



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Sustainable Development Goals

What are they?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the only global Agenda for sustainable development that has been agreed upon by the public, private, and social sectors. They were agreed upon in September 2015 by the 193 signatory states at the United Nations General Assembly. They are, therefore, the first Agenda of world governance organized and built with a legitimate and multistakeholder process. The SDGs have, in this regard, the capacity to act on the most challenging issues of humanity, driving a joint effort in developing global prosperity. Unlike its predecessors (the Millennium Development Goals), the SDGs' Agenda is directed at the developed and developing world, is more comprehensive in terms of goals, covering numerous economic, social, and environmental areas, and appeals to the participation of all agents of society.

The SDGs came into effect on January 1st, 2016, through the UN's motion, "[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)".

This global agenda comprises **17 goals that unfold into 169 targets and 232 indicators**. It aims at promoting sustainable development through goals of eradicating poverty and hunger (SDG#1 and #2), promoting good health and education (SDG#3 and #4), gender equality (SDG#5), access to clean water and sanitation (SDG#6), access to affordable and clean energy (SDG#7), promoting economic growth, economic prosperity, and industrial and technological development (SDG#8 and #9), equal opportunities and equity (SDG#10), sustainable cities (SDG#11), sustainable consumption and production (SDG#12), climate action (SDG#13), protecting the oceans and sea life (SDG#14), protecting life on land (SDG#15), peace, safety, and strong institutions (SDG#16), and solid partnerships for prosperity (SDG#17).





What is so special about this Agenda?

The 2030 Agenda is about the most challenging problems of society. It is, therefore, an agenda that touches on “wicked problems.” In this regard, the problems addressed by this Agenda are systemic, have no concrete resolution, have multiple origins and connections, and can be navigated through but never solved in their entirety. They demand partnerships for their solving (for example, SDG#1 – Eradicating poverty) which can never come about without the joint efforts of various participants. In this way, the 2030 Agenda is a path to be laid out with the participation and partnerships between everyone and can only be met with the active role of all economic and social agents. It is a set of particular goals with specific and achievable targets and offers a roadmap for action and a common destination. However, the way to be charted and its governance are mixed and the result of a free dialogue between agents of society. By being a voluntary agenda, it has no force of law, which has made its implementation more challenging.

Being an agenda that acts on systemic problems, its goals are intrinsically connected and cannot be pursued individually, which can generate positive spillovers or negative tradeoffs between the different goals. Accordingly, the companies (and any organization) should (while addressing a goal) consider the positive and negative effects of that goal on the remaining 17 they might impact on. This exercise, called nexus approach, can boost the transformative and systemic power of the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda represents a change towards the concepts of sustainable development that precede it. The concept of sustainable development was first defined as one that seeks to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the current generation without compromising the future generations’ capacity to fulfill their own needs and aspirations, under the terms of the Brundtland Report, called “Our Common Future,” and published in 1987 by the UN’s World Commission on Environment and Development. Elkington later linked it to the triple “P” (Elkington, 1999), which covers the economic, social, and environmental components (Planet, People, and Profit). With the universal agreement that the SDGs represent, we pass an agenda with 5 priorities and five “P’s,” adding Peace and Partnerships to the previous ones. These characterize not only the UN (promoting organization) but also the way these goals are achieved, which can only be met through Peace and solid institutions and Partnerships, an essential implementation mechanism due to the complex and universal nature of the 2030 Agenda.



In addition to these five principles, the SDGs’ great motto and main tenet is centered on the mission of “leave no one behind,” a commitment that, in the aftermath of COVID-19 on the 2030 goals, can work as a veritable plan of global development. As referred to in the preamble to “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”: “We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey [the SDGs], we pledge that no one will be left behind.” (2015)

The SDGs and the efforts outlined around them are a unique opportunity to build a new society, finally, change the course of history, and mark the end of some of humanity’s systemic issues.

Reference:

Elkington, J. (1999). *Cannibals with Forks: The Triple Bottom Line of 21st Century Business* | Wiley.

We have the resources, the technology, and the motivated agents for this change to occur. In this regard, the only thing necessary is more understanding of the challenge at hand, coordinated action, and transforming intentions into action. For this, the goals and targets of the SDGs must be known and incorporated into all the activities of the various agents involved.

As seen in chapter 4.1 of this Report, there is still a long way to go in this decade to move the 2030 Agenda forward. The COVID-19 pandemic and the political instability around the world have contributed to delays and setbacks in achieving the SDGs. This conclusion reiterates the need and urgency of this study, which, as seen in Chapter 3, is an answer to the need to further involve the private sector in fulfilling this global Agenda.