportionate impact of crises on women and girls.
* **Regional and Local Actors:**
  + **Local Governments**: Authorities responsible for implementing the SDGs at the local level, emphasizing the importance of local action.
  + **Regional Commissions**: Bodies facilitating regional cooperation and dialogue on sustainable development issues.
* **International Organizations:**
  + **World Health Organization (WHO)**: Engaged in discussions on health-related SDGs and pandemic recovery.
  + **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**: Focused on sustainable food systems and agricultural practices in the context of the SDGs.

## Main Themes

| Main Theme | Subthemes |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy; Digital Infrastructure; Digital Skills Development |
| Technology & Innovation | Tech-Driven Solutions; Sustainable Tech; ICT Innovation |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Data Protection; Digital Rights |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Gender Equality in Tech; Digital Education |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Multilateralism; Digital & Technological Partnerships |

### Main Themes Description

* **Impact of COVID-19 on Sustainable Development**:
  + The pandemic has severely disrupted progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), exacerbating issues like poverty, food insecurity, and health crises.
  + Urgent action is needed to recover lost ground and ensure equitable access to resources, particularly vaccines.
* **Global Solidarity and Cooperation**:
  + Emphasis on the necessity of multilateralism and international cooperation to address the interconnected crises affecting the SDGs.
  + Calls for innovative partnerships involving civil society, the private sector, and local governments to enhance recovery efforts.
* **Financing for Development**:
  + Access to financing remains a critical challenge, especially for developing countries facing high debt and limited fiscal space.
  + Proposals for debt relief, innovative financing mechanisms, and increased development aid to support SDG implementation.
* **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**:
  + Gender equality is highlighted as essential for achieving all SDGs, with a focus on empowering women and addressing gender-based violence.
  + The need for inclusive policies that consider the voices and needs of marginalized groups, including youth and indigenous peoples.
* **Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability**:
  + Urgent need for climate action to mitigate the impacts of climate change, with calls for adherence to international agreements like the Paris Agreement.
  + Recognition of the interlinkages between environmental sustainability and other SDGs, emphasizing the importance of a sustainable blue and green economy.
* **Digital Transformation and Technology**:
  + The role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) is crucial for achieving the SDGs, with a focus on bridging the digital divide.
  + Calls for enhanced access to technology and digital literacy, particularly for vulnerable populations.
* **Local Action and Community Engagement**:
  + Local authorities are essential for implementing the SDGs, with a need for community involvement in decision-making processes.
  + Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are recognized as valuable tools for accelerating local actions towards the SDGs.
* **Monitoring and Data Collection**:
  + The importance of reliable, disaggregated data for tracking progress on the SDGs and informing policy decisions.
  + Calls for investment in data systems and capacity building to enhance the effectiveness of SDG implementation.
* **Thematic Focus on Specific SDGs**:
  + In-depth reviews of specific SDGs, including clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), and sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), highlighting the challenges and necessary actions for each goal.
  + Recognition of the need for integrated approaches that address the interlinkages among the SDGs.

## Practical Applications

* **10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns**: A universal framework adopted in 2012 to accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production at regional and national levels, with ongoing implementation and reporting by Member States.
* **Sustainable Public Procurement Programme**: Launched to strengthen public demand for sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy approaches, with initiatives like “Mainstreaming Circularity in the Construction Sector” initiated in 2023.
* **Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme**: Implemented outreach initiatives in 2023 to raise awareness of sustainability information among stakeholders, including a global conference and workshops.
* **Sustainable Food Systems Programme**: Convened a global conference in 2023 focused on transforming food systems, with initiatives to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration and the publication of guides for sustainable food systems.
* **Global Circularity Protocol for Business**: Launched in 2023 to provide a voluntary framework for businesses to report and disclose their circularity performance, promoting standardized metrics and methodologies.
* **Tech Access Partnership**: An initiative launched by the UN Technology Bank, UNDP, and WHO to increase access to health technologies in least developed countries (LDCs).
* **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**: 38 countries presented their VNRs in 2023, showcasing national actions and commitments towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
* **Debt Service Suspension Initiative**: A mechanism to alleviate financial burdens on developing countries, enabling them to focus on recovery efforts.
* **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)**: Proposed as a tool to assess vulnerabilities of countries, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to inform development finance decisions.
* **Global Recovery Initiative**: Proposed to link investments and debt relief to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to secure a green and inclusive recovery post-COVID-19.
* **Youth in STI Day**: Recommended to be organized during the next STI Forum to enhance youth participation in science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development.

## Commitments

* Countries are called to ramp up financing flows by at least USD 500 billion by 2025.
* A $50 billion upfront investment is needed to vaccinate at least 60% of the global population by the middle of 2022.
* The Secretary-General’s call for an additional USD 1.3 trillion by 2025 and an additional USD 3.5 trillion by 2030 for climate action in emerging and developing country economies.
* The 10-Year Framework of Programmes reported an increase of 7.7% in policy instruments to accelerate the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns from 2022 to 2023.
* The 10-Year Framework aims to achieve a global net increase of 7-8 million jobs by 2030 through circular economy approaches.
* Mozambique launched a 20-year national development plan to promote sustainable management of natural resources and progress towards a circular economy.
* The digital toolbox for building circularity into nationally determined contributions was launched in October 2023, with over 1,400 unique visitors in the first two months.
* The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism secured 80 new signatories in 2023, bringing the total to 868.
* The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative secured 73 new signatories in 2023, totaling 215 signatories committed to tracking progress in circular economy practices.
* The 2024 One Planet Network Forum is scheduled for September 2024, focusing on reducing inequalities and achieving just transitions for all through sustainable consumption and production.