

THE OLIVE TREE

Edition 16. November - December 2019

**How Travel & Tourism
can help meet the UN
Sustainable
Development Goals**



Funding the SDGs: Who will pay, and how?

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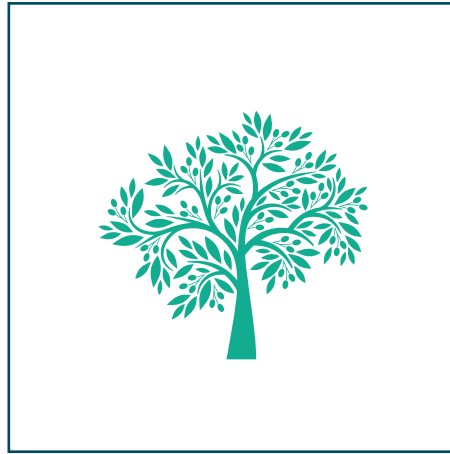
ศาสตร์ของพระราชากับการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืน His Majesty's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for SDGs

หลักปรัชญาของเศรษฐกิจพอเพียงเป็นหลักในการคิด ตัดสินใจ และการปฏิบัติ สำหรับการดำเนินชีวิตหรือประกอบกิจการงานใดๆ ด้วยการใช้ **ความรู้** และ **คุณธรรม** เป็นฐาน ผ่านการไตร่ตรองด้วยการใช้หลักสำคัญ ๓ ประการ ได้แก่ พอประมาณ ไม่มากเกินไป ไม่น้อยเกินไป **มีเหตุผล** ตามหลักวิชาการ **มีภูมิคุ้มกัน** พร้อมรองรับการเปลี่ยนแปลงหรือวิกฤตที่อาจเกิดขึ้น 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 the Great, 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 **EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

IMTIAZ MUQBIL

The Battle for Sustainability is set to be a long and expensive affair. Revamping and restructuring a system that has been based on fossil fuels for an entire century will take its toll on the financial system globally. Developing countries, which are already paying the price of a crisis not caused by them, will now face the challenge of paying the costs, too.

They are not likely to take this double-whammy burden lying down.

This Edition 16 of The Olive Tree examines some of the concerns now increasingly coming to the fore. The UN Conference on Trade and Development, which champions the causes of the developing world, has issued its 2019 annual report showing how the entire global financial system is stacked against the developing countries. Noting that “unrestrained private capital flows can cause resource transfers from developing to developed countries”, it sees capital controls as an essential part of the macroeconomic policy toolkit for meeting the SDGs.”

The report also notes that “a further drain comes from tax-motivated illicit financial flows and foregone taxes on digital transactions.” It calls for “ensuring a fair taxation of international business, whether analogue or digital, in order to build an inclusive and sustainable global order.”

Says the report. “Tax-motivated illicit financial flows of multinational enterprises (MNEs) are estimated to deprive developing countries of \$50 billion to \$200 billion a year in fiscal revenues....

The rapid digitalization of economic activity is changing how value is created, measured and distributed, adding new challenges to the international tax framework. Mitigating serious fiscal leakages requires a fresh examination of existing international corporate tax norms and rules..”

Picking up on this warning, the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development is pushing ahead with an initiative to improve the developing countries’ ability to tax multinational enterprises and boost domestic revenue mobilisation. It’s Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) initiative was launched jointly with the UN Development Programme in July 2015 to strengthen developing countries’ auditing capacity and multinationals’ compliance worldwide.

According to the OECD, expert tax auditors sent to work with interested tax administrations in developing countries have helped them close tax loopholes, improve transparency, and most critically, reduce tax avoidance by multinational enterprise. TIWB assistance has delivered nearly USD 500 million in additional revenue for developing countries through April 2019, allowing them “to advance their national development priorities and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

That is still only a small percentage of the total amount that flees the coffers of the developing countries. Sooner or later, this scrutiny of the tax collection system will target Travel & Tourism companies, especially the multinational corporations. This could yield some rather nasty headlines for digital economy companies and/or investors who have their funds stashed in tax havens.

This edition of The Olive Tree offers some food for thought. If taxi-evading and -avoiding Travel & Tourism companies choose to prioritise prevention over cure, they may want to move to Do The Right Thing now, rather than pay the price later.



SECTION 1

LEAD STORY 1:

Financing the UN Development System - Time for Hard Choices



UNDP News, 6 September 2019 - This is a report about hard choices ahead of us. Choices that governments, leaders, investors and citizens need to make about when and how to fund a multilateral approach to address today's most stubborn and urgent global development challenges – climate change, health, migration, armed conflict and inequality. The case for a multilateral approach needs to be based on evidence that shows effectiveness and impact in addressing these challenges.

The overall ambition of this fifth annual report, Financing the United Nations Development System, is to advance the quality of this evidence-based debate and to expand the marketplace of ideas related to the United Nations and development financing. It showcases the complex funding dynamics of the UN development system and its role in spurring greater and more diverse financing flows for the 2030 Agenda.

Part One provides accessible UN funding data on revenue and expenditures, which we believe is important for understanding current and future financing reform discussions. This year's report includes references to two new initiatives in the UNDS funding landscape, the Funding Compact and the 1% levy on tightly earmarked contributions. It also discusses the quality issues of financial data, the adoption of new UN data standards and why it matters.

In Part Two of the report, 25 prominent guest authors from outside and inside the UN system present their ideas and initiatives in concise essays on the financing trends impacting the SDGs. Together these essays provide analysis and insights that we believe make an important contribution to the debate and to the choices that lie ahead.

Click here to access the [Microsite for Publication](#)

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Indeed this is a time for hard choices, but hard choices must be accompanied by hard questions about every aspect of the funding chain. If “the case for a multilateral approach need to be based on evidence that shows effectiveness and impact in addressing these challenges,” where and how can the evidence be procured and accessed?

LEAD STORY 2:

Promote Innovative and Green Finance for Sustainable Infrastructure in Southeast Asia



From left to right: Enterprise Singapore Chief Executive Mr. Png Cheong Boon; Infrastructure Asia Executive Director Mr. Seth Tan; ADB Director General for Southeast Asia Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam; Minister in the Singapore Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and Education Ms. Indranee Rajah; and Monetary Authority of Singapore's Deputy Managing Director for Markets & Development Ms. Jacqueline Loh.

ADB News, 2 October 2019, Singapore - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Singapore's Infrastructure Asia today signed a cooperation agreement to help governments in Southeast Asia adopt innovative and green finance approaches to identify and develop bankable and sustainable infrastructure projects in the region, where the annual infrastructure investment needs total \$210 billion until 2030.

The agreement was signed during the Asia Infrastructure Forum in Singapore by ADB Director General for Southeast Asia Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam and Executive Director Mr. Seth Tan for Infrastructure Asia, a Singaporean agency with the mandate of supporting Asia's economic and social growth through infrastructure development.

"Southeast Asia faces significant financing gaps in meeting its infrastructure needs, including for climate change mitigation and adaptation costs," said Mr. Subramaniam. "We need innovative financing approaches to mitigate risks in projects and better leverage public funds to catalyze more financing from private and institutional partners, support greener and cleaner development, and help solve critical development challenges."

"Projects structured with better financial and technical elements, along with good partnerships, are key to helping improve the bankability of Asia's sustainable infrastructure projects," said Mr. Tan. "Through this collaboration with ADB, Infrastructure Asia will work in close consultation with the international financing,

credit enhancement, and technology ecosystem in Singapore to improve municipalities and state-owned enterprises' access to private capital.”

Specifically, the agreement will allow ADB and Infrastructure Asia to help state-owned enterprises, as well as regional and municipal governments, in Southeast Asia improve their institutional, financial, and governance capacities for developing innovative and green infrastructure programs and projects.

To achieve this, the two institutions will launch the Innovative Finance Lab for Sustainable Infrastructure, a virtual space supported by a biannual event in Singapore, to gather stakeholders across Southeast Asia together to exchange knowledge, improve their policy-making capacities, and foster the adoption of innovative and green finance models in local infrastructure projects.

The Innovative Finance Lab will also serve as a capacity-building platform for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF), which was launched in April 2019 to boost the development of green infrastructure projects across ASEAN by catalyzing public and private capital and technologies.

The ACGF is part of the Green and Inclusive Infrastructure Window, launched by Southeast Asian governments, ADB, and major development financiers under the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, a regional financing initiative established in 2011 that has committed \$520 million for energy, transport, water, and urban infrastructure projects across the subregion.

ACGF aims to mobilize around \$1.3 billion from a number of sources, including the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, ADB, the German development cooperation through KfW, the European Investment Bank, the Republic of Korea, and Agence Française de Développement. The facility is also supported by other entities, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Global Green Growth Institute, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. In 2018, it made commitments of new loans and grants amounting to \$21.6 billion. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This sounds like a laudable move that will certainly benefit Travel & Tourism. But what are the terms and conditions of the financing packages?

LEAD STORY 3:

Managing capital could provide a US\$680bn annual windfall for financing SDG agenda



UNCTAD (Press Release), 25 September 2019, Geneva, Switzerland - A new UN report highlights how unrestrained private capital flows can cause resource transfers from developing to developed countries and sees capital controls as an essential part of the macroeconomic policy toolkit for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A further drain comes from tax-motivated illicit financial flows and foregone taxes on digital transactions; this means that ensuring a fair taxation of international business, whether analogue or digital, is central to efforts to build an inclusive and sustainable global order, according to UNCTAD's [*Trade and Development Report 2019*](#) released today.

“Unrestrained opening to volatile foreign capital risks further widening the resource gap to finance the 2030 Agenda,” UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi said.

“The scaling up of investments on which the 2030 Agenda depends must ultimately rely, it is often claimed, on tapping the resources of high-wealth individuals and private financial institutions,” said

Richard Kozul-Wright, director of UNCTAD's division on globalization and development strategies.

“In reality, channelling finance into long-term productive investment will not happen without a leading role of the public sector and without a fundamental change in regulating private foreign capital,” he said.

Limiting vulnerabilities to volatile external finance through capital controls

Increased financial integration has exposed many developing countries to global financial cycles forcing them to accumulate foreign-exchange reserves, usually in the form of short-term dollar-denominated bonds, as self-insurance to prevent a sudden capital-flow reversal and/or to contain its adverse effects.

However, because these assets carry low return relative to the costs of servicing the volatile capital inflows that these countries receive, this creates a resource transfer from developing to developed countries. For 16 developing countries over the period 2000–2018, this resource transfer amounted to roughly \$440 billion a year, or 2.2% of these countries' combined GDP.

FIGURE 3.10 Total tax revenue, 2010–2030

(Constant 2005 US dollars, ppp year-on-year percentage change)

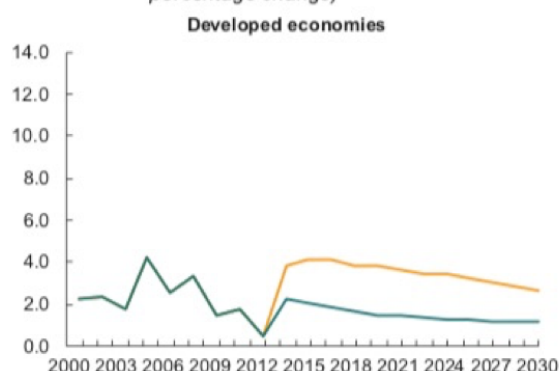
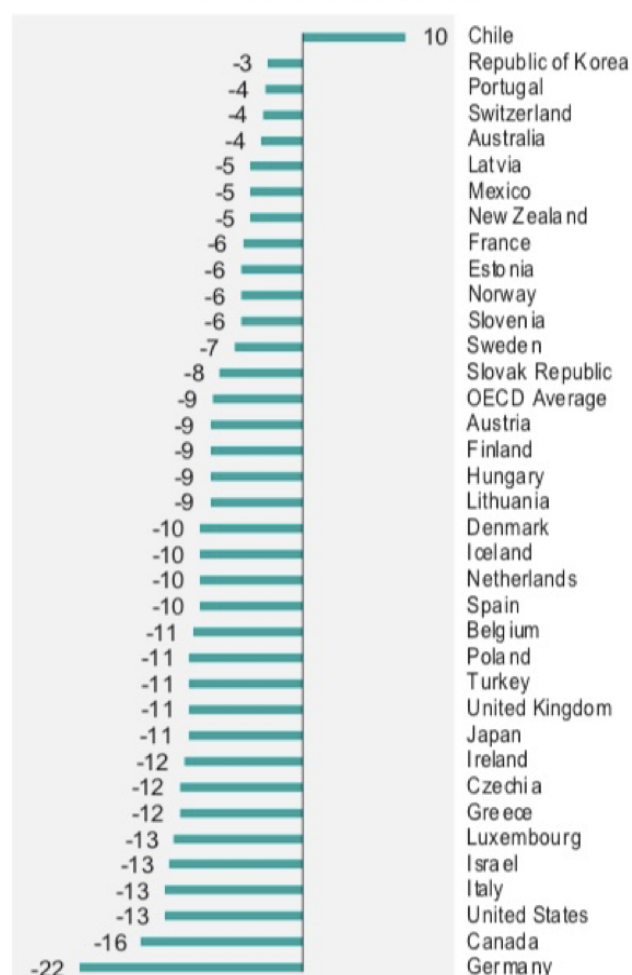


FIGURE 3.5 Corporate tax cuts, 2000–2019

(19-year differences in tax rates)

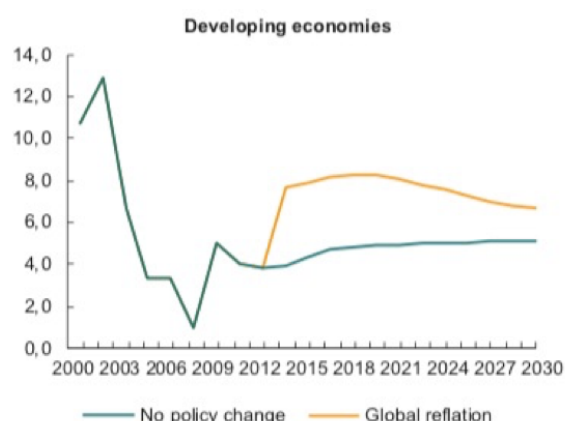


Source: OECD Tax Database, Statutory Corporate Income Tax Rates, Table II.1.

Capital controls can provide another and more effective way to control such volatility, allowing policymakers to act quickly and avoid lengthy debates and procedures, especially during surges of inflows. But these will require supportive measures at the international level.

First, capital-account management should be kept out of the purview of regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements. At the very least, such agreement should include safeguards that allow countries the right to regulate capital flows that do not conflict with their contractual commitments.

Second, capital flows need to be controlled at both sending and receiving ends. Regulation of capital outflows from developed countries would enhance the effectiveness of the expansionary monetary policy that these countries have pursued over the past few years: it would steer credit towards productive investment in their own economies and prevent the leakage of monetary stimulus into financial investment abroad. Multilateral coordination of capital controls would achieve greater stability in capital flows with relatively lower levels of restrictions at both ends, instead of stricter controls at just one end.



Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations and the United Nations Global Policy Model (GPM).

A ROAD MAP FOR GLOBAL GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Reducing the loss of fiscal revenue through combating tax-motivated illicit financial flows

Tax-motivated illicit financial flows of multinational enterprises (MNEs) are estimated to deprive developing countries of \$50 billion to \$200 billion a year in fiscal revenues. These flows are facilitated by international corporate tax norms that consider affiliates of MNEs as independent entities and treat taxable transactions between the different entities of MNEs as unrelated.

To address this problem, the report recommends a move towards unitary taxation that recognizes that the profits of MNEs are generated collectively at the group level. Unitary taxation should be combined with a global minimum effective corporate tax rate on all MNE profits set at around 20% to 25%, which is the average of current nominal rates across the world. To distribute the revenues from such reformed corporate taxes across countries, the report supports “formulary apportionment”, whereby the total taxes of an MNE group are allocated across countries according to an agreed formula, ideally one that prioritizes employment and productive physical assets over total sales.

Augmenting fiscal revenues through a fair taxation of the digital economy

The rapid digitalization of economic activity is changing how value is created, measured and distributed, adding new challenges to the international tax framework. Mitigating serious fiscal leakages requires a fresh examination of existing international corporate tax norms and rules to determine which jurisdiction has taxing rights, the treatment of cross-border transaction between the different entities of an MNE and the measurement of value creation when intangible assets and the users of data become a significant source of value. The report maintains that fair taxing rights in a digital economy requires using the concept of significant economic presence in terms of revenue from sales or transactions that exceed certain levels.

While waiting for international consensus on this matter, such as from ongoing negotiations in the OECD/G20-led Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project, several developed and developing countries have explored temporary unilateral domestic tax measures for the digital economy. One example is the excise tax, equalization tax or levy that several countries (many of which are European Union members) have considered or started to apply.

A simple estimation of potential additional tax revenues from such unilateral measures ranges between \$11 billion and \$28 billion for developing countries alone. Similarly, while consensus at the World Trade Organization has not been reached, terminating the moratorium on custom duties on electronic transmissions could provide additional fiscal revenue of more than \$10 billion globally, 95% of which would go to developing countries

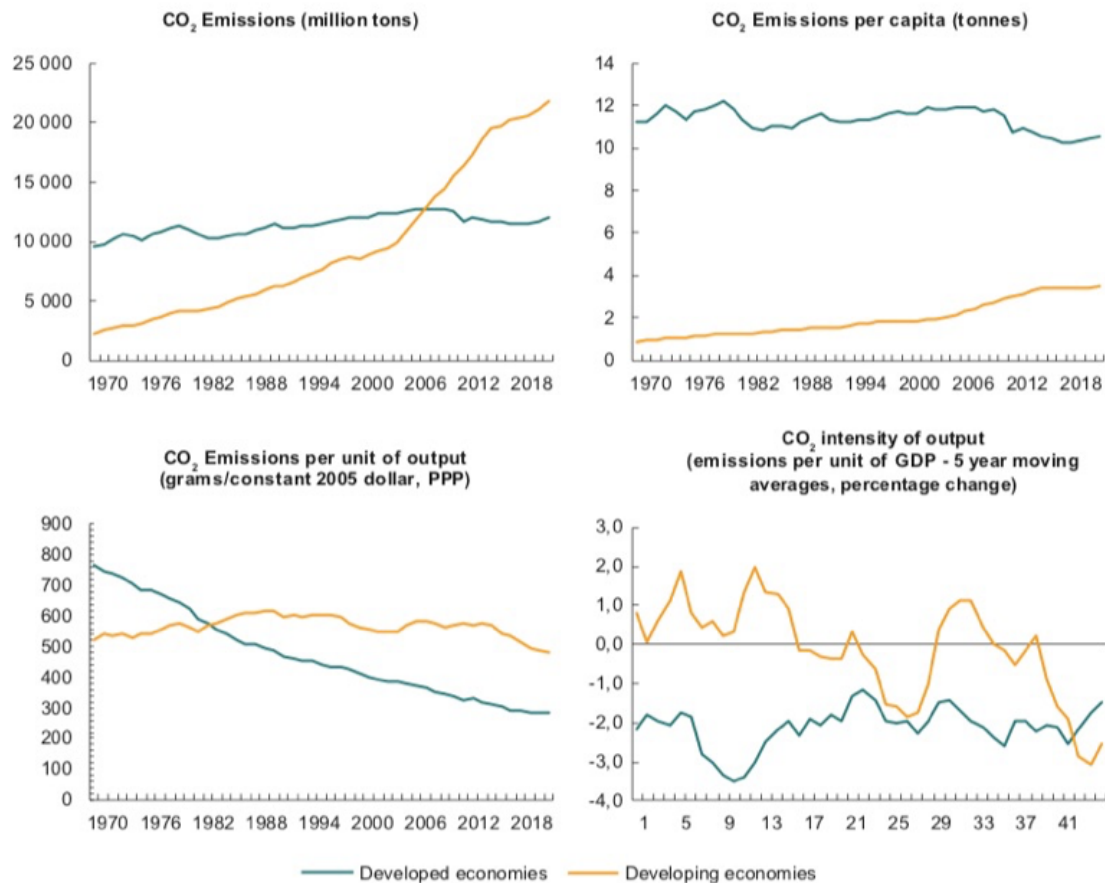
IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This UNCTAD report provides an alternative perspective to the conventional wisdoms on accessing finance. It says: *“In reality, channelling finance into long-term productive investment will not happen without a leading role of the public sector and without a fundamental change in regulating private foreign capital.”* That may sound sacrilegious but is clear indication of the growing awareness of the mistake that privatisation was a panacea for all economic ills.

LEAD STORY 4:

Forget securitization, backing public banks is best for sustainable development

FIGURE 3.6 Carbon dioxide emissions, 1970–2018



Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations and the United Nations Global Policy Model (GPM).

Geneva, Switzerland UNCTAD (Press Release), 25 September 2019, - Public banking should be given back its traditional, bigger role if the environmental and economic landscape is to be transformed by 2030, argues UNCTAD's [Trade and Development Report 2019](#) released today.

Efforts to leverage private finance by channelling public money through global banking giants or shadow banking will more likely introduce new costs and vulnerabilities than finance investments in cleaner and greener energy, jobs and development.

The report calls for banking to change its game, rejecting today's financialized markets, which have consistently focused on speculative

activities and under-served productive sectors. UNCTAD maintains that it is public banking that does the heavy lifting and hence public banking should be better supported for the future.

Public banks are designed to be different from private banks; to focus on long-term projects whose benefits exceed purely commercial returns and on sectors and locations that private finance ignores. And despite the constant ideological barrage, public banks in many countries are already doing this, especially in the developing world where Southern-led and Southern-oriented banks and funds have added hundreds of billions of dollars of loans to development.

However, UNCTAD's analysis shows that public and especially development banks are insufficiently capitalized to scale up their required role. Some banks are highly engaged – with outstanding loans by the China Development Bank at over 13.4% of China's GDP and the Korean Development Bank at 10.5% of Korea's GDP, but other public banks in countries such as India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Russian Federation and South Africa have anorexic loan portfolios at just between 1% and 2% of their countries' GDPs. This is too low for the Sustainable Development Goals or for a Global Green New Deal.

Another constraining factor is many banks' low loan-to-equity ratio. This is particularly problematic in development banks that raise resources in national and international capital markets. Since banks have a fixed capital base, the scale of their lending is limited by how markets view their solvency, which to a large extent depends on their credit ratings. Banks' efforts to achieve high ratings are unnecessarily constraining their lending by up to US\$1 trillion, according to estimates from Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) themselves.

The report argues that greater policy support is essential to build on the positive opportunities public banking is already creating. Suggested actions include:

- Freeing central banks from their narrow focus on price stability/inflation targeting, so they can recover their historical, bolder role and support a Global Green New Deal. This should include creating and guiding credit toward greener activities; including issuing green bonds and, if necessary, acting as a buyer of last resort;
- Giving development and other public banks more capital so they can scale up lending, including by direct financing and enabling banks to reinvest their profits;
- Directing resources of sovereign wealth funds, whose assets under management are estimated at \$7.9 trillion, towards developmental needs including through supporting development banks;
- Ensuring the regulatory framework for banks better considers public and especially development banks; the latter should be left outside of the Basel framework or given special treatment in recognition of their distinctive features and mandates;
- A review by governments of their own requirements for their banks to achieve super high credit ratings; an external review by a credible international body of development finance institutions in a way that CRAs cannot be expected to do;
- Where some green credit creation and guidance mechanisms (e.g. quantitative easing) may not be feasible for developing countries (due to the risk of provoking exchange-rate and balance-of-payment crises), banks using them in advanced countries could broaden their reach to support green investments in developing countries.
- Public banking should be supported by a clear mandate from governments and performance indicators and accountability mechanisms that value long-term social and development returns and not just financial ones.
- Public banks should not become diverted from their purpose. This is a concern with some scaling up approaches being promoted, such as the 'cascade' of conditions and guarantees associated with World Bank loans, and the return of 'slice and dice' or collateralized loan obligations.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Key quote: *"Since banks have a fixed capital base, the scale of their lending is limited by how markets view their solvency, which to a large extent depends on their credit ratings. Banks' efforts to achieve high ratings are unnecessarily constraining their lending by up to US\$1 trillion, according to estimates from Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) themselves."* This alternative perspective flags a critical anomaly in the banking system and raises the question: How can it be addressed?

LEAD STORY 5:

Banks worth \$47 trillion adopt new UN-backed climate, sustainability principles



Gerardo Pesantez/World Bank High rises and hotel buildings in Punta Pacifica, Panama City, Panama, which has one of the largest banking sectors in Central America.

United Nations (UN News Center), 22 September 2019 - Banks collectively with more than \$47 trillion in assets, or a third of the global industry, signed up on Sunday to new United Nations-backed responsible banking principles in a massive boost for climate action and the shift from “brown to green” models of economic growth.

In the [Principles](#), launched one day ahead of the UN [Climate Action Summit](#) in New York, banks commit to strategically align their business with the goals of the [Paris Agreement](#) on Climate Change and the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), and massively scale up their contribution to the achievement of both.

“The UN Principles for Responsible Banking are a guide for the global banking industry to respond to, drive and benefit from a sustainable development economy,” UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) said at the launch event, adding that they also “create the accountability that can realize responsibility, and the ambition that can drive action.”

By signing up to the Principles, banks said they will among other goals, aim to “increase our positive impacts, while reducing the negative impacts, and managing risks to people and the environment from our products and services.”

“How you, as business leaders, respond can be a defining moment for our global goals. Only public-private cooperation can deliver sustainable development,” Mr. Guterres [said](#).

He challenged the 130 Founding Signatories and over 45 of their CEOs gathered for the event to not only align their business goals with the SDGs, the UN’s blueprint for tackling poverty, protecting the environment and ensuring a fairer world for all, but also to support gender equality, to invest in climate action and to disinvest from fossil fuels and pollution in general.



UN Photo/Mark Garten Secretary-General António Guterres (centre) poses for a group photo with the signatory Bank Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the Principles for Responsible Banking.

“We will rely on you to scale up financing to businesses that stimulate green growth,” the Secretary-general said, adding: “Place your bets on the green economy, not the grey economy, because the grey economy will have no future.”

Picking up that thread, [Inger Andersen](#), Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)), told the bankers: “When the financial system shifts its capital [away from resource-hungry, brown investments](#) to those that back nature as solution, everybody wins in the long-term.”

The Principles were developed by a core group of 30 Founding Banks through an innovative global partnership between banks and the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI).

While action on climate change is growing, it is still far short of what is needed to meet the 1.5°C target of [the Paris Agreement](#). Meanwhile, biodiversity continues to decline at alarming rates and pollution claims millions of lives each year.

Against this background, UNEP says that more ambition, backed by a step change in investment from the private sector, is needed to tackle these challenges and ensure that humanity lives in a way that ensures an equitable share of resources within planetary boundaries.

The banking and private sectors can benefit from the investment they put into backing this transition. It is estimated that addressing the SDGs could unlock \$12 trillion in business savings and revenue annually and create 380 million more jobs by 2030.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Key quote: “When the financial system shifts its capital away from resource-hungry, brown investments to those that back nature as solution, everybody wins in the long-term.” Certainly for the banks to back the SDGs is a laudable move, especially if they can develop a monitoring and evaluating system, share best practises and upgrade communications to better link their projects to the SDGs.

LEAD STORY 6:

Four years on and half a billion dollars later – Tax Inspectors Without Borders



OECD News, 25 September 2019 (OECD News release) - The international community has made important progress in improving developing countries' ability to tax multinational enterprises and boost domestic revenue mobilisation.

A leading element of international co-operation efforts is the [Tax Inspectors Without Borders \(TIWB\)](#) initiative - a joint OECD/UNDP programme launched in July 2015 to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance worldwide.

TIWB assistance has delivered nearly USD 500 million in additional revenue for developing countries through April 2019, according to the latest [TIWB annual report](#). The report was presented by OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, and United Nations Development Programme Administrator, Achim Steiner, during

a [ministerial panel discussion](#) in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

With programmes across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the TIWB initiative now covers 98 completed, ongoing and upcoming programmes in 55 countries and jurisdictions worldwide, and is on track to meeting a target of 100 deployments by 2020.

"The concept of TIWB is simple: expert tax auditors are sent to help interested tax administrations in developing countries, where they work side-by-side with local auditors to strengthen their capacity," Mr. Gurría said. "Tax officials around the globe are gaining the knowledge they need to identify when their big taxpayers are not paying the correct amount, as well as the confidence and skills to engage with them to ensure correct taxes are collected. TIWB is filling an important skills gap, helping address Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and abusive tax avoidance by multinational enterprises," Mr Gurría said.

The annual report shows that TIWB is excellent value for money. Every dollar invested in TIWB programmes has led to USD 100 in additional revenue. These results have been driven by strong support from a broad range of partners, including regional and international organisations as well as strong donor support. Sixteen countries have so far deployed their serving tax officials to provide hands-on, learning-by-doing assistance to auditors in developing countries. Among the partner administrations are those engaged in South-South co-operation - India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa. TIWB programmes are also supplemented by a UNDP Roster of experts currently with over 50 experts.

The success of the current TIWB model has spurred interest in expanding the initiative to other opportunities including tax crime

investigations, joint audits, automatic exchange of information, tax treaty negotiations and dispute resolution. Pilot programmes are already underway in some of these areas.

“Developing countries lose hundreds of billions of dollars each year to tax avoidance, and these lost resources prevent millions of people from getting an education, accessing healthcare, or having acceptable living standards,” Mr. Steiner

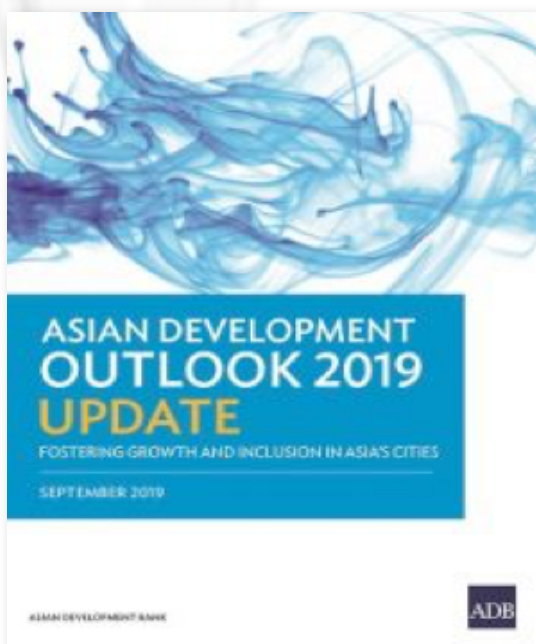
said. “The TIWB initiative helps capture these significant resources by helping countries to close tax loopholes, improve transparency, and most critically, reduce tax avoidance by multinational enterprise. Our work with a range of industries has resulted in hundreds of millions in additional dollars of tax revenue becoming available for countries to advance their national development priorities and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Key quote: *“Developing countries lose hundreds of billions of dollars each year to tax avoidance, and these lost resources prevent millions of people from getting an education, accessing healthcare, or having acceptable living standards. The TIWB initiative helps capture these significant resources by helping countries to close tax loopholes, improve transparency, and most critically, reduce tax avoidance by multinational enterprise.”* Has any study been done on the extent of tax avoidance and tax evasion in Travel & Tourism? If such a study would ever be done, the conclusions would be a shock to the system.

LEAD STORY 7:

Asian Development Bank Outlook 2019: Heading for prolonged uncertainty



ADB Publications, September 2019 - Developing Asia's gross domestic product is forecast to slow from 5.9% in 2018 to 5.4% in 2019 and 5.5% in 2020. Inflation across developing Asia is forecast to increase from 2.5% in 2018 to 2.7% this year and in 2020.

Growth in developing Asia is moderating but remains robust. As global trade slows and investment weakens, regional growth forecasts are trimmed from Asian Development Outlook 2019 by 0.3 percentage points for 2019 and by 0.1 points for 2020 compared to April forecasts. The revisions reflect gloomier prospects for international trade and evidence of slowing growth in the advanced economies and the People's Republic of China, as well as in India and the larger economies in East and Southeast Asia.

Inflation remains benign in the region, but pressure is building slightly as food prices rise. Inflation across developing Asia is forecast at 2.7% this year and next, or 0.2 percentage points up from April forecasts.

Challenges to Asia's growth

Gross domestic product (GDP) in developing Asia is projected at 5.4% in 2019 as a whole and at 6.0% excluding the high-income newly industrialized economies.

- **Regional growth remains robust but is expected to moderate.** GDP expansion in the region, though still strong, is projected to slow from 5.9% in 2018 to 5.4% this year, then edge back up to 5.5% next year. Revisions to April forecasts in Asian Development Outlook 2019 (ADO 2019) are 0.3 percentage points lower for this year and 0.1 points lower for next year. The revisions reflect gloomier prospects for international trade—in part because of re-escalation in the trade conflict between the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC)—and evidence of slowing growth in the advanced economies and the PRC, as well as in India and the larger economies in East and Southeast Asia. Excluding newly industrialized economies, growth in developing Asia is forecast to slow from 6.4% in 2018 to 6.0% this year and next.
- **A slowing trend for growth continued in the first half of 2019.** After slowing from 6.2% in 2017 to 5.9% in 2018, growth decelerated further to 5.4% in the first half of 2019 in the economies of developing Asia that release quarterly GDP data. Exports and investment faltered in many economies across the region, leaving private consumption as the main support for continued growth.
- **Trade shrank as growth in the advanced economies moderated further.** Worsening uncertainty is driving down aggregate growth in the advanced economies, which is forecast to moderate from 2.2% in 2018 to 1.7% in 2019 and 1.4% in 2020—in both years 0.2 percentage points lower than

envisaged in ADO 2019. The euro area and the US will grow somewhat slower than previously projected. Japan surprised on the upside in the first half of 2019 but not enough to prop up demand for regional exports.

- **Declining investment growth in developing Asia could impair future growth prospects.** Along with the weakening trend in trade, the region suffered slower growth in domestic investment. The contribution of investment to GDP growth fell in the first quarter of 2019 and is expected to continue declining throughout this year. And while foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows by non-residents continue, developing Asia is investing more abroad, leading to net FDI outflows for the region. Slower domestic investment, if sustained, means less new productive capacity going forward which has implications for regional growth prospects.
- **The growth outlook varies across the subregions of developing Asia.** Because of the trade slowdown, compounded by a sharp downswing in the electronics cycle, growth forecasts for the PRC and the more open economies in East and Southeast Asia are downgraded. Growth in South Asia is now seen moderating this year as India's economy slows primarily for domestic reasons, such as the pre-election decline in investment and tighter credit conditions. In Central Asia and the Pacific, by contrast, growth prospects improve as public spending continues to stimulate the economy in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and as Papua New Guinea recovers from an earthquake in February 2018.
- **Regional inflation is picking up slightly but remains benign.** Headline inflation will edge up from 2.4% in 2018 to 2.7% in 2019 and 2020—both forecasts upward adjustments by 0.2 percentage points from ADO 2019. The revisions come mainly from a buildup of inflationary pressure due to the rise of food prices in the region, particularly in the PRC.
- **The regional current account surplus is rising.** Slower imports are offsetting weakness in exports in many developing Asian economies. The merchandise trade surplus in the PRC rose in the first half of this year as imports fell more substantially than exports, raising the country's current account surplus. As a result, developing Asia's combined current account surplus is now forecast to increase to 1.1% of regional GDP in 2019, or 0.7 percentage points higher than projected in ADO 2019, before resuming its narrowing trend to 0.7% in 2020.
- **The escalating and broadening trade conflict may damage supply chains.** Negotiations broke down in the middle of 2019, prompting a new round of tariff escalations, threats, and nontariff constraints on technology transfer and investment. Bilateral trade data from the first half of 2019 show a decline in trade between the PRC and the US, as well as evidence of trade redirection from the PRC toward other economies in developing Asia. Foreign investment patterns are shifting in tandem with trade redirection.
- **Downside risks to the outlook have intensified.** Further escalation in the US–PRC trade conflict could have repercussions beyond trade. The conflict will likely persist at least into 2020 and could broaden to involve other regional economies. The risk of deeper malaise in the advanced economies has worsened, and there is uncertainty over how policy makers in developing Asia and beyond will respond to weaker global growth. Another downside risk to the forecast stems from proliferating private debt in several economies in developing Asia, which could challenge financial stability, especially in the current environment of high risk from large external shocks.

Debt buildup and financial vulnerability

Countries in developing Asia have continued to accumulate public debt since the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. Rapid expansion of debt can harm regional financial stability.

- **Public and private debt continue to grow in developing Asia.** Since the global financial crisis of 2008–2009, countries in the region have continued to accumulate public debt, partly reflecting countercyclical fiscal stimulus following the crisis and, more recently, some regional governments pushing public investments. The ratio of private debt to GDP has expanded even more rapidly in

some economies. The PRC, for example, witnessed rapid growth of corporate debt, while the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand have seen household debt grow quickly. In the region as a whole, total debt relative to GDP expanded by about two-thirds in the past decade.

- **Debt that expands too rapidly can harm regional financial stability.** High and rising public debt raises investor concerns about fiscal sustainability and government liquidity and solvency. Further, rapid private debt accumulation can jeopardize the ability of companies and households to service it. The Asian financial crisis of 1997–1998 underlined the damage caused by an unsustainable buildup of private debt. Asian financial sectors and their regulations have been strengthened significantly, evident in higher capital adequacy of banks, and they weathered the global financial crisis well. But policymakers cannot be complacent in the face of rising debt.
- **Private debt is significantly linked to financial vulnerability.** New analysis revisits the debt–financial vulnerability nexus using an index of currency stress as a proxy for financial vulnerability. Other things being equal, a country with a ratio of private debt to GDP at the top 25% of the sample suffers 12.6 percentage points more depreciation than a country with low private debt, at the bottom 25%. Further, the adverse effect of private debt on currency stress is more pronounced in emerging markets than in the advanced economies.
- **Research supports vigilance against debt buildup, public or private.** Analysis also reveals a significant association, during periods of financial stress, between public debt and financial vulnerability. Further, public debt and private debt are interrelated, as private debt booms and busts may require governments to bail out troubled financial institutions. This suggests that a broader regulatory framework which monitors both public and private debt is warranted.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

If “a period of prolonged uncertainty” is on the horizon, how will governments fund the SDG priorities if they have to simultaneously allocate money for economic stimulus measures? Could tourism, especially domestic tourism, be a part of the solution? This is a great warning sign for governments to rethink their policy prescriptions in preparing for the “period of prolonged uncertainty.”

LEAD STORY 8:

Sustainable development summit a reminder of ‘the boundless potential of humanity’



UN Photo/Kim Haughton The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) painted onto the plaza at the Visitors Entrance to the United Nations. (19 September 2019)

United Nations (UN News Center), 25 September 2019 - The [UN summit](#) on the progress of the [2030 Agenda](#) for Sustainable Development closed on a hopeful note, with Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed declaring that the two-day event had been a reminder of “the boundless potential of humanity to create a better future for all”.

Ms. Mohammed told the delegates at the SDG Summit that she had been encouraged by the “spoken word, the voice of youth, the commitment of civil society, the power of an active citizenry and the leadership of our governments”, on display during the two-day conference.

The deputy UN chief said that she had drawn three concrete messages from the summit: a renewed commitment from world leaders to implement the Agenda, which she described as critical to respond to the world’s greatest challenges; an acknowledgement that the Goals are off track, and a determination to step up efforts to achieve them; and clarity on the task

ahead, with a decisive decade left to “nurture more ambitious global action; local action and people action”.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the incoming President of the General Assembly, said that the 10 years leading up to the 2030 deadline for the Agenda will be a “Decade of Implementation”, and expressed his hope that “we will ensure more integration of the 2030 Agenda into our National Development Plans, mobilize resources and invest in programmes and sectors that are more likely to engender greater acceleration”

Mr. Muhammad-Bande highlighted the involvement of the private sector at the [SDG Business Forum](#), which also took place on Wednesday, where companies showcased actions, innovative technologies and sustainable financing strategies, aimed at creating a better world for all.

“I am confident that the business leaders that joined us this week will continue to encourage and inspire actions” he said. “While governments

are responsible for national implementation, they are unable, on their own, to achieve the goals”.

During the Forum, Lise Kingo, CEO and Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, shared the results of a survey, contained within the recently published [UN Global Compact Progress Report 2019](#), which shows that 81% of Global Compact participants reported that they are taking action on the Global Goals.

Ms. Kingo emphasized the importance of going beyond sustainability strategies, policies and codes of conduct, and translating corporate ambition into practice: “Being an impactful sustainable business means fully integrating sustainability into core business strategy, operations, supply chain management and stakeholder engagement”.

Commenting on the outcome of the Summit, Liu Zhenmin, the UN’s Under-Secretary-General for

Economic and Social Affairs, welcomed the full commitment of the UN to supporting Member States to deliver the promises they have made to deliver the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), for people and the planet today, and for the generations to come:

“It is encouraging to see that the momentum to step up action is growing, with over 100 new Acceleration Actions (initiatives to speed up progress on sustainable development and boost action on climate change, aimed at securing healthy, peaceful and prosperous lives for all) registered for the goals ahead of the SDG Summit”.

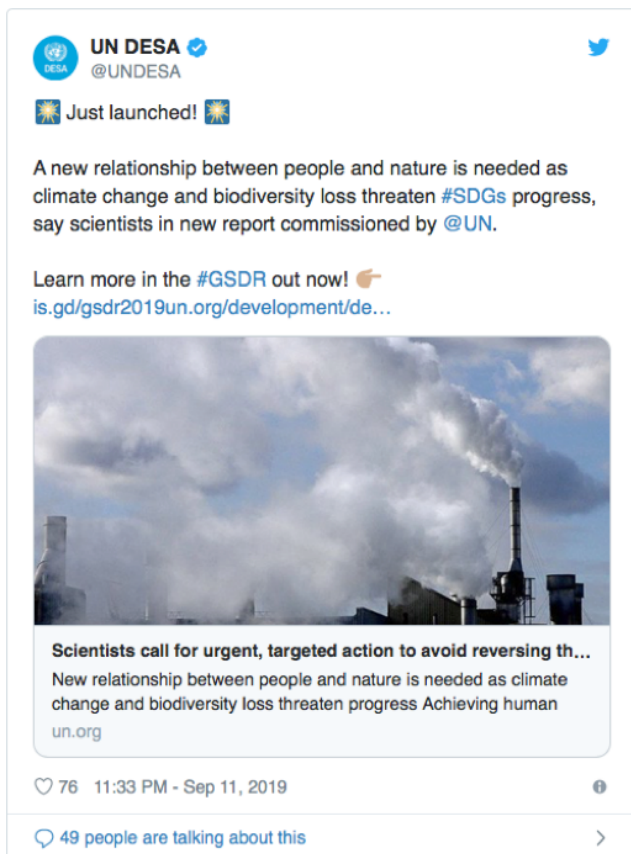
The General Assembly President took the opportunity to look ahead to the 2020 Summit of the United Nations, when Member States and relevant partners will report, again, on the contributions they are making towards achieving the SDGs.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The Deputy UN chief said she had drawn three concrete messages from the summit: a renewed commitment from world leaders to implement the Agenda, an acknowledgement that the Goals are off track, and a determination to step up efforts to achieve them. In other words, we’re running out of time and need to step on the gas. More accelerating actions are needed.

LEAD STORY 9:

SDG progress ‘in danger’ of going backwards without change in direction



United Nations (UN News Center), 11 October 2019 - The current worldwide sustainable development model is threatening to reverse years of progress, if strategies don't drastically change, an independent group of scientists has concluded in a major new report launched on Wednesday.

The UN report will be at the centre of discussions during the [UN summit on the SDGs](#) later this month.

Worsening inequalities and potentially irreversible damage to the natural environment on which we all depend, demands concerted action, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([DESA](#)), urged in a [statement](#) on the report findings, compiled by a team of 15 UN-appointed experts.

“Achieving human well-being and eradicating poverty for all of the Earth’s people—expected to number 8.5 billion by 2030—is still possible,” they highlighted, “but only if there is a fundamental—and urgent—change in the relationship between people and nature.”

The report, [“The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development,”](#) points to understanding the relationships between individual SDGs and the “concrete systems that define society today” to devise a plan to ameliorate global instability.

At the request of countries to evaluate progress of the 2030 SDG [Agenda](#), adopted in 2015, the Global Report on Sustainable Development (GDSR) consists of surveys on scientific findings from ocean livelihoods, to sustainable consumption, production, and disaster risk management, among other issues.

Science-backed recommendations

The current roadmap for development has generated prosperity for “hundreds of millions,” the scientists said, but at the cost of other resources and a growing inequality that undermines global growth.

Boosting economies via increasing consumption for example, is exhausting the planet’s materials and creating toxic by-products which threaten to overwhelm the world. At the current rate of consumption, “use of material is set to almost double between 2017 and 2060, from 89 Gigatons to 167 Gigatons”, resulting in consequential “increased levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and other toxic effects” from resource extraction, they stressed.

The status quo must change, scientists said, in order to eschew further loss in “social cohesion and

sustainable economic growth,” curb biodiversity losses, and save a “world close to tipping points with the global climate system.”

For this to happen, all sectors must come together in coordinated action, the report urges. Increasing investment in science for sustainability, is one key approach, and acknowledging that achievement of the SDGs requires economic growth be divorced from environmental degradation, while reducing inequalities.

The experts noted that “the extensive transformation that is needed will not be easy, and the report suggests that a deep scientific understanding is needed to anticipate and mitigate the tensions and trade-offs inherent in widespread structural change.”

Key points of intervention

According to the report, there are 20 points of intervention that can be used to accelerate progress toward multiple goals and targets in the next ten years.

Among these, basic services must be made universally available—healthcare, education, water and sanitation infrastructure, housing and social protection— as a prerequisite toward eliminating poverty.

In addition, ending legal and social discrimination, scaling up trades unions, nongovernmental organizations, women’s groups and other communities will “be important partners in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda”, the experts said.

Inefficient food and energy systems are depriving some 2 billion people of food security, while 820 million are undernourished, and 2 billion adults are overweight. Production processes are causing severe environmental impact.

Transitioning to renewable energy systems could help reduce the 3 billion who rely on pollutants for cooking, and avoid premature deaths, estimated at 3.8 million each year, they cited. Meanwhile, the energy access gap has left close to one billion without access to electricity at all. Increases in renewable energy supply in the past decade have corresponded with price drops in clean fuel technology—around 77 per cent for solar power and a 38 per cent drop for onshore wind.

With an estimated two-thirds of the global population projected to live in cities by 2050, the experts said achieving the 2030 Agenda will require “more compact and efficient” urban areas that will be nature-based in infrastructure—but the ecosystem’s services and resources “must be safeguarded.”

What the scientists call “the global environmental commons” - the rainforests, oceans, and atmosphere - need support from governments, international actors and the private sector to ensure good practices.

The full report and its recommendations will be presented during the High-Level Political Forum at the 2019 SDG Summit that will convene heads of State and Government in New York on 24 and 25 September.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Key quote: *“Boosting economies via increasing consumption is exhausting the planet’s materials and creating toxic by-products which threaten to overwhelm the world.”* At the current rate of consumption, use of material is set to almost double between 2017 and 2060, from 89 Gigatons to 167 Gigatons, resulting in consequential increased levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and other toxic effects from resource extraction. As an industry that survives on excessive consumption, whether it is food or shopping, Travel & Tourism is clearly a part of the problem.

LEAD STORY 10:

International Day of Older Persons 1 October



An elderly man participating in a Special Event at the UN headquarters. Rising life expectancies and declining birth rates throughout the world are creating an increasing proportion of old people to young. UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

United Nations (UN News Center), 1 October 2019
- Between 2017 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 46 per cent (from 962 million to 1.4 billion) globally outnumbering youth, as well as children under the age of 10. Moreover, this increase will be the greatest and most rapid in the developing world ([A/RES/73/143](#)). [Population ageing](#) is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the 21st century.

Older people have always played a significant role in society as leaders, caretakers and custodians of tradition. Yet they are also highly vulnerable, with many falling into poverty, becoming disabled or facing discrimination. As health care improves, the population of older people is growing. Their needs are also growing, as are their contributions to the world.

The International Day of Older Persons is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing in today's world.

2019 Theme: “The Journey to Age Equality”

The [2030 Agenda](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) recognize that development will only be achievable if it is inclusive of all ages. Empowering older persons in all dimensions of development, including promoting their active participation in social, economic and political life, is one way to ensure their inclusiveness and reduce inequalities.

The 2019 theme is aligned with [Sustainable Development Goal 10](#) (SDG 10) and focuses on pathways of coping with existing — and preventing future — old age inequalities. SDG 10 sets to reduce inequality within — and among — countries, and aims to “ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome,” including through measures to eliminate discrimination, and to “empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”



Often, disparities in old age reflect an accumulated disadvantage characterized by factors such as: location, gender, socio-economic status, health and income. Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people aged 60 and over is expected to increase from 901 million to 1.4 billion. In this regard, trends of ageing and economic inequality interact across generations and rapid population ageing, demographic and societal or structural changes alone, can exacerbate older age inequalities, thereby limiting economic growth and social cohesion.

The 2019 theme aims to:

- Draw attention to the existence of old age inequalities and how this often results from a cumulation of disadvantages throughout

life, and highlight intergenerational risk of increased old age inequalities.

- Bring awareness to the urgency of coping with existing — and preventing future — old age inequalities.
- Explore societal and structural changes in view of life course policies: life-long learning, proactive and adaptive labour policies, social protection and universal health coverage.
- Reflect on best practices, lessons and progress on the journey to ending older age inequalities and changing negative narratives and stereotypes involving “old age.”

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Even as the climate change agenda enters its final Decade of Delivery, the challenge of dealing with it will be complicated by the demographic time bomb. This, too, will incur huge costs, in terms of both money and productivity.

LEAD STORY 11:

World's 1.8 billion youth must “have a say in the future of the planet”



© UNICEF David Berkwitz High school girls from Long Island, New York, join other youth climate activists in a demonstration calling for global action to combat climate change.

United Nations (UN News Center), 20 September 2019 - It is “crucial” that the world’s 1.8 billion young people have a say in the fight against climate change and ultimately “the future of the planet” according to the UN Youth Envoy [Jayathma Wickramanayake](#).

Young activists, innovators, entrepreneurs and change-makers are due to gather at UN headquarters in New York at the [Youth Climate Summit](#) on Saturday 21 September to put pressure on global leaders to take action to prevent climate change.

Ms. Wickramanayake will be there, and UN News asked her why young people are so important to the climate action debate.

Why is it necessary to bring young people together to discuss climate change?

There are 1.8 billion young people in the world today, that’s the largest number ever, so it is crucial that they have a say in the future of the planet, in their future. The school strike for climate action started by the young Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg, in her home town, Stockholm, and the other strikes by young people around the world which followed, have shown that they are demanding action on climate and want to have a decisive role in the decision-making process. The time to respond with action is now.

This Youth Climate Summit taking place at UN Headquarters will bring together the key leaders of the youth climate movement and provide a chance for them to engage with a wider global audience. Some 1000 young people from across the world will be attending the event in person and many more will be following online.



UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, speaking to some of the members of the 4th Batch of Trainees following their Graduation Ceremony in Chamen, Gambia. 5 February 2018. , by [UNFPA Gambia/Alhagie Manka](#)

Is this an acknowledgement that those people in power, in other word adults, are not doing enough?

It is clear that tackling climate change needs to involve all people, young and old, privileged and underprivileged, from developed and developing countries. Young people want and deserve a role in what should be a participatory process and the school strikes for climate action were born out of their desire to make global leaders aware of and act on their concerns. Just as the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) underlines that young people are the torchbearers of sustainable development, they are also the thinkers, doers and innovators who can realise this agenda. They have a stake in the future as this is the planet, they will inherit; it is they who will bear the impact of a changing climate.



What do you think this youth summit can achieve?

The Summit is a platform for young leaders and youth-led organizations to showcase the actions they are taking to slow down climate change with the aim of keeping to a 1.5 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures above pre-industrial levels. In May, I launched the [“Summer of Solutions”](#) challenge to young people to create innovative technology-based climate solutions. These include developing a platform to enhance the access of localized climate and market information, developing tech tools to boost the “circular economy,” an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the re-use of resources. The best ideas will be highlighted at the UN Secretary-General’s [Climate Action Summit](#) on 23 September.

The youth Summit will also feature a strong intergenerational component that will carry forward into the Climate Action Summit and which will allow youth activists from both the global south and north to question world political leaders about addressing climate change.

Providing young climate pioneers with an opportunity to engage with political leaders, including by asking bold and provocative questions, as well as proposing concrete solutions in a UN setting will be an important testament to fact that the voices of youth are being listened to. Beyond that, and more importantly, they are being responded to and they are influencing decision making at the highest levels. The youth summit is the United Nations Youth Strategy “Youth 2030” in action, where the first priority is engagement, participation and advocacy to amplify young peoples’ voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

What practical steps will come out of the interaction between youth and global leaders?

The Youth Climate Summit will prioritize meaningful engagement with leaders from national governments, the private sector and civil society. It is hoped that a large number of countries around the world will commit to consulting youth when formulating and designing climate action policies, plans and laws.

It is also expected that by facilitating these exchanges, corporate leaders will commit to working with, mentoring, as well as learning from, young entrepreneurs and/or youth-led companies, many of whom are in fact at the forefront of developing solutions to climate change.



Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old climate activist from Sweden, sailed into New York Harbor today flanked by a fleet of 17 sailboats representing each of the Sustainable Development Goals on their sails., by UN Photo/Mark Garten

A key voice at the youth summit will, no doubt, be Greta Thunberg. How important is she?

Young people think, feel and do things differently to older people and this is incredibly valuable as we face what the UN Secretary-General has called the “existential crisis” of climate change.

Greta Thunberg is an incredibly inspirational model for young people the world over and a powerful symbol of their desire to take action to prevent climate change. It is no small feat to get the attention of world leaders in the way she has done, so in this sense she is creating a powerful climate action movement led by the world’s young people, which cannot be ignored. I am also very proud of the youth activists from the global south, who might not be getting as much media attention; such as Venessa from Uganda and Timothy from Fiji and thousands more who are vocal advocates for our common future and are Greta’s biggest allies around the world.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

In addition to managing ageing societies, jobs will need to be created for the millions of young people. So economies will have to be kept chugging along. How will that be complicated by the “period of prolonged uncertainty” forecast by the Asian Development Bank?

LEAD STORY 12:

Champions in empowering young people: Winners of Future Policy Award 2019

FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2019



United Nations, UNDP News, 10 October 2019 - Recognising that young people play a crucial role as key architects of the future of our planet, the 2019 Future Policy Award will celebrate policies that advance economic empowerment of young women and men in decent and sustainable jobs, and youth civic engagement and political participation in support of sustainable development and peace. This year's award is organised by the World Future Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In 2019, the Future Policy Award will highlight the world's most impactful policies that advance youth access to decent jobs, including green jobs, and enhance civic and political participation for sustainable development and peace. The Award will commend laws, policies and legal

frameworks that enable young people to develop their full potential, realize their dreams, and contribute to the success of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Recognizing the challenges of unemployment and lack of political participation of youth, it is key to empower young people and this can have a tremendous impact on sustainable development.

In total, [67 policies from 36 countries, regional and international level were nominated](#). An international expert jury convened to deliberate on the top candidates. The following eight countries have been shortlisted as the most impactful policies in empowering young people:

- Estonia: Youth Field Development Plan
- Europe: Co-Management of the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe

- Nepal: Constitution
- Rwanda: YouthConnekt Initiative
- United Kingdom, Scotland: Developing the Young Workforce
- Senegal: National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs
- South Africa: Expanded Public Works Programme
- United States, Los Angeles: Green New Deal

With their holistic approach and impressive impact, these eight legal frameworks and policies create enabling environments for youth empowerment, help achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and contribute directly to multiple Sustainable Development Goals. They advance youth access to decent and sustainable jobs, and enhance their civic and political participation for sustainable development and peace.

Winners of this year's Future Policy Award will be announced on 15th October 2019 and celebrated during the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held on 16th October 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Future Policy Award 2019 is organised by the World Future Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Michael Otto Foundation and Jua Foundation.

"The Future Policy Award showcases innovative ways to break down barriers in critical areas like youth unemployment and help set free the massive talents of young women and men," says Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator and Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group. "Crucially, shining a light on these exceptional youth initiatives can allow them to be translated to other country contexts - thus helping to drive forward sustainable development."

"Half the world's population is under thirty, but only 2 per cent of MPs are in that age group," says Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General. "One of the IPU's key objectives is to empower youth by getting more young people into parliament to ensure stronger, more representative, and future-looking democratic institutions. These shortlisted laws and policies show that there are many great initiatives all over the world that can serve

as examples for other countries to harness the potential of youth."

"Interconnected challenges - unemployment, conflicts, the climate crisis - threaten our environment, human well-being and the future of our youth. We must act before it is too late. But there is hope: these eight policy solutions show how we can effectively transform our societal and political systems to best support youth as powerful agents of change. The World Future Council is looking forward to celebrating these best policies advancing youth empowerment in the interest of present and future generations, and to sharing their success stories. We all can – and should – learn from them," says Alexandra Wandel, Executive Director of the World Future Council.

Please see the shortlisted policies [here](#)

About the Future Policy Award 2019: More information about this year's Future Policy Award is available at: <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future-policy-award-2019-empower-young-people-2/>

Follow the 2019 Future Policy Award on Twitter with #FuturePolicyAward and #FPA2019

About the organizers/convening partners

The World Future Council

<http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org>

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

<https://www.ipu.org/>

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

<https://www.undp.org>

United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

<https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/>

The International Labour Organization (ILO)

<http://www.ilo.org>

Youth Policy Labs

<http://www.youthpolicy.org/>

With special thanks to the Michael Otto Foundation and the Jua Foundation.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Many Travel & Tourism institutions and organisations are striving to give a “voice” to young people. Regrettably, the “voice” is focussed on shallow and parochial topics. For many years, “start-ups” were the flavour of the month. More recently, the SDGs have risen to the fore, but discussions are confined to the traditional comfort zones. They need to take the cue from these Future Policy forums and include ways to “effectively transform our societal and political systems to best support youth as powerful agents of change.” This means going well beyond start-ups and SDGs.

LEAD STORY 13:

Accelerating Climate Action: Refocusing Policies through a Well-being Lens



OECD News, 20 September 2019 - This report builds on the OECD Well-being Framework and applies a new perspective that analyses synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and broader goals such as health, education, jobs, as well as wider environmental quality and the resources needed to sustain our livelihoods through time.

This report takes an explicitly political economy approach to the low-emissions transitions needed across five economic sectors (electricity, heavy industry, residential, surface transport, and agriculture) that are responsible for more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Synergies between emissions reduction and broader well-being objectives, such as reduced air pollution and improved health, increase the incentives for early mitigation action. At the same time, the impact of climate policies on issues such as the affordability of energy and jobs need to be taken into account to counter growing economic and social inequalities within and between countries.

The report argues that reframing climate policies using a well-being lens is necessary for making visible such synergies and trade-offs; allowing decision-makers to increase the former and anticipate, manage and minimise the latter. This requires us to rethink societal goals in terms of well-being, reframe our measures of progress and refocus policy-making accordingly. The full publication will be available in early 2020.

This report is being released in two parts. Part I “*Rethinking societal goals, refocusing measures of progress*” including Chapters 1 to 6 are available at the above links. Please click on the “Read” or “Download PDF” buttons to access each of these individual chapters.

Part I focuses on how we need to rethink policy goals across sectors and adjust the measurement system, so as to effectively align and integrate climate and well-being goals. Part II of the report “*Reframing climate policies through a well-being lens*”, which will be released in the first quarter of 2020, will zoom in on effective policy recommendations and good practices.

Related event

[Placing Well-being at the Heart of Climate Policy](#), UN Climate Action Summit, New York | 23 September 2019

Jointly organised with the Permanent Missions of the Czech Republic, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations, this high-level side event took place in the margins of the UN Climate Action Summit. It explored how to increase the incentives for early and ambitious mitigation action by systematically taking account of the synergies and trade-offs between mitigation actions and wider well-being objectives. OECD Secretary-General presented highlights from the report *Accelerating Climate Action: Refocusing Policies Through a Well-Being Lens*.

Strong climate action is the foundation of our **future economic and wider well-being**.

with a production lens:

Material
Conditions
Wealth
Income
Consumption
GDP Growth

with a well-being lens:

Education
Pollution
Natural
Disasters
Equality
Resources
Climate
Change
Hunger
GDP Growth
Consumption
Jobs
Degradation
Security
Wealth
Access
Mitigation
Affordability
Material
Conditions
Health
Development

There are synergies between **climate policies** and **larger societal goals** that can be leveraged around jobs, income, health, education, environmental resources...



Focusing on **5 sectors responsible for 60% of GHG emissions**, we can meet ambitious climate goals while also delivering wider societal benefits.



Electricity



Heavy industry



Residential



Surface transport



Agriculture

We need an **enhanced measurement system** that can help improve policy design.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This looks at the climate agenda from yet another perspective, that of “well-being.” The old indicators of economic growth as a means of measuring progress and success are on their way out. The OECD Well-being Framework applies a “new perspective that analyses synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and broader goals such as health, education, jobs, as well as wider environmental quality and the resources needed to sustain our livelihoods through time.” This, too, will require a revolution in the way Travel & Tourism has measured its own success.



SECTION 2



SDG 2:

Can we feed the world and ensure no one goes hungry?



SDG 2: Can we feed the world and ensure no one goes hungry?

United Nations (UN News Center), 3 October 2019 - Enough [food is produced today](#) to feed everyone on the planet, but hunger is on the rise in some parts of the world, and some 821 million people are considered to be “chronically undernourished”. What steps are being taken to ensure that everyone, worldwide, receives sufficient food?

Thanks to rapid economic growth, and increased agricultural productivity over the last two decades, the number of people in the world who aren’t getting enough to eat has dropped by almost a half, with regions such as Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean making great strides in eradicating extreme hunger. However, that’s against a background of the global population rising by nearly two billion.

And now recent trends suggest that the hunger problem persists: particularly in Africa and South America, where there are new indications that undernourishment and severe food insecurity are on the rise.

In Sub-Saharan Africa the number of undernourished people has increased, from some 195 million in 2014, to 237 million in 2017. Poor nutrition causes nearly half of deaths in children under five in the region, some 3.1 million children per year.

Achieving the 2030 goal of [Zero Hunger](#), in other words ensuring that nobody goes hungry wherever they are in the world, remains a major challenge.

According to a recent World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) the causes of increased hunger include environmental degradation and drought – both of which are impacted by climate change – as well as conflict.

The lack of biodiversity in agriculture is also a cause for concern, and is held responsible for homogenous diets which limit access to food, leading to persistent malnutrition and poverty: current agricultural production revolves around just 12 crops, and around 60 per cent of all calories consumed come from just four crops: rice, wheat corn and soy, despite the wealth of potential foodstuffs around the world.

The good news is that, around the world, innovation and technology are being used to improve a wide range of food production challenges. Here are some examples.

Papuan Pigs in the cloud

In Papua New Guinea, where pigs play an important role in the country's culture and economy, no celebration is complete without a pork roast. The rising global demand for the meat means that farmers now have the opportunity to sell to overseas, as well as local, markets.



In Jiwaka Province, Papua New Guinea, local farmers are instructed on how to apply blockchains to pigs. (March 2019), by FAO/ Gerard Sylvester

However, to do so they need to prove that their livestock meets internationally recognised standards, and this is where the latest digital technology can help.

A digital tracking system has been deployed which for the first time, verifies important information about the pigs. It includes their pedigree, what they were fed and, if they feel sick, what medicines they were prescribed, giving importers and consumers confidence in the quality of the meat they buy.

The [system](#), designed with the help of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and International Telecommunications Unit (ITU), is being piloted in the Jiwaka region. The broadband network there is being improved, so that farmers can more easily use subsidised smartphones to update livestock records, which is stored online, in the cloud.

Weeding out the chemicals in India

Although initially credited with boosting crop yields and saving millions from famine, fertilizers and other chemicals are now under scrutiny in India. Fertilizers are blamed with soil degradation, and resulting stagnant productivity; health issues; and high costs that push farmers into debt. A tragic consequence is the thousands of reported suicides each year in the farming community.

However, in Andhra Pradesh, the UN Environment Programme is supporting an initiative designed to remove chemicals from the farm, using a technique called "Zero Budget Natural Farming" (ZBNF) which it hopes will transform and protect local food systems, and the long-term well-being of farmers.

This form of agriculture takes advantage of the latest scientific knowledge and eliminates the need for chemicals. The core principles of ZBNF involve coating seeds with formulas made from cow urine



and dung; applying these ingredients to the soil; covering the ground with crops and crop residues; and ensuring the soil is aerated.

This reliance on home-grown and readily available resources, allows the farmers involved in the programme to increase biodiversity and rejuvenate their soils, thus cutting costs and increasing incomes. The regional government of Andhra Pradesh plans to scale up the scheme to some six million farmers by 2024, which would make it India's first "natural farming" state.

Waste not, want not in Egypt

Around one-third of all food produced globally is either lost or wasted, a staggeringly profligate situation that is estimated to cost the global economy some \$1 trillion per year. WFP is trying to stem losses through initiatives such as its [#StopTheWaste](#) awareness campaign, launched in early October. The campaign aims to build a global movement and highlight simple solutions that we can all take to fight food waste.

In Egypt, where about half of tomatoes and a third of grapes are lost through inefficient practices before they reach the consumer, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has partnered with the Egyptian government and cooperatives to find ways to limit food losses caused by production surpluses and inefficient practices. This video outlines some of the pragmatic solutions that have resulted from this collaboration.



A World Food Programme food distribution point in Dhubab, Yemen. (November 2018), by OCHA/ Giles Clarke

Five solutions to Zero Hunger

Whilst there is no silver bullet to solving hunger, the World Food Programme has outlined a vision that breaks the issue down into five steps.

- More protection for the most vulnerable. Expanding social protection for the poorest would raise

the purchasing power of the poorest two billion, kickstarting local economies

- Improve infrastructure. Ensure consumers and suppliers can more easily buy and sell, by building better roads, storage facilities and extending electrification
- Reduce food waste. Around one third of the food produced each year is lost or wasted, costing the global economy some \$1 trillion per year
- Grow a wider variety of crops. Around 60 per cent of all calories consumed come from just four crops: rice, wheat, corn and soy. Ensuring food access and availability in the face of climate change will require the production of a wider range of foods.
- Focus on child nutrition. Good health and nutrition in a child's first 1,000 days is essential to prevent stunting and promote healthy development.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The five solutions are ready-made templates for the Travel & Tourism to implement. No need for fancy consultants to advise on curbing food waste. The solutions are there for the taking.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3:

Strict Russian alcohol laws which cut intake more than 40% lead to higher life expectancy




Unsplash/chuttersnap Russian alcohol consumption decreased by 43% from 2003 to 2016, a World Health Organization (WHO) report says.


3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3: Strict Russian alcohol laws which cut intake more than 40% lead to higher life expectancy

 **WHO/Europe** @WHO_Europe

Following concerted efforts by the Russian Federation, a plunge in alcohol consumption has been linked to a rise in life expectancy. Find out how in the thread [👇](#) and read the report bit.ly/2nakPyA



110 2:19 PM - Oct 1, 2019

70 people are talking about this

United Nations (UN News Center), 1 October 2019 - Strict laws put in place by the Russian authorities since 2003 have resulted in a significant drop in alcohol-related deaths nationwide, a [report](#) from the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed on Tuesday.

The impact study on the effects of “alcohol control measures on mortality and life expectancy”, shows that the amount of alcohol consumed per person fell sharply by 43 per cent, between 2003 and 2016.

Russia, says the [WHO](#), has long been considered one of the world’s heaviest-intake countries, with consumption patterns described as “hazardous”, and associated with some of the highest levels of alcohol-related deaths.

The worst period in recent times came during the 1990s and 2000s – described by the WHO as “Russia’s mortality crisis” – when, according to research, one in every two men of working age, would die prematurely because of alcohol abuse.

Russia's alcohol control measures, which have seen a dramatic decline in the consumption of homemade, smuggled or illegally produced alcohol, are being credited with helping average life expectancy in the country to reach a historic high in 2018, at almost 68 years for men and 78 years for women.

“These results show that measures such as the introduction of monitoring systems, price increases and limited alcohol availability, work to save lives and health system costs”, said Carina Ferreira-Borges, from the Alcohol and Illicit Drugs programme at WHO Europe.

Many of the policies implemented by the Russian authorities to curb alcohol consumption have been recommended by the WHO: these include raising taxes on alcohol, and introducing a minimum unit price on vodka and other alcoholic drinks; introduced a real-time tracking system on the production and sale of alcohol; and curbing the availability of alcohol in some regions, coupled with strict policies on alcohol-free public spaces, such as parks and recreation areas.

The WHO hopes that the success seen in Russia will spur other countries to implement effective alcohol policies, in order to reduce the major health and economic burdens stemming from alcohol abuse, and improve the life prospects of their citizens.

[Studies](#) show that more than three million people across the world died as a result of alcohol misuse in 2016, more than three quarters of them men.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Alcohol is a lifeblood of Travel & Tourism – one of its many paradoxical contradictions. Alcohol is freely sold in duty-free shops and drives tax revenues. It is also a killer and productivity-sapper. Recovering alcoholics then queue up for rehabilitation treatments, which drives revenues for the Health & Wellness sector. Another kind of “circular economy?” If reducing alcohol intake can be a positive factor for societies at large, it may be time for Travel & Tourism to do its own cost-benefit analysis of alcohol consumption.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3:

**UNESCO food and
culture forum dishes
up fresh serving of
SDGs**



FAO/Ryanwil Baldovino A farmer transplants rice in a paddy field in the Philippines.



SDG 3: UNESCO food and culture forum dishes up fresh serving of SDGs

United Nations (UN News Center), 13 September 2019 - Strengthening cultural heritage and culture-related food practices boosts social inclusion, economic development and well-being, the UN's deputy culture chief told participants at the UNESCO agency's World Forum on the matter, on Friday.

"Cultural policies today provide innovative responses in areas such as inclusion, technical and vocational education, employment, the preservation of cultural heritage and biodiversity," Assistant Director-General for Culture at [UNESCO](#), Ernesto Otonne, said.

Speaking to some 200 international participants gathered in Italy's Parma for the gathering, entitled, "[Culture and Food: Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Development](#)," Mr. Otonne stressed that cultural practices rooted in traditional and local knowledge systems related to food, are important markers of environmental sustainability.

He stressed that food, in addition to nourishing us, forms communities' socioeconomic identities, in the way it's cultivated, processed, and prepared—as summed up in the event's promotional video: "Tell me what you eat, I will tell you who you are".

The forum, organized by UNESCO in collaboration with Italian authorities, hosted five panels focusing on food in relation to cultural identity, socio-economic development, education and sustainability, biodiversity and food security, and also highlighted UNESCO's Creative Cities of Gastronomy—a network of cities promoting cultural industries at the heart of development.

One of the ways some 26 "Creative Cities", Parma included, are striving to be more sustainable, is through cuisine. Each has adopted innovative, locally-adapted strategies and projects, such as cultivating indigenous crops, supporting urban farming, organizing food festivals and training programmed to showcase the linkages between culture, community and environment.

In the Italian city of Parma, pasta is being created using processes dating back centuries. There are more industrialized ways of producing the Italian food staple, Mr. Otonne told UN News, but the city's

people are committed to old ways as a means of preserving tradition.

The Creative Cities of Gastronomy make up part of the larger “Creative Cities Network,” totaling 180, which integrate different creative approaches from architecture to literature, and beyond, in their development plans. View the complete list of participating cities [here](#).

The Forum concluded on Friday with the adoption of the Parma Declaration, which reaffirms the necessity of reinforcing culture and food links to biodiversity and heritage preservation, supports healthy nutrition, and improves food production and consumption.



The UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Food, which took place in Parma, Italy, on 12 and 13 September, focused on culture, food and education as powerful enablers of transformational change and sustainable development. Whilst the cultivation, preparation and serving of food is a universal human experience, there is a rich variety of food practices around the world, constituting an important part of our shared heritage.

Opening the event, Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, underscored that investing in cultural heritage and culture-related food practices strengthens social inclusion, economic development, and well-being, thus addressing the challenges of the UN 2030 Agenda. “Cultural policies today provide innovative responses in areas such as inclusion, technical and vocational education, employment, the preservation of cultural heritage and of biodiversity”, he said. Mr Ottone also stressed that cultural practices rooted in traditional and local knowledge systems related to food are important markers of collective identity and environmental sustainability.

Dario Franceschini, Italian Minister for Cultural Heritage and Activities, emphasized more awareness of the identity value of food, its importance as a vehicle of knowledge and an instrument for intercultural dialogue, whose safeguarding contributes to preserving environmental, cultural and social ecosystems. Focusing on the active role of communities, which are a source of knowledge and wisdom for the entire society, the Minister said “Our crucial mission is to identify key areas of action with the goal of ensuring the harmonious development of the territory and the balanced relationship between urban and rural areas, also through the food sector and creativity.”

Teresa Bellanova, Italian Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, stated that “Moving

towards universal food models and diets can threaten traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation. That is why we need to ensure sustainable development by reinforcing the links between food and culture.” Experts emphasized the dynamic character of local food practices that have evolved, blended, and crossed boundaries, giving rise to new cultural forms, while preserving cultural traditions or reinventing them.

Noting the importance of eating well while protecting the planet, the Forum’s speakers analysed how, over the last century, food systems have undergone significant transformation with technological advances, the massive use of fossil fuels, trends in migration and increasing urbanization. Food production accounts for a large share of global greenhouse gas emissions while we waste a third of the food we produce, equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes. The expansion of agricultural land is also the largest factor behind deforestation.

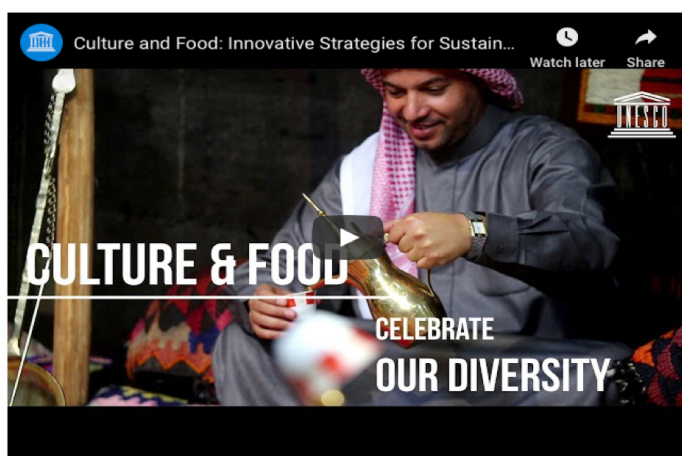
These trends threaten biodiversity, which is decreasing at an unprecedented rate. Experts recalled the impact of climate change, which brings new risks to food security, particularly for the over 2 billion people who currently do not have regular access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantities.

Creativity through gastronomy is also part of the solution, as highlighted by representatives of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy. Each of these cities has adopted innovative, locally-adapted strategies and projects. Likewise, UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage elements, World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks serve as laboratories of experimentation for scientific research, innovation and practice that showcase the intrinsic and interdependent linkages between cultural heritage, communities and environment.

Italian chef Massimo Bottura, founder of the non-profit organization Food for Soul, launched a vibrant call to action stressing the social responsibility of chefs in raising awareness about making sustainable and informed consumption choices, supporting healthy diets, and fighting food waste. “Cooking is a call to act” he said.

The Forum concluded with the adoption of the Parma Declaration, which reaffirms the necessity of reinforcing the links between culture and food to preserve biodiversity rooted in cultural identity and heritage, improve food production and consumption, support healthy nutrition and impulse transformational change.

UNESCO organized the Forum in collaboration with the Government of the Italian Republic, with the support of the Emilia Romagna Region and the City of Parma, which is a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy since 2017.



Culture and food stand at the crossroads of tradition and innovation.

Organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Government of the Italian Republic, with the support of the Emilia Romagna Region and the Municipality of Parma, the World Forum will analyse the linkages between food, culture and society, as well as the evolving landscape of food security and food systems, and their pivotal role for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Food has always shaped our relationship to our environment, from the first agricultural communities to the fully-fledged industrial societies of the twenty-first century. Transmitted from generation to generation, the long-established processes of food collection, preparation and service are part of our cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and are a source of cultural identity and pride, where each cuisine reflects a unique history, lifestyle, values and beliefs. Yet culinary practices have not remained static.

Instead, they have crossed continents and acted as gateways to cross-cultural dialogue.

Nowadays, food culture continues to spark encounters, communication and exchange, adapting and innovating. Cities today are living environments, where traditions, cultures and behaviours influence one another, where intangible cultural heritage and creativity blend to give birth to new social practices around food. Popular media also sparks new ideas around food, healthy lifestyles and local produce through a multitude of food blogs, culinary festivals and celebrity TV chefs.

Food culture can provide solutions for the overlapping challenges of population growth, climate change, and offer a platform for dialogue in increasingly diverse societies. It provides inspiration to tackle challenges related to sustainable agricultural and fishery practices; education for behavioural changes and food security. Promoting food diversity, behavioural change to ensure sustainable consumption and waste practices and lifestyles are key components of the global strategy to achieve the SDGs.

The forum will bring together over 150 participants – including practitioners, international experts, government representatives, IGOs and NGOs – to explore innovative pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through panel discussions on the following themes:



Panel 1: “Cultural Heritage and Food: the foundations of cultural identity”

Culture and food are a source of collective identity through cultural and natural heritage carried by traditional knowledge and practices. Eating habits are a product of the codes of conduct and social relations structure of the society in which they occur and represent a nonverbal way of sharing meanings with others. Yet food practices do not remain static: with increasingly diverse populations, ingredients, dishes and food practices have crossed borders, blending and transforming. As such, food is a unique vector for intercultural dialogue and

exchange. It has given rise to new creativity in the form of fusion food. In this panel, participants are invited to explore the linkages between food, cultural heritage and identity, and adaptation to emerging trends. The discussion will focus on the challenges and opportunities of reinventing traditions in a creative and innovative way, while still preserving local identity.



Panel 2: Culture for the socio-economic development of urban and rural areas: new cultural policies

The world is increasingly urbanised – over 50% now live in cities – which has an impact on socio-economic development both for cities and for the surrounding territories. Food culture has become an integral part of cultural policies and cultural diplomacy worldwide. The food sector is an engine for social and economic development. It provides new impetus for agricultural production and exports, as well as generating whole new industries from audiovisual and printed media, to

new types of jobs and cultural tourism. In this context, increased cultural tourism and food-related tourism is creating new opportunities and challenges. Food related industries - while posing issues with regard to food consumption habits and food waste - is a vector for poverty reduction and improved well-being.

New social habits related to food generate new modes of communication and social engagement, inclusion and integration through enhanced forms of cultural diversity and creativity. Economic investment in food systems strengthens agriculture, industries and improves territorial integration

by intensifying the links between urban and rural areas and populations, knowledge of territories and cooperation. For the past 30 years, civil society groups have advocated to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, and educate on how our food choices affect the world around us. As such, they play an important role in designing new socio-economic strategies. This Panel will examine the socio-economic strategies that combine food and culture to stimulate development within rural areas, as well as in cities.

Panel 3: “Education and sustainability: vocational training and new jobs”

The food we eat and the ways we consume can exacerbate unsustainable – and unhealthy – lifestyles. Notably, one third of all food produced globally is wasted and single-use plastics often end up in the ocean. Education for sustainable development can encourage individuals to make more responsible choices.

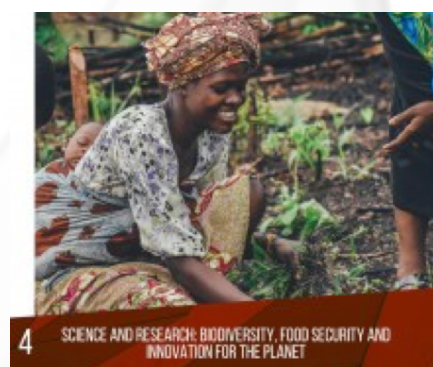
Learning sustainable behaviour can take place in diverse contexts from the classroom to cookery school, the hospitality sector, or even to a wider public through the media, via celebrities and chefs. Ensuring awareness of these dimensions amongst the wider public to is crucial. Trends suggest that the food and beverage industry is growing worldwide, offering more employment opportunities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training. This training should be flexible to take into account local knowledge systems that can lead to more sustainable food production and consumption, as well as the latest trends in culinary creativity such as fusion food or street food. This panel will explore the opportunities for new employment in the food industries; strategies for education for sustainable development; investment in informed communication and awareness raising builds on local cultures with a view to influencing social transformations for more sustainable food practices.



Panel 4: “Science and research: biodiversity, food security and innovation for the planet”

By 2050, there will be 9.8 billion people on Earth. In addition to population growth, climate change is threatening food security: according to the latest UN figures, it is estimated that already over 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe and nutritious food in sufficient quantities. The expansion of agricultural land is also the largest factor for deforestation. These trends threaten biodiversity, which is decreasing at an unprecedented rate. Investment in research and innovation makes it possible to combine work that reinforces agricultural biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, with cultural identity.

New technology and knowledge development can address the global issues and urgent challenges facing the world today, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, water management and the growing competition for natural resources. Culture can play a pivotal role in promoting a sustainable approach to food that places at the heart of its concerns respect for the health of the consumer and the environment, as well as the protection of producers. Innovative methodologies for preserving sustainable agriculture and healthy diets, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources while meeting food demand are necessary. This panel will examine how local knowledge and traditional practices can contribute to enhancing the knowledge base by building on the latest science and innovation.





Panel 5: “The example of UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy”

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), set up in 2004, is a platform for promoting cooperation between cities that have placed creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level. They share this common vision for local sustainable development and actively cooperate at the international level. The 180 Cities that currently make up this Network have opted to pursue cultural policies based on seven different areas of creativity, one of

which is gastronomy, gathering 26 cities. Most of these cities of gastronomy have joined the network since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015, reflecting a growing interest on the part of Member States in harnessing gastronomic creativity, as well as food related intangible cultural heritage, as a driver for local development, creativity and innovation.

The UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy are committed to promoting gastronomy and food practices to stir global action and youth engagement in support of values of global citizenship, respect for human rights, cultural diversity, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue towards peaceful coexistence around food.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

The creative fusion between gastronomy tourism and agriculture is one of the many positive trends in Travel & Tourism. If such harmony can work well for food and music, why can't it be made to work amongst the societies and communities that create the cuisine and music, too?



SDG 4:

**New UN book club
helps children deal
with global issues**



UN/Steven Bornholtz Ari Afsar, singer, songwriter and storyteller, reads at the SDG Media Zone during the High-Level Political Forum 2019 at UNHQ. (10 July 2019)



SDG 4: New UN book club helps children deal with global issues

United Nations (UN News Center), 4 October 2019 - For children in Chad, getting an education can involve manual labour. That's because, every year, there's a chance that the rainy season will destroy their school, and they will have to join their teachers in rebuilding it. This is the story recounted in the children's book "Rain School", which is on the reading list of the UN's [SDG Book Club](#).

Every day brings news about wars, humanitarian crises, and the climate emergency. These subjects can be a source of fear and nightmares for children, and parents can struggle to find the best way to explain them in a balanced way that does not worry their children even more. The SDG Book Club is one way to help.

The Club, which was set up in April by the UN, in collaboration with several book-related partners, selects books which contain messages related to the 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) at the core of the UN's 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, with the aim of providing a playful and participative way to learn about the Goals, through stories and characters

children can relate to.

Book suggestions from around the world are reviewed, and a reading list for children aged between six and 12 is compiled and promoted on the SDG Book Club website and elsewhere, in the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

"Rain school" illustrates that quality education ([Sustainable Development Goal 4](#)) can't be taken for granted for all children, and shows that, no matter your age, you can take action to improve your life and the lives of others.

Another example from the reading list is "Thank you, Omu!", a favourite amongst the Book Club staff, which tells the story of an elderly woman who cooks a delicious stew which smells so good, that people on the street stop and knock on her door asking for it. The book teaches a lesson about zero hunger ([Sustainable Development Goal 2](#)), and about helping and caring for others.

Parents can find out more by reading the [SDG](#)

[Book Club Blog](#), which contains stories from book clubs, educators and parents from around the world, who have used the books to discuss complex issues, like poverty or health, with their children, helping them take concrete steps to help others in their

communities.

The Club also encourages feedback and dialogue on social media, using the hashtag #SDGBookClub, and tagging @UNPublications.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Such “clubs” can well be expanded in companies and institutions, too, focussing not just on books but right across the staffing network. “Clubs” to brainstorm ways to drive the SDGs agenda can be established in all companies, bringing together different areas of expertise ranging from IT departments to human resources and marketing and finance. This will help entrench the SDGs into corporate DNAs industry-wide.

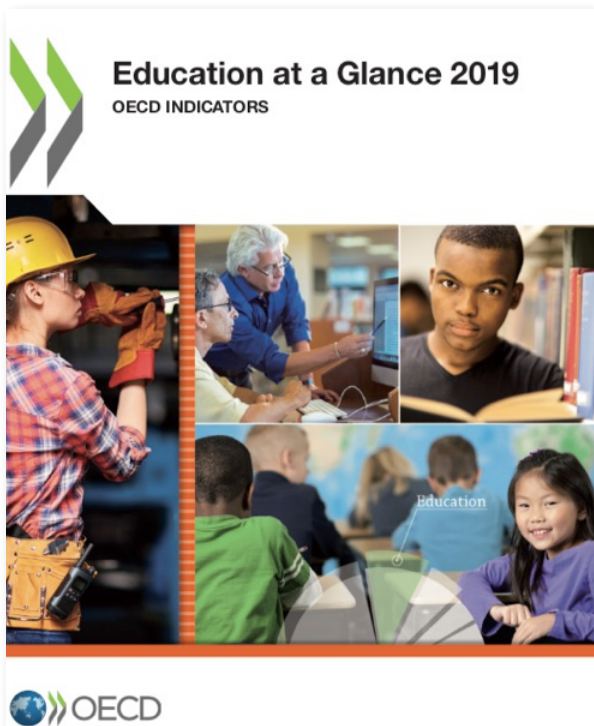


SDG 4:

**Higher education
needs to step up
efforts to prepare
students for the
future**



SDG 4: Higher education needs to step up efforts to prepare students for the future



OECD News, 10 September 2019 - Demand for tertiary education continues to rise, but its further expansion will only be sustainable if it matches the supply of graduates with labour market and social needs and gives them the skills required to navigate the future, according to a new OECD report.

Education at a Glance 2019, which is part of the Organisation's "I am the Future of Work" campaign, finds that 44% of 25-34 year-olds held a tertiary degree in 2018, compared to 35% in 2008, on average across OECD countries. The employment rate of tertiary-educated adults is 9 percentage points higher than for those with upper secondary education and they earn 57% more.

However, some sectors in high demand may struggle to find the skills they need. Less than 15% of new entrants to bachelor's programmes study engineering, manufacturing and construction

and less than 5% study information and communication technologies, despite these sectors having among the highest employment rates and earnings. Women are particularly under-represented, making up fewer than one in four entrants, on average, across OECD countries.

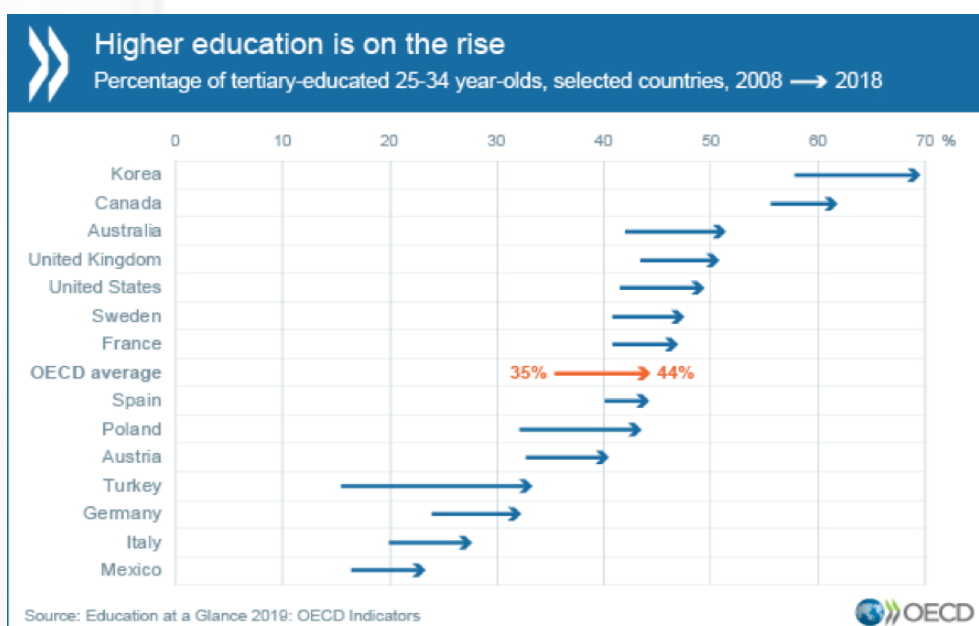
"It is more important than ever that young people learn the knowledge and skills needed to navigate our unpredictable and changing world," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, launching the report in Paris. "We must expand opportunities and build stronger bridges with future skills needs so that every student can find their place in society and achieve their full potential."

Many institutions are evolving to meet changing job market demands by promoting flexible pathways into tertiary education, balancing academic and vocational skills, and working more closely with employers, industry and training organisations. But they must also balance larger enrolments with the need to contain costs, while maintaining the relevance and quality of their courses, says the report.

Between 2005 and 2016, spending on tertiary institutions increased at more than double the rate of student enrolments to about USD 15,600 per student on average across OECD countries. Private sources have been called on to contribute more as countries introduce or raise tuition fees.

This year's edition of Education at a Glance also assesses how youth are moving from education into work, as part of its ongoing analysis of where OECD and partner countries stand on their way to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal for education by 2030. It finds that some countries have made significant progress in reducing the numbers of out-of-school youth in the past decade. Rates fell by 20 percentage points in the Russian Federation, 18 percentage points in Mexico, 16 percentage points in Portugal and 10 percentage points in Australia and New Zealand between 2005 and 2017.

The report finds that, on average across OECD countries, about one in six 15-24 year-olds are enrolled in vocational programmes. The attainment gap among young tertiary-educated adults and those with upper secondary has narrowed. In 2018, the share of young adults with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary qualification, 41%, is almost equal to the share attaining tertiary education, 44%.



Education at a Glance provides comparable national statistics measuring the state of education worldwide. The report analyses the education systems of the OECD's 36 member countries, as well as of Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

Other key findings:

Educational attainment and outcomes

- The proportion of tertiary-educated 25-34 year-olds increased by 9 percentage points, on average, across OECD countries between 2008 and 2018, while the share of adults with less than upper secondary education fell from 19% to 15%. (Indicator A1)
- The gender gap in earnings persists across all levels of educational attainment and the gap is wider among tertiary-educated adults. Women earn less than men, even with a tertiary degree in the same broad field of study. (A1)
- On average across OECD countries, 14.3% of 18-24 year-olds are neither employed nor in education or training (NEET). In Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, South Africa and Turkey, over 25% of 18-24 year-olds are NEET. (A2)

Access to education

- On average across OECD countries, around 70% of 17-18 year-olds are enrolled in upper secondary education and more than 40% of 19-20 year-olds are enrolled in tertiary programmes in almost half of OECD countries. (B1)
- In almost all OECD countries, the enrolment rate among 4-5 year-olds in education exceeded 90% in 2017, with about one-third of countries achieving full enrolment for 3-year-olds. (B1)
- Current estimates indicate that, on average, 86% of people across OECD countries will graduate from upper secondary education in their lifetime, and 81% of people will do so before the age of 25. (B3)

Education spending

- Across the OECD, countries spend, on average, USD 10 500 per student on primary to tertiary educational institutions. Average spending is 1.7 times more per student at the tertiary level than other levels. (C1)

- Expenditure continues to increase at a higher rate than student enrolments at all levels, particularly tertiary since 2010. Average spending per student at non-tertiary levels increased by 5% between 2010-2016 while the number of students remained unchanged. At the tertiary level, spending increased by 9% while the number of students rose by 3%. (C1)
- Total public expenditure in 2016 on primary to tertiary education as a percentage of total government expenditure for all services averaged 11% in OECD countries, ranging from 6.3% in Italy to 17% in Chile. (C4)

In the classroom

- Students in OECD countries and economies receive an average of 7 590 hours of compulsory instruction during their primary and lower secondary education, ranging from 5 973 hours in Hungary to almost double that in Australia (11 000 hours) and Denmark (10 960 hours). (D1)
- The proportion of the compulsory curriculum devoted to mathematics at the primary level ranges from 12% in Denmark to 27% in Mexico; at the lower secondary level, it ranges from about 11% in Hungary, Ireland and Korea to 16% in Chile, Latvia and the Russian Federation (and 20% in Italy, including natural sciences). (D1)
- On average across OECD countries, there are 15 students for every teacher in primary education and 13 students per teacher in lower secondary education. The average school class has 21 students in primary education and 23 students in lower secondary education. (D2)
- The teaching workforce is ageing: on average across OECD countries, 36% of primary to secondary teachers were at least 50 years old in 2017, up 5 percentage points from 2005. Only 10% of teachers are aged under 30. The profession is also still largely dominated by women, who comprise seven out of ten teachers, on average, across OECD countries. (D5)

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

“It is more important than ever that young people learn the knowledge and skills needed to navigate our unpredictable and changing world,” says OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría. All well and good. But it is even more important for the young people to hold accountable those who have made this world so unpredictable. No matter how high their level of education, if the state of the world makes it difficult for young people to find jobs in the first place, the next round of political unrest and instability is just around the corner.



SDG 4:

**Educators warn
about growing
commercialisation
& privatisation of
education**



SDG 4: Educators warn about growing commercialisation & privatisation of education

Education International (Resolution), 12 September 2019 - The 8th Education International (EI) World Congress meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from 21st to 26th July 2019 has warned about the growing influence of “corporate actors responding to neoliberal interests in the global education system”.

The annual gathering of global educators passed a resolution pledging to “renew our efforts at the local, national and regional levels thereby strengthening EI’s advocacy at the global level in challenging and opposing profit making in education as it undermines the right of all students to free, quality education and creates and entrenches inequalities; and harms the working conditions and rights of teachers and other education workers.”

Here is the full text of the resolution:

(1) the growing commercialisation and privatisation of education is one of the greatest threats to education as a fundamental human right and a public good. It undermines the rights of children, students and the teaching profession and places the future of public education and the sovereign capacity of countries to establish an educational policy linked to their own projects to promote sustainable

development in great peril.

(2) governments are abrogating their policy commitments and legislative and financing obligations for the achievement of inclusive and equitable, free quality public education for all. In some instances, governments are actively facilitating and/or encouraging the commercialisation and privatisation of education, transferring public resources to the private sector, or facilitating the entry of private actors into public management not only in their countries but also abroad as part of their international development programmes;

(3) despite readily available evidence, including their own, pointing to the detrimental effects of privatisation, international financial institutions continue to promote the privatisation and commercialisation of education in a myriad of ways, including through programmes that create markets for private actors;

(4) global corporate actors are wielding significant and increasing political and policy influence at the global and national levels, often with neglect and disregard for the law by some of these corporate actors when it conflicts with their business plans and interests.



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(5) the threat of commercialisation and privatisation is informed by an analysis that corporate actors view education as little more than a marketplace of business opportunities with our students seen as mere exploitable economic units and education workers as dispensable, in an attempt to satisfy an insatiable profit motive and greed;

(6) the neo-liberal 'reform' process - from the commercialisation and privatisation of education provision through to the monetisation and standardisation of assessment, curriculum, pedagogy and teacher education - is designed to maximise access to and profit of the \$5 trillion per annum (USD) education industry;

(7) a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum is under threat of being seized and shaped by corporate actors responding to neoliberal interests;

(8) currently only 2 percent of the so-called 'education market' is digitised. There is strong evidence that education technology (ed-tech) companies intend to increase their market share by directly targeting students, bypassing the profession, with negative consequences for teaching and learning. The pace of commercialisation and privatisation will be increasingly driven by the digitalisation of education.

Noting

(9) the importance, in light of the global expansion of the process of privatisation

and commercialisation of education, of educators and their unions taking the initiative to develop a common strategy at the international level, as embodied in the Global Response, based on research, communication, organisation and mobilisation;

(10) the success of the Global Response in drawing attention to privatisation and commercialisation of education, raising greater awareness of associated threats to the right to quality education for all, and building political momentum;

(11) the achievement of effective capacity and unity building materialised through direct action at the national level in response to the commonly identified threat of privatisation;

(12) the significance of solidarity evidenced through direct political support by member organisations within and across countries, regionally and globally.

Congress mandates the Executive Board and requests all member organisations to:

(13) reaffirm our commitment and resolve to deepen and grow the Global Response, making the campaign more extensive in scope, working across all sectors and classifications of members;

(14) renew our efforts at the local, national and regional levels thereby strengthening EI's advocacy at the global level in challenging and opposing profit making in education as it undermines the right of all students to free, quality education and creates and entrenches inequalities; and harms the working conditions and rights of teachers and other education workers;

(15) continue to build solidarity within and across national settings necessary to confront the ever-increasing influence and reach of global corporate actors and intergovernmental agencies promoting privatisation at the global and national levels.

(16) continue to explore opportunities linking national member organisation campaigns across the Global South with national member organisation led campaigns in the Global North. EI will also further integrate the Global Response with its Development Cooperation (DC) work as well as with member organisations' DC work. Furthermore, EI and member organisations will continue to build and deepen alliances with the broader union movement, civil society, NGOs and like-minded allies.

(17) continue to conduct the research needed to unveil the mechanisms of commercialisation and the actions of ostensibly philanthropic organisations that influence public education policies.

Resourcing will be targeted

(18) to sustain and continue to expand the reach of the Global Response. Particular attention will be given to

(i) continuing to hold States accountable for guaranteeing the right to public education and securing relevant funding;

(ii) enhancing our reach through traditional and, more importantly, social media ensuring effective impact on multiple target audiences, including members, politicians, intergovernmental agencies;

(iii) furthering EI and member organisations' documentation and research capacity to confront the commercialisation of education. An important area of work will include the expanding role of education technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in education whenever it is likely to impact negatively on



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quality teaching and learning;

(iv) exploring legal options aimed at holding reckless corporate actors and their supporters to account;

(v) developing lobbying materials, talking points and other resources to assist member organisations in lobbying their national governments.

(vi) activating targeted member organisations to connect with academics and lobby their national governments regarding matters of high concern to Global Response;

(19) towards building and expanding the Global Response in all countries and in particular in developing countries;

(20) to support the halting of the encroachment of the private sector on publicly funded public education in developed countries.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This resolution deserves to be taken seriously by educational institutions worldwide. Technology is having a deep and lasting impact on education and its means of delivery. But, as the resolution warns, “global corporate actors are wielding significant and increasing political and policy influence at the global and national levels, often with neglect and disregard for the law by some of these corporate actors when it conflicts with their business plans and interests.” To what extent is this threat prevalent in Travel & Tourism? How does it impact the content of academic conferences and journals?



SDG 5:

**Rural women a
'powerful force'
for global climate
action**



UN Women Women forest conservation workers in the northern Bolivian Amazon..



SDG 5: Rural women a ‘powerful force’ for global climate action

United Nations (UN News Center), 14 October 2019 - Rural women and girls across the world are a “powerful force” in global action to respond to climate change, according to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

In a [message](#) to mark the [International Day of Rural Women](#), observed annually on 15 October, the UN chief said that “listening to rural women and amplifying their voices is central to spreading knowledge about climate change and urging governments, businesses and community leaders to act.”

The theme for this year’s celebration is “Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resistance.”

Mr Guterres added that “they are a repository of knowledge and skills which can help communities to use nature-based, low-carbon solutions to adapt to what the UN considers the defining issue of our time.”

“As early adopters of new agricultural techniques, first responders in crises and entrepreneurs of green energy, rural women are a powerful force that can drive global progress,” he said.

Globally, one in three women works in agriculture, according to the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)).

It is a sector that gets hit hard when climate-related disasters strike, such as droughts and heat waves. The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)) reports that between 2006-2016, a quarter of total damage and loss caused by climate-related disasters in developing countries occurred in agriculture.

While women cultivate land, collect food, water and essential fuels, and sustain entire households, the UN chief pointed out that they lack equal access to land, finances, equipment,

markets and the power to make decisions.

“Climate change exacerbates these inequalities, leaving rural women and girls further behind,” he said, adding that women “suffer disproportionately” in climate disasters.

Empowering women in the Bolivian Amazon

Women, including some from indigenous communities, are helping to protect forests in the northern Bolivian Amazon through a series of economic empowerment projects funded in part by [UN Women](#).

Sandra Justiniano, 35, is among 24 people from Buen Retiro community who process wild fruits from the jungle such as açai, majo, and cupuaçu to sell to local suppliers. At the same time, they are trained in how to care for the forest, for example by not burning during dry periods. Prior to the project, the residents sold 200 litres of açai juice per day, produced by hand. Today, their output is up to 500 litres daily, plus they extract the pulp for sale.

“It has improved our incomes; we acquired new knowledge about empowerment, about our rights and finances; we learned to present projects; we know about expanding markets,” Ms. Justiniano [told](#) UN Women recently. “We are able to speak in public, participate actively, present our economic proposals to the authorities, and negotiate with them. That is empowerment.”

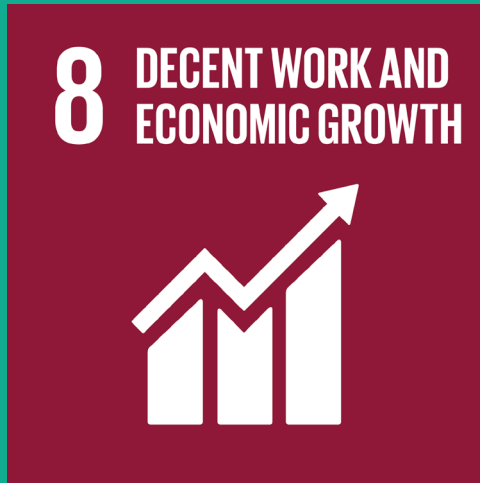
The International Fund for Agricultural Development ([IFAD](#)) estimates that around 40 per cent of the global population, or some three billion people, live in the rural areas of developing countries, most of whom depend on small family farms to earn a living. The agency believes that investing in rural people is the long-term solution to problems the world currently faces such as hunger, poverty, youth unemployment and forced migration.

Promoting gender equality is an IFAD priority because “when women are empowered, families, communities and countries benefit”. That message is echoed in the UN Secretary-General’s call to support rural women in building climate resilience.

“One of the most effective ways to achieve progress on the threats posed by climate change is addressing gender inequality,” he said. “Empowered women have greater capacity to respond to climate change and they play important roles in adopting low-carbon technologies, spreading knowledge about climate change, and urging action.”

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

For sure, rural women play an increasingly important role in Travel & Tourism, arguably their biggest global employer. In line with changing realities, rural women worldwide are finding new means of income as entrepreneurs, home-stay operators, masseuses, and much more. Their indigenous wisdoms ought to be compiled and harnessed as drivers of sustainability.



SDG 8:

**OECD toolkit to
help developing
countries implement
transfer pricing
documentation
requirements**



SDG 8: OECD toolkit to help developing countries implement transfer pricing documentation requirements



OECD News, 27 September 2019 (OECD news release) - The Platform for Collaboration on Tax – a joint initiative of the IMF, OECD, UN and World Bank Group – is seeking feedback from the public on a draft toolkit designed to help developing countries in the implementation of effective transfer pricing documentation requirements.

Transfer pricing documentation is necessary for effective implementation of transfer pricing rules. The requirement to maintain and furnish documentation encourages compliance and assists tax authorities with accessing information necessary to enforce transfer pricing regulations. It also allows tax administrations to focus efforts and to deploy limited resources on taxpayers and transactions that pose most

significant risk of tax loss. However, comprehensive documentation can be costly for the taxpayer; therefore, it is important to find the right balance between the tax authorities' needs and avoiding excessive compliance costs.

This [draft toolkit](#) is designed to support the successful implementation of effective transfer pricing documentation requirements by developing countries, and considers measures concerning documentation of all stages of a taxpayer's transfer pricing analysis that governments could put in place. The toolkit takes into account current international approaches and country practices for transfer pricing documentation, and discusses various policy considerations and options to guide developing countries.

The Development Working Group of the G20 requested this toolkit, and it is part of a series the Platform is preparing to help developing countries implement international tax best practices. Previous reports covered [tax incentives](#), [addressing difficulties in accessing comparable data for transfer pricing analyses](#) and [external support for building tax capacity in developing countries](#). This series complements work of the Platform and other organisations to increase the capacity of developing countries to implement the [OECD/G20 BEPS Project](#).

The Platform partners are seeking comments on this draft of the toolkit by 8 November 2019 from all interested stakeholders. Comments should be sent by e-mail to taxcollaborationplatform@worldbank.org, a common comment box for all the Platform organisations. The Platform aims to release the final toolkit in early 2020.

Questions to consider:

1. Does this draft toolkit effectively address all the relevant considerations for the design of an effective transfer pricing documentation regulatory system?
2. In terms of enforcement of transfer pricing documentation, are particular approaches (e.g. penalties or compliance incentives) especially beneficial for limited capacity developing countries?
3. Are there other transfer pricing documentation requirements not covered in this toolkit that should be considered?

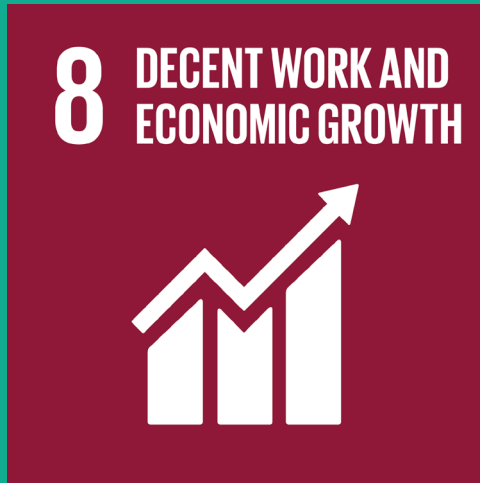
4. What additional considerations and/or tools can be included in this toolkit to assist developing countries to implement effective transfer pricing documentation?

These are a few questions, and we welcome guidance on other questions we should consider. We also welcome any other views you have on how to support the successful implementation of effective transfer pricing documentation requirements by developing countries. Comments and inputs on the draft will be published, and will be taken into consideration in finalising the toolkit.

Please note that all comments received will be made publicly available. Comments submitted in the name of a collective “grouping” or “coalition”, or by any person submitting comments on behalf of another person or group of persons, should identify all enterprises or individuals who are members of that collective group, or the person(s) on whose behalf the commentator(s) are acting.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Transfer pricing is a major source of tax avoidance and evasion. The digital economy is making it worse. Indeed, the entire taxation system in Travel & Tourism is worth examining in greater detail to evaluate the gains and losses for developing countries.



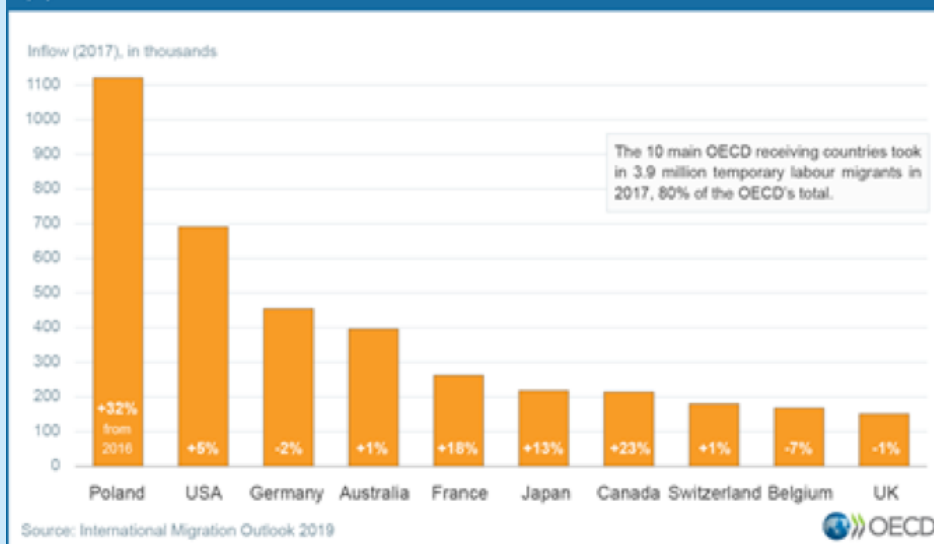
SDG 8:

**Humanitarian
migration falls
while labour and
family migration
rises**



Labour migration rises in most OECD countries

Inflows of temporary labour migrants: 10 main OECD receiving countries in 2017



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8: Humanitarian migration falls while labour and family migration rises

OECD News, 18 September 2019 (OECD news release) - Migration flows to OECD countries rose slightly in 2018, with around 5.3 million new, permanent migrants, a 2% increase over 2017. Family and labour migration increased, while the number of asylum applications fell sharply, according to a new OECD report.

The [OECD International Migration Outlook 2019](#) says that asylum applications decreased to 1.09 million in 2018, 35% fewer than the record high of 1.65 million requests registered in both 2015 and 2016. Most asylum seekers came from Afghanistan, followed by Syria, Iraq and Venezuela. Because of the drop in asylum applications, the number of registered refugees also declined, falling by 28%.

Migrants' employment prospects continued to improve in 2018, building on the positive trends observed during the last five years. On average across OECD countries, more than 68% of migrants are employed and the unemployment rate has fallen below 9%. However, young immigrants and low-educated immigrants still struggle in the labour market.

Temporary labour migration increased significantly in 2017, reaching 4.9 million, compared to 4.4 million in 2016. This is the highest level since the OECD started reporting these numbers more than a decade ago. Poland is the top temporary labour migration destination, surpassing the United States. In the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) area, workers "posted" by their employers to work in other EU/EFTA member states represented the largest single group for temporary workers, with almost 2.7 million postings.

"The significant increase in temporary labour migration is a sign of the dynamism in OECD labour markets but also of their integration," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, launching the report in Paris. "Temporary migrants bring skills and competences that are needed by employers."

Some temporary labour migrants stay for a few weeks, others for several years. The contribution of temporary migrants is sizeable in some OECD countries. In 6 out of the 20 countries with available data, temporary labour migrants add more than 2% to the resident employed population.

The Outlook also finds that OECD countries continue to adjust their labour migration programmes to improve selection and favour needed skills. A number of countries have also reformed their entry processes for migrants who are investors or have created new programmes for migrants developing start-ups. Some countries have introduced restrictions to family reunification procedures or streamlined their asylum procedures.

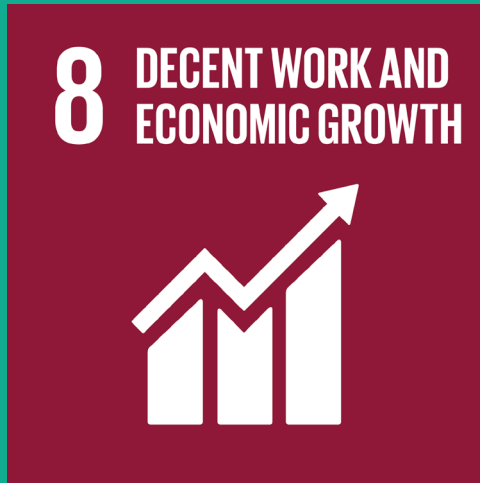
Family migration, where people migrate with, or to join, family members, increased by 9% and labour migration by 6%. 2018 also saw a sharp rise in the number of international students enrolled in tertiary education across the OECD, increasing by 7%, to over 3.5 million. The United States, the leading destination, however saw a decrease in student flows and a shrinking OECD market share.

Family migrants comprise 40% of total inflows, more than any other category. This broad category includes natives of OECD countries bringing spouses from abroad, but also immigrants arriving with accompanying family, or sponsoring their reunification. More than half of immigrants who have family did not bring their family with them at first.

Delays in reunification affect spouses and their integration prospects, especially for women. The report identifies a possible trade-off between stringent conditions on the integration of the principal migrant before family reunification is allowed and the integration of the spouse. Long delays can also hurt the integration outcomes of migrant children, reducing their host-country language proficiency and education outcomes.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Migrant workers play a critical role in Travel & Tourism, usually as sources of cheap labour. Their concerns and challenges do not figure highly on the agendas of Travel & Tourism conferences. A huge gap that needs to be plugged.



SDG 8:

**World needs
fairer and more
sustainable trade,
not less trade**



SDG 8: World needs fairer and more sustainable trade, not less trade

United Nations (UN News Center), 20 October 2019 - UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Isabelle Durant urges policymakers to focus not only on trade growth but also on how the benefits are shared.

Though globalization has fallen from glory and some leaders have embraced protectionist policies, discussions about whether we need more or less trade are misplaced, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Isabelle Durant has said.

“What the world truly needs is not less trade, but more fair trade,” she said on 17 September at the International Fair Trade Summit in the Peruvian capital Lima.

Ms. Durant added that in terms of income inequality, trade growth over the past four decades has been both a blessing and a bane.

A study by researchers from Oxford University and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics has shown that “relative” income inequality – as

measured by the Gini coefficient – decreased from 0.74 1975 to 0.63 in 2010.

But during the same period “absolute” income inequality increased, meaning that as the divide between nations shrunk, the gap between rich and poor within most countries widened.

“Trade has helped to make the economic pie bigger. But some people weren’t invited to the dinner table,” Ms. Durant said.

Another economic model

UNCTAD and the fair trade movement share a common conviction that the gains from trade should lead to prosperity for all.

“For trade to be a force for good, everyone must get a fair deal,” Ms. Durant said. “This is a vision that we share with fair trade advocates.”

And as the strong growth in sales of fair trade-certified goods, such as coffee, cacao and bananas shows, consumers across

the globe increasingly share this vision. In 2017, global sales climbed 8% to €8.5 billion (US\$9.74 billion), according to Fairtrade International's annual report.

This growth put an extra €178 million (\$204 million) in the hands of 1.6 million farmers and workers.

"We are a movement, we promote an idea, a fair idea. We advocate for a new vision," World Fair Trade Organization chief Enrich Sahan said.

"In a normal business, 70% of the profits go to the shareholders. In 90% of our businesses, 0% goes to the shareholders. This is another economic model altogether," he added.

Time to innovate

Labels like Fairtrade and the associated standards have the power to push production and consumption patterns towards more sustainable pathways.

But to truly rewrite the rules of trade, Ms. Durant said, the movement must innovate.

"When we think about Fair Trade, we generally think of food products, clothing or utensils produced in a traditional and artisanal way," she said.

While this has satisfied consumer expectations in developed countries, it limits the impact to workers in a number of sectors.

Ms. Durant therefore urged the movement to cross new frontiers, citing the example of mobile phones.

"Everyone has a mobile phone. And if we look closely at the process of manufacturing, most of them are made from minerals extracted under deplorable environmental and social conditions and are often assembled in factories with equally deplorable conditions," she said.

"There is a clear void that I'm convinced fair trade can fill, by making this sector more

equitable and sustainable."

UNCTAD's second-in-command also called for more attention on the climate crisis, which risks to unfairly affect communities in developing countries that have barely contributed to global warming.

Small island developing states, for example, emit less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions yet are bearing the brunt of stronger, more frequent hurricanes. Dorian's recent devastation of parts of the Bahamas was a stark reminder.

"The climate emergency leaves us no other choice but to embrace the sustainable road," Ms. Durant said. "For trade to truly be fair, it must also treat our planet with dignity."

The cost of labels

The popularity of fair trade and other sustainability standards, such as organic ones, means consumers must navigate hundreds of labels when walking the aisles of their local supermarkets and shops.

And producers must meet increasing requirements for certification – at a price often out of reach for smaller businesses and farmers, especially in developing countries.

In Vanuatu, for example, annual audit costs for organic certification can range between \$2,000 and \$10,000 – a steep fee in a country where the monthly minimum wage is only \$290.

Ms. Durant said UNCTAD believes partnerships can help improve coherence between the plethora of sustainability standards and make them more accessible.

This belief led the organization to establish in 2012 the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) with other UN agencies.

The forum provides impartial analysis on voluntary sustainability standards and brings to the same table producers,

traders, consumers, standard-setters, trade diplomats and NGOs to discuss the challenges and obstacles they face.

Such discussions coincidentally took place at the [2nd International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards](#) in Rio de Janeiro from 16 to 18 September.

UNCTAD's strong belief in partnerships was also behind the decision in October 2018 to join forces with the World Fair Trade

Organization to improve the living and working conditions of artisans, workers and smallholder farmers and producers in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding during the previous International Fair Trade Summit held in Madrid in 2018.

Related link: [United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards](#) (UNFSS)

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Fair trade is also catching on within Travel & Tourism – and not a moment too soon. If consumers are willing to pay a high price for sustainable products and services, Fair Trade should be very much a part of the equation. Ensuring that producers of such products and services are adequately rewarded for their efforts is an important contributor to the sustainability agenda.



SDG 8:

**UN calls for stronger
protections for
workers exposed to
toxic substances**



Photo: Adam Cohn via Flickr
CC: Shipbreaker in mask



SDG 8: UN calls for stronger protections for workers exposed to toxic substances

ITUC News, 1 October 2019 - The International Trades Union Congress has welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council of a [resolution](#) backing stronger protections for workers exposed to toxic substances. Every 11 seconds a person loses their life because of lethal working conditions, and many of the deaths and serious non-fatal diseases are caused by chemicals.

“Every worker must be protected from toxic chemicals. Yet for firefighters, hairdressers, manufacturing workers and people working in many other occupations, the risk of cancer and other work-related diseases caused by toxic products is real, and it is costing lives. We salute the work done by UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Toxics, Baskut Tuncak, and welcome this important UN decision,” said ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow.

According to Tuncak, “global instruments only ban or restrict the use or emission of less than 0.1% of toxic industrial chemicals and pesticides of global concern to which workers and communities are exposed”.

The [ILO Centenary Declaration](#), adopted last June, sets out a labour protection floor which guarantees all workers respect for fundamental rights, adequate minimum wages, maximum limits on working hours and safety and health at work. The Declaration also calls upon the ILO to elevate occupational health and safety into the ILO’s framework of fundamental principles and rights at work. The labour movement is fully committed to achieving this goal urgently and welcomes the [echoing of a previous call](#) by UN experts for the ILO to move forward with this.

“We know what is needed for safe working environments to ensure that people can lead a healthy life. We need the institutions whose role it is to protect people to recognise just how fundamental this is. The time has come to drive forward solutions for a world of work with

zero cancer, and that means proper regulation including of the corporations which make so much profit from products that result in human misery. The right to health does not stop at the factory gate or the office door,” said Burrow.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Has any study been done to establish the level of toxic exposure by Travel & Tourism workers? I’ve often wondered about the pollution levels at airports, bus depots and other transportation hubs. What about those responsible for disposal of medical waste?



SDG 9:

**Countries urged to
make 'digital world'
safer for children**



© UNICEF/UN014974/Estey Social media is a huge influence in children's lives and being constantly connected to the Internet also comes with many risks, including online sexual exploitation, of adolescents and children.



SDG 9: Countries urged to make 'digital world' safer for children

United Nations (UN News Center), 1 October 2019 - Rising Internet connectivity has the potential to transform children's lives for the better, but also makes them vulnerable to sexual abuse, online harassment and bullying, recruitment by extremist groups, and other risks, according to a new UN-backed [report](#) published on Tuesday.

The study by the [Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development](#) underlines the need for everyone to ensure children remain safe as they explore "the digital world".

It was produced by the Commission's [working group on Child Online Safety](#), comprising senior representatives from the UN, non-governmental organizations, law-enforcement agencies, regulators, and private companies.

The report lays out staggering statistics showing the extent and scale of the problem. For instance, in just one year the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) found more than 105,000 websites hosting child sexual abuse

material.

"It takes a village to keep children safe both online and offline. Therefore, all the stakeholders need to prioritize children, collaborate and generate collective actions to prevent and address all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of children online," members said in press release.

The report recommends that countries take immediate action, as no Government has developed fully effective protection systems.

Steps that protect children online include establishing a single national authority with ultimate responsibility for child online safety, as well as ensuring robust legislation is in place, among other measures.

The report also highlights the differences in Internet access depending on where young people live. Globally, there are more than two billion people under the age of 18. Around 71 per cent of youth are already online, according to [UNICEF](#) research, cited in

the report.

However, millions are still waiting to log on. Currently, 60 per cent of young Africans are not online but the number of users on the continent is growing by 20 per cent a year.

“In Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America, connectivity has not yet reached all

children. With the expansion of affordable broadband to these parts of the developing world, there is an urgent need to put in place measures to minimize the risks and threats to these children, while also allowing them to capitalize on all the benefits the digital world can bring to our societies,” the report said.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

One of the nasty, undesirable downsides of the technology revolution. Sadly, child-sex is still prevalent in Travel & Tourism. Predators have latched on to these new technologies, and become quite adept at using them.



SDG 10:

**Photo exhibition:
“Inequality and
Climate Change:
The Double Threat
to Life on Earth”**



A dilapidated ship sits on dry land in Sheikh Wali coastal village in the northeast of Lake Urmia. Sheikh Wali used to be a very popular tourist destination. Once the Lake Urmia dried up, the value of the surrounding lands was reduced, creating significant financial difficulties for the families who live there. Iran, May 2015. ©Solmaz Daryani.



SDG 10: Photo exhibition: “Inequality and Climate Change: The Double Threat to Life on Earth”

UNDP News, 12 September 2019 - UNDP organised Photoville, New York’s annual outdoor photo festival that showcases a cross-section of the world’s photographic community. It featured an exciting and thought-provoking selection of prize-winning international photographers who are presenting their work on the theme [*Inequality and Climate Change: The Double Threat to Life on Earth*](#).

The twin threats of climate change and rising inequality are challenging and unprecedented obstacles for our world, and they are deeply entwined. While almost no one will be immune to the increasingly savage effects of a warming planet, it’s the poor who are going to suffer most.

The opening night reception was attended by UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP BERA Director Ulrika Modeer, along with representatives of the Magnum Foundation, the Bronx Documentary Center, and the Alexia Foundation.

At the free Photoville panel discussion on 20 September photographers Felipe Fittipaldi and Johnny Miller joined National Geographic photo editor Jennifer Samuel, and UNDP policy specialists Cassie Flynn and Sameera Savarala as they discuss the need for and the challenges of conveying the double threat of global inequality and climate change through photography.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

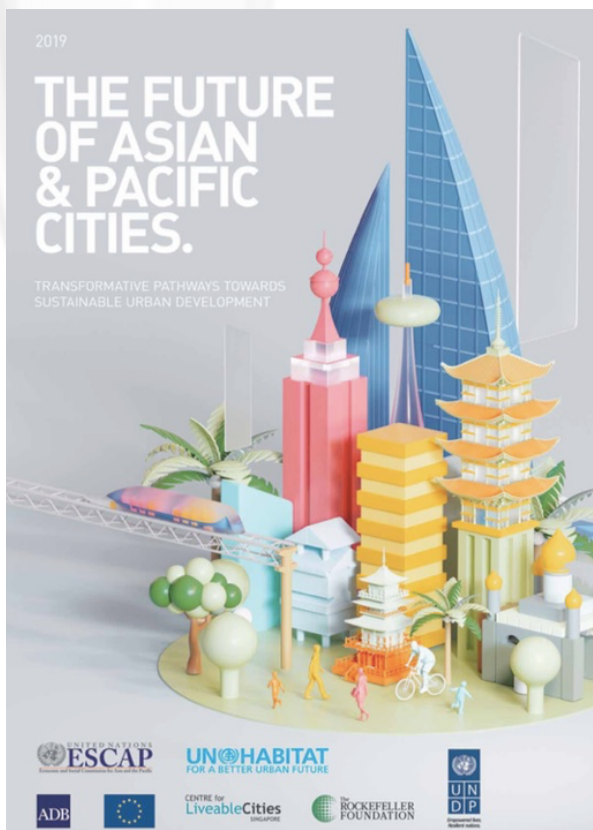
Exhibitions such as this should become regular fare in Travel & Tourism. They may shock industry stakeholders into realising what today’s “pristine, unspoiled destinations” may look like tomorrow.



SDG 11:

**Asia-Pacific cities
at the forefront
of the battle for
sustainability**

SDG 11: Asia-Pacific cities at the forefront of the battle for sustainability



Bangkok, 24 Oct 2019, (UNESCAP News) - More than 2.3 billion people in Asia-Pacific are now living in cities, and in 2019, the region became majority urban for the first time in history. According to the UN's recently launched The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities Report 2019, an additional 1.2 billion new urban residents by 2050 will have profound implications for the region's economy, society and environment – one which is already facing major urban development challenges caused by natural resource management, climate change, disaster risk and rising inequalities.

The report is available here: <https://www.unescap.org/publications/future-asian-and-pacific-cities-2019-transformative-pathways-towards-sustainable-urban>.

Some interesting points on cities in the region:

- Some of the region's most economically successful places – Ho Chi Minh City in Viet Nam, Shanghai in China and Mumbai in India – are located on highly vulnerable sites that are predicted to be under water by 2050

under business-as-usual scenarios. The threat of rising water is compounded in some of these cities that literally are sinking under their own weight in large part due to the overextraction of ground water.

- About 29% of the region's urban population lives in informal settlements, and up to 80% of people in South Asia and 65% of people from South-East Asia work in the informal economy.
- While the pace of urbanization will be slower than in decades past, UN estimates still indicate fairly rapid urbanization in Central, South, South-East Asia and the Pacific, a trend that can risk overwhelming cities' capacities to adequately plan for growth.
- South and South-East Asian countries that are following the conventional model of urban growth will also need to contend with the ramifications for urban resilience caused by more cars, more waste and more resource use.

The report makes the case that getting the essentials right in cities today – when planning lays a foundation; resilience guards against future risk; smart cities deploy the best technology for the job; and financing tools to help pay for it all – will be vital to adapt to the demands of tomorrow.

The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities Report was jointly developed by United Nations ESCAP and UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation and UNDP.

The following is the text of the Executive Summary:

The Asian and Pacific region became majority urban in 2019 for the first time in human history. With

more than 2.3 billion people in the region living in cities, the need for a sustainable urban future has never been greater. The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities is the third in a series of reports on urbanization in Asia and the Pacific. Unlike the report's previous two iterations, this report is intentionally forward-looking and charts 15 policy pathways that can guide future urbanization in the region in order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

While recognizing that the Asia-Pacific region is exceedingly diverse, ranging from small island developing States to powerful global economies, the report identifies four major development challenges across the region: natural resource management; climate change; disaster risk; and rising inequalities. These four overarching challenges are endemic to the region, from the spillover impacts of forced migration across Western Asia to the existential threat of sea level rise in the Pacific islands.

These challenges are woven throughout the report, which in turn identifies four aspects of city-making that organize the report's policy pathways: urban and territorial planning; urban resilience; smart and inclusive cities; and urban finance. Together, these competencies are the components of today's increasingly complex cities. Getting all of them right can help transition cities towards a sustainable and inclusive future, well positioned to weather the challenges and seize the opportunities of the next several decades – a period that will witness both heightened impacts of global climate change as well as the proliferation of exciting new technologies that will reshape how people live, work and play in cities.

THE FUTURE OF ASIAN & PACIFIC CITIES

"The addition of 1.2 billion new residents in Asia-Pacific cities between now and 2050 will have profound implications for the region's economy, society and environment."

The cities of 2030, 2050 and 2100 will be very different from today. They will be cities transformed: in their demographic composition, in their implementation of technology and in their wider ecological contexts. The challenges of building cities sustainable enough to meet the changing needs of the future will require new ways of thinking and working, as well as new kinds of multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships. Learning to ask new and better questions, and building new approaches to tackling old problems, will be the role of any stakeholder, private or public, looking to be part of the solutions to these challenges.

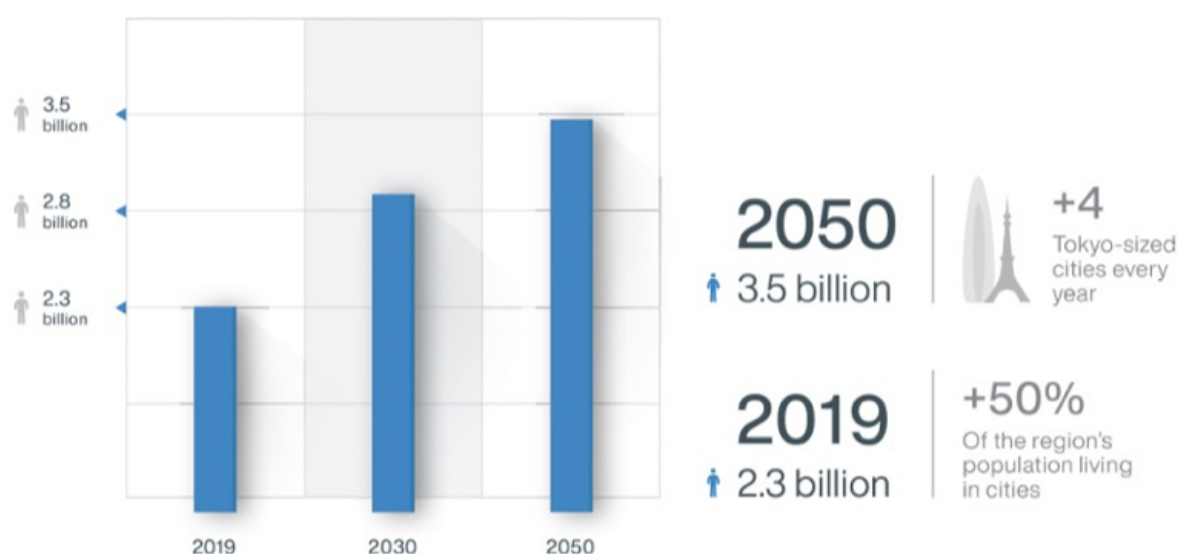
As presented here, the report makes the case for four priorities and four approaches to realize a sustainable urban future in Asia and the Pacific, each of which contain specific policy pathways. A sustainable future occurs when planning lays a foundation; resilience guards against future risk; smart cities deploy the best technology for the job; and financing tools help pay for it all. Getting these essentials right in cities today is vital in order to adapt to the demands of tomorrow.

The report opens with urban and territorial planning, the necessary prerequisite for creating a city's future vision. This first chapter contains an overview of the state of planning in the region, acknowledging recent successes in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and other Asian countries in areas such as strengthening local planning and developing national systems of cities, even as the region as a whole struggles to make effective planning systems a cornerstone of national policy, as China did in 2018. It notes the Asian and Pacific cities that have risen to the top of global liveability

rankings and the peer influence of planning education and institutes in Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. Chapter 1 offers three policy pathways.

In the light of the uncertain environmental, social and economic future facing Asian and Pacific cities, the report then turns to urban resilience, or a city's ability to respond to shocks and stresses. Chapter 2 highlights the extensive resilience activities that have taken place thus far in the region, from the number of cities that have tasked high-ranking city officials with this cross-cutting topic to those that have prepared resilience strategies and climate action plans. The chapter scans the major shocks and stresses likely to afflict the region, from natural disasters, such as typhoons and earthquakes, to economic reliance on single industries in the face of the "Fourth Industrial Revolution", to an ageing population set to follow the greying trends of Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Figure 1
Projected urban population in Asia and the Pacific, 2019 to 2050



Source: United Nations, 2019.

The twenty-first century's digital revolution has undeniable implications for cities, which are captured in chapter 3 on smart and inclusive cities. Asian and Pacific cities have been at the forefront of adopting smart city key performance indicators and plans, as has been done in Goris, Armenia, combined with new technologies to manage city services, as evidenced by new forms of collaboration, such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. The region is a hub of both tech-savvy citizens, characterized by high levels of smartphone penetration, and centres for high-tech industries, such as the start-up culture of Bengaluru, India's answer to Silicon Valley. However, the chapter also acknowledges the potential limitations and drawbacks of an over-reliance on technology, from a failure to address the digital divide to the need to regulate the use of technology in order to protect citizens' privacy. The chapter makes the following policy pathway recommendations:

Finally, the report acknowledges that no city will succeed without the ability to finance its development and infrastructure needs sustainably. To that end, the report concludes with Chapter 4, which is focused on urban finance. While finance is a complex world with potentially endless possibilities, the report takes a practical approach by narrowing down the key types of finance that are most likely to offer sustainable and inclusive solutions for the region's diverse economies and governance structures, which influence the degree to which cities can raise revenue. Specifically, the chapter analyses the potential of public-private partnerships (PPPs), targeted environmental levies or charges, land value capture mechanisms, municipal pooled financing and climate funding sources in cities as diverse as Suva in Fiji, Tra Vinh in Viet Nam and Kolkata in India. The chapter concludes by offering the following policy pathways:

To realize the future vision of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities will require focused efforts on the thematic priorities in this report. The approaches to which all urban stakeholders must contribute are clear:

- 1. Plan the foundations of a sustainable future.** All cities must strengthen their capacities, adopt inclusive planning processes and develop long-term spatial and investment plans that effectively consider urban growth, quality-of-life goals, resource implications and smart approaches.
- 2. Guard against future risks.** To ensure sustainable growth and development, it is critical that cities adopt resilience strategies that break down governance siloes to improve policy efficacy, provide opportunities to scale up nature-based infrastructure solutions, and engage the creativity of the urban poor as solution providers to guard against potential shocks and stresses, including natural disasters.
- 3. Capitalize on frontier technologies to develop people-centred smart cities.** City leaders must develop smart cities road maps across different urban systems that capture the innovation of technological entrepreneurs, bridge the digital divide, support smart mobility and include the perspectives of local stakeholders, while ensuring their safety.
- 4. Mobilize financing to invest in sustainable urban solutions.** Local governments must access or adopt innovative investment tools, such as land value capture instruments, PPPs and environmental user fee models. These can serve as important levers to catalyse economically impactful capital investments that create long-term value for citizens, businesses and the city as a whole.

Taken together, these policy pathways comprise a guidebook for future urbanization in Asia and the Pacific. While not every policy pathway will prove applicable to every city in the region – a near impossibility given the size, scale and diversity found in Asia and the Pacific – this collection of policy pathways endeavours to offer the best summation of cutting-edge urban thinking as the region's cities are poised to enter the critical final decade to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. If the 2019 demographic milestone that has made Asia and the Pacific a majority urban region is a potential tipping point, then this report and these policy pathways are designed to tip the scales in the right direction towards creating sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities for all.

In this context, the report can be used to launch a dialogue in the city. If there are no mechanisms for stakeholders to come together and discuss the local urban future, one should be created, such as a local urban forum, an online platform to discuss the city or a media campaign that promotes civic conversation. No city will fare well with a top-down, go-it-alone approach. To that end, this report will serve as a vital road map to the next decade of Asia-Pacific urbanization, from booming intermediate cities to ageing legacy cities, and serve as a reference for how to shape urbanization while heading into the crucial 2020- 2030 window.

The depth of these concepts can at first appear overwhelming in their scope, but this report endeavours to cut through the noise of sustainable urban development and focus on the four major areas that cities must get right if they wish to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda in the coming decade.

Wherever a city is on its progression, it is never too late to embark on the path to a sustainable city.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Cities may be the “engines of growth” but “engines” are also the primary sources of toxic exhaust and emissions. Many Asia Pacific cities are in a mess, thanks to over-development, poor law enforcement, corruption, amongst many other factors. Fixing these problems is going to be a long and painful undertaking. Travel & Tourism can certainly be a part of the solution.



SDG 11:

**Cities: a 'cause of
and solution to'
climate change**



© UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhahn Melen, a slum area in the middle of Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé.



SDG 11: Cities: a 'cause of and solution to' climate change

United Nations (UN News Center), 18 October 2019 - Cities around the world are the “main cause of climate change” but can also offer a part of the solution to reducing the harmful greenhouses gases that are causing global temperatures to rise according to UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Ms. Sharif will be joining world leaders at United Nations headquarters in New York next week at the [Climate Action Summit](#) convened by the UN

[Secretary-General António Guterres](#).

[UN-Habitat](#) is supporting one of the nine action tracks designated by the Secretary-General “Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action” under the leadership of the Governments of Kenya and Turkey.

UN News asked the UN-Habitat Executive Director what role cities should play in slowing down climate change.



UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif (2nd left) with women she met during her visit to a new UN-Habitat settlement house in Turkana, Kenya. UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

Why are cities an important part of tackling climate change?

Over half of the world's population lives in cities, and this is likely to increase to over two thirds by 2030. Cities use a large proportion of the world's energy supply and are responsible for around 70 per cent of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions which trap heat and result in the warming of Earth.

Levels of carbon dioxide, the most prevalent greenhouse gas, are at the highest levels ever, mostly due to the burning of fossil fuels for energy.

The huge carbon footprint created by our cities results from poor planning and layout. Low-density suburban sprawl with little public transport and homes far from work and shops means more cars on the roads emitting carbon dioxide. In addition, most of the ever-increasing number of buildings still use fossil fuels for their energy needs.

Cities, while being the main cause of climate change, are also the most affected. Most cities are situated near water putting them at risk from rising sea levels and storms. However, given their role as hubs of innovation and creativity, we also look to cities to provide us with answers. Energy, building, mobility and planning solutions and innovations in cities have the potential to deliver major emission cuts.

How can cities contribute to reducing climate change?

Huge gains, in terms of reducing harmful gases, can be made by changing how we plan, build, manage and power our cities and towns. Well designed, compact, walkable cities with good public transport greatly reduce our per capita carbon footprint and are key to achieving many of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) of which climate action is a key part.

We urgently need to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide produced by our homes and offices by moving to zero carbon buildings, which do not use any carbon for heating, lighting, cooling or electricity. They can manage this by becoming more energy efficient and using renewable energy sources.

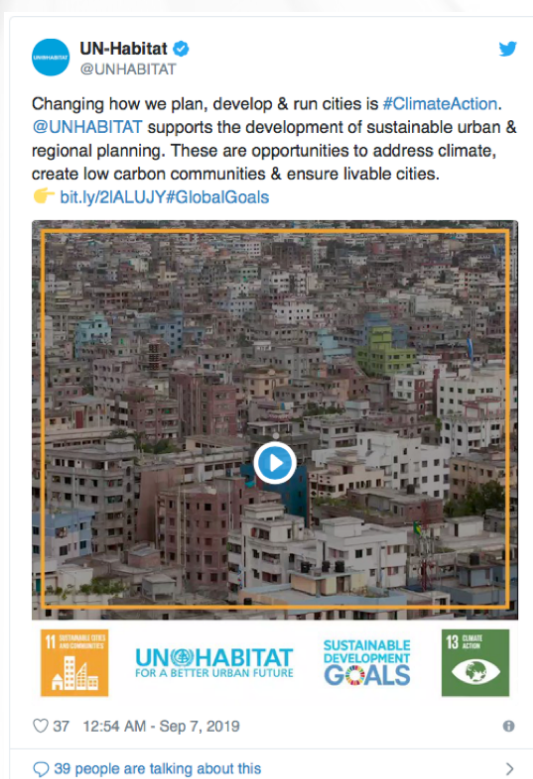
Our expanding cities, towns and villages can create buildings and infrastructure that are highly energy efficient and designed with the local climate in mind using innovative technologies. For example, most of the new buildings in the next 30 years will be in Africa and Asia which should move away from air conditioning and maximize natural ventilation.

To power our cities we must generate clean, resource-efficient energy and move away from fossil fuels. Since 2009, the cost of renewable electricity has dropped both for solar and wind power and will keep going down as more of us use them.

The extraction and manufacturing of materials for buildings such as steel and concrete and construction processes produce carbon dioxide so using low carbon infrastructure will also slash emissions.

Transport also produces significant amounts of emissions. Cities need should not be planned around cars but people and should invest in zero-carbon public transport, footpaths and protected bike lanes. Electric public transport, powered through renewable energy could prevent 250 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 2030, as well as improving people's health, and lowering noise and air pollution in our cities.

Organic matter emits methane as it decomposes, which is a much more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide in the short-term, so it's key to minimize organic waste by improving waste management methods and to take steps



to capture and use the methane emissions from landfills.

And in addition to the long-term solutions that require a change in the way our economies operate, we can all make personal choices to alter our lifestyle and consumption patterns.

Climate change is already happening and affecting cities, how can cities prepare for this new reality?

The effects of the recent changes in the planet's climate, as well as expected future climate risks have pushed about a thousand cities worldwide to declare a climate emergency.

Climate adaptation, whereby cities adjust to actual or expected future climate, is a sound investment. This can include early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure and housing, and investments in water resources. The [2019 Global Commission on Adaptation Report](#) shows that investing US\$1.8 trillion in climate adaptation can generate US\$7.1 trillion in total benefits.

Resilient shelter will only work if we have resilient communities. I have recently met the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, and other world leaders and we are committed to working together to ensure we build back better. Our focus on “Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action” is part of the larger UN-Habitat Strategic Plan to build climate resilience worldwide.”

To what extent are the poorest and most vulnerable people most impacted by climate change in cities?

The least well off in our cities and communities will bear the brunt of climate change in the form of floods, landslides and extreme heat. This is because they often live in inadequate housing in fragile locations like mountain sides or flood-plains, with no risk-reducing infrastructure such as functioning storm drains. Globally, there are an estimated 880 million people living in informal settlements that are highly vulnerable to climate change.

We are urging governments to plan better and build back better.

How different are the challenges faced by cities in developing countries compared to those in the developed world?

The whole world is threatened by climate change but developing countries are often hit the hardest. They often do not have the capacity to face extreme weather events and have insufficient governance frameworks to manage climate challenges. Cities in developing countries also face barriers in accessing climate finance including a lack of focus on cities as a strategic priority. Ultimately climate change does not respect borders – everyone will all be affected and we all need to act together to stop it now.



*An informal settlement in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.
UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu*

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM


This interview is a veritable catalogue of everything that has been done wrong in urban development over the last century. Cities such as Bangkok, once known as the “Venice of the East”, became traffic-choked urban sprawls. The path to future solutions must include some introspective soul-searching about the reasons for the catastrophic mistakes.



SDG 11:

**European
Commission
launches new edition
of the Cultural
and Creative Cities
Monitor 2019**

SDG 11: European Commission launches new edition of the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019

29 Indicators		9 Dimensions		3 main facets
1	Sights & landmarks		1.1 Cultural Venues & Facilities	Cultural Vibrancy
2	Museums & art galleries			
3	Cinemas			
4	Concert & music halls			
5	Theatres			
6	Tourist overnight stays		1.2 Cultural Participation & Attractiveness	Cultural Vibrancy
7	Museum visitors			
8	Cinema attendance			
9	Satisfaction with cultural facilities			
10	Jobs in arts, culture & entertainment		2.1 Creative & Knowledge-based Jobs	Creative Economy
11	Jobs in media & communication			
12	Jobs in other creative sectors			
13	ICT patent applications		2.2 Intellectual Property & Innovation	
14	Community design applications			
15	Jobs in new arts, culture & entertainment enterprises		2.3 New Jobs in Creative Sectors	
16	Jobs in new media & communication enterprises			
17	Jobs in new enterprises in other creative sectors			
18	Graduates in arts & humanities		3.1 Human Capital & Education	Enabling Environment
19	Graduates in ICT			
20	Average appearances in university rankings			
21	Foreign graduates		3.2 Openness, Tolerance & Trust	
22	Foreign-born population			
23	Tolerance of foreigners			
24	Integration of foreigners			
25	People trust		3.3 Local & International Connections	
26	Accessibility to passenger flights			
27	Accessibility by road			
28	Accessibility by rail		3.4 Quality of Governance	
29	Quality of governance			

European Commission (Press Release) , 8 October 2019 - Brussels, Today, the European Commission released the second edition of its [Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor](#), a tool designed to benchmark and boost the creative and cultural potential of European cities, which is vital to driving economic growth and social cohesion.

After the success of the first edition in 2017, the 2019 release presents an updated portrait of Europe's cultural and creative richness in an extended sample of 190 cities in 30 countries, including Norway and Switzerland. The Monitor was created by the [Joint Research Centre](#), the Commission's science and knowledge service, and is accompanied by a revamped online tool which enables cities to add their own data for more in-depth coverage and benchmarking.

Tibor Navracscics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, Sport, and responsible for the Joint Research Centre said: "The first edition of the Cultural and Creative City Monitor proved to be a success, enabling cities across Europe to boost development by better harnessing their cultural assets. I am confident that the second, expanded edition will be equally useful for city authorities, the cultural and creative sectors, and citizens themselves. The Monitor is an excellent example of how the Joint Research Centre can empower policy-makers and help improve citizens' quality of life through concrete, evidence-based tools."

Key findings of the second edition include:

- Paris (France), Copenhagen (Denmark), Florence (Italy) and Lund (Sweden) rank top in their respective population groups, with Lund being a ‘new entry’ among the top cities compared to the 2017 edition.
- Jobs in the cultural and creative sectors have been growing particularly in cities in the North and East of Europe, with an average yearly increase of around 12% in Budapest (Hungary), Tallinn (Estonia), Vilnius (Lithuania), Krakow and Wroclaw (Poland) and Tartu (Estonia).
- Macro-regional performance shows that Northern Europe does best. Western Europe leads on ‘Cultural Vibrancy’, very closely followed by both Northern and Southern Europe. Western Europe is also the top performer on ‘Creative Economy’, with northern Europe coming close behind. The best job creation dynamics are found, on average, in Northern and Eastern European cities.
- In the analysed city-sample, cultural venues are generally a 30-minute walk away (or just 5 minutes by bicycle) from where European citizens live and are highly accessible by public transportation.
- Future EU Cohesion Policy funds could further support socio-economic convergence and territorial cohesion by focusing on creative jobs and innovation, transport connections and governance – the areas where the biggest gaps remain.
- Leading cultural and creative cities are more prosperous: there is a positive and significant association between the Cultural and Creative Cities Index scores and the cities’ income levels.

The first edition of the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor has inspired local governments across Europe. For instance, Madrid (Spain) used evidence included in the Monitor to understand which cultural and creative assets, such as monuments, museums, cinemas, theatres and art galleries, the Spanish capital should focus its branding strategy on to improve its international ranking. As a result, Madrid published a new leaflet “Madrid - Facts and Figures 2018” promoting the city’s rich cultural venues. The Monitor also helped Győr (Hungary) analyse future investment needs and provided evidence to support the city’s decision to adopt a 2019-2028 cultural and creative economy strategy which identifies key measures to be implemented such as the creation of creative spaces for artists and a design incubation centre. Umeå (Sweden) used the tool to raise awareness among local stakeholders of the role cultural investments have to play in fostering sustainable growth.

Background

Launched in July 2017, the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor uses quantitative and qualitative information to measure cities’ cultural and creative potential. The Monitor’s quantitative information is captured in 29 individual indicators relevant to nine policy dimensions, which reflect three major facets of a city’s cultural and socio-economic vitality:

1. “Cultural Vibrancy” measures a city’s cultural ‘pulse’ in terms of cultural infrastructure and participation in culture.
2. “Creative Economy” captures the extent to which the cultural and creative sectors contribute to a city’s economy in terms of employment and innovation.
3. “Enabling Environment” identifies the tangible and intangible assets that help cities attract creative talent and stimulate cultural engagement.

New features of the 2019 edition include:

- 22 European cities from 14 Member States have been added, taking the total to 190;
- New sources of web data (OpenStreetMap) have been used to better grasp Europe’s cultural vibrancy in a more dynamic way;

- Novel findings from the spatial analysis of cultural venues help to put the social inclusion perspective at the core of the research alongside economic wealth;

The Monitor supports EU policy on culture: it was a basis for the economic impact assessment underpinning the [2018 'New European Agenda for Culture'](#), and is one of the actions included in the ['European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage'](#) to help ensure that the [European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018](#) has a lasting impact.

The Monitor is expected to be updated every two years.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

This is another example of Best Practises gaining ground worldwide, and being recognised and rewarded. Certainly, it is a step in the right direction, but also faces the risk of the cycle repeating itself. The Cultural and Creative Cities will then attract more business. The numbers will grow. Then the management problems will set in. And the cycle will turn. A different kind of “circular economy” perhaps.

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12:

**Is the World on
Track to Cut Food
Loss and Waste in
Half by 2030?**



Too much food spoils or is thrown out rather than eaten. Flickr/EarthFix



SDG 12: Is the World on Track to Cut Food Loss and Waste in Half by 2030?

WRI News, 23 September 2019 - In 2015, countries committed to Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, which calls for the world to halve food loss and waste by 2030. Making significant reductions in food loss and waste is not just nice to have; it is essential if the world is to achieve the reductions required in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create a sustainable food system for the future.

With just 11 years left to achieve the SDGs, a [new report](#) prepared on behalf of Champions 12.3— a coalition of leaders across government, business and civil society dedicated to helping the world achieve Target 12.3—assesses whether the world is on track to cut food loss and waste in half.

The bottom line? While some progress has been made, particularly by companies, efforts across the board need to be boosted before SDG 12.3 has any hope of being met with the urgency demanded by the climate crisis.

Business Shows Progress on Food Loss & Waste

The new report recommends a three-step process for tackling food loss and waste: (1) Set a reduction target aligned with SDG 12.3, (2) measure food loss and waste to identify hotspots

and monitor progress, and (3) act boldly to reduce food loss and waste. Researchers evaluated progress against these Target-Measure-Act criteria. This process is applicable to both businesses and governments.

The report finds that out of the top 50 largest food companies in the world (by revenue), over two-thirds have set targets to reduce food loss and waste, more than 40% are measuring their food loss and waste, and just over one-third have active food waste reduction programs in place.

Announcements at a Champions 12.3 event in New York, where the report was launched, demonstrate this current momentum among businesses. The Sustainable Rice Platform, a multi-stakeholder collaboration representing some of the largest rice producers in the world, announced that it has committed to implementing the Target-Measure-Act approach and working with its members to halve on-farm and near-farm rice losses by 2030.

Despite the progress businesses have made toward SDG 12.3, more need to publicly report their food waste inventories and work with their suppliers to reduce their food loss and waste. (Public reporting is critical to building trust, verifying progress and developing

accountability.) When businesses work with suppliers and take a whole supply chain approach to reducing food loss and waste, they can multiply their impact and ensure food loss and waste is reduced from farm to plate. One initiative that will increase the number of companies working with their suppliers is the 10x20x30 initiative. Ten of the world's largest global food retailers and providers (AEON, Ahold Delhaize, IKEA Food, Kroger, Metro Group, Pick n Pay, The Savola Group, Sodexo, Tesco, and Walmart) will each encourage 20 of their own suppliers to join the effort to Target-Measure-Act, with the goal of reducing their food loss and waste by 50% by 2030.

Governments Need to Build on Existing Efforts

The analysis suggests governments are falling behind on achieving SDG 12.3. Around 50% of the world's population lives in a country that has set an explicit target in line with SDG 12.3. This may seem like an impressive figure, but progress has stalled: Only one country, the United Arab Emirates, has set a target in line with SDG 12.3 in the past 12 months.

The outlook for governments measuring and acting at scale shows a similar lack of urgency or progress. Governments representing around 12% of the population measure food loss and waste within their borders. Fifteen percent of the world's population lives in a country that is pursuing national level initiatives at scale to reduce food loss and waste.

However, there are some signs of progress. The number of countries launching public-private partnerships dedicated to reducing food loss and waste—which are a key way to engage actors from across the supply chain—is growing. Most recently, Mexico announced the development of a partnership to bring together organizations across the supply chain to measure and reduce food loss and waste, and recover surplus produce to sell and donate to those in need. South Africa is developing a similar initiative, the first of its kind in Africa. More governments will need to follow suit to have a chance at achieving SDG 12.3.

Don't Throw This Opportunity Away

Not acting to reduce food loss and waste is a missed opportunity for business and governments. Reducing food loss and waste can help businesses and households save money, and help governments achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals. Reducing food loss and waste is also an overlooked strategy for helping countries meet their commitments to the Paris Agreement on climate change. More countries should therefore include food loss and waste reduction in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as they enhance them between now and the end of 2020.

There are only 11 years remaining before the SDGs are due to be met. Now is the moment to act boldly to reduce food loss and waste.

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Yes, this IS achievable. Travel & Tourism has already put its shoulder to the wheel. But many hundred million tourists are still waiting to be unleashed. Can the volume of waste go down if the overall consumption levels continue to rise in line with market demand. Again, where will be the cut-off point?



SDG 13:

**Broad climate
'movement' has
begun, but still a
long way to go**



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe Secretary-General António Guterres visits a school affected by Cyclone Idai in the Munhava neighborhood in Beira, Mozambique. (25 June 2019)



SDG 13: Broad climate ‘movement’ has begun, but still a long way to go

United Nations (UN News Center), 3 October 2019 - When it comes to the climate emergency, “we have a long way to go. But the movement has begun,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres declared in a widely-distributed opinion piece on Thursday, reaffirming his concern over the threats posed by a warming world, unless more urgent action is taken.

In his op-ed, published by a consortium of more than 170 news outlets under the banner Covering Climate Now, which has an audience of hundreds of millions, he recalled that “on the eve of the September UN [Climate Action Summit](#), young women and men around the world mobilized by the millions and told global leaders: ‘You are failing us.’”

“They are right,” he lamented.

“The science is undeniable” [Mr. Guterres](#) continued, and while some come to understand the climate crisis through data, those suffering its effects “can simply look out the window.”

Last week, as world leaders convened for the start of the [74th Session](#) of the UN General Assembly, talks kicked off with the first-ever summit devoted to [Climate Action](#), for which Mr. Guterres urged delegates to come with concrete plans for achieving carbon neutrality and slashing emissions, rather than “beautiful speeches”.

Meanwhile, millions of the world’s youth mobilized in protest of government inaction, for the largest climate demonstration in history.

September’s Climate Action Summit aimed to “serve as a springboard” to fast-track Member States “to crucial 2020 deadlines established by the [Paris Agreement](#)”, the Secretary-General explained.

“And many leaders - from many countries and sectors - stepped up”, he added, noting that more than 70 countries committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, while 100 cities, including several of the world’s largest, pledged to do the same.

The UN chief's challenge for States to act, was fruitful; an additional 70 countries announced intentions to boost national plans; Small Island Developing States promised to move to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030; countries across the globe vowed to plant more than 11 billion trees; and some of the world's richest pledged to invest in carbon-neutral portfolios. Mr. Guterres stressed that "these steps are important - but they are not sufficient."

He said he will continue to encourage more action for climate solutions now that the Summit has concluded. Radical change will not happen overnight, he writes, and to "avoid the climate cliff", we must gain momentum in responding to science-cutting emissions by 45 per cent by the year 2020,

and live in a carbon-neutral world, come 2050.

A follow up UN Climate [conference](#) in Santiago, Chile, set for early December, will be an opportunity to hold the private sector and local authorities' accountable for commitments made at the General Assembly, Mr. Guterres said.

At the current rate of global heating, we face an increase of "at least 3 degrees Celsius" in global temperature by the end of the century. "I will not be there, but my granddaughters will", he said. "I refuse to be an accomplice in the destruction of their one and only home."

"We have a long way to go." he cautioned. "But the movement has begun."

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

"I will not be there, but my granddaughters will. I refuse to be an accomplice in the destruction of their one and only home." Great words by the UN Secretary-General. Many of us in the same age-group feel the same way. The past generation made some horrendous mistakes. The future generation will inherit this mess.



SDG 13:

**Equator Prize
at UN Climate
Summit highlights
indigenous and
local solutions**



Equator Prize Winner 2019, Awajún Wampis indigenous group from Condorcanqui, Amazonas region, Peru (Photo: @EquatorInitiative)



SDG 13: Equator Prize at UN Climate Summit highlights indigenous and local solutions

United Nations, UNDP News, 16 September 2019 - Lineup of Oona Chaplin, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Achim Steiner and music by Al-Sarah and the Nubatones will honor local nature-based solutions for climate change and sustainable development.

This year's Equator Prize Award Ceremony will honour 22 outstanding indigenous and local groups from 16 countries, each showcasing innovative, nature-based solutions for tackling climate change, development, and poverty challenges. The event highlights concrete responses and practical solutions to the climate crisis by indigenous peoples and local communities all over the world.

The high-profile gala, associated with the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit, will feature award presentations, videos on winning initiatives, community statements and government commitments, as well as musical and cultural performances.

Countries featured in the ceremony include: Australia, Benin, Brazil (2 winners), Cameroon, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Federated States of Micronesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru (4 winners), Tanzania, Vanuatu, USA (3 winners from Hawaii and California).

For a full list of winners please visit: <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/2019/06/02/ep-2019-meet-the-winners/>

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

An amazing list of prize winners, each one of extensive value to the Travel & Tourism as partners and collaborators. Also well worth adding such categories of awards in the industry line-up too.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16:

**Climate emergency
'a new danger'
to peace, youth
activists hear**

13 CLIMATE ACTION

UN Photo/Ariana Lindquist Students from the UN International School in the UNHQ Visitors' Plaza after attending the Peace Bell Ceremony. Some of these students will be taking part in Friday's Global Climate Strike March in New York City.



SDG 16: Climate emergency 'a new danger' to peace, youth activists hear

United Nations (UN News Center), 20 September 2019 - Among the efforts to build a sustainably peaceful world, “urgent climate action is needed” to curb environmental threats to all our well-being and security, the Secretary General told the annual [peace gathering](#) in New York, addressing a largely youthful crowd.

Each 21 September, the General Assembly-mandated [International Day of Peace](#) is observed, devoted to “strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples”, with this year’s theme spotlighting

climate action as key to that aim.

“Today peace faces a new danger: the climate emergency, which threatens our security, our livelihoods and our lives”, [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) said in his message.

Speaking to some 700 high school and college student leaders, he explained that peace “is not only about peace among people, but peace between people and the planet”, lamenting that “we have been at war” with nature.



UN Photo/Kim Haughton

Climate change has posed clear threats to international peace and security, with natural disasters displacing three times as many people as conflicts; forcing millions to flee their homes in search of refuge.

Growing tensions over resources, mass movements of people, and endangered food security are escalating and “affecting every country on every continent” according to the UN.

On Friday morning Mr. Guterres commenced celebrations by ringing the Peace Bell at Headquarters in New York, and observing a minute of silence in the UN’s Peace Garden.

He was joined by the UN Messengers for Peace, Yo-Yo Ma and Midori Goto, and hundreds of high school and college student guests, who represent the growing number of young people stepping up to meet the climate challenge - close to half a million world-wide the UN estimates.

This year, the UN’s recognition of the Day showcased the power of young voices by hosting a Peace Student Observance - a platform for young people to share projects they have undertaken to nurse a healthy planet while promoting peace.

To mobilize ambition, the Secretary-General is convening a Climate Action Summit on 23

September, with “concrete and realistic plans to accelerate action” as urged by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, and put forward ambitious plans outlined in the landmark [Paris Agreement](#). A special [climate summit for youth](#) on Saturday, the first of its kind, will bring young leaders and innovators together to further address the climate emergency.

The shift toward a safer and greener future “will be backed by passionate voices of young women and men around the world, who understand their future is at stake” Mr. Guterres said in the 100-Day countdown to the International Day back in June, deeming this challenge “the battle of our lives.”

“We are at war with nature” the UN chief said, “nature doesn’t forgive, and nature is striking back.”

From farming, to how we mobilize ourselves, to power supply, we need “huge transformations” the Secretary-General urged.

Commending the young attendees, he said: “Your leadership is essential, to make sure that my generation does the right thing... Good luck in your very committed engagement towards peace among people, and people with mother nature.”

IMPORTANCE TO TRAVEL & TOURISM

Yes, eventually it’s all about peace-building. Growing tensions over resources, mass movements of people, and endangered food security are escalating and “affecting every country on every continent” according to the UN. Today, Travel & Tourism is only focussed on plastics, food waste and other comfort-zone solutions. It has a long way to go, but not much time in which to cover the distance.

