

# THE OLIVE TREE

Edition 13. May - June 2019



## Over-tourism worsening over-consumption of Planet's finite resources

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# พระเจ้าทรงเป็นนิรันดร์

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

## ศาสตร์ของพระราชากับการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืน His Majesty's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for SDGs

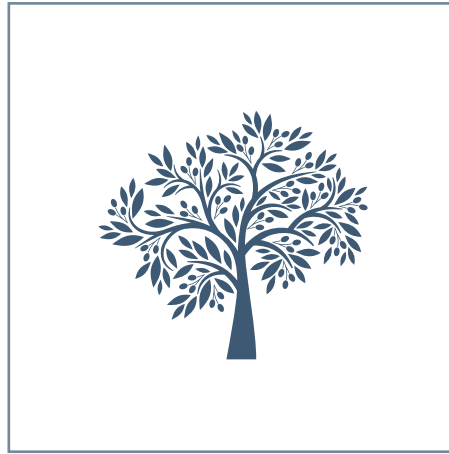
หลักปรัชญาของเศรษฐกิจพอเพียงเป็นหลักในการคิด ตัดสินใจ และทําปฏิบัติ สำหรับการดำเนินชีวิตหรือประกอบกิจการงานใด ๆ ด้วยการใช้ **ความรู้** และ **คุณธรรม** เป็นฐาน ผ่านการไตร่ตรองด้วยหลักสำคัญ ๓ ประการ ได้แก่ พอประมาณ ไม่มากเกินไป ไม่น้อยเกินไป มีเหตุผล ตามหลักวิชาการ มีภูมิคุ้มกัน หรือรองรับการเปลี่ยนแปลงหรือวิกฤตที่อาจเกิดขึ้น ซึ่งจะนำไปสู่การพัฒนาอย่างสมดุลในทุกมิติ ไม่ว่าจะเป็นด้านเศรษฐกิจ สังคม สิ่งแวดล้อม และวัฒนธรรม อันเป็นแนวทางที่จะนำไปสู่ **ความสุขที่ยั่งยืน** ได้อย่างแท้จริง

"Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" is a mindset for decision-making. We base our decisions on our **Knowledge** using our internal value - our **virtues** - through applying the three principles of **moderation, reasonableness** and **prudence**. We aim for the outcomes of our decision to be balanced among the four dimensions of human life: **economy, society, environment** and **culture**, in order to promote sustainable happiness for all.



The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of Thailand's late monarch, His Majesty King Bhumibhol Adulyadej, designed in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian economic crisis, offers one of the best models of Alternative Development globally. It is now going mainstream, primarily because it has much in common with the UN SDGs. Thailand, where the 1997 Asian economic crisis started, is certainly according it more respect than ever before. The rest of the world needs to follow if true "Sustainability" is to be realised.





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**THE OLIVE TREE**

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## Message from **GOVERNOR, TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND**

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# **YUTHASAK SUPASORN**

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The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is now charting the future path of the Thai travel and tourism industry in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). Tourism is now by far our most important service sector. Today, we have reached a stage where we have to better balance quantity versus quality, and marketing versus management. This will be our agenda moving forward.

Sustainability is now going to be at the core of everything we do. In the years ahead, we will emphasise the promotion of 'Responsible Tourism', a major component of our ongoing marketing communications concept 'Open to the New Shades.'

At the same time, we are working intensively to promote our emerging tourism destinations in a way that better balances both seasonality and distribution. We have carefully selected these emerging destinations with due consideration both in terms of tourism demand as well as accessibility, adequate availability of accommodation, readiness of the local communities, and marketable opportunities. The goal is to help them develop and market their tourism economies and cultural assets in an environmentally-friendly way.

Our Tourism Development Plan is closely aligned with the National Development Plan known as Thailand 4.0. It is also a perfect fit with Thailand's Chairmanship theme for ASEAN in 2019, "Advancing Partnership through Sustainability." Travel and tourism can play a vital role in advancing the social, economic and cultural integration of the entire ASEAN region in a peaceful, sustainable manner.

Therefore, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) recognises the role of the Olive Tree publication in advancing this agenda and is proud to be associated with it.

YUTHASAK SUPASORN  
Governor  
Tourism Authority of Thailand





## Message from EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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# IMTIAZ MUQBIL

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Consider for a moment, the following imaginary announcement:

*Country XYZ received 30 million visitors in 2018, a record growth of 9% over 2017. Tourism earnings were tabulated at US\$2.5 billion. It was the best performance in the country's history.*

*The 30 million visitors generated 80 tonnes of garbage, 25 tonnes of sewage, and 1.5 tonnes of food waste. They also consumed 3,000 kilolitres of water. All were up by an average of 10% over 2017.*

The former set of chest-thumping (imaginary) stats are widely disseminated daily industry-wide. The latter are never seen anywhere.

Why?

The UN's Global Resources Outlook 2019 highlighted in this edition of The Olive Tree challenges the travel & tourism industry to answer this very question.

Over-tourism has become a source of major shock-horror concern because it can be statistically measured. But it is obvious that over-tourism leads to over-consumption and over-usage of all forms of natural resources and over-generation of waste.

And yet, the economic growth of tourism is over-measured, the ecological impact is under-measured.

I repeat: Why?

Another very important threat of profound relevance to travel & tourism flagged in this The Olive Tree is a sharp increase in what the UN calls the 'toxic language of politics', mainly directed at minorities and ethnic groups. This warning is accompanied by a very clear call by UN Secretary General António Guterres to 'counter and reject' political leaders who seek to 'exploit differences' between us.

This emerging threat, too, contravenes another major claim made by travel & tourism, viz., to be an industry of peace and socio-cultural preservation and inclusion. When global political leaders are deploying "toxic language" against ethnic groups and religious minorities, travel & tourism leaders remain silent.

I repeat: Why?

Our leaders regularly talk about building a sustainable future for the young generation. Exactly how are we going to do that if we lack the courage to measure our own ecological damage, and counter the "toxic language of politics" poisoning the global geopolitical atmosphere.

Both threats are critical elements of what I have termed "The Two Global Warmings."

By doing/saying nothing about these threats which strike at the heart of every principle we supposedly hold dear, we become a part of the problem. And if we continue to live in denial, we can never be a part of the solution.



# SECTION 1





## LEAD STORY 1:

# Consumption of Planet's finite resources out of control



Nairobi, 12 March 2019 (UN Environment) – Rapid growth in extraction of materials is the chief culprit in climate change and biodiversity loss – a challenge that will only worsen unless the world urgently undertakes a systemic reform of resource use, according to a report released at the UN Environment Assembly.

Global Resources Outlook 2019, prepared by the International Resource Panel, examines the trends in natural resources and their corresponding consumption patterns since the 1970s to support policymakers in strategic decision-making and transitioning to a sustainable economy.

Over the past five decades, the population has doubled and global domestic product has increased four times. The report finds that, in the same period, annual global extraction of materials grew from 27 billion tonnes to 92 billion tonnes (by 2017). This will double again by 2060 on current trends.

According to the report, “the extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food make up about half of total global greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90 per cent of biodiversity loss and water stress”. By 2010, land-use changes had caused a loss of global species of approximately 11 per cent.

“The Global Resources Outlook shows that we are ploughing through this planet’s finite resources as if there is no tomorrow, causing climate change and biodiversity loss along the way,” said Joyce Msyua, Acting Executive Director of UN Environment. “Frankly, there will be no tomorrow for many people unless we stop.”

Since 2000, growth in extraction rates have accelerated to 3.2 per cent per annum, driven largely by major investments in infrastructure and higher material living standards in developing and transitioning countries, especially in Asia. However, the wealthiest countries still needed 9.8 tons of materials per person in 2017, mobilized from elsewhere in the world, which is also driving this trend.

More specifically, the use of metal ores increased by 2.7 per cent annually and the associated impacts on human health and climate change doubled during 2000-2015. Fossil fuel usage went from 6 billion tonnes in 1970 to 15 billion tons in 2017. Biomass increased from 9 billion tonnes to 24 billion tonnes – mostly for food, feedstock and energy.



## Fossil Fuels

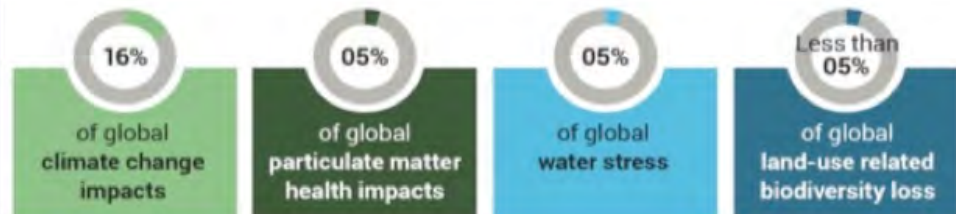
Use of fossil fuels  
1970 and today (2017)

Extracted 1970 **6 billion tonnes**

Extracted 2017 **15 billion tonnes**

Fossil fuel extraction was **2.5 times higher in 2017** than in 1970.

Impacts of extraction  
and primary processing  
today (2017) - in shares  
of total global impact



## Non-metallic minerals

(mainly sand, gravel and clay)

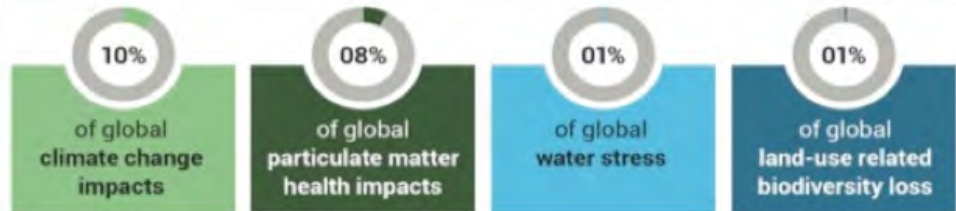
Use of non-metallic  
minerals 1970 and  
today (2017)

Extracted 1970 **9 billion tonnes**

Extracted 2017 **44 billion tonnes**

Non-metallic minerals extraction was **4.9 times higher in 2017** than in 1970, which represents the highest growth rate of all resource groups

Impacts of extraction  
and primary processing  
today (2017) - in shares  
of total global impact



By using data from historical trends, the report projects into the year 2060. From 2015-2060, natural resource use is expected to grow by 110 per cent, leading to a reduction of forests by over 10 per cent and a reduction of other habitats like grasslands by around 20 per cent. The implications for climate change are severe, as there would be an increase in greenhouse gas emissions of 43 per cent.

The report says that if economic and consumption growth continue at current rates, far greater efforts will be required to ensure positive economic growth does not cause negative environmental impacts. The report argues that resource efficiency is essential, though not enough on its own. "What is needed is a move from linear to circular flows through a combination of extended product life cycles, intelligent product design and standardization and reuse, recycling and remanufacturing," it says. If the recommended measures are implemented, it could accelerate economic growth, outweighing the up-front economic costs of shifting to economic models consistent with holding global warming to 1.5°C this century.

"Modelling undertaken by the International Resource Panel shows that with the right resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production policies in place, by 2060 growth in global resource use can slow by 25 per cent, global domestic product could grow 8 per cent – especially for low- and middle-income nations – and greenhouse gas emissions could be cut by 90 per cent



## Biomass

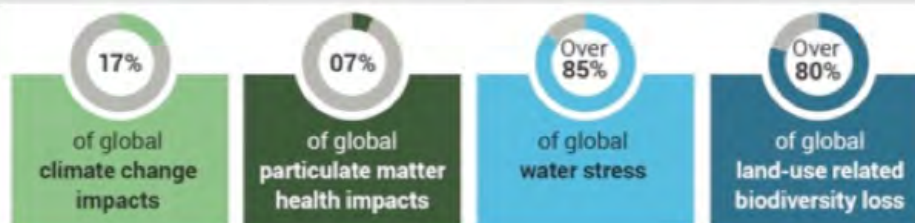
Use of biomass  
1970 and today (2017)

Extracted 1970 **9 billion tonnes**

Extracted 2017 **24 billion tonnes**

Biomass extraction has **increased 2.7-fold** between 1970-2017

Impacts of extraction  
and primary processing  
today (2017) - in shares  
of total global impact  
(see also figure 4)



## Metals

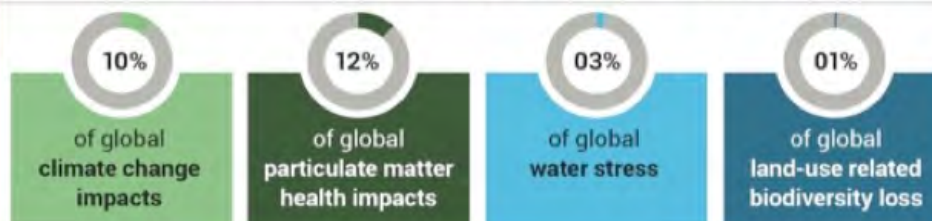
Use of metals 1970  
and today (2017)

Extracted 1970 **2.6 billion tonnes**

Extracted 2017 **9.1 billion tonnes**

Metals extraction has **increased 3.5 times** between 1970 - 2017

Impacts of extraction  
and primary processing  
today (2017) - in shares  
of total global impact



compared with projections for continuing along historical trends,” the Co-Chairs of the Panel, Izabella Teixeira and Janez Potočnik, wrote in the joint preface to the report.

Download the report, summary, infographics and other related material here: <http://www.resourcepanel.org/reports/global-resources-outlook>

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

What is the resource consumption of more than three billion foreign and domestic tourists on shopping, eating, transportation, etc? As I have repeatedly pointed out, the lack of measurement of the ecological damage by the voracious travel & tourism consumers is one of its biggest blind spots. This head-in-the-sand attitude is now a major part of the problem. If the first step towards solving a problem is to recognise there is one, the travel & tourism industry will have to balance the rah-rah stats of its economic contribution with the equally dismal stats of its contribution to ecological destruction and natural resource consumption.



## LEAD STORY 2:

# Asia-Pacific Climate Week to be held in Bangkok 2-6 Sept



Bonn, UN Climate Change News, 23 April – Dates and locations for two major events on the 2019 international climate change calendar have been confirmed today: Latin America & Caribbean Climate Week will take place from 19 to 23 August in Salvador, Brazil; while Asia-Pacific Climate Week will be held from 2 to 6 September in Bangkok, Thailand.

These events will be taking place ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit in New York City on 23 September, designed to support efforts to ensure rapid implementation of the [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#), to accelerate climate action in all areas of society and to increase climate ambition ahead of the update of national climate action plans (“Nationally Determined Contributions” or “NDCs”) in 2020.

For the Summit, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has selected the [six key portfolios](#) which have high potential to usher in a zero-carbon and more climate-resilient economy. These key themes are also shaping the agendas of the

regional climate weeks.

Both climate weeks follow last month’s Africa Climate Week in Accra, which resulted in key takeaways to the September Climate Action Summit and at which African policymakers focused on the opportunities of their countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions.

The meeting in Ghana took place in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, which devastated communities in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, affecting more than 2 million people.

The cyclone provided a poignant backdrop for the 4,000 delegates in attendance, who had also gathered in the Ghanaian capital to explore how the continent can best respond to the impacts of climate change.

Given that they are in the same region, the first of the newly announced events – Latin America & Caribbean Climate Week – will help to set the tone both for the September Climate

Summit in New York and for the December UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Santiago, Chile. The Government of Brazil and the City of Salvador– who are convening the event – have chosen Itaipava Arena Fonte Nova as the venue.

A detailed agenda will be posted on [www.regionalclimateweeks.org](http://www.regionalclimateweeks.org) shortly, but the High-Level segment has been confirmed for Thursday, 22 August and will feature ministers, policymakers, private sector leaders. The event will also showcase on-the-ground examples of climate solutions in the region that are cutting emissions and helping communities adapt to the changing climate.

To register for both events, follow these links:

[Latin America & Caribbean Climate Week Registration](#)

[Asia-Pacific Climate Week Registration](#)

The Regional Climate Weeks are being organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Latin American Energy Organization (Olade), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF), UN Climate Change, Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the World Bank Group (WB), CTCN, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP DTU Partnership, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Emissions Trading Association (IETA).

For media enquiries, please contact Matthew Phillips, Communications Officer, UN Climate Change secretariat, at [MPhillips@unfccc.int](mailto:MPhillips@unfccc.int)

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

A great opportunity for the travel & tourism industry to get involved with activities and events and become a major part of the solution.

## LEAD STORY 3:

# Prospect of a nuclear war ‘higher than it has been in generations’, warns UN



*A view of the sculpture “Good Defeats Evil” on the UN Headquarters grounds, presented to the UN by the Soviet Union on the occasion of the Organization’s 45th anniversary. Created by Zurab Tsereteli, a native of Georgia, the sculpture depicts St. George slaying the dragon. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas*

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 2 April 2019 - In a world defined by “competition over cooperation, and the acquisition of arms, prioritized over the pursuit of diplomacy”, the threat of a nuclear weapon being used is “higher than it has been in generations,” the Security Council heard on Tuesday.

The warning came from [Izumi Nakamitsu](#), the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, in a meeting convened in support of the Non-Proliferation Treaty ([NPT](#)), ahead of the next conference to review the historic accord, scheduled for 2020.

The possible use of nuclear weapons is one of the greatest threats to international peace and security  
Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

The NPT, which entered into force in 1970, represents the only multilateral, binding commitment to the goal of disarmament by the States which officially stockpile nuclear weapons.

Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and disarmament overall.

Ms. Nakamitsu said that the use of nuclear weapons, “either intentionally, by accident, or through miscalculation”, is one of the greatest threats to international peace and security, and that “the potential consequences of a nuclear war would be global and affect all Member States.”





*High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, speaking at the Security Council meeting on strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

The Treaty, she said, is widely acknowledged as “the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of nuclear disarmament. Its role as a pillar of our collective security is likewise an accepted fact.”

### ***From disarmament success to “dangerous rhetoric”***

The disarmament chief described the two pillars of the NPT – disarmament and non-proliferation – as “two sides of the same coin”, adding that “backward movement on one will result in backward movement on the other.”

Unfortunately, Ms. Nakamitsu was able to cite several examples, including the use of “dangerous rhetoric” about nuclear weapons’ use; an increased reliance on nuclear weapons in security doctrines; and modernization programmes to make nuclear weapons faster, stealthier and more accurate.

The durability of the NPT, which has lasted for almost half a century, cannot be taken for granted, she insisted, adding that there is currently nothing to replace the disarmament and arms control framework which is foundational to the post-Cold War era.

With the Treaty coming under increasing stress, the upcoming Review Conference in 2020 will, she said, be a “defining moment.” It could either highlight divisions between States and raise questions about their willingness to seek collective security for all, or present “a golden opportunity to make the practical gains that will ensure the Treaty’s continued viability.”



*Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, speaking at the UN Security Council. UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

## *Iran, North Korea nuclear programmes ‘top of the agenda’*

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), [Yukiya Amano](#), also briefed the Council, reminding members of the role that the Agency plays in the implementation of the NPT; in the creation of an environment “conducive to nuclear cooperation”; and in assisting developing countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful means.

However, Mr. Amano said the [IAEA](#) was facing several challenges, including the steady increase in the amount of nuclear material in circulation, the number of nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards (the system of inspection and verification of the peaceful uses of nuclear materials), and continuing pressure on the Agency’s budget.

He told the Council that monitoring the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), are among the top items on the IAEA’s agenda. Mr. Amano said that Iran was implementing its commitments under the UN-backed [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#), whose future has been put in doubt by the decision of the US administration to withdraw from the agreement. After 2009, he said, there have been “no credible indications of activities in Iran relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device.”

As for the DPRK, Mr. Amano said that the country’s nuclear programme has significantly expanded over the past decade, carrying out nuclear tests on five separate occasions since 2009, despite the recent lull. With no inspectors inside the country, the IAEA monitors the situation using tools such as open-source information and satellite imagery.

## *Security Council reaffirms support for nuclear treaty*

In a statement released following the meeting, the Security Council announced a reaffirmation of its members’ support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and a commitment to “advance the goals of the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.”

Describing the NPT commitments taken under the treaty as viable and mutually reinforcing, the statement underscored the need for its full implementation, and the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Treaty.

The Council members agreed that the 2020 NPT Review Conference will provide an opportunity for an unambiguous reaffirmation of commitment to the Treaty, a commemoration of its historic achievements, and the strengthening of the nuclear-disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

For an industry that claims to be an “industry of peace,” issues such as the threat of nuclear war in the current geopolitical climate are surprisingly never on any table. Head in the sand attitudes do not make problems go away. They only make them worse.

## LEAD STORY 4:

# ‘Toxic language of politics’ aimed at refugees, migrants at unprecedented levels globally



Colombian customs post at Rumichaca, border of Ecuador with Colombia. The UN refugee chief has condemned the toxic language focused on refugees and migrants.  
© UNICEF/UN0247721/Arcos

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 9 April 2019 - In a heartfelt briefing to the Security Council on Tuesday, [Filippo Grandi](#), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has said that, during his three and a half decades as an international civil servant, he has “never seen such toxicity, such poisonous language in politics, media and social media,” directed towards refugees, migrants and foreigners.

At times - pointing his finger at Security Council members for emphasis - an animated Mr. Grandi said that the stigmatization of refugees and migrants is “unprecedented,” and that traditional responses to refugee crises appear increasingly inadequate.

### *A refugee crisis...but for whom?*

Dissecting the term “refugee crisis” itself, Mr. Grandi asked the Security Council to consider to whom, exactly, that applied: “It is a crisis for a mother with her children fleeing gang violence; it is a crisis for a teenager who wants to flee from war, human rights violations, forced conscription; it is crisis for governments in countries with few

resources that, every day, open their borders to thousands. For them, it is a crisis.”

But it is wrong, he continued, to portray the situation as an unmanageable global crisis: with political will and improved responses, as enshrined by the [Global Compact for Refugees](#), adopted last December, it can be addressed, and the Security Council has a critical role to play, particularly in terms of solving peace and security crises, supporting countries that are hosting refugees, and working to remove obstacles to solutions.

### *Without conflict, most refugee flows would disappear*

Conflicts, Mr. Grandi pointed out, are the main drivers of refugee flows: of the nearly 70 million people that are displaced, most are escaping deadly fighting. However, from the point of view of the UN High Commission for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)), approaches to peace-building are fragmented; addressing the symptoms, rather than the causes.





*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, briefs the Security Council. (9 April 2019) UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

The UN refugee chief cited the example of Libya – where [UNHCR](#), along with the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)), has been working with displaced Libyans, as well as those who have fled conflicts in other countries.

The security conditions, said Mr. Grandi, are “at breaking point”: on Tuesday, the Agency \_ more than 150 refugees from an area heavily impacted by military clashes, the first such relocation since the recent escalation of violence. UNHCR’s view is that conditions in the fractured nation are not safe for rescued or intercepted refugees and migrants, and that these people should not be returned there.

With several staff removed from the country for safety reasons, the Agency’s work is “very, very difficult and dangerous.” The Security Council must, he said, take unified action to end the current military escalation, issue a strong call to spare civilians, including refugees and migrants trapped in the country, and take steps to address

the causes of conflict, a necessity if further violence and subsequent displacement, is to be avoided.

The use of the Libyan coastguard was dismissed by Mr. Grandi as an ineffective rescue service, and he condemned the “horrific, unacceptable” conditions for refugees and migrants held in detention camps.

The UN refugee chief went on to exhort the Security Council to step up support for the developing countries that host 85 per cent of the world’s refugees, to avoid leaving governments politically exposed, and refugees destitute.

With regards to the return of refugees and migrants to their countries of origin, Mr. Grandi countered the misconception that UNHCR blocks returns: refugees have both a right to return, and also a right to not return, he said, in the absence of security and basic support. The informed choice of refugees must be respected, and returns must be dignified.

Mr. Grandi concluded by returning to the consequences of the toxic language surrounding refugees and migration, citing the example of the recent mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand in March, which left 49 dead.

The response of the New Zealand Government should, he said, be seen as an good example of effective leadership and how to respond to such toxicity, in a firm and organized manner, restating solidarity with refugees, and reaffirming the principle that our societies cannot be truly prosperous, stable and peaceful, if they do not include everyone.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Exactly a century ago, the world was between two great World Wars. Does anyone today remember what triggered those devastating conflicts which led to millions of deaths? Industry conferences are fixated with “futurists” and “visionaries” spewing out the same old repetitive nonsense. Perhaps some historic hindsight and reminders of the lessons of history may be of more help.



## LEAD STORY 5:

### **‘Counter and reject’ leaders who seek to ‘exploit differences’ between us, urges Guterres at historic mosque in Cairo**



*Secretary-General António Guterres speaks at the Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, expressing his solidarity and underscoring the need to fight the scourge of Islamophobia, as well as all forms of hatred and bigotry. UN Photo/ Mahmoud Abd ELLatiff*

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 2 April 2019 - Speaking in Cairo’s historic Al-Azhar mosque on Tuesday, [UN chief António Guterres](#) issued a call for societies, faiths and cultures everywhere to “focus on what unites us”, [urging everyone](#) to work together towards realizing the 2030 Agenda “for the collective benefit of all”.

Reflecting on what he called “ever-rising anti-Muslim hatred, anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia”, the Secretary-General said it was vital now to “counter and reject religious and political figures who exploit differences” for their own gain. He said we must also ask “why so many people feel excluded, and why they are tempted by extreme messages of intolerance against each other.”

Mr. Guterres arrived at the more than 1,000-year-old mosque and centre of Islamic scholarship in the Egyptian capital, as “a man of faith”, he said, to show his solidarity with the faithful, in the wake of last month’s massacre at two mosques in New Zealand by a self-avowed white supremacist.

“As the holy Quran says in Surah Fussilat, verse 34, ‘Good and evil deeds are not equal. Repel evil with what is better, and then you will see that one who was once your enemy, has become your dearest friend,’” said the UN chief.

He noted the similar attack by a lone gunman on Jewish worshippers at a Synagogue in the Pennsylvanian city of Pittsburgh last October, where as in the Christchurch aftermath, concerned citizens of other faiths, rallied to support and protect survivors.

“This is the spirit that I know is deeply embedded in Islam – a faith of love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy and grace”, said the UN chief.

With hate speech “entering the mainstream” and “spreading like wildfire” through social and traditional media, he noted that it was infecting both liberal democracies and authoritarian States. “These dark forces menace democratic values, social stability and peace. They stigmatize women, minorities migrants and refugees,” he said

Faith leaders “have a very important role” Mr. Guterres said, noting that his host, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, had joined hands with Pope Francis in Abu Dhabi in February.

“I have here, given by the Grand Imam, the text, the common text, approved by him and the Pope”, said the Secretary General, “which is a fantastic testimony of mutual respect, tolerance, compassion and peace, given by the two great religious leaders to the world.”

“As the Grand Imam stated, Muslims have paid a heavy price due to the actions of ‘a handful of criminals.’ He also stressed that ‘all religions agree that God forbids killing,’” added Mr. Guterres.

He noted that the Grand Imam had also called for Muslims in the Middle East to protect Christian communities, who have been subjected to terror at the hands of fundamentalist groups such as ISIL, or Da’esh.

“I also commend the initiatives taken by Al-Azhar to promote the true face of Islam and counter violent extremist philosophies and terrorist propaganda,” said the UN chief: “Nothing justifies terrorism and it becomes particularly hideous when religion is involved.”

Later in the day in Cairo as part of his extended visit to the Middle East region this week, Mr. Guterres toured the Grand Egyptian Museum describing it on Twitter as “an impressive reminder of how the Arab world opened the door to epic discoveries and possibilities”.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

For an industry that claims to be a major contributor to social and cultural appreciation and integration, when was the last time it openly discussed the challenge of “why so many people feel excluded, and why they are tempted by extreme messages of intolerance against each other.” Another major industry blind-spot which it continues to sweep under the carpet.

## LEAD STORY 6:

# Young people seek ways to build a future of inclusion



*A participant of the 2019 UN Economic and Social Council Youth Forum (ECOSOC) high-fiving Nelson Mandela at the United Nations.*  
© UNDP / Sumaya Agha

By Daniela Peris, Spanish Social Media and Web Editor Intern at UNDP New York.

United Nations, UN Development Program, April 16 - The world is getting younger. One in five people are aged between 15 and 24. Yet, young people are often not in the places where decisions are made, being at risk of exclusion and inequality.

They face obstacles to political participation, are more vulnerable to poverty than the average population, and their number in conflict areas has dramatically increased in past years. At the same time, it has been estimated that young people are more likely than older adults to become entrepreneurs, have higher literacy rates and are more connected through technology than ever before. These qualities make the youngsters a very powerful tool to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To give voice to their ideas, the [2019 UN Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) Youth Forum](#) gathered more than 1,000 young leaders from around the world, to share how they would achieve the Global Goals. The forum is the world's largest youth forum and the only official intergovernmental meeting that brings youth representatives together with government ministers and officials.

At the centre of this year's discussion was the role of young people in building a future without conflict and inequalities. It is crucial that they are able to better connect, and participate fully to sustain peace and bridge the gaps in the areas of gender, poverty, education, disability and political inclusion.

Here, six young inspiring leaders tell us about their work in promoting peace and inclusivity.





*Kasunjith is [Youth Lead for UNDP in Sri Lanka](#). He is the first disabled person to have been recruited by UNDP in Asia. © UNDP / Sumaya Agha*

## ***Creating inclusive spaces***

Kasunjith Satanarchchi is the [Youth Lead for UNDP in Sri Lanka](#). He is the first disabled person to have been recruited by UNDP in Asia. Together with his team, he is working to improve the workspaces of UNDP Sri Lanka, and other UN agencies, to include more disabled people. “UNDP has understood the value of being inclusive in the workforce since it has made them think ‘outside the box’ and view things from a different perspective,” he says.

Initiatives include improving accessibility, supplying documents in other formats, such as Braille, and training colleagues. It’s crucial that team members understand the dynamics of disability and that they learn how to work with young people of different abilities, making them feel comfortable and unlocking their potential.

“We need to mainstream disability into the existing workforce fully of UNDP, which cannot be done without the participation of persons with disabilities. We believe that nothing about us without us,” he says.



*Tina Hocevar is a member of the European Commission and Vice-President of the [European Youth Forum](#). © UNDP / Lei Katof*

## ***Rights for everyone***

In Europe, young people are still facing barriers to their rights. There are age limits when voting or running for political office, and restricted access to education, quality employment and social protection.

Tina Hocevar, from Slovenia wants to change that. She is a member of the European Commission and Vice-President of the [European Youth Forum](#). She is advocating for the equal rights of young people and for lives free from discrimination. She helped create an [interactive online tool](#), where you can learn more about youth rights.





*Christian is working in Cameroon to prevent young people from violence. © UNDP / Sumaya Agha*

## *Designing a future of peace*

Christian Achaleke's outfit was designed by one of the prison's inmates he has helped through the local organization, [Local Youth Corner](#). Christian is working in Cameroon to prevent young people from violence.

"I grew up with violence in my community, but my mentor, who was the national coordinator of Local Youth Corner at the time, spoke to me about working for peace using my energy and talent to do something positive," he says.

In 2015, the organization started working with young people in prisons, providing them with vocational and entrepreneurial skills, counselling, and activities like sports to promote social healing. The inmates learn to produce a diverse range of products, including clothes, and jewelry to help them start a new life once they are released.



*Pia Risoer Bierre is a delegate of the [Danish Youth Council](#). © UNDP / Lei Katof*

## *Call to climate action*

Many young Danes have joined the [Fridays for future](#) school strikes. Among them is Pia Risoer Bierre, delegate of the [Danish Youth Council](#). For her, climate action is the top priority.

"Danish youth are very much aware that climate change is happening at a very rapid pace and there's a lot of frustration that the government and the global community is not doing enough," she says.

The gatherings in front of the parliament every Friday have led to the Danish Youth Climate Council initiative, a group of experts and motivated activists who are directly engaging and recommending initiatives on climate action to the members of parliament and the government. Pia is hopeful that this will result in concrete policy changes.



*Ogotu Okudo works as a country manager for the oil and gas company Spring Rock Energy in Kenya. © UNDP / Daniela Peris*

## **Energetic entrepreneurs**

Ogotu Okudo works as a country manager for the oil and gas company Spring Rock Energy in Kenya. Having broken through the male-dominated world of the energy and extractive sector, Ogotu set herself to encourage and include more young women. In 2011, she founded [Women in Energy and Extraction Africa \(WEX Africa\)](#), a non-profit organization that works in sub-Saharan countries, providing entrepreneurial skills to young women and advocating for their participation in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Girls and women are often the ones fetching gas and water for household tasks. However, little is known about the ways in which energy directly or indirectly affects them. WEX Africa is also implementing programmes to study the impact of

oil, gas, mining, nuclear and alternative energy on the livelihoods of women and girls.

“Women normally do jobs like cleaning or cooking, but we want to give them the opportunity to get involved in the entrepreneurial world,” she says.



*Regine Guevara, from the Philippines, works with UN Women and has also served as an ASEAN Youth Advocate. © UNDP / Sumaya Agha*

## **Unlocking potential**

Regine Guevara, from the Philippines, works with UN Women and has also served as an ASEAN Youth Advocate. As a peace activist and educator, Regine has worked with young Rohingya refugees in Malaysia, trained indigenous women in Thailand, and helped to build peace in the Philippines.

Her work with Rohingya refugees in Malaysia focused on teaching English, language and mathematics, which helps them integrate into their new environment. Her work with indigenous women in Thailand focused on job skills for small businesses, and education about raising capital. For indigenous women, finding opportunities through eco-friendly businesses both unlocked their capacity to earn income and ensure environmental sustainability.

“Education comes in many different forms, but, like any development goal, is essentially rooted in building capabilities for peoples and communities to realize their own potential,” she says.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Travel & tourism youth forums need to start using this as a template to get the emerging generation focussed on real issues, not just technobabble start-ups which have dominated agendas. A lot of lip-service is being paid to involving the youth. There is scant evidence that the outgoing generation which is bequeathing the current global mess to the emerging generation is paying any attention to anything they say.



# SECTION 2







# SDG 1:

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**Profound  
implications of  
population trends  
on sustainable  
development**





*A view of the city of Bogotá, Colombia. Dominic Chavez/World Bank*



## SDG 1: Profound implications of population trends on sustainable development

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 1 April 2019 - The United Nations is highlighting the important role that population trends play in promoting sustainable development, during the annual [Commission on Population and Development](#), which began at UN Headquarters in New York on Monday.

The United Nations is highlighting the important role that population trends play in promoting sustainable development, during the annual [Commission on Population and Development](#), which began at UN Headquarters in New York on Monday.

This year's Commission is also an opportunity to take stock and review progress made since the landmark International Conference on Population and Development ([ICPD](#)), which took place 25 years ago in the Egyptian capital, Cairo. The 1994 event resulted in a Programme of Action, based on the idea that investing in individual human rights, capabilities and dignity, is the foundation of all sustainable development.

The Programme was described by the UN as “revolutionary”, because it succeeded in bringing together diverse views on human rights, population, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and sustainable development, in the search for a global consensus.

This year's Commission will examine the many gains that have been made in implementing the Programme of Action, but also the gaps and shortfalls in achieving its goals and objectives: these must be addressed, says the UN, if we are to achieve the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the UN's plan of action for bringing about a better and more sustainable future for all.

Speaking on behalf of [Liu Zhemin](#), Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, and head of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), [Maria-Francesca Spatolisano](#), Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, drew attention to the four demographic “mega-trends” that are shaping the world in fundamental ways: population growth, population ageing, international migration and urbanization.

The two latter trends, international migration and urbanization, “affect the spatial distribution of population,” she said, “and are linked in various and complex ways to the process of sustainable development. While it is right to celebrate achievements, we must also prepare for a world that is larger, older, more mobile and more urbanized than ever before.”

In her address, Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)), credited “national strategies and leadership, United Nations agencies, civil society, communities and our partners,” for their role in bringing about the progress made since the International Conference on Population and Development.

“The vision and values of the ICPD, that development must be people-centred, and attention paid to strengthening equal access to health, education and human dignity for all persons, anticipated the vision and values of the 2030 Agenda, our common blueprint for peace and prosperity, for people and the planet now and in years to come.”

UN Deputy Secretary-General, [Amina Mohammed](#), speaking on behalf of Secretary-General [António Guterres](#), warned that efforts on some [Sustainable Development Goals](#) are not keeping pace with population growth, citing targets on poverty in the least developed countries, child marriage, and people living in urban slums.

“While the percentage of affected persons may be declining,” she said, “their number is still rising. It is time for the world to show greater ambition and urgency around SDG implementation that is fully aligned with the Cairo Programme of Action.”

Ms. Mohammed emphasized the importance of gender equality in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the involvement of women and girls as “agents of change,” with the ability to make decision that affect their bodies and lives, including reproductive rights, and access to quality education.

Also speaking at the opening session was film and TV actress, and Goodwill Ambassador for [UNFPA](#), Ashley Judd, who said on social media that she was appearing as a messenger for “the 6.7 million girls who will be forced into marriage this year, as well as the 214 million women who are unable to access family planning, the 300,000 women who will die preventable deaths whilst giving life this year.”

Ms. Judd followed the deputy UN chief’s remarks on gender equality by describing the ICPD as a “paradigm shift,” that placed the future of the world’s development firmly in the hands of women and girls, and demanded that we have the rights to make decisions over our own bodies, to have our bodily integrity and our sexual autonomy. 25 years of evidence and practice continue to support this consensus and prove that this mission is as vital and critical today as it was then.”

## ***Progress unevenly distributed***

Data from the UN shows that progress has been made in many population-related areas, but that there is a significant regional disparity. In all regions, for example, people are living longer, with average global life expectancy rising from 65 to 72 years, but there is a 15-year gap in that figure, between citizens of the most and least-developed countries.

Child mortality is also moving in the right direction, having fallen by half in the last quarter-century but, here again, there is a marked regional disparity. Child mortality levels in Sub-Saharan Africa have



dropped from 180 to 78 deaths per 1,000 births, but the child mortality rate in the region is still 15 times higher than that of children born in developed regions.

As for family planning needs, 78 per cent of women who are married, or living with a partner, have access to modern methods of contraception - up from 72 per cent in 1994 - but that figure drops to less than 50 per cent in 44 countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and the southern Pacific island nations. 90 per cent of urban growth is projected to take place in Africa and Asia over the next two decades, and the share of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to rise from 56 per cent now, to 68 per cent by 2050.

The Commission will look at several population-related topics which contribute to sustainable development, including government policies to expand access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning; policies to improve education quality and access; and ensuring sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

All four megatrends identified in the report -- population growth, ageing, international migration and urbanization – are of wide-ranging importance to travel & tourism, and directly linked to the success of the UN SDGs. Like many other such challenges, they do not figure very highly on industry agendas.



# SDG 2:

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**Acute food  
insecurity 'far too  
high' UN agency  
warns, as 113  
million go hungry**





Twins Elizabeth and Madelina, who suffer from malnutrition, are being held by a relative in the street, where they live, in Juba, South Sudan. (2018). UNICEF/Campeanu



## SDG 2: Acute food insecurity 'far too high' UN agency warns, as 113 million go hungry

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 2 April 2019 - Approximately 113 million people in 53 countries experienced high levels of food insecurity last year, according to a new joint UN and European Union (EU) report released on Tuesday, which warns that these crises are primarily driven by conflict and climate-related disasters.

The Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)), World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) and EU "Global Report on Food Crises 2019", shows that the number going chronically-hungry has remained well over 100 million over the past three years, with the number of countries affected, rising.

According to the report, nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger come from just eight countries: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. And although there were 11 million fewer people believed to be in food crisis in 2018 compared with 2017, in 17

countries, acute hunger either remained the same or increased, the report indicates.

Moreover, an additional 143 million people in another 42 countries are just one step away from acute hunger. Climate and natural disasters pushed another 29 million people into acute food insecurity in 2018, says the report, and that number excludes 13 countries - including North Korea and Venezuela - because of data gaps.

"It is clear from the [Global Report](#) that despite a slight drop in 2018 in the number of people experiencing acute food insecurity - the most extreme form of hunger - the figure is still far too high", said FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, speaking at a two-day conference to discuss the findings, in Brussels.

"We must act at scale across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to build the resilience of affected and vulnerable populations. To save



lives, we also have to save livelihoods”, he added. While critical to saving lives and alleviating human suffering, humanitarian assistance does not address the root causes of food crises, WFP Executive Director, David Beasley noted in Brussels, highlighted the importance of “attacking the root causes of hunger: conflict, instability, the impact of climate shocks”.

“Boys and girls need to be well-nourished and educated, women need to be truly empowered, rural infrastructure must be strengthened in order to meet that Zero Hunger goal.

Programmes that make a community resilient and more stable will also reduce the number of hungry people. And one thing we need world leaders to do as well: step up to the plate and help solve these conflicts, right now”, Mr. Beasley added.

From 2014 to 2020, the EU will have provided nearly €9 billion for initiatives on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in over 60 countries.

“Food crises continue to be a global challenge, which requires our joint efforts. The EU continues to step up its humanitarian efforts. Over the last three years, the EU allocated the biggest humanitarian food and nutrition assistance budget ever, with nearly €2 billion overall. Food crises are becoming more acute and complex and we need innovative ways to tackle and prevent them from happening,” said Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

If water is going to be a major problem, so will food. Certainly, food wastage is being addressed, but a lot more can be done to lower overall consumption levels system-wide. Certainly the whole concept of buffets will need to be redesigned and remodeled.



# SDG 2:

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**UN agriculture  
agency 'cannot only  
focus on tackling  
hunger anymore'**



Crops at the periurban agriculture cooperative Vivero Alamar, Cuba. FAO photo



## SDG 2: UN agriculture agency ‘cannot only focus on tackling hunger anymore’

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 8 April 2019 - Innovating agriculture and promoting nutrition-sensitive food systems top the Food and Agriculture Agency’s (FAO) to-do list, its chief told the United Nations agriculture agency’s governing council on Monday, saying “we cannot only focus on tackling hunger anymore”.

With the aim of meeting Sustainable Development Goal ([SDG 2](#)), to eradicate malnutrition, Executive Director José Graziano da Silva said in his opening address to a meeting of the [FAO Council](#) executive, that thinking only in terms of those suffering weight loss, was outdated: “There is a steady growth in the levels of overweight (people) and obesity all around the world”.

Mr. Graziano da Silva spelled out that “while hunger is circumscribed to specific areas, obesity is everywhere...we are witnessing the globalization of obesity”.

As part of implementing FAO’s priorities over the next two years, he drew attention to upcoming key events that include a food safety conference organized by FAO, the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) and World Trade Organization (WTO) later this month in Geneva; the launch of the [UN Decade of Family Farming](#) at FAO’s headquarters at the end of May; and a meeting in June of the parties of the first-ever binding international instrument specifically addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the [FAO Port States Measures Agreement](#).

Mr. Graziano da Silva highlighted FAO’s recent successes in reducing costs; becoming more efficient, effective and results oriented; and in attracting greater voluntary contributions.



The Director-General painted a picture of the UN agriculture agency's commitment to partnerships. Whereas in 2012, 20 new partners contributed \$28 million, FAO today has 100 new partners, contributing over \$200 million.

Moreover, FAO's engagement in joint programmes and interagency platforms with UN agencies has also almost doubled since 2012, now representing a 100 per cent increase of contributions from the UN system, which account for \$800 million.

A series of side events taking place in the margins of the session include the findings of the [first report on the State of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture](#) and addressing antimicrobial resistance in the context of the One Health approach.

In the run-up to electing a new FAO Director-General in June, candidates for the post — Ramesh Chand (India), Davit Kirvalidze (Georgia), Qu Dongyu (China) and Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (France) — will address the Council on Thursday.

The 49 members of the FAO Council deal with the world food and agricultural situation and related matters and activities of the Organization, including the Programme of Work and Budget, administrative matters, financial management and constitutional questions.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The report on the State of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture will be very interesting for every food and beverage manager and chef in the travel and tourism industry. It says, "It is deeply concerning that in so many production systems in so many countries biodiversity for food and agriculture and the ecosystem services it provides are reported to be in decline. The foundations of our food systems are being undermined, often, at least in part, because of the impact of management practices and land-use changes associated with food and agriculture." Well worth downloading.



# SDG 2:

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**Online Photo  
Exhibit: Solidarity  
with those who feed  
the world**

# *Solidarity With Those Who Feed the World*



## **SDG 2: Online Photo Exhibit: Solidarity with those who feed the world**

Bangkok (Focus on the Global South), 17 April 2019 - Small-scale food providers--peasants, pastoralists, rural women, agricultural workers, artisanal fisherfolk, indigenous peoples and local processors--feed more than two-thirds of the world's population.

Yet, their central roles in realizing the right to food, employment and ecological conservation are not adequately recognized by policy makers and instead, they are threatened by the industrial food chain led by global agribusinesses and food corporations.

Across Asia, many food-producing and working communities, especially women, continually suffer from severe and chronic hunger, displacement, dispossession, violence and impunity amidst competing interests and values. Visions, practices, and systems that challenge the dominant economic paradigm are advanced by small-scale food providers around the world. These systems place the rights of peoples, communities, and the environment above economic and financial considerations.

Many small-scale food providers continually suffer violence, exploitation, marginalization, discrimination, manipulation, and displacement because of middlemen/brokers, local elites,

agribusiness companies, transnational corporations (TNCs), financial institutions and governments.

People are often pushed off and out of their lands, ancestral domains and fishing areas by large-scale investment projects including but not limited to mining operations, plantations, industrial food estates, contract farming, aquaculture, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and Industrial Zones (IZs).

Most of these businesses operate with impunity, in connivance with governments that have adopted neoliberal policies and entered into free trade-investment agreements that destroy the local agricultural sector. Local food providers lose control over their territories, farmlands, grazing fields, water, seeds, livestock, fish populations, and access to markets.

New technologies introduced by mainstream academia and research institutions enable powerful corporate players to concentrate control over food, agriculture and fisheries and undermine the abilities of small-scale food providers to develop, share and implement knowledge and skills needed for localized food systems.



The recent adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas is a significant step forward in guaranteeing, realizing, and protecting the rights of small scale food providers. It is imperative that we strengthen our solidarity with the movements for food sovereignty and with those who feed the world.

We invite you to visit our online exhibition on the International Day of Peasants' Struggles.

[Click here to visit the Exhibit](#)

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This exhibit contains great photographs of people working at the grassroots of our food chain. Thought-provoking images of those whom we consider to be involved in “agro-tourism.”

**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



# SDG 3:

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**New safety and  
health issues  
emerge as work  
changes**



## SDG 3: New safety and health issues emerge as work changes

GENEVA (ILO News) 18 April 2019 – Changes in working practices, demographics, technology and the environment are creating new occupational safety and health (OSH) concerns, according to a new report from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Growing challenges include psychosocial risks, work-related stress and non-communicable diseases, notably circulatory and respiratory diseases, and cancers.

The report, [Safety and Health at the heart of the Future of Work: Building on 100 years of experience](#) \*, is being published ahead of the [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#) , which is marked on April 28th. It reviews the ILO's 100 years of work on OSH issues, and highlights emerging health and safety issues in the world of work.

Currently, more than 374 million people are injured or made ill every year through work-related accidents. It is estimated that work days lost to OSH-related causes represent almost 4 per cent of global GDP, in some countries as much as 6 per cent, the Report says.

“As well as more effective prevention for established risks, we are seeing profound changes in our places and ways of working. We need safety and health structures that reflect this, alongside a general culture of prevention that creates shared responsibility,” said Manal Azzi, ILO Technical Specialist on Occupational Safety and Health.



Looking to the future, the report highlights four major transformative forces driving changes. It points out that all also offer opportunities for improvements.

First, technology, such as digitization, robotics, and nanotechnology, can also affect psychosocial health and introduce new materials with unmeasured health hazards. Correctly applied it can also help reduce hazardous exposures, facilitate training and labour inspections.

Demographic shifts are important because young workers have significantly high occupational injury rates, while older workers need adaptive practices and equipment to work safely. Women – who are entering the workforce in increasing numbers – are more likely to have non-standard work arrangements and have a higher risk of musculoskeletal disorders.

Thirdly, development and climate change give rise to risks such as air pollution, heat stress, emerging diseases, shifting weather and temperature patterns that can bring job losses. Equally, new jobs will be created through sustainable development and the green economy.

Finally, changes in the organization of work can bring flexibility that allows more people to enter the labour force, but may also lead to psychosocial issues (for example, insecurity, compromised privacy and rest time, or inadequate OSH and social protections) and excessive work hours. Approximately 36 per cent of the world's workforce currently works excessive hours (more than 48 hours per week).



In the light of these challenges the study proposes six areas on which policy makers and other stakeholders should focus. These include more work on anticipating new and emerging OSH risks, adopting a more multidisciplinary approach and building stronger links to public health work. Better public understanding of OSH issues is also needed. Finally, international labour standards and national legislation need to be strengthened, something which will require stronger collaboration between Governments, workers and employers.

By far the greatest proportion of current work-related deaths – 86 per cent – come from disease. In the region of 6,500 people a day die from occupational diseases, compared to 1,000 from fatal occupational accidents.

The greatest causes of mortality are circulatory diseases (31 per cent), work-related cancers (26 per cent) and respiratory diseases (17 per cent).

“As well as the economic cost we must recognize the immeasurable human suffering such illnesses and accidents cause. These are all-the-more tragic because they are largely preventable,” said Azzi. “Serious consideration should also be given to the recommendation of the [ILO’s Global Commission on the Future of Work](#), that occupational safety and health be recognized as a fundamental principle and right at work.”

Report summary: [Safety and Health at the Heart of the Future of Work: Building on 100 years of experience](#)

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Travel & tourism is assumed to be one of the safest places to work. But that may prove not to be true if more research was done on this topic, particularly in terms of stress levels and physical/mental health impact. As usual, the industry is much more fixated with bells-and-whistles such as robotics and AI, rather than these much more fundamental challenges.




# SDG 3:

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**Countries and civil society push for greater medicinal transparency and fairer prices**





Picture source: WHO

3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## SDG 3: Countries and civil society push for greater medicinal transparency and fairer prices

Johannesburg, South Africa 13 April 2019, - At a global forum on fair pricing and access to medicines, delegates from governments and civil society organizations called for greater transparency around the cost of research and development as well as production of medicines, to allow buyers to negotiate more affordable prices.

The forum, co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of South Africa, aimed to provide a global platform for frank discussion among all stakeholders - including governments, civil society organizations and the pharmaceutical industry - in order to identify strategies to reduce medicine prices and expand access for all.

The affordability of medicines has long been a concern for developing countries, but today it is also a global one. Each year, 100 million people fall into poverty because they have to pay for medicines out-of-pocket. High-income countries' health authorities are increasingly having to ration medicines for cancer, hepatitis C and rare diseases. The problem extends to older medicines whose patents have expired, such as insulin for diabetes.

"Medical innovation has little social value if most people cannot access its benefits," said Dr Mariângela Simão, WHO Assistant Director General

for Medicines and Health Products. "This is a global human rights issue - everyone has a right to access quality healthcare."

A [report](#) commissioned by WHO in 2017 showed that the cost of production of most medicines on WHO's Essential Medicines List was a small fraction of the final price paid by governments, patients or insurance schemes. Some delegates at the forum noted that a lack of transparency around prices paid by governments means that many low- and middle-income countries pay higher prices for certain medicines than wealthier countries do.

There was consensus that countries can take an initial step towards fostering greater transparency by sharing price information. Countries from the so-called Benelux network have already joined forces to share such information, and the results have been promising. The data highlights discrepancies in what different countries are paying and can serve as a powerful tool to negotiate reduced prices. WHO's database on vaccine markets and shortages - MI4A - was also highlighted at the forum as a useful tool to achieve competitive vaccine prices.

The event highlighted other successful examples of countries' collaboration around achieving more affordable medicine prices; these include pooled procurement and voluntary sharing of policies.

If several countries in the same region purchase medicines as a block, they can negotiate reduced prices due to the larger volume of medicines purchased. And European countries led by Austria have been sharing different policies to expand access to medicines through the WHO-supported PPRI (Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies).

Industry bodies at the forum expressed support for the goal of access to medicines for all, and

expressed their commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda, which calls for partnership with the private sector to address global challenges such as access to medicines.

WHO will launch a public online consultation in the coming weeks to collect views and suggestions for a definition of what actually constitutes a 'fair price' from relevant stakeholders.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This should be of great interest to the health and wellness sector. However, the dilemma is clear. Enhancing the economic value of “medical tourists” means jacking up the prices of medication, especially if the commissions paid by pharmaceutical companies are included. This should not be the case. Another issue never discussed at health and wellness events.



# SDG 5:

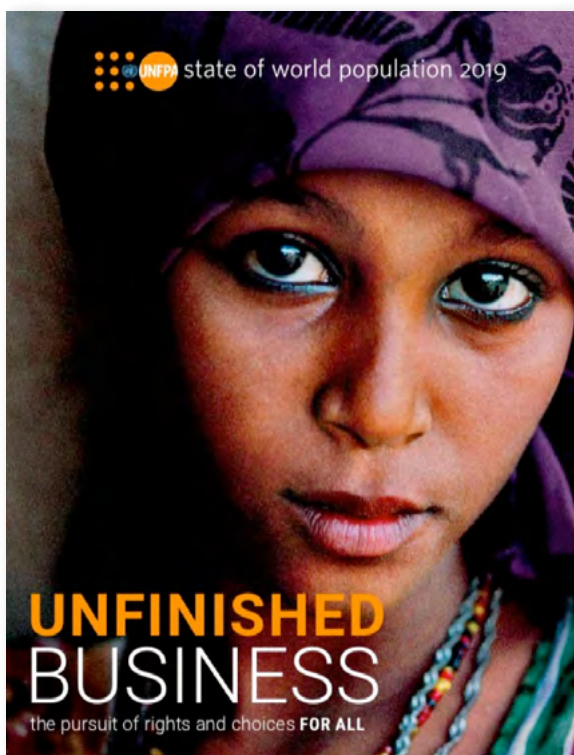
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**More than four in 10 women, live in fear of refusing partner's sexual demands**





## SDG 5: More than four in 10 women, live in fear of refusing partner's sexual demands



United Nations, (UN News Centre) 10 April 2019 - More than four in 10 women in 51 countries surveyed, feel they have no choice but to agree to their partner's sexual demands, the UN sexual and reproductive health agency, [UNFPA](#), said on Wednesday, noting that they are also unable to make basic decisions about getting pregnant and accessing health care for themselves.

Monica Ferro, Director of [UNFPA](#) Geneva, said the figures were “worrisome” and it was essential to raise the level of consent and access to vital health services, for millions of women around the world. “Don’t forget: each one of these numbers is a person”, she added.

The findings, relating to women aged 15-49, are being published for the first time, as part of UNFPA’s [State of World Population 2019 report](#).

### ***800 a day die from preventable causes related to childbirth***

The report shows that an estimated 214 million women cannot easily access contraceptives because of cultural and economic obstacles - despite their increasing availability - while more than 800 women die every day from preventable causes during pregnancy and childbirth.

According to the analysis, the absence of reproductive and sexual rights has a major and negative repercussions on women’s education, income and safety, leaving them “unable to shape their own futures”.

Those women and girls left behind “are typically poor, rural and less educated”, Ms. Ferro said, adding that “two-thirds of all maternal deaths today occur in sub-Saharan Africa”.

In addition to the rural and urban poor, unmet needs for sexual and reproductive health services are also highest in marginalized groups – including minority ethnic groups – young people, unmarried people, LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) individuals and those with disabilities.

### ***The blight of early marriage***

Early marriage continues to present a major cultural obstacle to female empowerment and better reproductive rights, the UNFPA report suggests.

“A girl who marries when she is 10 will probably leave school,” Ms. Ferro said. “And because she leaves school, she won’t get the negotiating skills, and she won’t get the specific skills which will allow her to then get a better-paid job.”

In addition to economic concerns, girls who marry early face serious health risks too, added the senior official: “If she is married at 10, the probability is, that she will start child-bearing before her body is even ready for that, not to talk about her mind...This will also increase the possibilities of her going through complications in pregnancy, and complications in childbirth.”

### ***‘Staggering’ rise in sexually-transmitted infections***

Additional health risks caused by barriers that block women’s access to contraception also include a “staggering” 376 million new infections of chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis every day, among people between the ages of 15 and 44, the UNFPA Geneva Director added.

Despite these concerns, the UNFPA report highlights that “untold millions” have enjoyed healthier and more productive lives in the 50 years since the agency was founded, thanks to pressure from civil society and governments to dramatically reduce unintended pregnancies and maternal deaths.

Highlighting positive changes in the last half-century, the report shows that in 1969, the average number of births per woman was 4.8, compared with 2.9 in 1994, and 2.5 today.

Fertility rates in least-developed countries have dropped significantly in that time too; from 6.8 in 1969, to 5.6 in 1994 and 3.9 in 2019, while the number of women who died from pregnancy-related causes has decreased from 369 per 100,000 births in 1994, to 216 in 2015.

In addition, while 24 per cent of women used modern contraceptives in 1969, that percentage increased to 52 per cent in 1994 and 58 per cent in 2019, UNFPA says.



### ***Conflict and climate disasters leave reproductive rights forgotten***

Looking ahead to future challenges, the UN agency highlights the threat to women’s and girls’ reproductive rights posed by emergencies caused by conflict or climate disasters.

Without access, (women) lack the power to make decisions about their own bodies, including whether or when to become pregnant - UNFPA chief, Natalia Kanem

Some 35 million women, girls and young people will need life-saving sexual and reproductive health services this year, as well as services to address gender-based violence, in humanitarian settings, it warns.

“Every day, more than 500 women and girls including in countries with emergency settings, die during pregnancy and childbirth, due to the

absence of skilled birth attendants or emergency obstetric procedures,” Ms. Ferro said.

Warning that women and girls left without decent reproductive rights are unable to have the future they want, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem called on world leaders to “re-commit” to ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all – a pledge made at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.

“Without access, they lack the power to make decisions about their own bodies, including whether or when to become pregnant,” Dr. Kanem insisted.

At that meeting in Egypt, 179 governments called for all people to have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including voluntary family planning, and safe pregnancy and childbirth services.

“I call on world leaders to re-commit to the promises made in Cairo 25 years ago”, said Dr. Kanem. “The world will have a historic opportunity to complete the unfinished business of the ICPD at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to be held in Kenya in November, where Governments, activists and stakeholders will rally to protect the gains made so far, and fulfill the promise of the ICPD agenda, so that no one is left behind.”

### ***50 million 10-year-old girls ‘forced to trade sexuality and fertility’***

Echoing that appeal, Judith Bruce, one of 15 “champions of change” featured in the report for their positive influence in sexual and reproductive health and rights, called for the UN’s 2030 Agenda of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) to be used to drive investment to places where child marriage, sexual coercion and poverty overlap.

Some 50 million 10-year-old girls in the world’s poorest countries face growing pressures “to trade sexuality and fertility” in the face of “increasing climate emergencies, conflict, displacement, scarcity and stress”, Ms. Bruce insisted.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Travel & tourism is a major employer of women. This problem is certainly prevalent amongst their rank and file. Leads to stress and aggravation, and impacts on productivity and service delivery. Is it on the table for Human Resources Directors, and the many women now rising to senior positions in travel & tourism ?





# SDG 5:

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**Women outliving  
men 'everywhere',  
new UN health  
agency statistics  
report shows**



*Elderly woman in Muse Township, Northern Shan State, Myanmar, March 2018. OCHA/Htet Htet Oo*



## SDG 5: Women outliving men ‘everywhere’, new UN health agency statistics report shows

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 4 April 2019 - Average life-expectancy globally has increased by five-and-a-half years since the turn of the century, and women outlive men “everywhere”, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday.

“Whether it’s homicide, road accidents, suicide, cardiovascular disease - time and time again, men are doing worse than women”, said Dr. Richard Cibulskis, main author of [WHO’s World Health Statistics Overview 2019](#).

Apart from the average increase from 66.5 years, to 72 years overall, its findings also show that “healthy” life expectancy - the number of years individuals live in full health - increased from 58.5 years in 2000, to 63.3 years in 2016.

Differing attitudes to healthcare between men and women, help to account for the discrepancy in life expectancy between the sexes, the report suggests.

In countries with generalized HIV epidemics, for example, men “are less likely than women to take an HIV test, less likely to access antiretroviral therapy and more likely to die of AIDS-related illnesses than women”, the study finds.

The same principle applies for tuberculosis sufferers, with male patients less likely to seek care than women. The report also finds that of the 40 leading causes of death, 33 of them contribute

more significantly to reduced life expectancy in men than in women.

In 2016, this corresponded with data indicating that the probability of a 30-year-old man dying from a non-communicable disease - such as heart conditions - before the age of 70, is 44 per cent higher, than for a woman of the same age.

Other findings demonstrated that global suicide rates were 75 per cent higher in men than in women, deaths from road injuries were more than twice as high in men than in women over the age of 15, and male mortality rates linked to homicide were four times higher.



*An Auxiliary Nurse Midwife counsels a pregnant woman on institutional delivery while she examines her as part of Village Health and Nutrition Day in Shrawasti, India. UNICEF/ UN0281069/Vishwanathan*



## ***Maternal deaths, contribute ‘more than any other cause’***

The study also indicates that the life expectancy gap is narrowest where women lack access to health services, with maternal deaths contributing “more than any other cause” to reducing female life expectancy, according to Dr. Samira Asma, WHO Assistant Director General for Data, Analytics and Delivery.

“There are shocking differences in the risk of maternal death between high-income and low-income countries,” she told journalists in Geneva, based on data indicating that one in 41 women dies from a maternal cause in a low-income country, compared with one in 3,300 in a high-income setting.

This finding also tallies with the report’s insistence that in almost all developing countries, there are fewer than four nurses and midwives per 1,000 people, and that life expectancy is strongly affected by income.

This is clearest in low-income countries, where people live on average 18.1 years less than in high-

income countries, and where one child in every 14 will die before their fifth birthday.

“These statistics underscore the need to prioritize primary health care urgently to effectively manage noncommunicable diseases, and to curb risk factors.” Dr Asma insisted. “For example, something as simple as controlling blood pressure is just not happening on the scale needed and tobacco use remains a leading cause of premature death.”

While WHO’s Global Health Statistics have been disaggregated by sex for the first time, the UN agency cautions that many countries are still struggling to provide gender disaggregated information which could help to better assess individual needs.

One of the trends confirmed in the report is an increase in non-communicable diseases in low and middle-income countries, linked to a rise in risk factors such as smoking, alcohol consumption and unhealthy diets.

The trend is particularly marked on the African continent where it is exacerbated by a lack of access to primary health care and medicine, WHO says.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Some really scary statistics in this report. This trend will exacerbate the cost and socio-economic implications of ageing societies, and put even more pressure on future generations.





# SDG 6:

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**Lack of basic water facilities risks millions of lives globally**



Children wash their faces, outside their home, in South Sudan (2018). UNICEF/Meyer



## SDG 6: Lack of basic water facilities risks millions of lives globally

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 3 April 2019 - More than two billion people face grave health risks because basic water facilities are not available in one in four medical centres globally, the UN has said, in an appeal to countries to do more to prevent the transmission of treatable infections that can turn deadly if not washed or flushed, away.

In the first assessment of its kind, the WASH (Water Sanitation Hygiene) in Health Care Facilities report, from the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) and UN Children's Fund [UNICEF](#), also finds that one in five health care facilities has no toilet or latrine – a problem that affects at least 1.5 billion people, and likely reflects a lack of facilities in the wider community.

“The one thing that you need to do is wash your hands, whatever bug it is, whatever resistance it has,” said Dr. Bruce Gordon, coordinator of WHO’s work on water and sanitation. “It’s not a matter of diarrhoeal disease, it’s a matter of any opportunistic infection that can just happily live on skin, or get in cuts, and get inside your body and give people sepsis...We need to break transmission with handwashing.”

People in the world’s poorest countries are the most vulnerable, since basic water services are available in just over half of all facilities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), according to the WHO and UNICEF study.

This LDC deficit is significant particularly for mothers and newborns, because it is estimated that one in five births globally takes place in the world’s 47 poorest nations, meaning that every year, 17 million women in these countries give birth in health centres with inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene supplies.

### ***Dangerous inequalities within countries, rural areas miss out most***

The report also reveals dangerous inequalities within countries too, with communities in rural areas “most likely to miss out” on decent health care facilities in comparison with people living in towns, said UNICEF’s Tom Slaymaker, Senior Statistics and Monitoring Specialist for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene.



“People are relying on health care facilities without any kind of improved toilet,” he said. “Sick people shed a lot more pathogens in their faeces and without toilets, staff, patients – this includes mothers and babies - are at a much greater risk of disease caused and spread by human waste.”

While one in 10 hospitals globally lacks a toilet, the figure rises to one in five for smaller health facilities globally, Mr Slaymaker said.



*A newborn baby is getting a bath from grandmother at the UNICEF supported maternity ward in the POC in Malakal, South Sudan. Photo: UNICEF*

Government facilities also offer a lower level of care than private clinics and hospitals, he added, before highlighting the report’s finding that there is a widespread failure to meet the different sanitary needs of men and women – both patients and medical professionals.

The needs of people with limited mobility are also ignored, which is a major problem, since they are usually far more numerous in health care settings than in the wider community, Mr Slaymaker insisted, before highlighting the lack of safe segregation and disposal of health care waste.

In an appeal for more countries to invest in water and sanitation (WASH) services, Dr. Gordon said that political commitment was key.

“We know WASH generally needs strong public financing through taxes, yes, there is a lot of movement to get private funds ...but if we are actually to reach the vulnerable, who have very little resources, public expenditure and taxation needs to be a big part of the equation.”

The destructive impact of Tropical Cyclone Idai in southern Africa three weeks ago has exacerbated the lack of basic infrastructure in many countries in the region, Mr. Slaymaker explained, adding that UNICEF is “heavily involved” in the response in Mozambique.

“Obviously in that sort of situation the demand for health care services is even greater, but the ability to provide them is heavily compromised,” Mr. Slaymaker explained, noting that one of the report’s objectives was to recommend “how to build them back later on, so they’re more able to keep health services running in the future in the context of disasters like we’ve just seen.”

In addition to providing an overview of global water and sanitation in health care settings, future reports produced every two years will monitor progress in line with Sustainable Development Goal targets.

“Hopefully by 2030, we’re going to see all health care facilities with good basic facilities and 80 per cent with a bit higher level of service,” Dr. Gordon said, “so that when you come to a hospital you can be cared for well and have a good patient experience and staff members working there are also in a place that’s comfortable and supportive.”



## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

If water is the source of life, it is becoming increasingly scarce. Which raises the question of how life as a whole could be impacted by drought, floods, hurricanes and other water-related global weather vagaries. As always, it raises the corollary question of the extent to which travel & tourism itself is a part of the problem, thanks to its profligate consumption of water.



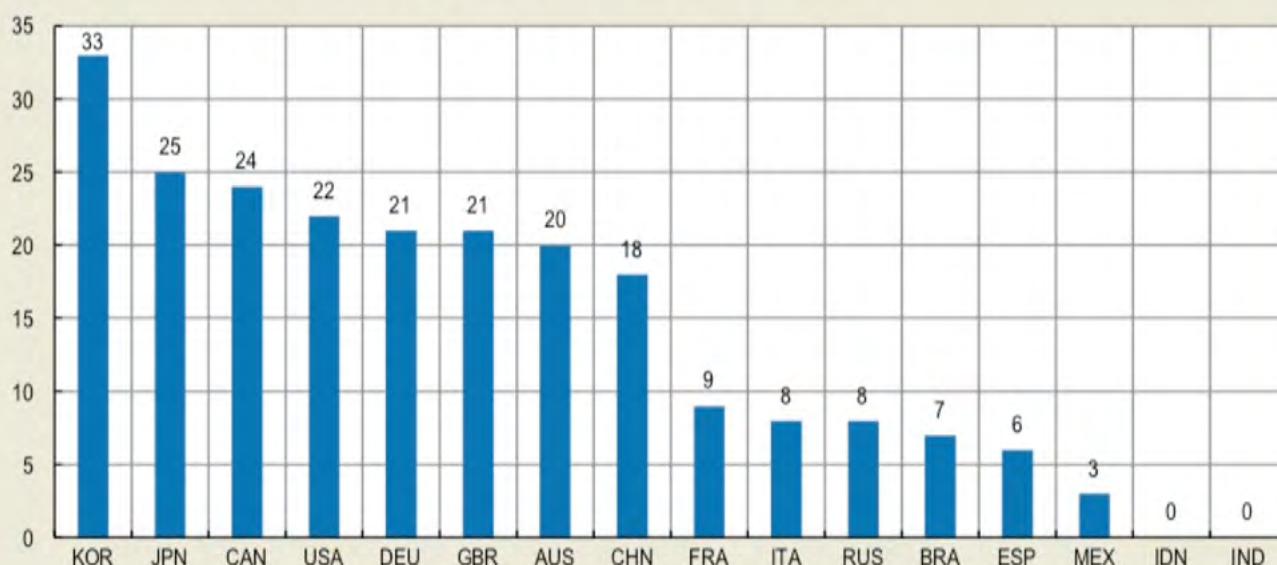
# SDG 8:

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
**Rapid action needed  
for people to meet  
challenges of  
changing world of  
work, says OECD**

**Figure 2.7. The potential cost savings from using robots are significant in some emerging economies**

Projected labour-cost savings from adoption of advanced industrial robots (% , 2025)



Source: The Boston Consulting Group (2015<sup>[53]</sup>), *The Shifting Economics of Global Manufacturing: How a Takeoff in Advanced Robotics Will Power the Next Productivity Surge*, <https://www.slideshare.net/TheBostonConsultingGroup/robotics-in-manufacturing>.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933966065>



## SDG 8: Rapid action needed for people to meet challenges of changing world of work, says OECD

OECD – Paris, 25 April 2019 - Governments need to overhaul their approach to employment and jobs to reduce further social and economic tensions, according to a new report from the OECD. Without rapid action, many people, particularly the low skilled, will be left behind in the fast-changing world of work.

The [OECD Employment Outlook 2019](#) is part of the OECD's Future of Work initiative and the "I am the Future of Work" campaign, which aims to make the future of work better for all, helping to transform learning and social protection systems and reduce inequalities between people and across regions.

"The OECD Employment Outlook does not envisage a jobless future. But it does foresee major challenges for the future of work," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, launching the report in Berlin with Hubertus Heil, Germany's Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs. "With the right policies, we can manage these challenges. We face significant

transformation, but we have the opportunity and the determination to use this moment and build a future of work that benefits everyone."

While the OECD area has fully recovered the jobs lost during the crisis and today the employment rate is 2 percentage points higher than before the crisis, the projected slowdown in the global economy casts a shadow over short-term job prospects, and the job market has continued to polarise. To help workers, firms, and countries adapt to the changing world of work, the OECD proposes in this Outlook a Transition Agenda for a Future that Works for All.

The employment rate improvement in most OECD countries has been driven by a substantial rise in the share of women in work and older workers staying longer in employment. Moreover, much of the increase in employment reflects the growing number of high-skilled jobs, the share of which has risen by 25% in OECD countries over the past two decades.



## Infographic 1. The future of work in figures



However, among young people with less than tertiary education in many countries, a rising share are out of work or, if in work, under-employed or low-paid. Men have seen an increase in joblessness and under-employment in some countries, although labour market outcomes for women remain worse on average.

The digital transformation, globalisation and demographic changes have already been reshaping the world of work. Looking ahead, 14%

of existing jobs could disappear as a result of automation in the next 15-20 years, with another 32% set to change radically.

While full-time, permanent employment is likely to still account for many, if not most, jobs in the future, the past few years have seen a further rise in non-standard work in some countries, such as self-employment and temporary contracts. Part-time employment has risen in virtually every OECD country over the past few decades. The

share of people who work part-time but would prefer to work full-time has also risen in two thirds of OECD countries for which data are available.

The Agenda recommends that countries focus on four key areas: labour protection, social protection, learning and social dialogue.

It underlines the importance of ensuring adequate labour law protection for workers, regardless of their employment status. Governments should tackle false self-employment, which employers sometimes use to avoid taxes and regulations, minimise the “grey zone” between salaried work and self-employment, and extend rights to workers left in that zone.

Adapting and extending social protection is essential to ensure better coverage for workers in non-standard forms of employment, according to the report. Non-standard workers are, in some countries, 40-50% less likely to receive any form of income support while out of work than standard employees. Benefit entitlements should be made portable across jobs and targeted social protection measures complemented with more universal and unconditional support.

In all OECD countries, training participation is lowest among those who need it most, including the low-skilled, older adults and non-standard workers. A major overhaul of adult learning programmes to increase their coverage and

promote quality is needed to harness the benefits of the changing world of work. Measures should include removing time and financial constraints to participation in training, making training rights portable, and providing quality information and counselling.

Union membership has steadily declined over the last three decades in OECD countries, falling from 30% in 1985 to 16% in 2016, says the Outlook. This has weakened workers’ bargaining power and contributed to the decline in the share of national income going to workers. Membership is even lower among non-standard workers, who are 50% less likely than standard workers to be unionised. Access to collective bargaining and social dialogue should be extended beyond standard employment.

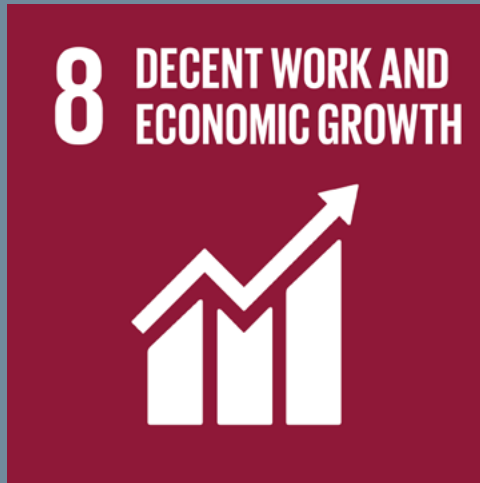
[Download the report](#)

More information, including the report, infographics and country notes, is available at <http://www.oecd.org/employment/outlook>

This report is part of the OECD’s Future of Work initiative and the “I am the Future of Work” campaign, which aims to contribute to a positive future of work transition, helping to transform learning and social protection systems as well as reducing inequalities between people and across regions. See <http://futureofwork.oecd.org>

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Travel & tourism is set to be one of the industries most seriously impacted by the changing patterns of work. The erstwhile human touch will be replaced at many points of contact with high-tech. How will this worsen the already serious shortages of skilled manpower the industry is already facing?



# SDG 8:

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**IMF cuts global  
growth outlook,  
but predicts  
pick-up later in  
2019**





*Building hospital gurneys at the Tautmann factory in Turkey.  
World Bank/Simone D. McCourtie*



## SDG 8: IMF cuts global growth outlook, but predicts pick-up later in 2019

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 9 April 2019 - The outlook for global growth is at its lowest since the financial crisis, but expected to pick up in the second half of 2019, the International Monetary Fund reported on Tuesday, so long as “policy missteps that could harm economic activity” are avoided.

The [IMF](#) is forecasting a 3.3 per cent global expansion in 2019, and 3.6 per cent growth for the following year, according to the annual [World Economic Outlook](#). The uptick in growth is expected to be fueled by monetary policy accommodations in major economies.

The organization also noted an improved outlook for United States-China trade tensions, and greater accommodations from the US Federal Reserve.

Expectations were different this time last year, when the IMF saw accelerated economic growth in almost all regions and predicted a 3.9 per cent expansion in 2019.

Gita Gopinath, Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department at the Fund said it was a “delicate moment” in terms of the global economy.

In [a blog post](#), she noted that the softer outlook reflects negative revisions for several major economies, including Australia, Canada, the Eurozone, Latin America, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Global growth in 2020 is projected to rebound, as stressed developing economies like Argentina and Turkey, improve. Beyond 2020, the IMF predicts strong growth, led by China and India.

The growth in advanced economies, however, is expected to slow as the impact of US fiscal stimulus fades.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Travel & tourism now has to deal with economic cycles on a regular basis. Creating a more stable and sustainable new development model is now the over-arching need of the hour.



# SDG 8:

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**Turn toxic e-waste  
into a source of  
'decent work', UN  
labour agency  
urges**





*Pix credit: ILO, A disabled man operates a mobile phone repair business in Sri Lanka.*



## SDG 8: Turn toxic e-waste into a source of 'decent work', UN labour agency urges

Geneva, ILO media release, 17 April 2019 - A "toxic flood of electric and electronic waste" that is growing by the day across the world, should be urgently converted into a source of decent work, that can also protect populations from its harmful effects, the United Nations labour agency said on Wednesday.

Governments, workers and employer organizations reached agreement at a meeting of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, urging that "at all levels", countries should look to increase and invest in better waste management infrastructure and systems to deal with "the rapidly growing flows of e-waste in ways that advance decent work".

"Every stage of the reuse, recycling, refurbishing, resale" process, when it comes to technology "has to be looked at in much more systematic ways", said Nikhil Seth, Chair of the ILO Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste.

Countries also recognized the crucial need to protect those working with toxic and hazardous e-waste, which negatively affects both them and the environment.

"Workers handling e-waste have no voice, no bargaining power", said worker vice-chairperson, James Towers, pointing out that "they are breaking hazardous materials by their hands." Moreover, he added that "these workers are unaware of the many risks associated with handling e-waste".

### ***A 'great business opportunity'***

The world produces as much as 50 million tonnes of e-waste a year, and although it is valued at 55 billion euros, or more than 60 billion dollars, only 20 per cent of e-waste is formally recycled, according to ILO.

It is, however, becoming an increasingly important resource for in the informal work

sector. Along the e-waste value chain, they recover, refurbish, repurpose and recycle electrical and electronic equipment, bringing innovative services and products to the market, aiding the whole “circular” recycling economy.

“There is [a] great business opportunity in the e-waste sector”, stressed employer vice-chairperson, Patrick van den Bossche.

“We need to step up our efforts in creating decent and sustainable jobs, fostering an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, offering new products and new services, and adding value through enhancing the circular economy”, he affirmed.

Government vice-chairperson Aniefiok Etim Essah spoke about how e-waste is littering the landscape of his country, Nigeria, as well as other African nations, arguing that this can be turned into a positive: “Our youth possesses the creativity and potential for learning skills to manage e-waste, giving us the opportunity to increase youth employment,” he said.

ILO is a member of the UN E-Waste Coalition, formed to increase collaboration, build partnerships and more efficiently provide support to help States address the e-waste challenge.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

As one of the biggest users of technology, I would wager that travel & tourism is generates a substantial percentage of those 50 million tonnes of e-waste a year. Does anyone know where it is being dumped? The industry may be shocked to find out.



# SDG 8:

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**Stress, overtime,  
disease, contribute  
to 2.8 million  
workers' deaths per  
year**





Syrian workers process tobacco leaf in Lebanon.  
ILO/Deloche P



## SDG 8: Stress, overtime, disease, contribute to 2.8 million workers' deaths per year

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 18 April 2019 - Stress, excessively-long working hours and disease, contribute to the deaths of nearly 2.8 million workers every year, while an additional 374 million people get injured or fall ill because of their jobs, the UN labour agency, ILO, said on Thursday.

In a new [report](#) underlining [ILO's](#) message that no paid work should threaten your wellbeing, your safety or your life, the agency identifies several new or existing occupational risks of growing concern, that affect women more than men.

These include modern working practices overall, world population growth, increased digital connectivity and climate change, which are believed to account for losses of almost four per cent of the global economy.

### *Women at particular risk*

"The world of work has changed, we're working differently, we're working longer hours, we're using more technology," ILO's Manal Azzi told UN News. "The report says 36 per cent of workers are working excessive long hours, meaning more than 48 hours per week."

Noting that "people are increasingly asked to produce more and more, they have no time to rest", Ms. Azzi highlighted that women are particularly at risk. This is because they tend to be the primary carer for children or parents and lack the time to exercise, she said.

"Not only do you work when you're at your office but then you're working at home as well," Ms. Azzi said, "so it's a lot of sedentary work and that affects cardiovascular diseases as well."

The greatest proportion of work-related deaths – 86 per cent – come from disease, according to ILO, with some 6,500 people a day dying from occupational diseases, compared to 1,000 from fatal occupational accidents.

The greatest causes of mortality are circulatory diseases (31 per cent), work-related cancers (26 per cent) and respiratory diseases (17 per cent).

“As well as the economic cost we must recognize the immeasurable human suffering such illnesses and accidents cause,” Ms. Azzi said. “These are all-the-more tragic because they are largely preventable.”



*Global trends in safety and health: the picture today. Source: ILO*

Launched during the ILO’s centenary year – and ahead of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April, the report underlines the life-saving value of promoting prevention, to save lives and encourage healthy working environments.

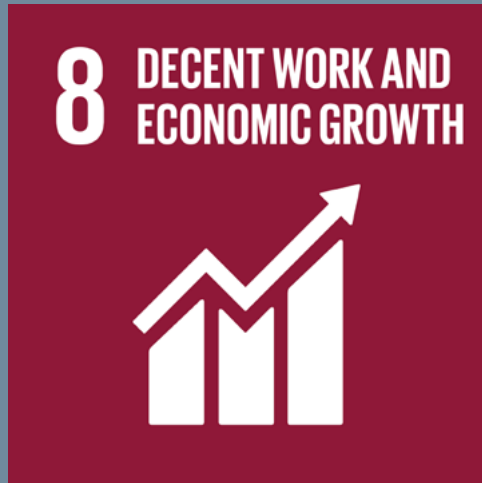
“Serious consideration should also be given to the recommendation of the ILO’s Global Commission on the Future of Work, that occupational safety and health be recognized as a fundamental principle and right at work,” Ms. Azzi said.

Since 1919, the ILO has adopted more than 40 international labour standards promoting occupational health and safety. These relate to specific risks such as ionizing radiation, asbestos and cancer-causing chemicals, to specific risky activities including agriculture, construction and mining.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

As a 24-hour industry, travel & tourism also requires long hours on the job. And yes, the working conditions are not always the best. Another subject that is woefully inadequately researched and discussed.





# SDG 8:

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**‘A trusted voice’  
for social justice:  
100 years of the  
International  
Labour  
Organization**





Worker pruning fruit trees in South Africa.  
World Bank/Samson



## SDG 8: 'A trusted voice' for social justice: 100 years of the International Labour Organization

Geneva, (UN News Centre) 10 April 2019 - The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been “a trusted voice” to “ensure social justice in every corner of our world”, Secretary-General António Guterres [said](#) on Wednesday, at a high-level meeting to commemorate the centenary of what was the first ever United Nations agency.

The [ILO](#) was born out of the rubble of the First World War, as the victors met to draw up the Treaty of Versailles, where they affirmed the need for social justice in the service of a “universal and lasting peace”.

The UN chief painted a picture of a time of upheaval, when newly-emboldened labour unions in many parts of the world, demanded fair treatment, dignity at work, adequate wages and an eight-hour working day.

“The nations of the world knew they must cooperate to make it happen”, Mr. Guterres said, adding that despite being the oldest UN family member, “ILO remains to this day one of the most unique gathering spaces in the international system”, as well as “a source of strength and legitimacy”, where workers, employers and governments can seek solutions through dialogue.

“Through conflict and peace, democracy and dictatorship, decolonization and the Cold War, globalization and turbulence”, Mr. Guterres said that ILO has had its “finger on the pulse on people’s concerns”, and “played a central role in the struggle for social progress”.

Noting that now is “a time of profound uncertainty, disruption and technological transformation”, Mr. Guterres warned that “tremendous” labour market disruption lies ahead.

“Even the concept of work will change – and the relationship between work, leisure and other occupations” he continued. “We are not yet prepared for that”.

Since the digital economy operates in a world without borders, he stressed that “more than ever”, international institutions “must play a vital role in shaping the future of work we want”. “Let us make the most of this pivotal anniversary to renew our collective commitment to international cooperation, peace and social justice”, concluded the Secretary-General.

## **ILO's 'transformative impact' on society**

General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa [commended](#) ILO for its many “firsts”, including “the need to give workers a stake in decision-making that matches their essential contribution to lasting peace and prosperity”.

“So, it is fitting that the General Assembly – the most representative body of the United Nations – celebrates the transformative impact of the ILO on the fabric of our societies, and on our daily lives” she said.

Citing decent work as one of her own priorities, she affirmed that it makes the UN “more relevant to people”, by demonstrating the “everyday impact of international agreements like the 2030 Agenda, and multilateral bodies like the ILO”.

Acknowledging ILO’s more than 180 conventions and implementation programmes “on everything from gender equality to forced labour”, she lamented that “injustice is still a reality for millions of people”, highlighting the predicament of child workers, forced labourers and those trafficked into prostitution.

“Over 40 million people today are victims of modern forms of slavery – more than twice the number involved in the transatlantic slave trade”, she said, commenting that 190 million people are unemployed; 300 million are working poor; and some two billion are engaged in informal work, “often without social protections”.

### **‘A time to reflect’ on ILO**

Dubbing ILO “the most positive and enduring product of the Treaty of Versailles”, the Organization’s Director-General Guy Ryder called it “the first step in the construction of the multilateral system, and a forebearer of today’s United Nations”.



*ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, addresses guests at a luncheon for ILO’s 100 year anniversary., by UN Photo/Evan Schneider*



*Workers of PT Toshiba Consumer Products Ind. assembling and manufacturing of electronic goods, such as television sets. Cikarang, Bekasi. Indonesia. by ILO/A. Mirza*

“It was empowered to negotiate and supervise the global rules of labour and to do so by the joint action of governments, workers and employers” he explained.

“ILO’s journey has not always been a straight path” he admitted. “From the outset the Organization has been tested by the turbulence of history and the economic and social realities of its times”.

“More than a cause of celebration, the Centenary that we commemorate today is a time to reflect on our purpose, and on the course we chart for the future”, he stated.

Noting “great uncertainty” surrounding multilateralism and “widespread disillusion” regarding social and economic progress, he said that “many citizens doubt the capacity of the leaders and institutions” to respond to their needs. Mr. Ryder saw the first 100 years as “a prelude to the future we construct together now”, urging everyone to “set about that task with the same courage and urgency, and moved by the same sentiments of social justice and humanity which first gave life to the ILO”.

“History tells us what we can achieve”, he said. “But it also tells us what the cost of our failures would be”.

As part of the commemoration, a [24-hour marathon](#) of events from Fiji to Philadelphia, is planned across the globe.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

If travel & tourism claims to be a “People Industry”, how it treats its own people should be a priority area of importance. Is it? I’m not sure. Climate change and reducing plastic usage seems to be of far more concern. Whether people will like to be welcomed by robots at hotels and airports is a moot point.



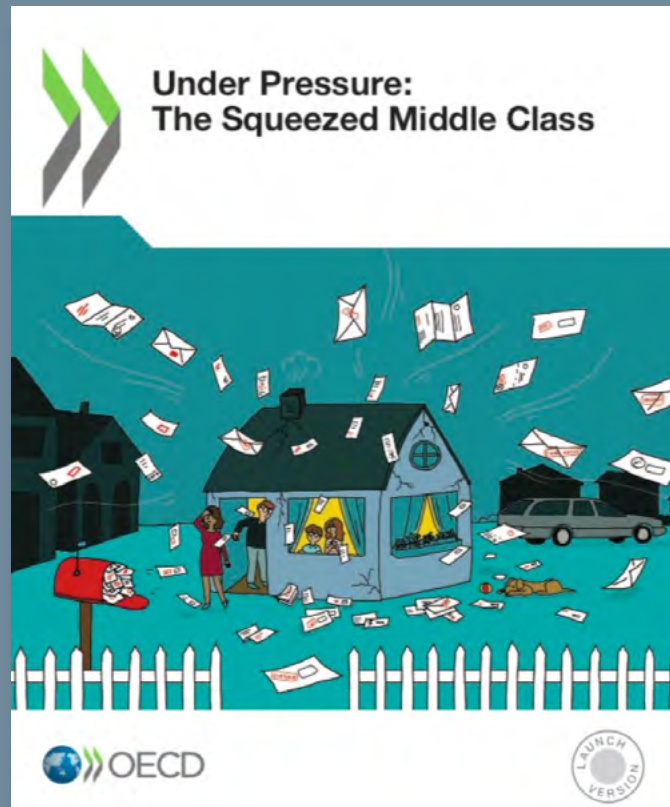


# SDG 10:

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**Under Pressure:  
Middle Classes  
under enormous  
pressure worldwide**

*By Gabriela Ramos,  
Chief of Staff and  
Sherpa, In charge of  
the Inclusive Growth  
Initiative and of the  
New Approaches to  
Economic Challenges  
Initiative, OECD*



## SDG 10: Under Pressure: Middle Classes under enormous pressure worldwide

Paris, Source OECD, 20 April 2019 - The OECD has been at the forefront of documenting the rising levels of income inequality, the lack of opportunities that many OECD countries have experienced over the past 30 years.

Through its analyses and publications, the OECD has shown the extent to which middle-income households – the focus of this report *Under Pressure: The Squeezed Middle Class* – in many OECD countries have seen their standard of living stagnate or decline, while higher income groups have continued to accumulate income and wealth.

A strong and prosperous middle class is crucial for any successful economy and cohesive society. The middle class sustains consumption, it drives much of the investment in education, health and housing and it plays a key role in supporting social protection systems through its tax contributions. Societies with a strong middle class have lower crime rates, they enjoy higher levels of trust and life satisfaction, as well as greater political stability and good governance.

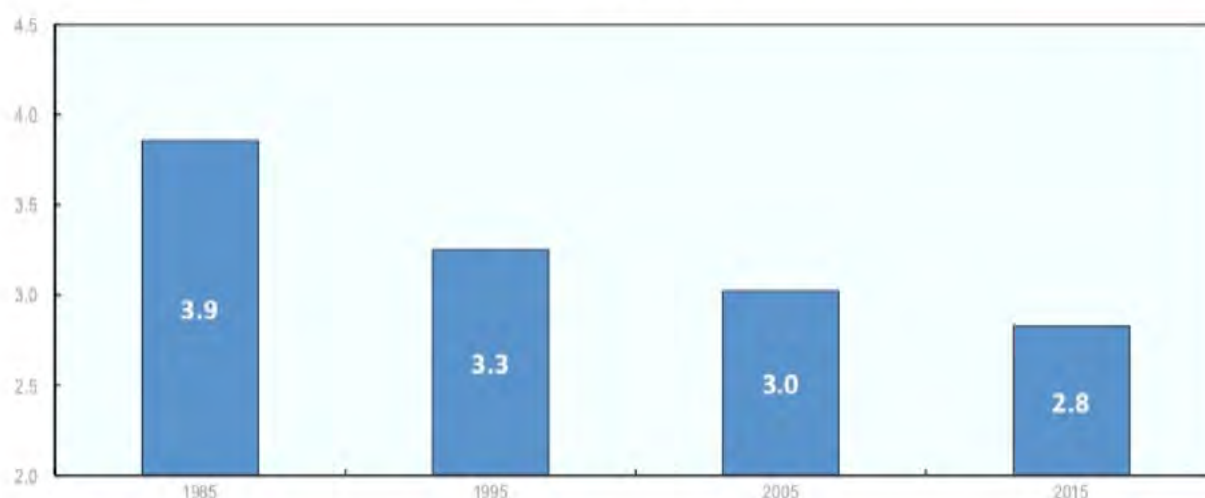
However, current findings reveal that the top 10% in the income distribution holds almost half of the total wealth, while the bottom 40% accounts for only 3%. The OECD has also documented that economic insecurity concerns a large group of the population: more than one in three people are economically vulnerable, meaning they lack the liquid financial assets needed to maintain a living standard at the poverty level for at least three months.

We have also found that children born to parents who did not complete secondary school have only a 15% chance of making it to university, compared to a 63% chance for children whose parents attended university. Health outcomes, and even life expectancy, are also heavily influenced by socio-economic background.

These findings have prompted governments to take action to redress a situation that has become economically and politically unsustainable as it undermines public trust in policy and institutions.

**Figure 1.3. Middle incomes are losing economic influence**

Aggregate income share ratio between middle and upper income households, OECD average mid-1980s to mid-2010s



*Note:* Data refer to the aggregate income of all middle-income households as a ratio of the aggregate income of all upper-income households. “Middle income” households defined as households with income between 75% and two times the national median. “Upper income” households defined as households with income above two times the national median. OECD average comprises available data from Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and United States. Incomes are disposable incomes, corrected for household size.

*Source:* OECD Secretariat calculations based on data from EU-SILC (Europe), SLID and CIS (Canada), CPS March Supplement (United States) and LIS Data Center.

StatLink  <https://doi.org/10.1787/888933954969>

For its part, the OECD has called for a new growth narrative that puts people’s wellbeing at the centre. Its New Approaches to Economic Challenges and Inclusive Growth initiatives aim to upgrade the OECD’s analytical models and measurement tools, to better understand the functioning of our economies and promote policies that integrate considerations of equity ex-ante.

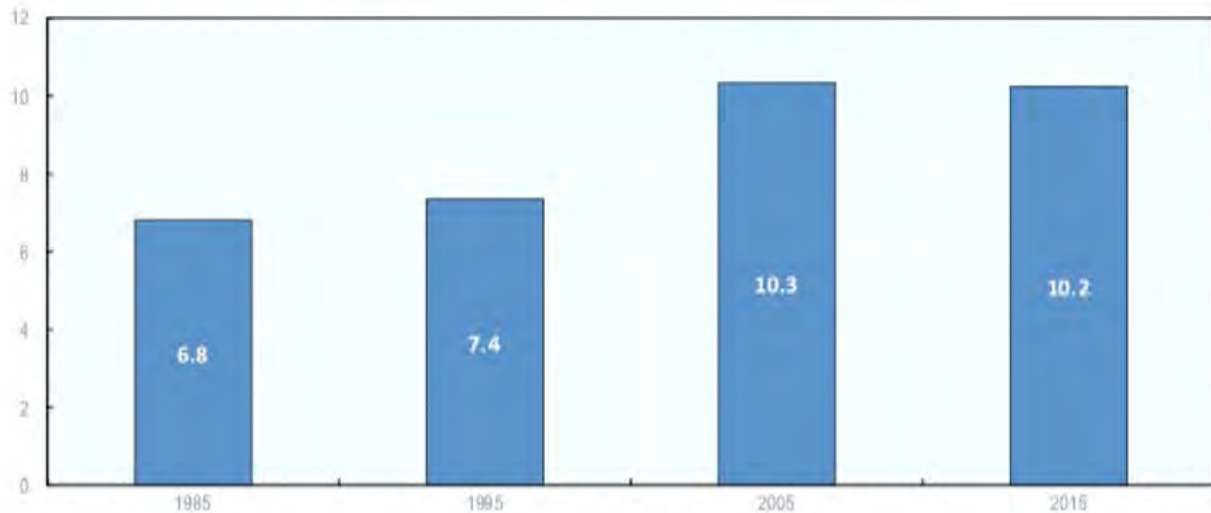
The OECD has also developed a Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, which offers governments concrete guidance on how to design and implement policies that will give all people, firms and regions the opportunity to thrive – particularly those that are struggling or have been left behind.

The OECD has also placed the issue of inequalities and the need for inclusive growth at the heart of the international agenda, where it has helped inform the work of the G7 and G20.



**Figure 1.6. The cost of buying a flat in large cities has increased considerably for middle-income families**

Number of years of annual income needed to buy a 60 square meter flat in the country's capital city or financial centre, for a median income couple with two children



*Note:* Households composed of a couple and two children with disposable median income. OECD average includes Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

*Source:* OECD Secretariat calculations based on data from EU-SILC (Europe), SLID and CIS (Canada), CPS March Supplement (United States) and LIS Data Center: Global Property Guide; OECD Residential Property Prices Indices (RPPIs).

StatLink  <https://doi.org/10.1787/888933955026>

Under Pressure – The Squeezed Middle Class is the fifth in a series of OECD flagship publications on the trends, causes and consequences of inequality and the remedies needed to address them. *Growing Unequal?* (2008) and *Divided we Stand* (2011) analysed the key features and causes of trends in rising income inequality in advanced and major emerging economies.

*In It Together* (2015) looked at the consequences of inequality, including its effects on economic growth, the role fiscal consolidation and redistribution policies have played in shaping these trends, and the way in which structural changes in the labour market have impacted on household income inequality.

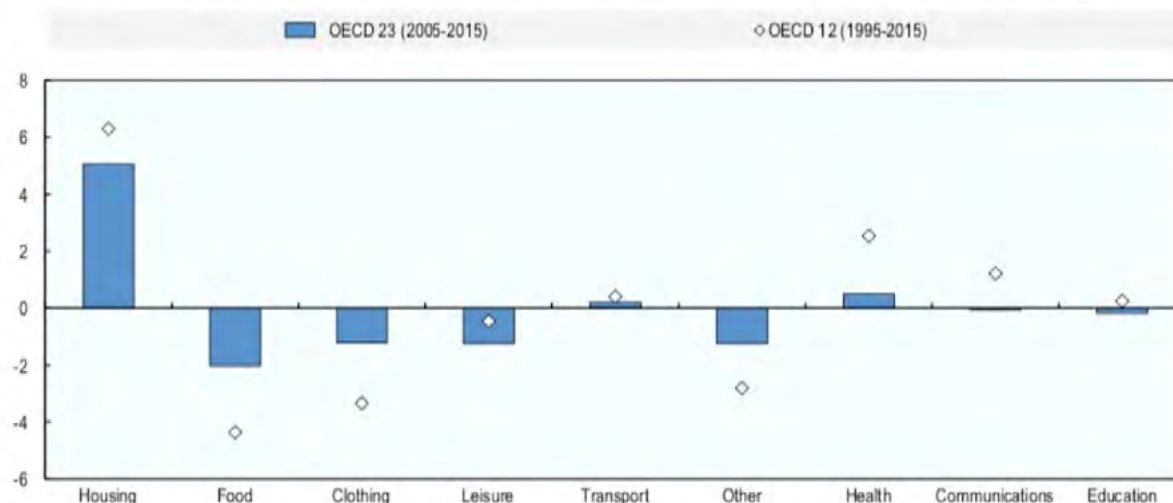
The OECD's most recent report in this series, *A Broken Social Elevator? How to Promote Social Mobility* (2018) highlighted the increasing lack of social mobility in our societies. For instance, in OECD countries, it would take between four and five generations (or up to 150 years), for a child born into a low-income family to reach the average level of income. In this respect, it is clear that socio-economic status still heavily influences income and employment prospects, job quality, health outcomes, education, and other opportunities.

Under Pressure – The Squeezed Middle Class provides an in-depth focus on the current situation of the middle class as an economic and social group. In doing so, it documents the pressures and growing risks building up on this group.

Indeed, over the past 30 years, middle-income households have experienced dismal income growth or even stagnation in some countries. This has fueled perceptions that the current socio-economic system is unfair and that the middle class has not benefited from economic growth in proportion to its contribution.

**Figure 4.4. Middle-income class spending on housing and health has increased**

Percentage point changes in shares by item of household budgets, OECD average, 1995-2015 and 2005-15



Furthermore, the cost of living has become increasingly expensive for the middle class, as the cost of core services and goods such as housing have risen faster than income. Traditional middle-class opportunities for social mobility have also withered as labour market prospects become increasingly uncertain: one in six middle-income workers are in jobs that are at high risk of automation. Uncertain of their own prospects, the middle class are also concerned about those of their children; the current generation is one of the most educated, and yet has lower chances of achieving the same standard of living as its parents.

The report documents these trends in detail. It shows that every generation since the baby boom has seen the middle-income group shrink and its economic influence weaken. Three decades ago, the aggregate income of all middle-income households was four times larger than the aggregate income of upper income households; today, this ratio is less than three.

The chapters look at whether there is a declining middle class, why middle-class jobs are disappearing and the rising costs of the middle-class lifestyle. The final chapter presents policy measures and initiatives that will improve prospects and opportunities for the middle class: improving fairness in the taxation system, addressing the increasing cost of living both on housing and education markets, building the skills of middle-class households, reducing risks of over-indebtedness and improving access to business opportunities.

By shedding light on the situation of a group that has traditionally been the main driver of economic growth and a pillar of social stability, this report makes a key contribution to the OECD argument and vision for inclusive growth. We hope it will continue building a strong case for policy action, help countries develop policies that alleviate the pressures on middle-class households and create economies that fulfil the “middle class dream” once again.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The global success of travel & tourism has created millions of middle class jobs worldwide. At the same time, the global middle class comprises by far the largest segment of travellers. If economic and geopolitical instability rocks that boat, the travel & tourism sector will be very badly hit. Another reason why the industry needs to find ways to underpin stability at a broader level.



# SDG 13:

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**Put People and Planet First, says UN report for the Asia-Pacific**





## SDG 13: Put People and Planet First, says UN report for the Asia-Pacific

Hong Kong, China (ESCAP News) 04 April 2019 – In its annual report, Survey 2019: Ambitions Beyond Growth, launched today, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) - the UN's regional arm - says that an additional annual investment of \$1.5 trillion, equivalent to a dollar per person per day, would allow countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It also finds that the price tag is within reach for many countries given their fiscal space and potential to leverage private investment.

Despite rapid economic growth, the study notes, too many people are left behind, without a fair chance in life, while environmental degradation has reached alarming levels, threatening the sustainability of past development gains. Hence, keeping the old paradigm of prioritizing GDP growth at all costs is neither feasible nor desirable, the report argues.

“We must raise our ambitions beyond just economic growth. The 2030 Agenda and its 17

Sustainable Development Goals provide a clear blueprint for raising our ambitions. It calls for a change in mindset and an economic philosophy which puts people and the planet first,” United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana said.

ESCAP proposes an investment package, equivalent to 5 per cent of the combined GDP of Asia-Pacific developing countries in 2018, that includes:

- \$669 billion to support basic human rights and develop human capacities
- \$590 billion to achieve clean energy for all and live in harmony with nature
- \$196 billion for improved access to transport, information and communications technology (ICT), and water and sanitation

“Closing this investment gap is within reach for many countries, but the gap is widest in countries which can least afford to narrow it. North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation as well as strengthened multilateral financing mechanisms will be essential to accelerating the pace of sustainable development,” ESCAP Deputy Executive Secretary Hongjoo Hahm said at the launch of the report.

“Innovative financial instruments such as green bonds and promoting new investor classes can help leverage the massive \$51 trillion in assets

managed by the private financial sector in the developing Asia-Pacific region. In addition, there is considerable potential to raise tax revenues in the region while improved investment efficiency” Hahm said.

The report makes a call for people and countries to work together to ensure no one is left behind in this journey towards sustainable development. The report can be downloaded from: <https://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-and-pacific-2019-ambitions-beyond-growth>

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

So finally the UN wakes up to the fact that “we must raise our ambitions beyond just economic growth” and that we need “a change in mindset and an economic philosophy which puts people and the planet first.” For decades, perhaps centuries, the entire concept of “development” has been based on economic growth. Changing that mindset is going to be easier said than done.



# SDG 13:

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**Meeting the SDGs  
for less than a  
dollar per person  
per day**





## SDG 13: Meeting the SDGs for less than a dollar per person per day

Bangkok (ESCAP release) 5 Apr 2019 - Less than a dollar per person per day. That is all it will cost developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to realize their ambitions for an inclusive and sustainable future, according to a study by ESCAP.

This may seem a small price to pay for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. It is, however, sizeable when considering the average per capita income in countries which need to do the most to reduce wide social and environmental deficits that stand in the way of the region achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The comprehensive costing exercise published in the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019 launched yesterday, finds that developing Asia-Pacific countries need to invest annually, an additional \$1.5 trillion – about 5 per cent of their total 2018 GDP – to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Investing just 92 cents per person per day can enable countries to end extreme poverty and malnutrition, provide basic health care, a quality basic education, clean energy and an enabling infrastructure for all while strengthening resilience to climate risks and protecting nature.

This includes an investment of 43 cents per person per day in targeted income transfers, social protection, nutritional interventions, agricultural and rural development, a quality education for every child and youth, and basic health care for all.

Another 37 cents per person per day can help protect natural wealth and secure our planet's future by making economic growth less resource-intensive and more environment-friendly. This includes an important shift to clean energy for all.

And finally, an additional investment equal to 12 cents per person per day will equip the region with key infrastructure needed for human and material well-being – climate-resilient roads and railways, fixed and mobile broadband, and water and sanitation services for all.

These costs will, however, not be shared evenly as some countries need to invest much more. Indeed, South Asia and Asia-Pacific least developed countries need to invest at least more than twice as much as the regional average – between 2 and 3 dollars per person per day. The SDGs will become affordable for all countries in the region with strong development partnerships and regional cooperation.

Besides the usual mix of public and private financing, let us not forget that the private financial sector in the developing Asia-Pacific region manages some \$51 trillion in assets. There is certainly room for better allocation of capital, so that our investments reflect our priorities as a society, going beyond near-term profit maximization to long-term social returns.

The price of the ticket for the journey towards the SDGs is affordable for all if we work together and change our mindset towards putting people and the planet first.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This is a nice way of putting it. Makes it all look simple and affordable. The travel & tourism industry can certainly become a major part of the solution in the quest for a “better allocation of capital.” The key, of course, will be to shift that mindset away from prioritising economic gain. It's going to be a long time before that happens.



# SDG 13:

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**Fight against  
climate change and  
poverty will fail  
without overhaul  
of global financial  
system**





Residents living in a slum in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. World Bank/ Dominic Chavez



## SDG 13: Fight against climate change and poverty will fail without overhaul of global financial system

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 4 April 2019 - A major new UN-led report, involving more than 60 international organizations, warns that a comprehensive overhaul of the world's financial system is necessary, if governments are to honour commitments to tackle critical issues, such as combatting climate change and eradicating poverty by 2030.

The 2019 [Financing for Sustainable Development Report](#), says that achieving the financing needed to implement the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) – the UN's plan of action for peace, planet and prosperity – is not just about finding additional investment, but also building supportive financial systems, and global and national policy environments, which are favourable to sustainable development.

At a press conference on Thursday, following the release of the report, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said that it delivers a “sobering message”, showing low wage growth, rising inequality and debt distress, and stagnating aid levels.

Climate change, said Ms. Mohammed, continues to threaten sustainable development in all regions, and, despite international commitments

to limit a rise in global temperatures, greenhouse gas emissions actually rose by 1.3 per cent during the course of 2017.

The report also shows that it is becoming increasingly difficult to create conditions to bring about positive change. The reasons include rapid changes in technology, geopolitics and climate, and the inability of national and multilateral institutions to adapt.

In addition, increasing inequality has hit many people's faith in the multilateral system and, in his foreword to the report, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, says: “Our shared challenge is to make the international trading and financial systems fit for purpose to advance sustainable development and promote fair globalization.”

### *Recommendations for a sustainable economy, financial system*

Despite the many problems and roadblocks outlined in the report, the international organizations involved found that interest in sustainable investment is growing in the finance community, with some three-quarters of individual investors showing interest in how their financial behaviour affects the world.

The responsibility rests with governments to recommit to multilateralism, and to take policy actions that will create a sustainable and prosperous future Zhenmin Liu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

The report also contains a number of recommendations for ways to bring about a more sustainable global economy and financial system. These include a shift to long-term investment, and an inclusion of sustainability as a central risk factor; a revamp of the multilateral trading system; and addressing the concentration of markets into the hands of a small number of powerful companies, which are not limited by national borders.

The Deputy Secretary-General noted that encouraging longer-term credit ratings, carbon taxes, and meaningful disclosure on the social and environmental costs of doing business, are all examples of incentives aligned with sustainable development goals.

Ms. Mohammed continued with a call for better regulation to manage financial technology,

commonly referred to as fintech. Whilst fintech has allowed more than half a billion people to gain access to financial services, enabling progress on the 2030 Agenda in developing countries, regulators are struggling to keep pace and, if fintech is allowed to grow in an unsupervised manner, it could put financial stability at risk.

In a statement, Zhenmin Liu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Chair of the Task Force that issued the report said there is a major opportunity to overcome bottlenecks in sustainable financing in 2019, but insisted that “the responsibility rests with governments to recommit to multilateralism, and to take policy actions that will create a sustainable and prosperous future.”

Between April 15-18, the UN will discuss the findings of the report at the Economic and Social Forum ([ECOSOC](#)) [Forum in Financing for Development](#), where Member States agree on measures necessary to mobilize sustainable financing.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The report cites the need to “address the concentration of markets into the hands of a small number of powerful companies, which are not limited by national borders.” This is very much the situation in travel & tourism, and unlikely to change much in future.





# SDG 13:

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**New UN Climate  
report 'another  
strong wake-up  
call' over global  
warming**





## SDG 13: New UN Climate report ‘another strong wake-up call’ over global warming

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 28 March 2019 - The increasing number of natural disasters and dangers linked to climate change, highlighted in a major UN [report](#) released on Thursday, represents “another strong wake-up call” to the world, which must be countered by finding sustainable solutions quickly, UN Secretary-General [António Guterres](#) has said.

Speaking at the launch of the [State of the Global Climate](#) report by the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)), Mr. Guterres reiterated his call for action, underlining that the alarming conclusion that climate change is accelerating, “proves what we have been saying: climate change is moving faster than our efforts to address it.”

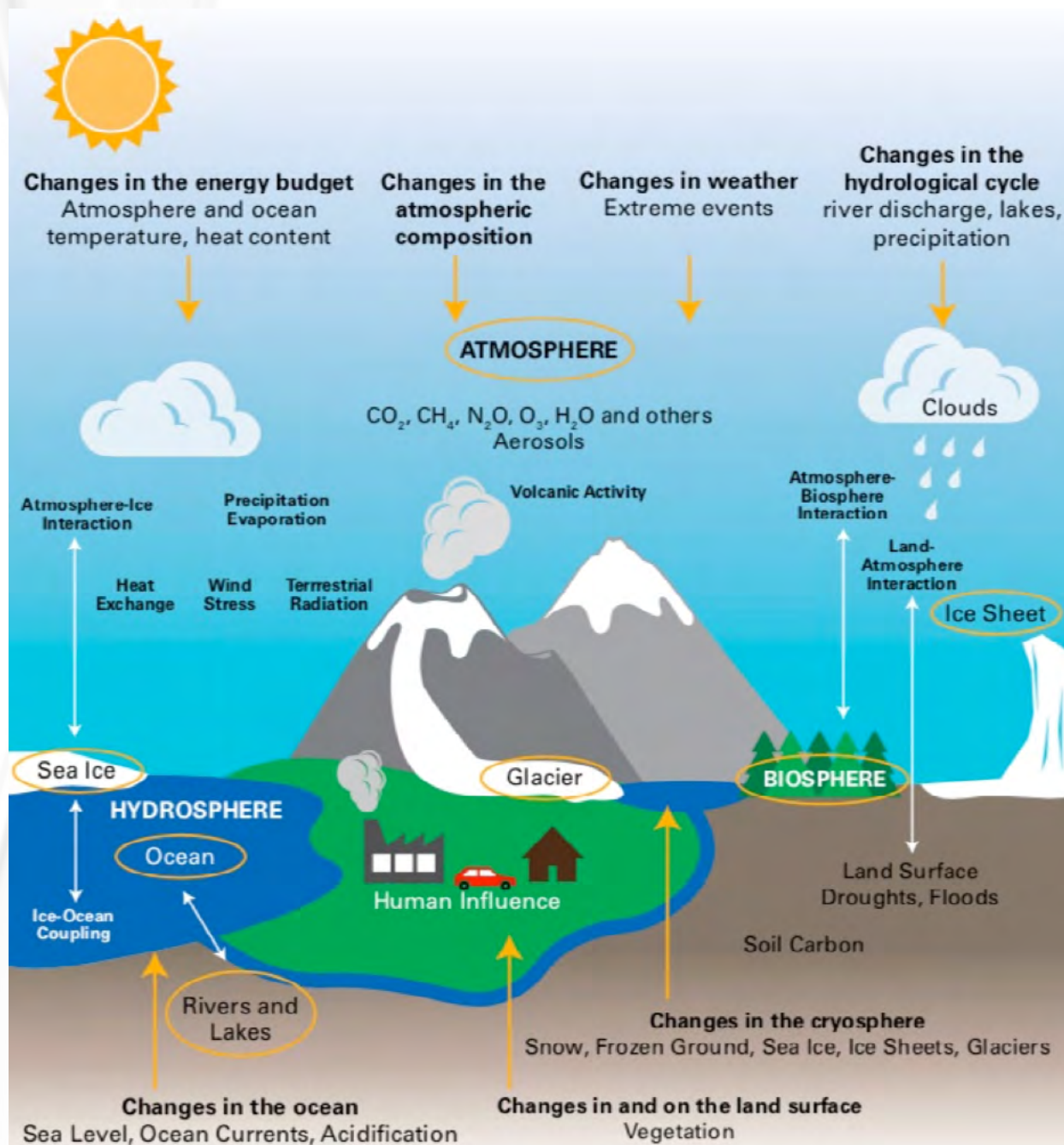
This was why he had convened the [Climate Action Summit](#) due to take place on 23 September, he said, sitting alongside the President of the General Assembly and the head of WMO, briefing correspondents in New York.

### ***‘Don’t come with a speech, come with a plan’***

Mr. Guterres called on Heads of State to attend his climate action summit in New York on 23 September, and achieve positive change. “Don’t come with a speech, come with a plan,” he said, adding: “This is what science says is needed. It is what young people around the globe are rightfully demanding.” “I want the summit to demonstrate the benefits of climate action and how everyone can benefit”, he said. “A growing number of governments, cities and businesses...already understand that climate solutions can strengthen our economies, improve air quality and public health and protect our environment.”

This will involve a commitment to enhancing national pledges contained in the [Paris Agreement](#) by 2020, Mr. Guterres explained, and countries “showing how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade and get to net zero emissions globally by 2050”.

Assessing the potential benefits of sustainably-driven climate solutions that leave no-one behind, the UN Secretary-General welcomed the “growing number of governments, cities and businesses” that had embraced [Agenda 2030](#)-inspired climate solutions as a way to “strengthen our economies, improve air quality and public health and protect our environment”.



Initiatives could come from a range of areas, “such as energy, sustainable agriculture, forests and oceans and resilience to climate impacts”, Mr. Guterres said, maintaining that renewable technologies “are already delivering energy at a lower cost than the fossil-fuel driven economy”.

Despite this progress, much more radical steps must be taken, he insisted, explaining that “this means ending subsidies for fossil fuels and high-emitting, unsustainable agriculture, and shifting towards renewable energy, electric vehicles and climate-smart practices”.

In addition, “it means carbon pricing that reflects the true cost of emissions, from climate risk to the health hazards of air pollution”, the UN chief explained, “and it means accelerating the closure of coal plants, halting plans for new ones, and replacing those jobs with healthier alternatives, so the transformation is just, inclusive and profitable.”

President of the General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, said she had pledged throughout her time in office there was a need for “a holistic understanding of the socio-economic consequences of increasingly intense extreme weather on countries around the world”, adding that the report “makes an important contribution to our combined international action to focus attention on this very critical problem.”

It was “really not good news” she told journalists, that CO2 emissions had jumped from 1.6 per cent in 2017, to passing the 2.7 per cent emissions growth, during 2018.

“We need to act, and to act now. The numbers and data are extremely worrisome...We are capable, we have the science, we have the knowledge, we have the tools in hand” to push back on global warming, she added.

WMO said that the temperature rise last year, came despite the agreement by the international community in December 2015 in Paris, to curb carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, and to limit global temperature rise to well below 2C.

### ***Paris Agreement increasingly under threat – WMO chief***

“The time remaining to achieve commitments under the Paris Agreement is quickly running out,” said WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas.

Outlining the report’s key findings, Professor Taalas warned of record greenhouse gas concentrations last year, that drove global temperatures towards increasingly dangerous levels.

According to WMO, carbon dioxide levels were at 357 parts per million (ppm) in 1994, rising to 405.5 ppm in 2017.

Professor Taalas also described “striking” evidence of record warming from 2015 to 2018, increasing sea-level rise and the loss of sea ice in both northern and southern polar regions.

### ***Idai victims ‘personify why we need to limit climate change’***

Noting that extreme weather events have continued into 2019 - most recently with Tropical Cyclone Idai, which caused devastating floods and loss of life in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi – Professor Taalas said that its victims “personify why we need the global agenda on sustainable development, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction”.

“We are seeing record rises in land and ocean temperatures, sea levels and greenhouse gas concentrations,” Mr. Guterres told journalists. “Second, we are seeing, more and more, the dramatic impact of extreme weather conditions. Last year saw 14 weather events where the devastation cost more than \$1 billion...The average number of people exposed to heatwaves has increased by some 125 million since the beginning of the century, with deadly consequences.”





*2018 Woolsey Fire burns a hillside in California. Peter Buschmann for Forest Service, USDA*

### ***2019 so far: record warmth in Europe, unusual cold in North America***

According to WMO, the start of this year has also seen warm record daily winter temperatures in Europe, unusual cold in North America and searing heatwaves in Australia. The extent of ice in the Arctic and Antarctica is yet again well below average, it said.

From now until May, WMO also forecasts above-average sea surface temperatures, which are expected to lead to above-normal land temperature, particularly in tropical latitudes.

### ***General Assembly meets on climate change and sustainable development***

Earlier on Thursday, the General Assembly held a High-Level meeting on climate change and sustainable development, including panel discussions on synergies between the two, and how the two agendas can be brought together in terms of concrete action.

“We all can reduce our carbon footprint everyday: in terms of the food we consume, the clothes we use, the transport we choose and the garbage we generate”, said Ms. Espinosa.

“Clearly we need to modify our consumption patterns. This is not just a world of shortages, but also of over-consumption. A great paradox is that 1,300 million tons of food are wasted every year, while almost 2000 million people suffer from hunger or malnutrition”, she told delegates at UN Headquarters.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

A world of over-consumption, indeed. But that is precisely what the travel and tourism wants because it makes the economic numbers look good. So how does any destination mount a tourism campaign in which it seeks to attract more visitors but tells them to consume less? That will be quite a revolutionary campaign, if at all possible.



# SDG 13:

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**“Cool Coalition”  
comes together to  
save lives, energy  
and trillions for the  
global economy**



Source: Pixabay.



## SDG 13: “Cool Coalition” comes together to save lives, energy and trillions for the global economy

Copenhagen, Denmark, 03 April 2019 – As global temperatures rise and the growing energy demands of air conditioning threaten to emit more greenhouse gases, over 20 leaders today committed to a new global effort on clean and efficient cooling, which can make a huge positive impact on climate change, help achieve sustainable development and save money.

Launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, the Cool Coalition aims to inspire ambition and accelerate action on the transition to clean and efficient cooling.

The coalition includes ministers of environment from Chile and Rwanda and Foreign Affairs from Denmark as well as the heads of Danish engineering firm Danfoss and ENGIE, and the leaders of civil society, research, academia and intergovernmental institutions. The Cool Coalition is a global effort led by UN Environment, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program, and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).

“Demand for cooling is growing, as it must if we are to provide equitable access to a technology that keeps our children healthy, vaccines stable,

food nutritious and economies productive,” said Joyce Msuya, Acting Executive Director of UN Environment, and a key leader of the coalition.

“But we also can’t allow emissions to get out of hand. The Cool Coalition offers a three-in-one opportunity to cut global warming, improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people and make huge financial savings.”

2018 was the fourth-warmest year on record, with unprecedented peak temperatures recorded across the planet, from 43°C in Baku, Azerbaijan, to the low 30s across Scandinavia. Already, 30 per cent of the world’s population face potentially dangerous temperatures for more than 20 days a year. Heatwaves cause 12,000 deaths annually.

“In a warming world, cooling is a necessity, not a luxury. We need to provide it to the vulnerable populations who currently have no electricity. This necessity is something that can be delivered within a 1.5 degree-pathway. We need to provide sustainable cooling at speed and scale so that we can ensure everyone has safe food, safe vaccines, and comfort at work. Hundreds of millions of people at risk today from extreme heat need protection and we must protect them in a way that also protects the planet from increased carbon



emissions,” said, Rachel Kyte, Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy for All.

Amidst rising temperatures and spending power, the number of air conditioners in use is expected to rise from 1.2 billion today to 4.5 billion by 2050. If the world continues down this path, emissions from the sector will grow 90% by 2050 over 2017 levels. This is equivalent to emissions of 12 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 – equivalent to almost one quarter of global emissions in 2017.



Source: Pixabay.

Many cooling technologies use refrigerants that can be 10,000 times more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. On the first day of 2019, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol started phasing down these gases, known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This amendment can deliver almost 0.4°C of avoided warming from addressing these gases alone.

A combined strategy to phasedown HFCs along with improvements in energy efficiency can potentially double the climate benefits – while saving up to USD 2.9 trillion globally through 2050 by using less electricity, according to figures from the International Energy Agency.

“As a leading provider of cooling solutions, and a supporter of climate action, Danfoss is committed to leading the industry to implementing sustainable solutions. Already today, we have cooling solutions that are more energy efficient and climate friendly, we need to start implementing them. Working with the Cool Coalition, we can do much more and allow everybody to benefit from cooling both people and planet.” Kim Fausing, President and CEO Danfoss.

The Cool Coalition is a unified front that links

action across the Kigali Amendment, Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. It will inspire ambition, identify solutions and mobilize action to accelerate progress toward clean and efficient cooling.

“Chile is experiencing an exponential growth in cooling demand as global temperature rises. Like almost every nation in the world, we need cooling solutions for the benefit of our people,” said Carolina Schmidt, Minister of the Environment of Chile and Designated President of the next global meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

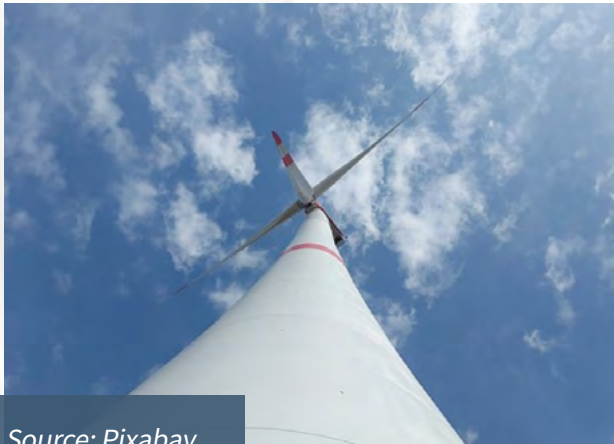
“Preventing an increase in emissions from the cooling sector is already part of our climate agenda under our commitment to the Paris Agreement and the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol. The Cool Coalition join forces and take actions towards cleaner and more sustainable cooling, ensuring that we can provide people with the cooling they need while protecting the planet.”

The Champions in the coalition will inspire action by:

- leading by example on how to advance clean and efficient cooling;
- sharing the scientific case for action;
- securing high-level commitments in the run up to the Secretary General’s Summit;
- motivating others to meet their requirements under the Kigali Amendment and Paris Agreement;
- promoting collaboration;
- advocating for more innovation, greater investment, better information, and increased capacity to move towards clean and efficient cooling.

The Cool Coalition will complement and build upon ongoing successful programs to advance clean and efficient cooling, including, the Cooling for All Secretariat, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme, private sector action like the Global Cooling Prize, and other initiatives.

“Affordable and clean cooling is essential for sustainable economic development in Africa,



Source: Pixabay.

the health of citizens, and the well-being of the planet. We know that comprehensive policies and clear action plans result in the adoption of energy efficient products”, said Vincent Biruta, Rwanda’s Minister of Environment. “That’s why Rwanda is working with our partners to implement a clear set of standards and labels for refrigerators and air conditioners. I encourage all nations to prioritise clean cooling and work together to achieve the goals set through the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.”

### ***Additional quotes***

“ENGIE is committed to working towards a carbon neutral world, which we cannot achieve without sustainable cooling. We have a real opportunity to make huge energy efficiency gains on the path to carbon neutrality, but we need governments, civil society and the private sector to work together. The Cool Coalition will create the space for us to take full advantage of the opportunity and keep our planet cool,” said Isabelle Kocher, CEO of ENGIE.

“Only together will we address major challenges such as cooling for all without warming the planet. That is why the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program, a collaboration between 17 foundations, is joining this coalition of the willing. Together we will share technical and policy solutions, scale up finance, and take action at scale”, said Dan Hamza-Goodacre, Executive Director of the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program

“Not only does renewable energy provide the opportunity to meet the increasing energy demand for cooling by limiting carbon emissions, it also ensure access to cooling by providing needed energy in rural/off-grid areas in developing countries. Together with energy efficiency, renewable energy can decarbonise the cooling sector. REN21 will work with the Cool Coalition to develop renewable energy as an integrated component to its sustainable cooling work,” Rana Adib, Executive Secretary, REN21 (the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century).

“Climate-friendly appliance technologies are increasingly available, as the industry is constantly focusing on new innovations that reduce the carbon footprint of the products. At Arçelik, in line with our vision “Respecting the World, Respected Worldwide” we invest in energy efficient products and develop climate-friendly solutions that use fewer resources that everyone can access, in accordance with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We truly believe that being part of the ‘Cool Coalition’ is a key opportunity to take joint action towards a cleaner and sustainable future.” Mr. Hakan Hamdi BULGURLU, CEO, Arcelik.

### ***The Cool Coalition currently includes:***

Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy, C40, Care Without Harm, CLASP, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Danfoss, ENGIE, Energy Foundation China, Environmental Investigation Agency, Global Cool Cities Alliance, International Solar Alliance, Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme, Empower, Arcelik, Minister of Environment of Chile, Minister of Environment of Rwanda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Natural Resources Defense Council, REN21, Rocky Mountain Institute, Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, Toby Peters - Professor in Cold Economy University of Birmingham, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, TERI - The Energy and Resources Institute, United Nations Environment Programme.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Travel & tourism uses a lot of cooling equipment, too. This is a great source of information on what can be done to alleviate its share of the problem.



# SDG 13:

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**‘Critical moment’  
for sustainable  
development, UN  
chief tells major  
financing forum**





Student riding to school on rainy day in southwest China. World Bank/Steve Harris



## SDG 13: ‘Critical moment’ for sustainable development, UN chief tells major financing forum

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 15 April 2019 - “Uneven growth, rising debt levels, possible upticks in financial volatility, and heightened global trade tensions” are hampering progress on reaching the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)), UN chief António Guterres told the Forum on Financing for Development on Monday, during what he called “a critical moment” to “accelerate action for sustainable development”.

Ministers, senior UN officials, high-level finance officials, civil society, business representatives and local authorities, are meeting at UN Headquarters for the four-day [FfD Forum](#), as it is known for short.

Mr. Guterres said climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and technologies disrupting labour markets, were a major challenge, saying “We are here today as part of an effort to coordinate an urgent global response to reverse these trends”.

“Simply put,” he spelled out “we need more money to implement the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)”.

Noting that development aid remains essential, “especially for the poorest countries”, the UN chief shone a light on the importance of countries themselves generating more funding, including by increasing tax revenue and the impact of investment.

“National policy frameworks are key to reducing risks, creating an enabling business environment, incentivizing investment in public goals, and aligning financial systems with long-term sustainable development”, he stated.

### **‘Broad transformation’ needed**

Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council ([ECOSOC](#)) opened the meeting by highlighting that while progress has been made, “we have not seen the broad transformation that we need, to achieve the SDGs by 2030”.

Pointing to economic and other risks, she homed in on “climate change, from the Caribbean to the

Sahel”, which has actively reversed development gains; rising debt levels, which stifle investment in sustainable development; and increasing trade tensions dampening economic growth and inequalities within countries.

To address these risks, Ms. King stressed the need to: renew commitments to global multilateral cooperation; align financing frameworks to integrate the [2030 Agenda](#) into national development strategies; and accelerate the financing of sustainable development.

“This Forum represents a critical milestone that sets the tone for the year ahead” she said.



*Inga Rhonda King (centre), seventy-fourth President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), chairs the Financing for Development Forum of ECOSOC Session 2019. Also pictured (left to right): María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the General Assembly. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

### ***Wanted: 600 million ‘decent jobs’***

María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the General Assembly, noted that while global economic growth has remained steady, it was not enough just to support the 2030 Agenda.

She underscored the need to generate “600 million new decent jobs” up to 2030, which requires policies to take advantage of public and private SDG funding; mobilizing national resources by targeting tax policies, and more international tax cooperation to deal with tax evasion.

“A sustainable development future requires investing now, in the present”, she maintained. “Now it is time to act, to take decisive steps to make the promise to ‘free the human race from the tyranny of poverty’ a reality and contribute to make our Organization more relevant for all”.

### ***‘A delicate moment’ for the economy***

“The world economy right now is at a delicate moment”, said the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund ([IMF](#)), Tao Zhang, echoing the outcome of the World Bank and [IMF](#)’s spring meetings in Washington last week.

While global expansion continues, he stated that it was at a slower pace than anticipated.

“We need to do better”, he spelled out, noting that stronger medium-term growth will be “essential for developing countries” to achieve the SDGs.

He detailed three “complimentary and reinforcing areas of policy action” to address this, namely, domestic policies to build resilience and promote inclusion; upgraded international cooperation; and the commitment to work together on broader global challenges.

## ***Actions required today***

From the [World Bank](#), Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations, and Partnerships, said that “business as usual, simply put, will not get us into ending extreme poverty by 2030”.

“There will be hundreds of millions of people will be suffering from extreme poverty by 2030 if business remains as we do it today”, with nine-out-of-ten of those affected, in Africa. “Actions are required today”, he exclaimed.

As an outcome of the spring meetings he said “we need bold and urgent reforms in development policies and financing” to achieve job growth opportunities and sustainability in the next decade.

## ***Youthful demographics***

Delivering a keynote address, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and Chair of the G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance highlighted the importance of mobilizing young people.

Noting that the size of the “youthful bulge” in our populations “vastly exceeds what we’ve seen before”, he said “the largest challenge” was that “we are not prepared to create the jobs required” for them.

“We are ill-prepared by “every measure” of education, skills development and ability to provide young people with decent jobs”, he lamented.

Mr. Shanmugaratnam painted a picture of a failure to create jobs intersecting with other global challenges, such as climate change, loss of the world’s biodiversity and the spread of infectious disease, as having consequences that would surpass just economic costs.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Yes, it is indeed a “critical moment” for the sustainability agenda. The world needs to create millions of new decent jobs every year while cleaning up the mess caused by the now discredited business models of the past. How will all this be paid for? How can travel & tourism be a part of the solution?





# SDG 13:

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**Five leaders “doing  
the right thing” on  
transport emissions**



## SDG 13: Five leaders “doing the right thing” on transport emissions

Nairobi, Source: UN Environment, 16 April 2019  
- The smell of exhaust fumes is unpleasant and unhealthy, and the gases are known for affecting happiness, [intelligence](#) and overall human well-being. Yet millions around the world are forced to breathe in noxious fumes every day as they go about their business—heading for work, going to school or simply stepping out of their homes for a moment.

Air pollution leads to premature death from heart disease, stroke, and cancer, as well as acute lower respiratory infections. Indoor and outdoor air pollution caused an estimated 7 million deaths globally in 2016, according to UN Environment’s recently published [Measuring Progress](#) report.

Transport emissions account for a significant proportion of air pollution in cities—varying enormously depending on the location. It can be the biggest or a minor source of air pollution, but its effects are devastating nonetheless. This is why local and national governments are increasingly taking steps to improve urban air quality by developing smarter public transport systems and/or switching to electric mobility and zero emission transport.

“We need three things to happen,” says UN

Environment’s electric mobility expert Rob de Jong. “We need to avoid the need for transport, like through better city design where kids can walk to school and shops are close to residential areas; we need to shift to more efficient modes of transport, like public transport and walking and cycling; and we need to improve transport, like through cleaner vehicles.”

Sustainable Development Goal 3.9 calls for substantially reducing “the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination”. For changes to be felt at such scale, a combination of behaviour change, persuasion, perseverance and leadership will be required.

UN Environment’s e-mobility programme supports countries, particularly emerging economies, in introducing electric mobility. It helps governments to develop policies, exchange best practices, pilot technology options, track electric vehicle uptake, and calculate emissions and economic benefits.

Here, we look at some examples of initiatives from around the world to green the land-based transport sector.



## ***Sadiq Khan, mayor of London***

Khan has pushed for—and implemented on 8 April 2019—an ultra-low emissions zone and confirmed its expansion to North and South circular roads from October 2021. Strict emission standards will also apply to buses, coaches and lorries across the whole of London from October 2020. Both schemes will lead to emission reductions across London and more than 100,000 residents no longer living in areas exceeding legal air quality limits in 2021.

These bold measures will deliver a major improvement to Londoners' health by improving

air quality, potentially preventing thousands of premature deaths and other serious conditions. Research demonstrates that these effects currently disproportionately impact the poorest Londoners, but all areas of London are expected to see reductions in pollution.

“Tackling London’s lethal air and safeguarding the health of Londoners requires bold action. Air pollution is a national health crisis and I refuse to stand back as thousands of Londoners breathe in air so filthy that it shortens our life expectancy, harms our lungs and worsens chronic illness,” [says Khan](#).



London has just introduced an ultra-low emissions zone, which will be expanded from October 2021 to a much larger area. Photo Credit: Pxhere

## ***Carolina Schmidt, Minister of Environment of Chile***

Chile has the second largest electric bus fleet in the world, after China. Speaking at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in March, Schmidt stressed the importance of having an electric mobility strategy so that everyone can work together to accomplish the goal of reducing air pollution. She stressed the economic advantage of switching to electric vehicles, and

their popularity with the public.

“We have 200 electric buses in Santiago. They are an enormous success with people. The quality is so much better. People paid more for it and took more trips.”

Schmidt has helped incentivize the private sector to ensure that by 2022 Chile has 10 times more electric cars. “Between 2014 and 2018 we doubled our participation in renewables and clean energy,” she said.





Sales of electric vehicles are growing fast. Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

### ***Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica***

“When you have the ministries of energy and environment in the same house you can make big leaps forward. Same person, same agency,” says Rodriguez, stressing that institutional organization is a key pre-requisite for change. He was speaking at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi last month.

Costa Rica, a country of 5 million people, uses a combination of solar, biomass, wind and geothermal energy to cover the country’s energy needs for over 300 days a year. It has a long-term plan to decarbonize its economy which includes electric mobility.

“If anyone asks why we are bothering to do this when our contribution to greenhouse gases is only 0.4 per cent of the global total, our answer is: because it makes economic sense. And health sense. And there are real cost benefits for decarbonization.”

### ***Ola Evestuen, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway***

Norway, which aims to decarbonize its economy by 2030, has a greater percentage of electric vehicles than anywhere else in the world: 70 per cent of passenger cars on the road are electric.

The Ministry of Finance’s introduction of a broad package of incentives has been vital in achieving this. While there’s no road tax on electric cars, conventional cars are heavily taxed. Electric vehicles get free transportation on Norway’s ferries. Public parking in city centres is only allowed for electric cars. Infrastructure development has also been very important: many charging stations are in people’s homes.

“We have only 5 million people but are the third largest market for electric mobility in the world. Obviously, we want be overtaken,” said Ola Evestuen’s deputy at the UN Environment Assembly.

## ***China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology***

In April 2018, China introduced a scheme to promote environmentally friendly passenger vehicles in automobile manufacturing companies' vehicle fleets. The scheme ties corporate average fuel consumption to "new energy vehicle" sales. New energy vehicles are electric passenger cars, plug-in hybrids, or fuel-cell cars. The [measure](#) establishes a "parallel administration" system for auto companies' corporate average fuel consumption and new energy vehicle sales.

The scheme is a modified version of California's Zero Emission Vehicle mandate and specifies new energy vehicle targets for corporate fleets of 10 per cent of the conventional passenger vehicle

market in 2019 and 12 per cent in 2020.

China's Energy-Saving and New Energy Vehicle Industry Development Plan (2012–2020) has set average fleet targets of 6.9 litres of petrol per 100 km by 2015 and 5.0 litres per 100 km by 2020.

Air pollution is the theme for [World Environment Day](#) on 5 June 2019. The quality of the air we breathe depends on the lifestyle choices we make every day. Learn more about how air pollution affects you, and what is being done to clean the air. What are you doing to reduce your emissions footprint and #BeatAirPollution?

The 2019 World Environment Day is hosted by China.

## **IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Cities are the primary magnets of tourists. And mobility is a fundamental requirement. What measures can be taken by travel & tourism to make cities safer and healthier? Well worth thinking about for World Environment Day.



# SDG 15:

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**More dry years  
ahead for  
South-East Asia**





## SDG 15: More dry years ahead for South-East Asia

Mandalay (ESCAP news) 24 April 2019 – Future scenarios of drought in many parts of South-East Asia may become even more frequent and intense if actions are not taken now to build resilience, according to the latest joint study by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Launched today at the 34th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the study *Ready for the Dry Years: Building Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia* offers clear analysis on the principal risks in the region. The study is released against the backdrop of the ongoing drought in almost all countries in South-East Asia with social and economic impacts already being felt very strongly in Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

As reported by the study, the cumulative impacts of drought in the region strikes hardest at the poor and heightens inequality, as well as degrades land and increases the prospects of violent conflict. Droughts can also be particularly damaging in countries where many people rely on agriculture for primary employment (61% in Lao PDR, 41% in Viet Nam, 31% in Indonesia, 27% in Cambodia and 26% in the Philippines).

Over the past 30 years, droughts have affected over 66 million people in the region. However, due to their slow-onset, droughts are often under-reported and under-monitored, resulting in conservative estimates on its impact in the region. The study points out that the future could be even worse. With climate change, many more areas are likely to experience extreme conditions with severe consequences.

“More dry years are inevitable, but more suffering is not. Timely interventions now can reduce the impacts of drought, protect the poorest communities and foster more harmonious societies,” said United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Armida Alisjahbana.

Increasing resilience to drought will require much better forecasting and more efficient forms of response, at both national and regional levels. Ready for the Dry Years proposes three priority areas of intervention for ESCAP and ASEAN – strengthening drought risk assessment and early warning services, fostering risk financing instruments that can insure communities against slow-onset droughts and lastly, enhancing people’s capacities to adapt to drought.

“The priority areas of intervention highlighted in this report will contribute to the development of policy responses to mitigate the impact of future drought and eventually will strengthen efforts on building the ASEAN Community that is resilient to drought,” said Secretary-General of ASEAN Dato Lim Jock Hoi.

The study was produced as part of ESCAP and ASEAN’s close collaboration on disaster risk reduction under the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management.

Read the full report: [click here](#)

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Water is one area where travel & tourism is indeed a part of the problem. There is a lot of concern about food waste by the industry. What about water wastage, caused by everything from leaky faucets and nozzles to 10-minute showers. Destinations could be destroyed in future by water shortages. Travel & tourism is a long way from becoming a part of the solution in this department.



# SDG 16:

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**Removing deadly  
mines means 'new  
horizons and hope',  
clears a path to  
SDGs**





Through the 2016 peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Colombian mine action sector has expanded significantly providing new employment opportunities for both men and women. UNMAS/Juan Arredondo



## SDG 16: Removing deadly mines means ‘new horizons and hope’, clears a path to SDGs

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 4 April 2019 - The path towards achieving the 2030 [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) must be “clear of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs)”, the United Nations Secretary-General said on Thursday, [International Mine Awareness Day](#).

“All people have the right to live in security, and not fear their next step”, António Guterres spelled out in his [message](#), lauding mine action, which “clears paths and creates safe ground on which homes can be built or rebuilt” and “changes mindsets so that people know how to protect themselves”.

Moreover, the UN chief described it as “giving people and communities new horizons and hope”. For more than 20 years, the United Nations has helped States free themselves from the threat of mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.

This year, the Organization has launched “Safe Ground”, a new strategy and campaign to “ensure that no one, no State, and no war zone is left behind”.

The campaign links mine action, sport and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) by showing how clearing minefields, brings communities together and raises awareness about mine victims, and survivors of armed conflict.

“With this global campaign, our aim is to turn minefields into playing fields, and to raise resources for victims and survivors of armed conflict”, Mr. Guterres asserted.

The Secretary-General called on all States to “provide political and financial support for mine action” and urged all that have not yet acceded to the [Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention](#), the [Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and associated Protocols](#), and the [Convention on Cluster Munitions](#), to “do so without delay”.

“For prevention, protection, and lasting peace, universalization of these treaties is essential and strict compliance with International Humanitarian Law is a must”, he stated.

He paid tribute to the [UN Mine Action Service \(UNMAS\)](#) and to the “women and men who show extraordinary bravery in advancing this vital work,

literally step-by-step”.

“On this International Day for Mine Awareness, let us reaffirm our commitment to eradicating the horrendous damage caused by landmines and assisting those who have been harmed by their use”, concluded the Secretary-General.

### *In the field*

Painfully aware of the mine risks in Syria, the UN office there [said](#) in a statement that “providing explosive hazard risk education, clearance, and victim assistance is one of the main humanitarian priorities in the country”.

They do this through awareness raising, survey and clearance, and by addressing the needs of survivors and those affected.

The Senior UNMAS Programme Manager in South Sudan, another key nation for their work, [said](#) this week that demining “is doable” in that country.

“We are into the endgame now, and we need support to see this one through”, Richard Boulter elaborated. “It is a three to five-year problem, and then this goes away.”

He continued, saying that “if the powers that be don’t want to see a particular area cleared of dangers, there are still other places where we can go to work...when peace comes to town – when

sanity comes to town – we can go back and do our job there.”

### *Seeing is believing*

In marking the Day, “Safe Ground” events have been held around the world, such as a football tournament in Gaza and road races in Iraq, Lebanon and Colombia.

In New York, a hands-on workshop allowed ordinary people to participate in mock-demining activities.

One of the “guys in the bomb suits”, UNMAS Threat Mitigation Advisor Will Meurer, walked UN News through a de-mining demonstration, explaining that “mine awareness is a very large component in improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which so many people now have to deal with”.

He exhibited IEDs that, once used by “the good guys”, have been repurposed with explosives and attached to drones for targeting; others that are “victim operated”, which buried in the ground, are set off when stepped on or driven over; and those on a timer or detonated on command, suicide vests fell into this category.

Mr. Meurer underscored that IEDs are increasingly impacting the UN across all its mission areas – from humanitarian responses to development.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Another haunting problem for the safety and security sector. Explosives can now be attached to drones for targetting. No shortage of ingenuity amongst those creating new kinds of killing machines. A complete vacuum of ingenuity amongst those seeking ways to make peace.





# SDG 16:

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**Praising Roma's contributions in Europe, UN expert urges end to rising intolerance and hate speech**





Children walking in a Roma community in the town of Shumen, Northern Bulgaria (2013) © UNICEF/UNI154440/Pirozzi



## SDG 16: Praising Roma's contributions in Europe, UN expert urges end to rising intolerance and hate speech

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 8 April 2019 - An independent United Nations expert [called on Monday](#) for immediate action to end discrimination and combat racist rhetoric against Roma, Europe's largest minority group.

The UN Special Rapporteur on minorities, [Fernand de Varennes](#), said Governments must live up to their international human rights obligations to protect and promote the rights of the Roma people.

"There is a need for more action to combat hate speech, intolerance and racially motivated-violence," Mr. de Varennes, in a statement on International Roma Day, also known as International Romani Day.

He noted recent reports of intimidation, aggression and physical violence against Roma people in Europe, including on social media in recent years.

"I note with grave concern how deeply entrenched social perceptions, bigotry and stereotypes about Roma minorities are used as a means to stir up hatred, leading to the perpetration of heinous acts against them," the UN expert said.

Pointing to inequalities, changing economic and political environments, and rising populism, he said many factors contribute to "a breeding group of expressions of hatred, exclusion, scapegoating and acts of violence" against the Roma.

It is up to Governments to ensure that minority communities such as the Roma have the opportunities and respect they need, to succeed as productive and responsible members of society, said Mr. de Varennes.

He added that strong commitment and resolute action are needed to effectively combat inflammatory and racist rhetoric and practices that "dehumanise, demonise and discriminate against Roma," including

how they are portrayed in the media, and to ensure equal access to justice and effective remedies.

In his statement, the UN expert also paid homage to the “considerable contributions” which the Roma have made, including through their artistic and cultural heritage.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The rise in such blatant discrimination goes against everything the travel & tourism industry holds dear. Yet, it does not seem to want to take it seriously. An entire conference could be convened just on this topic alone. See any sign of that happening?

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# SDG 17:

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**Call to urgently  
address 'defining  
challenges of our  
time', to empower  
youth worldwide**





*The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum provides a platform for young leaders globally to share ideas for, among things, advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, April 2019. UN Photo/Evan Schneider*

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## SDG 17: Call to urgently address ‘defining challenges of our time’, to empower youth worldwide

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 8 April 2019 - Young people require “skills, values, jobs and livelihoods that empower them” so they can help forge a more sustainable world, the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) said on Monday, kicking off its [eighth Annual Youth Forum](#).

“We need to urgently address the defining challenges of our time: access to quality education, unemployment, inequality, social exclusion and climate change”, Inga Rhonda King asserted in her opening remarks. “We cannot achieve this at the UN alone. We are all in this together”.

Under the theme “Empowered, Included and Equal”, this year’s Forum aims to mobilize support for young people across the globe.

While noting some encouraging signs concerning the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), she pointed to emerging evidence that suggests “the world is not yet on track to meeting many of the SDGs by 2030”.

“I urge you to assess where we stand and mobilize together to move us forward” she stressed.

The Youth Forum provides a platform for young leaders globally to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with UN Member States and to share ideas for advancing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) on financing for development, and the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change.

It also gives youth the space to share their vision and contribute to upcoming UN meetings, including the 2019 ECOSOC Substantive Session in July, the 2019 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development ([HLPF](#)) and the high-level events taking place on the margins of the General Assembly in September, including the [Climate Summit](#), the [High-level Meeting on Financing for Development](#) and the [SDG Summit](#).

General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa [called](#) the Youth Forum “one of the most important mechanisms for young people to shape the 2030 Agenda”.

Underscoring that the world needs inclusive inter-generational cooperation, she said the contribution of the 1.8 billion young people around the world was “crucial” for success in 2030.

Ms. Espinosa spoke about the challenges of having 64 million young people unemployed along with the situation of youth in conflict-affected States — where one-third of all young people live.

This year's Forum is of particular importance, she explained, as it informs the annual political forum in July as well as feeds into the HLPF in September, which “will be the first comprehensive stock take”, pushing the agenda upwards to Heads of State level.

“There is no limit to what this generation, the largest, most educated, most globally-minded in history can deliver”, she spelled out.

In her opening statement, [UN Youth Envoy](#) Jayathma Wickramanayake said that the outcomes of this year's Youth Forum will help steer discussions to prioritize young people's needs and rights ahead of the SDG and Climate Action Summits later this year.

“The UN is pursuing action across many fronts to support Member States in meeting these [challenges] and it continues to pursue a path towards a fair globalization that works for all, while seeking to instill continued appreciation for multilateralism and dialogue, including among young people”, she stated.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The role of millennials is constantly on the agendas of travel & tourism events. But the topics discussed have little to do with “the defining challenges of our time: access to quality education, unemployment, inequality, social exclusion and climate change.” This is quite a mess that they are going to inherit.

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# SDG 17:

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**‘Score a goal’ for  
humanity - Winning  
link between sport  
and development**





*Football players celebrate the first prize at the closing ceremony of the community football competition in Zam Zam camp for internally displaced persons in North Darfur. UN Photo/Albert González Farran*



## SDG 17: ‘Score a goal’ for humanity - Winning link between sport and development

United Nations, (UN News Centre) 3 April 2019 - Celebrating the [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#), Deputy Secretary-General [Amina Mohammed](#) told an event in New York on Wednesday - headquarters of team UN - that “sport helps find common ground” during times of division. “Sport has the power to align our passion, energy and enthusiasm around a collective cause,” she maintained. “And that is precisely when hope can be nurtured and trust can be regained”.

Sport has played an important role in all societies throughout history – making it a natural focus for the UN system, to strengthen social ties and promote the ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice.

Ms. Mohammed recalled stories of “soldiers climbing over the trenches on the first Christmas Eve of the First World War” to play football and bring about a momentary truce and “table tennis in the 1970s” that thawed Cold War tensions and gave birth to the term “ping-pong diplomacy”.

“It is in our collective interest to harness the tremendous power of sport to help build a better and more sustainable future for all” she stressed.

Moreover, she pointed out that the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) identified sport as “an enabler of sustainable development”.

“Sport can help promote tolerance and respect, contribute to the empowerment of women and young people, and advance health, education and social inclusion”, she continued.

Ahead of the international day on Friday, Ms. Mohammed cited the Secretary-General’s report “Strengthening the Global Framework for Leveraging Sport for Development and Peace” as recognition of the power of sport “to bring people together and achieve common goals.



*Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed (at podium) opens the event to commemorate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (6 April)., by UN Photo/Mark Garten*

Affirming that “no institution or entity can do it alone”, she underscored the need for “partnerships between all parts of society, especially youth and local communities”, and elaborated on collaborations with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the international football association, FIFA, to, among other things, advance women in leadership.

Ms. Mohammed also urged changing the day-to-day management of sporting events, so as to harness environmentally-friendly practices and socio-environmental-minded bidding proposals.

“Let us intensify our shared efforts to achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and truly recognize the power of sport to change the lives of individuals, communities, countries and beyond”, she stated.

“Thank you” concluded the Deputy Secretary-General “for helping the world score a goal for our common humanity”.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Sports is now an intrinsic component of travel & tourism. Yes, it is all about competition to win. But it is also being harnessed as a force “to strengthen social ties and promote the ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice.” Shared values with travel & tourism, for sure.

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# SDG 17:

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**Guidelines for  
Trustworthy AI  
published**



By Dr. Virginia Dignum, Professor of Social and Ethical Artificial Intelligence at Umeå University



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## SDG 17: Guidelines for Trustworthy AI published

Brussels, April 17, 2019 - The European Union has published its [Guidelines for Trustworthy AI](#). A few weeks earlier, the first version of the [IEEE initiative on Ethically Aligned Design of Intelligent and Autonomous Systems](#) were presented.

The impact of these two reports, coming from the European Union and from one of the leading international professional organizations of engineers is potentially very large. (Full disclosure: I am a member of the EU high level group on AI and of the executive committee of IEEE ethically aligned design (EAD) initiative, the bodies behind these two reports.)

Engineers are those that ultimately will implement AI to meet ethical principles and human values, but it is policy-makers, regulators and society in general that can set and enforce the purpose. We are all responsible.

### *Moving from principles to guidelines*

Both documents go well beyond proposing a list of principles, but aim at providing concrete guidelines to the design of ethically aligned AI systems. Systems that we can trust, systems that we can rely on.

Based on the result of a [public consultation process](#), the EU guidelines put forward seven requirements necessary (but not sufficient) to achieve trustworthy AI, together with methods to achieve these and an assessment list to check these requirements.

These requirements include:

- Human agency and oversight
- Technical robustness and safety
- Privacy and data governance
- Transparency
- Diversity, non-discrimination and fairness
- Societal and environmental well-being
- Accountability



The IEEE-EAD report is a truly bottom-up international effort, resulting from the collaboration of many hundreds of experts across the globe including Asia and the Global South. It goes deeper and beyond a list of requirements or principles and provides in-depth background on many different topics.

The IEEE-EAD community is already hard at work on defining [standards](#) for the future of ethical intelligent and autonomous technologies, ensuring the prioritization of human well-being.

The EU will be piloting its assessment list in the coming months, through an [open call for interest](#).

### ***Ensuring the purpose of AI is what we want***

As mathematician and philosopher Norbert Wiener wrote back in 1960: "We had better be quite sure that the purpose put into the machine is the purpose which we really desire." Moreover, we need to ensure that we put in place the social

and technical constructs that ensure that the purpose remains in place when algorithms and their contexts evolve.

Ensuring an ethically aligned purpose is more than designing systems whose result can be trusted. It is about the way we design them, why we design them, and who is involved in designing them. It is a work of generations. It is a work always in progress.

Obviously, errors will be made, disasters will happen. We need to learn from mistakes and try again — try better.

It is not an option to ignore our responsibility. AI systems are artifacts decided, designed, implemented and used by us. We are responsible. We are responsible to try again when we fail (and we will fail), to observe and denounce when we see things going wrong (and they will go wrong), to be informed and to inform, to rebuild and improve.

The principles put forward by the EU and

the IEEE are the latest in a long list of sets of principles, by governments, civil organizations, private companies, think tanks and research groups ([Asilomar](#), [Barcelona](#), [Montreal](#), [Google](#), [Microsoft](#),... just to mention a few). However, it is not just about checking that a system meets the principles on whatever is your favorite list.

These principles are not check lists, or boxes to tick once and forget. These principles are directions for action. They are codes of behavior — for AI systems, but, most importantly, for us.

It is us who need to be fair, non-discriminatory, accountable, to ensure privacy of ourselves and others, and to aim at social and environmental well-being. The codes of ethics are for us. AI systems will follow.

There is work to be done. We, the people, are the ones who can and must do it. We are responsible.

*\*Dr. Dignum will be a speaker at the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland. The original version of this article was published on [Medium](#).*

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The wider ramifications of technological change (human agency and oversight, technical robustness and safety, privacy and data governance, transparency, diversity, non-discrimination and fairness, societal and environmental well-being, and accountability) are never seriously discussed at travel & tourism forums. Ever wonder why not?



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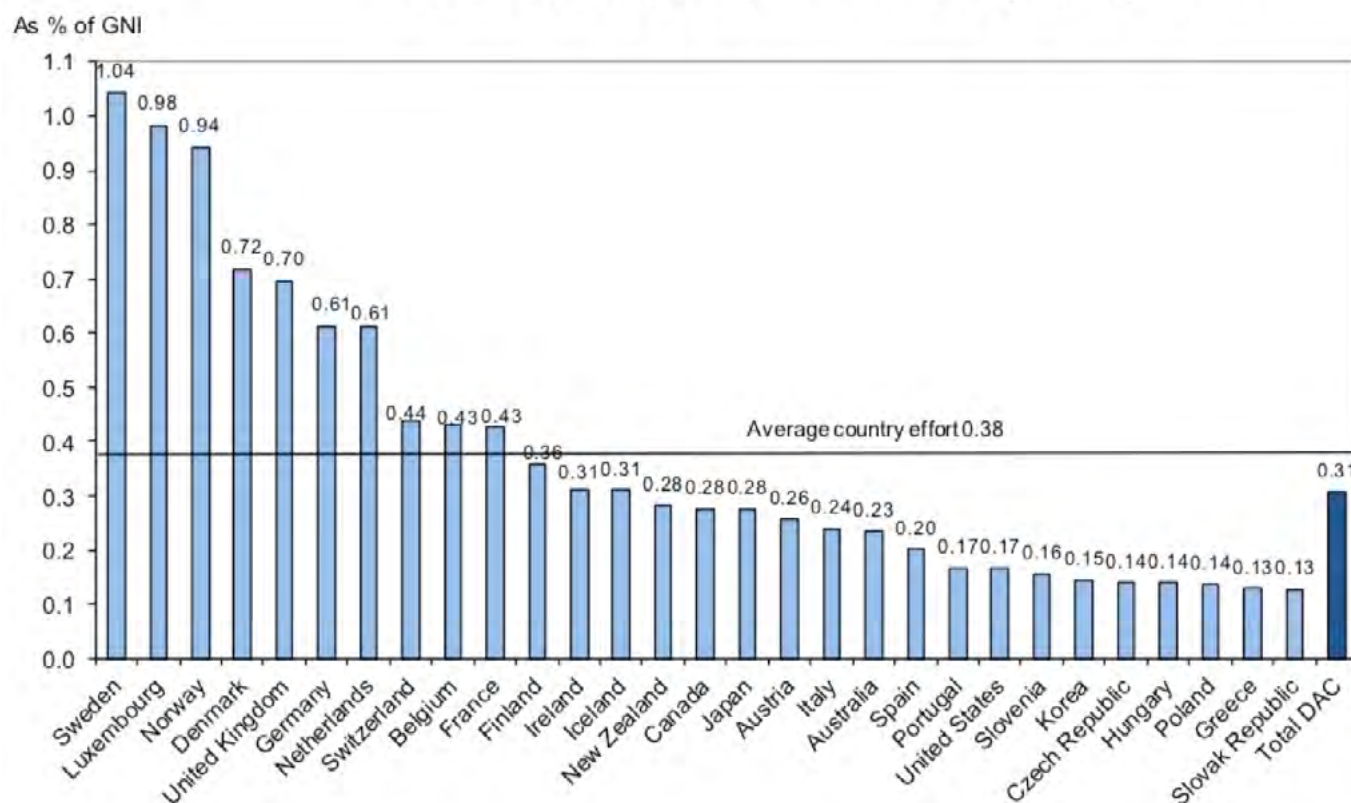


# SDG 17:

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**Europe remains  
the world's biggest  
development donor  
– €74.4 billion in  
2018**

## ODA in 2018 on a grant equivalent basis - as a percentage of GNI



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## SDG 17: Europe remains the world's biggest development donor – €74.4 billion in 2018

Brussels, 11 April 2019, EU media release - The European Union and its Member States continued to be the world's leading provider of official development assistance in 2018 and stepped up their efforts directed at developing countries.

This was confirmed by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) in their [latest report on preliminary figures for 2018](#). Collective assistance from the European Union and its Member States amounted to more than **€74.4 billion** in 2018. European development assistance represents almost 57% of the total global development assistance by all OECD-DAC donors.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, said: “*EU development cooperation helps improve life opportunities for millions of people across the world. The EU and its Member States have invested over €74 billion in development in 2018 – over half the world's development efforts. In the future, the EU and its Member States should not only maintain our leading position, but also keep up efforts to further increase our development assistance.*”

Preliminary 2018 figures indicate a slight decrease in overall collective Official Development Assistance (ODA). Taking into account the OECD's recent change of calculation methodology, the adjusted difference between 2017 and 2018 comes to a decrease of €731 million.

This decrease is due to a significant reduction in in-donor refugee spending in 2018 compared to previous years. Excluding in-donor refugee costs, the EU and its Member States have stepped up their development cooperation efforts by 4% compared with 2017.

Compared to previous years, the number of people arriving in Europe decreased down significantly. In consequence, in-donor refugee spending – which aims at assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe during the first year of their stay, covering food, shelter or training – has decreased as well, by €3.3 billion – a 32% decrease compared to 2017.

Collective EU and Member States' official development assistance represents 0.47% of the EU Gross National Income (GNI), significantly above the 0.21% average of the non-EU members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

In 2018, four EU Member States provided 0.7% or more of their Gross National Income in Official Development Assistance: Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In four Member States (France, Hungary, Malta and Sweden), the Official Development Assistance to GNI ratio increased by more than 0.01 percentage points between 2017 and 2018, while it decreased by at least 0.01 percentage points in twelve Member States.

## Background

The international community spelt out in the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) how development financing should evolve to support the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). Official Development Assistance (ODA) is one of the sources of financing to deliver on the international community's commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but it is clear that efforts to mobilise financial resources for sustainable development have to go much further.

In May 2015, the European Council reaffirmed its commitment to increase collective ODA to 0.7% of EU Gross National Income (GNI) before 2030. Since 2015, on a flow basis, ODA by the EU and its Member States has grown by 11.7%.

The ODA pledge is based on individual targets. Member States that joined the EU before 2002 reaffirmed their commitment to achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target, taking into consideration budgetary circumstances, whilst those that have achieved that target committed themselves to remain at or above that target. Member States that joined the EU after 2002 committed to strive to increase their ODA/GNI to 0.33%.

The Union and its Member States are also committed to collectively providing to least developed countries (LDCs) ODA amounting to between 0.15% and 0.20% of the EU GNI in the short term and 0.20% by 2030. In 2017, EU collective ODA to LDCs grew to 0.12% of GNI (€18.2 billion), the first increase in four years after having stood at 0.11% since 2014.

The data published today is based on preliminary information reported by the EU Member States to the OECD pending detailed final data to be published by OECD in December 2019. EU collective ODA consists of the total ODA spending of the EU Member States and the ODA of EU institutions not attributed to individual Member States (i.e. own resources of the European Investment Bank).

There are 30 members of the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#), including the European Union which acts as a full member of the committee, and 20 EU Member States.

## IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

No doubt this valuable assistance plays a major role in meeting the UNSDGs, but it also makes many receiving destinations lazy and complacent. Instead of just blindly handing out funds, it would be more useful for the donor countries to help the recipient countries wean them off it over time. At the same time a more comprehensive analysis of the benefits of ODA would be helpful towards a gaining a better understanding of what has worked, and what has not.



