



INTRODUCTION TO THE UN SDGS

UN SDG OPEN PEDAGOGY FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

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THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This introduction provides an overview of the UNSDGs' origins.

A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

The UNSDGs represent a comprehensive plan to achieve a more just and sustainable future for all.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

Education is critical in supporting the UNSDG agenda and creating positive change.



THE ROAD TO THE UN SDGS

2012 – Rio +20 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

- The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, acknowledged a lack of progress in achieving sustainable development and emphasized the role of good governance and integrated planning in addressing this challenge.
- Almost immediately after, various stakeholders began to plan a new agenda for sustainable development.
- In 2013, the General Assembly set up an Open Working Group with 70 member states sharing 30 seats to develop a proposal on the SDGs.

Developing the UN SDGs

- Engaged over 2 million people in 88 countries, including thematic consultations, national-level activities, and the My World Survey, which collected over 7 million online and 5 million offline votes.
- The Open Working Group proposed the 17 UNSDG goals and 169 targets after 13 sessions.



Developing the UN SDGs

- Goals and targets were refined and finalized through 7 more rounds of negotiations.
- The UNSDGs were designed using principles of good governance, including accountability, transparency, and open participation in decision-making, to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive global development agenda.
- In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE UN SDGS



Key Principles of the UN SDGs

PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY, PEACE, AND PARTNERSHIP

The pillars of the UNSDGs represent the social, environmental, and economic aspects of progress for all life forms on Earth, emphasizing the need for a balanced and holistic approach to sustainable development.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The UNSDGs emphasize the importance of responsible leadership and active engagement in both the public and private sectors to achieve sustainable development.

Key Principles of the UN SDGs

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

The UNSDGs recognize the complex and interconnected nature of natural and social systems, where changes in one system can have far-reaching effects on others.

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

The UNSDGs prioritize fairness and justice for future generations, ensuring that children can grow up in a healthy, well-educated, and sustainable world.

A Holistic Approach

Social Inequalities

- The UNSDGs address a range of social inequalities, including poverty, hunger, health, education, and gender equality, with the aim of creating a more just and inclusive world.

Natural Environment

- The UNSDGs also focus on protecting and restoring the natural environment, addressing issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable resource management.

Social and Economic Sustainability

- The UNSDGs promote sustainable economic development and social progress, with a focus on creating resilient communities, sustainable infrastructure, and responsible consumption and production.

17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 Targets

The 17 Goals

1. Hover over the Goal.

2. Select "More Info"

3. Select "Targets and Indicators" or "Progress and Info" to explore.



THE ROLE OF EDUCATION



The Role of Education

- There is strong evidence of the importance of education and learning in supporting the agenda, which is where we come in as educators.
- Education is associated with increased environmental and cultural awareness, concern, and in some contexts, advocacy and action.
- The transformation needed for a cleaner, greener planet requires integrative, innovative and creative thinking, cultivated jointly by schools, governments, civil society organizations and companies.

Education Supports the UN SDGs Through Two Approaches:

BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

- Education facilitates changes in values, world views, and behavior at the individual and community level, as well as society as a whole.
- Ex: The idea that reducing food waste and energy consumption is important for sustainability and that people can reduce food waste and conserve energy at home.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGENCY

- Education develops competencies, critical learning, knowledge and skills required to address complex sustainability issues.
- Ex: How to create a sustainable school or a carbon-neutral city.

RESOURCES



For Educators

- [United Nations](#): Student resources to learn more about each SDG
- [UNESCO](#): Numerous pedagogical ideas for each SDG
- [Our World in Data](#): SDG tracker to increase awareness of world progress for each SDG and to improve students' data literacy of global issues

References

- [Sustainable Development: a strategy for people, planet, and prosperity](#) in UNESCO's Education for People and Planet (Introduction, pgs. 1-15)
- [The 17 Goals](#) from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- [Nations United](#) documentary on GuideDoc