

# **Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**





## **Welcome!**

**This 'SDG Primer' explores the transformative shift in the development paradigm embodied in the 2030 Agenda. It supports common understanding of the Agenda's complexity and breadth, and the requirements to deliver on its 17 SDGs and 169 targets.**

**The SDG Primer lays out the:**

- ✓ **Urgency of action required by all actors in all countries**
- ✓ **Foundational characteristics of this universal and integrated framework**
- ✓ **Specific actions we can all take to better support countries and governments**



# SDG Primer Menu



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# Module 1

**Sustainable Development,  
the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**







**"Our world as we know it and the future we want are at risk. Despite considerable efforts these past four years, we are not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We must dramatically step up the pace of implementation as we enter a decisive decade for people and the planet."**

**– UN Secretary-General António Guterres  
Global Sustainable Development  
Report 2019**



## Progress to date

Multilateralism and globalization have accelerated economic development over the past 40 years, achieving advances unprecedented in human history. Extreme poverty has fallen by half, and people are living longer, healthier and more educated lives all over the world. The Millennium Development Goals drove significant momentum on many of these issues from 2000 to 2015.





# Unfinished Business

- ❑ And yet, huge numbers of people still live in fear and hunger. Extreme inequalities and poverty persist. Economic growth has delivered, but not enough. We need solutions that go beyond business as usual.
- ❑ This is especially critical at a time when escalating threats erode hard-won development gains – and even imperil our planet's future. Threats include rising levels of insecurity and conflict, the stark consequences of climate change and environmental degradation, and economic and financial volatility.



# Exponential Change

- ❑ Changes today do not simply require adaptation. They demand a constant state of adaptiveness. What was effective yesterday may not be tomorrow, or even today.
- ❑ Take just a few of the global trends in recent decades that have dramatically accelerated the flows of information, goods, capital and people. In the midst of these changes, we have to rethink how progress can be achieved-and sustained over time.

Poverty and inequality, social and demographic change, climate change, technology and the fourth industrial revolution, unsustainable consumption and production, increasing uncertainty, crisis and shocks





# A convergence of international processes

The 2030 Agenda also intersects with a number of major international processes:

- Declaration on the Right to Development
- UN conferences on the environment, women, population and other essential elements of sustainable development
- The MDGs
- The UN human rights framework and the Universal Periodic Review
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- The Addis Ababa Action Agreement on Financing for Development
- The Samoa Pathway for Small Island States
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



# The 2030 Agenda: Paradigm Shift

**In aiming for sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda poses a profound challenge to dominant economic models.** At its heart, it demands a step-change in the **fundamentals of economic production and consumption, calling for progress:**

- ✓ that is inclusive and just for all people
- ✓ that can be sustained across generations
- ✓ that protects our planet

Which is why the Agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) connect economic, social and environmental goals.



# Three Foundations of the 2030 Agenda

*Click on the three pictures below to dig deeper into each*

## Universal

The entire agenda is meant for all people in all countries.



## Integrated

The SDGs reflect the complex reality of the interconnected dimensions of development.



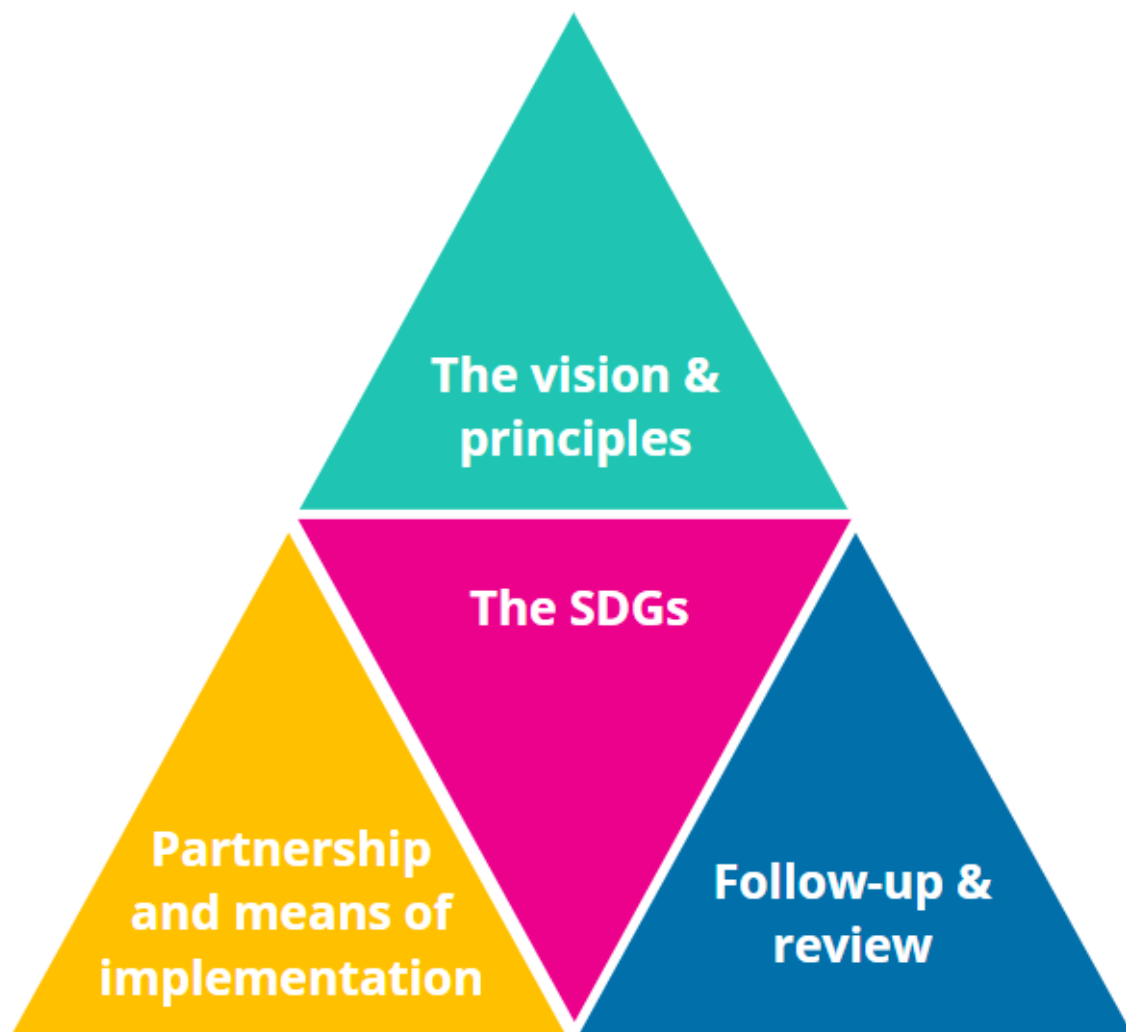
## Leave no one behind

The Agenda commits to reaching all people, wherever they are, and meeting their specific challenges and vulnerabilities.



# Key Elements of the 2030 Agenda

The SDGs are one of four key elements of the 2030 Agenda. ***Explore each element by clicking on the four triangles***





# The SDGs

Want a refresher on the 17 SDGs and 169 targets? Review them here. ***Click on each SDG to see the targets under it.***



# Doughnut Economics

A useful way of thinking about sustainable development is the “doughnut” model proposed by Kate Raworth. It frames the SDGs as a compass for human progress across economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Here’s a one-minute introduction: <https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk/countries/#Uruguay>





# How do we measure economic progress?



## Level of Income

The downside of economic growth, including climate change and environmental degradation, is not typically factored into macroeconomic measures and policies. Yet the depletion or mismanagement of natural resources can devastate an economy.



## Distribution of Income

Sustainable development therefore depends on both the pace and the *quality* of growth. This means going beyond a sole reliance on narrowly defined snapshots of growth (such as GDP), and habitually using a range of economic and other measures, including the **level**, **distribution**, and **stability of income**. *Click on the tabs on the left for a definition of each.*



## Stability of Income

# Human Rights and Leaving No One Behind: An Introduction

Since the 2030 Agenda is grounded in human rights thinking, we need to get granular about measures to help countries leave no one behind. This calls for more in-depth analysis:

- ✓ Who exactly has been left out of development progress?
- ✓ Which barriers keep people beyond the reach of infrastructure, services and jobs?
- ✓ How can vulnerable and isolated communities build resilience to shocks and crises?
- ✓ How can those who are excluded, marginalized and vulnerable participate in public life, and hold their leaders to account?

**Coming up next: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**







# The 2030 Agenda: A Human Rights Manifesto?

- ❑ Commitments to human rights and tackling inequality run through the 2030 Agenda. Two SDGs are dedicated entirely to equality and non-discrimination: Goal 5 on gender equality, and Goal 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries.
- ❑ Other SDGs promote the full inclusion of all people, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religious, economic or other status.
- ❑ Goal 16 addresses injustice and inequality in access to services, strengthening inclusive institutions, ensuring the representation of marginalized groups and promoting the rule of law.

[Click here to see references ↗↘](#)





# Measures

- ❑ What are key dimensions and drivers of inequality? More than income is at work here. The [2019 Human Development Report](#) also includes health, education, access to technologies, and exposure to economic and climate-related shocks. All of these rights need to be considered as part of a long-term view towards SDG achievement.
- ❑ Information from the international human rights monitoring system is available to support countries connect their progress and gaps on human rights and sustainable development, available at this [Human Rights Data Explorer](#).
- ❑ Other resources shed light on who is experiencing multiple dimensions of poverty at the regional, national and subnational levels, and why. For instance, the [2019 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#), drawing on data for 101 countries, reveals levels of disparity and deprivations within countries (such as between provinces, where multidimensional poverty rates can range from as much as 6 per cent to 96 per cent) as well as between social groups.





# Horizontal Inequalities

- ❑ The 2030 Agenda invites a focus on horizontal inequalities, which arise among groups based on factors such as gender, class, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.
- ❑ Such inequalities are unjust, can be destabilizing and breed violence. Risks are particularly high when multiple inequalities intersect and accumulate across social, economic, political and other areas, and where there are human rights abuses and/or a weak state presence.



## Module 2

**SDG Integration: Transformative  
Solutions to Complex Problems**





# Complex Development Systems

- ❑ The SDGs offer a grounding framework that reflects the complex reality of the interplay among social, environmental and economic systems. These are connected by networks channelling flows of social, environmental and economic resources, both physical (like water, carbon and people) and abstract (like finance, representation and knowledge).
- ❑ SDG integration is therefore a challenge to identify and harness these connections across sectors, levels of governance and time horizons. It helps map relationships of cause and effect, and define critical leverage points.

# Example: Food-Water-Energy Nexus

- ❑ Session 1 demonstrated that food security entails a set of wide-ranging and highly interconnected issues. Finding effective solutions requires picking out and exploring the most influential interactions.
- ❑ The “nexus” between food, water and energy offers an example of how broader sectors intersect and produce synergies and trade-offs.
- ❑ This 2-minute video presents the food-water-energy *nexus*. [https://youtu.be/CKW\\_ux2Xo\\_w](https://youtu.be/CKW_ux2Xo_w)



Source: IIEA





# Applying a Systems Approach

- ❑ How can we identify important elements of a country's economic, social and environmental systems, and predict how they will interact and respond to change?
- ❑ Which interventions can shift a development system towards more balanced, stable and sustainable flows of economic, social and environmental resources?
- ❑ How can a country determine its fastest, most effective pathway to sustainability?
- ❑ We can start with some tangible changes in:

<b>How policy is designed:</b>	adaptive planning methods that continuously change based on learning, experimentation and prototyping
<b>How sectors collaborate:</b>	many more and diverse stakeholders exchanging expertise and creating solutions together around common and persistent challenges



## Synergies and Trade-offs

- ❑ With close attention to context, a careful and structured management of interactions influencing a country's development can accelerate simultaneous progress towards multiple SDGs.
- ❑ Much depends on managing important *trade-offs* and building interventions around deliberately designed *synergies*.





## Policy coherence across sectors, levels and timeframes

- ❑ The scale of ambition and the time in which we have to do this mean this approach now needs to be taken up to a new level – with a vastly better understanding and alignment between, and even within, the institutions, supply chains and networks across the dimensions of sustainable development.
- ❑ For governments in particular, but all organisations involved with development, this level of policy coherence means working in new, more highly networked ways across ministries and policy domains to better respond to domestic links – as well as those that arise at the interface with the international community, such as through trade or international assistance. [Here are a few examples of some integrative tools.](#)
- ❑ This level of coherence also means local governments can better collaborate with each other directly and with the central government and other partners. Different planning cycles need to be aligned over different time spans, including with a view to intergenerational sustainability.





## **Module 3**

**Supporting Governments to  
Achieve Sustainable Development**



**This module is organized around five of the most critical government processes.  
Together, these can enable a country to transform its development path**





# Integrated Planning and Budgeting: Assess

- ❑ Starting with a national vision for 2030 and working backwards to identify how to reach that vision across each sector, region and population group (known as “backcasting”) can help countries define the broad development pathways discussed in Module 2.
- ❑ Some of the best opportunities to begin moving towards these pathways may come from aligning existing development plans and processes with the SDGs. These opportunities typically appear at the early design phase of a three-to-five-year planning cycle, or sometimes during mid-term reviews.
- ❑ Such moments are also opportunities for governments to assess the wider landscape of their entire development process, including by:
  - ✓ Collecting and reviewing existing strategies, plans and budgets across ministries and agencies, at both national and subnational levels.
  - ✓ [Assessing their level of alignment](#) with the SDGs, comparing their targets and





# Integrated Planning and Budgeting: Align

With this comprehensive assessment, and using the systems approach discussed in Module 2, governments can explore the priorities and sequencing needed for a national development pathway to 2030. To better integrate various planning and budgeting processes accordingly, they can take steps such as:

- ✓ Strengthen or establish **coordination and engagement mechanisms** and bodies for different sectors, levels of government and stakeholders.
- ✓ Establish common **SDG baselines** to track progress across the government.
- ✓ Bring different actors together around **key priorities** that require coherent and joined-up leadership, investment and action.
- ✓ Create common **resource estimates, financing strategies** (more on these in Module 4!), and **monitoring and evaluation strategies**.






# Localising the 2030 Agenda: Local Ownership of Local Solutions

- ❑ While national policy coherence is essential to achieve sustainable development, tangible SDG successes and failures are felt most directly in towns, neighbourhoods and villages, in homes, workplaces and communities.
- ❑ Finding and adapting context-specific SDG solutions depends on partnering with the people and institutions most connected to, and informed about, particular local contexts.
- ❑ An essential element of these partnerships is building local ownership of a sustainable development path (whether explicitly linked to the SDGs or not).



# Enabling Factors for 2030 Agenda Localization

These four factors illustrated below help mobilize knowledge, resources and local networks, and build connections across local and national policies and actions. ***Click on the boxes for information on four potential enabling factors.***

Curious about how these are being applied? ***Click on the  icon to see an example.***



# Data, Indicators and Statistics

Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires quality data, indicators and statistics. Watch the two-minute video below to hear four reasons why.

The image shows a video player interface. The background is dark with a pattern of binary code (0s and 1s). In the center, the words 'YOUR DATA' are written in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, there is a list of five key takeaways, each preceded by a checkmark. At the bottom of the video frame, there is a cartoon illustration of four people (two men and two women) standing and looking at a large, unrolled document. One of the people is holding a sign that says 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS'. Another person is holding a sign that says 'CONDITIONS'. In the bottom left corner of the video frame, there is a small logo for '4th Wheel Social Impact' and a timestamp '0:00 / 2:21'. In the bottom right corner, there are standard video player controls (play, pause, stop, full screen, etc.).

**Some key takeaways:**

- ✓ **Data are a real-time management tool.**
- ✓ **Data help assess the SDGs based on standards, accountability and evidence.**
- ✓ **The availability of data is critical to improving governance, transparency, accountability and citizen participation.**
- ✓ **Data can be retrieved from a diversity of sources: from official national statistics to citizen-generated data to big data collected in various sectors.**
- ✓ **Data fuels partnership and collaboration.**

Source: 4th Wheel Social Impact



A vibrant underwater scene featuring a dense cluster of orange and pink coral on the left side. Several small, black and white striped fish are swimming in the clear blue water. The title 'National Data Ecosystems' is overlaid in white text across the center of the image.

# National Data Ecosystems

- ❑ National statistical offices have primary responsibility for how SDG-related data are produced, compiled, validated and reported. These processes are typically coordinated through a multi-year national strategy.
- ❑ The scale and complexity of the 2030 Agenda calls for a shift in this role, from statistical offices being primarily *collectors* and *managers* of national data, to becoming *custodians* of a wider data *ecosystem* of producers and users of data related to sustainable development.
- ❑ Statistics offices in many cases will need support in developing their ability to facilitate, standardize and manage a much wider range of data, across social, economic and environmental issues, and both the public and private sectors.



# Disaggregated Data

To meet demand for quality data disaggregated across key population groups in particular, countries need to strengthen capacities to collect, integrate, analyse, communicate and use data from multiple sources. A useful entry point for governments in deciding on basic standards for disaggregation is available in **Article 2** of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**:

*"Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, **without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.**"*



# Principles of effective public institutions

Public institutions should serve all citizens, fairly and transparently, effectively and efficiently. **Here are some underlying principles and reflections:**



**Responsive**



**Accountable**



**Inclusive**

*Click on the tabs on the left to view some reflections on each principle*

# Institutional and Contextual Analysis and Good Governance



The United Nations and others have developed resources to help governments review institutional gaps hindering SDG progress, including on:

- [Assessing institutional arrangements](#)
- [Motivating public servants around the SDGs](#)
- [Strengthening institutions](#)
- [Innovating across the public sector](#)





## Follow-up and Review

- ❑ UN Member States have committed to reviewing and following up on SDG progress through the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) at the United Nations in New York. It presents an annual opportunity for countries to present voluntary national reviews (VNRs) based on the [global SDG indicator framework](#).
- ❑ This indicator framework can support countries in using the right data, indicators, and statistics to clearly and accurately present progress towards their development targets, aligning them with existing metrics, targets and results frameworks, and to strengthen accountability and transparency.
- ❑ By 2019, [135 countries had presented across 158 VNRs](#).
- ❑ Engaging with governments to develop the reviews has built momentum and opened new opportunities to advance the 2030 Agenda. As well as existing mechanisms for monitoring development, such as parliaments and audit institutions, several countries have used VNR processes to create national committees and participatory forums dedicated to monitoring SDG progress.



# VNRS should be...



## **Voluntary**

Encourage reporting by all countries.

## **Rigorous and based on evidence**

Informed by country-led evaluations and data that are high quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated.

## **In accordance with national circumstances**

As well as national policies and priorities, and involving relevant partners.

## **Country-led**

Country-driven reviews of progress at national and subnational levels.

## **A learning experience**

Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned.

## **Open, inclusive and participatory**

Allow reporting on progress by all relevant stakeholders.





INFORME NACIONAL VOLUNTARIO - URUGUAY 2017

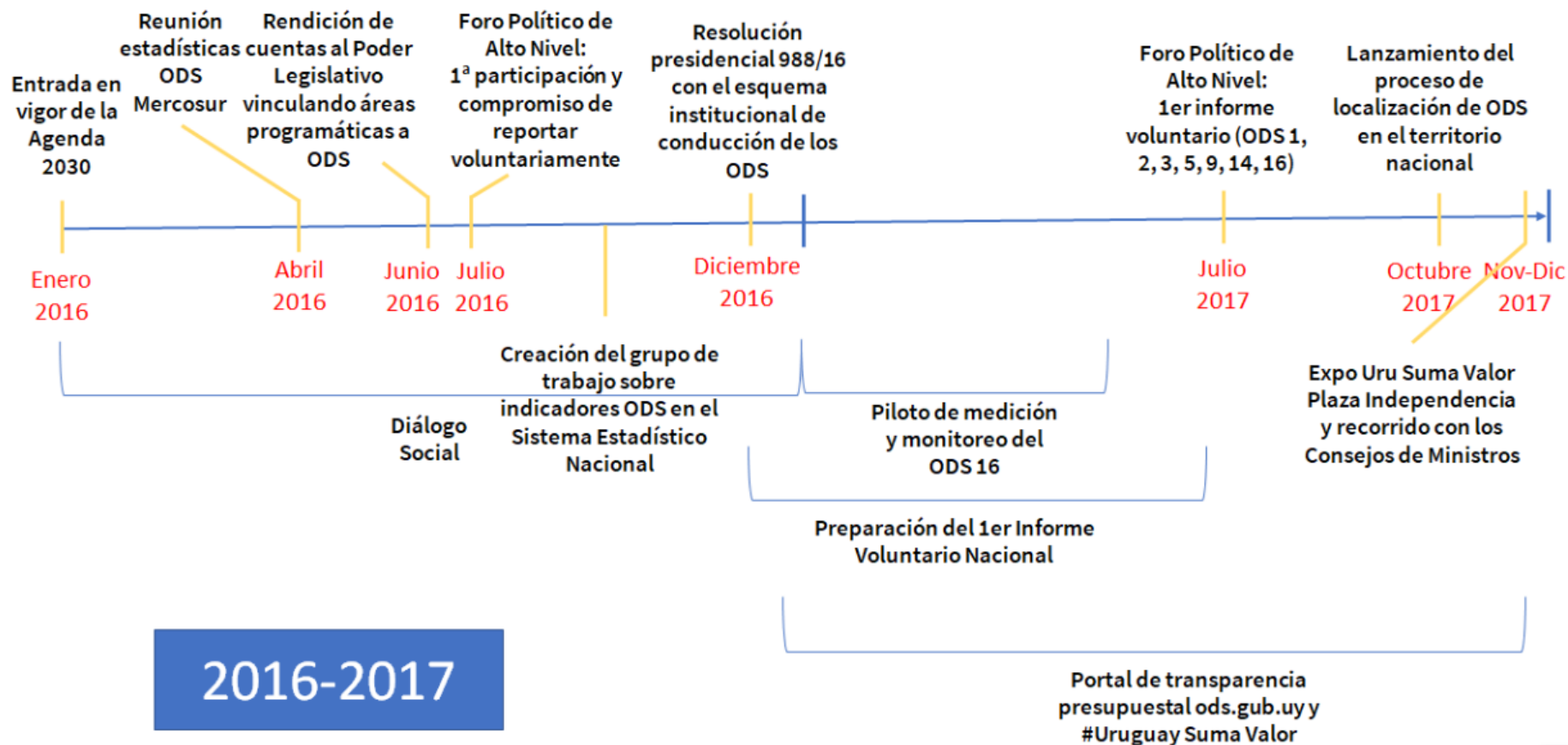


INFORME NACIONAL VOLUNTARIO - URUGUAY 2018

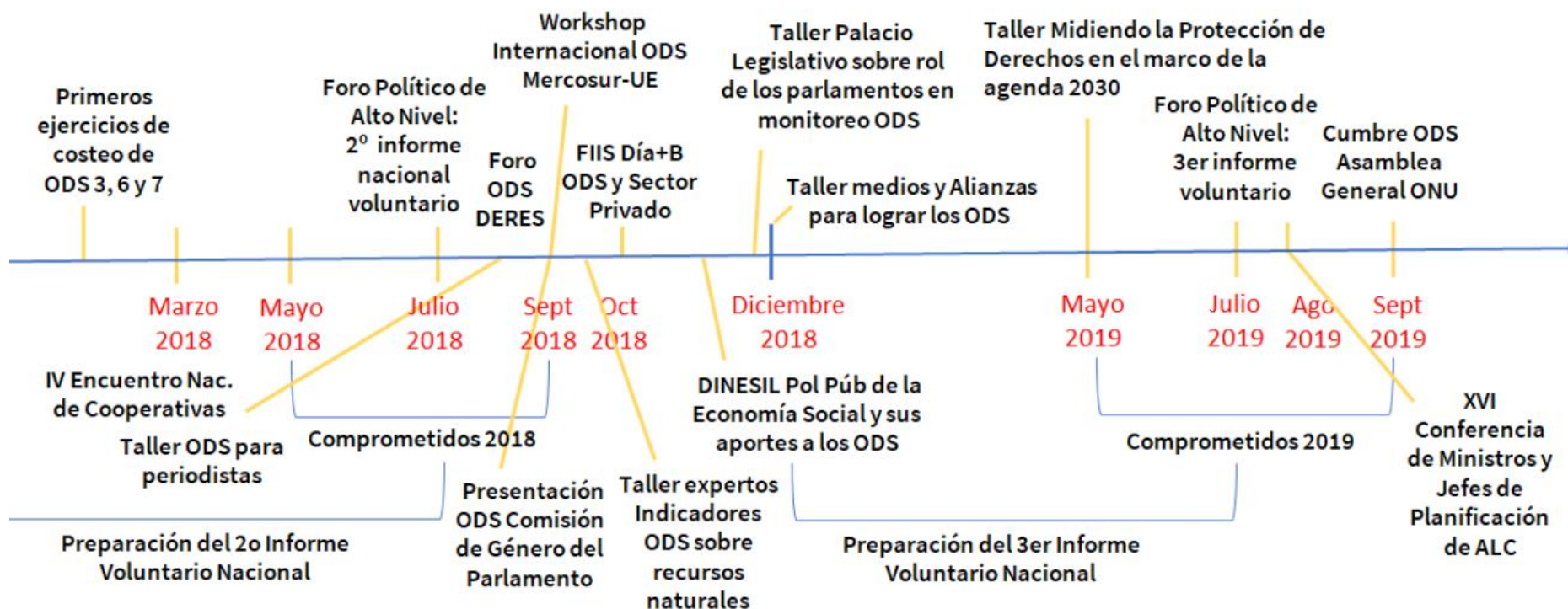


INFORME NACIONAL VOLUNTARIO - URUGUAY 2019









#### Proceso de localización de ODS a 9 departamentos:

- Difusión y sensibilización a la ciudadanía
- Desarrollo de la metodología de localización de ODS
- Evaluación Rápida Integrada para valorar alineación planes departamentales con los ODS
- Diálogo con sociedad civil y sector privado a nivel departamental
- Preparación hojas de rutas departamentales y devolución pública

2018-2019

An aerial photograph of a wooden boat on a body of water. The boat is dark brown and has a yellow rope coiled on its deck. A black circle is overlaid on the left side of the boat, containing the text 'Module 4'.

## **Module 4**

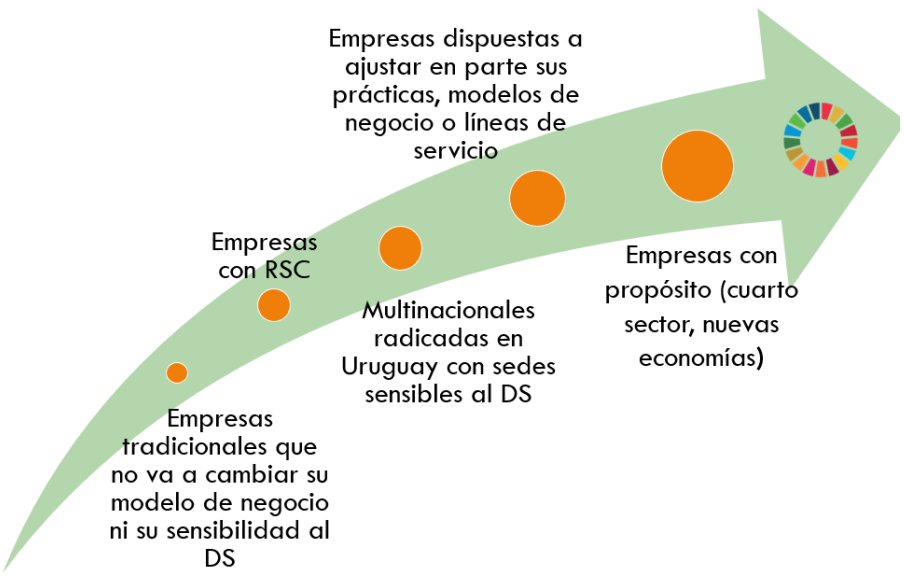
## **Financing the SDGs**



# Main sources of financing for sustainable development

Mapping all sources of financing for sustainable development in a given country is an essential first step. Sources can be divided into domestic and external, and public and private flows.







# El Pacto Global de Naciones Unidas:

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



**10,435**  
COMPANIES

**166**  
COUNTRIES

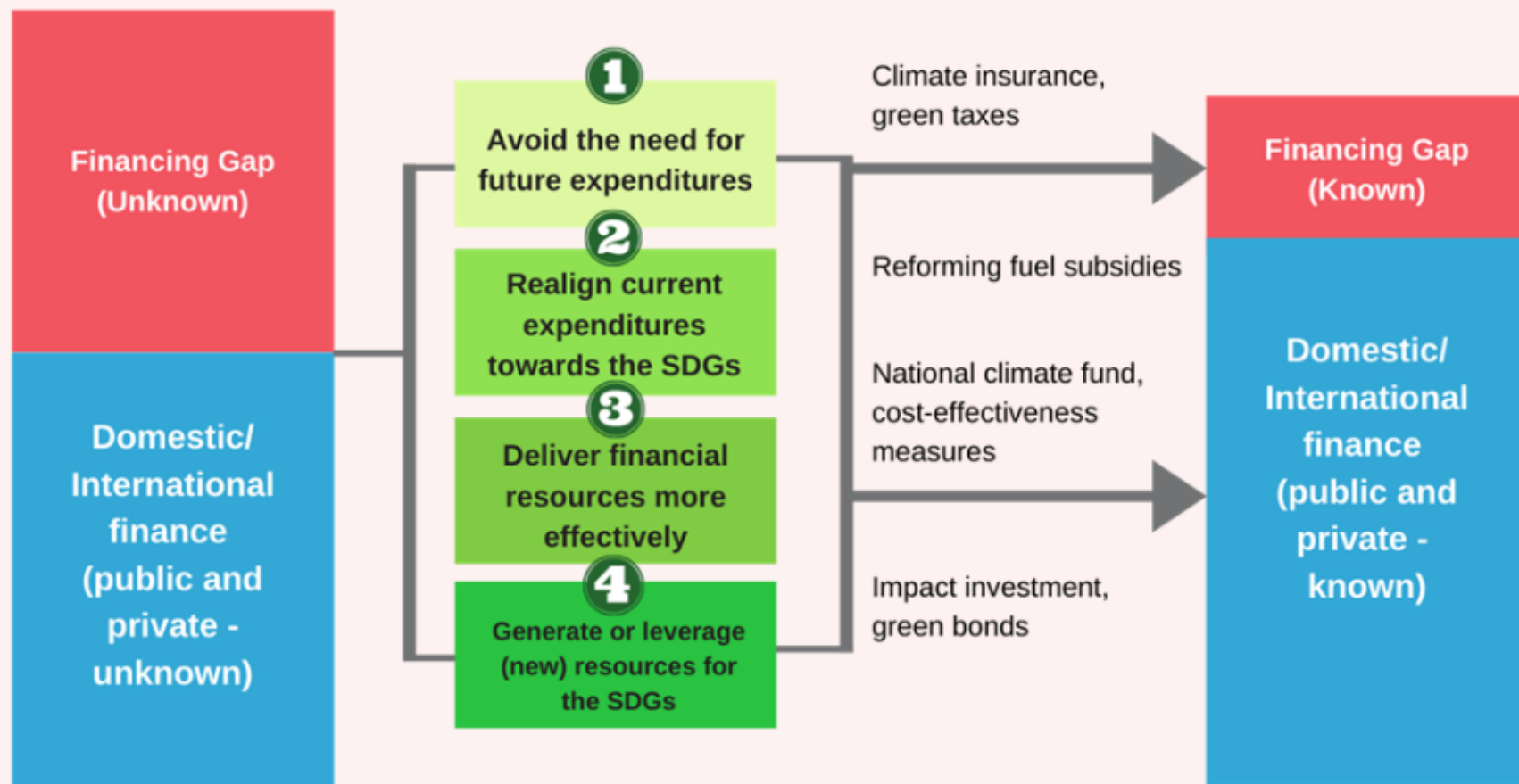
**70,142**  
PUBLIC REPORTS



# Developing a Financing Strategy

Governments around the world are prioritizing domestic revenue mobilization for achieving sustainable development. Many have set explicit targets to raise revenues, often in relation to GDP.

But financing for sustainable development is not just about new resource mobilization. The image below shows four interlinked policy areas aimed at improving the effective and efficient use of existing public finance. **Click on the green boxes for more information.**







# International Cooperation and Effectiveness

- ❑ International development finance institutions are vital for countries with otherwise limited access to international finance. They provide policy, capacity and regulatory assistance alongside financial support. Some have particular areas of focus, like infrastructure and agriculture, or practise particular types of financing, such as Islamic finance.
- ❑ Larger institutions offer both concessional (interest-free) and non-concessional funding windows, based on a country's per capita income and ability to access international financial markets. Sectors such as agriculture, education and health feature much more prominently within concessional financing.
- ❑ South-South cooperation has been growing rapidly in recent years. While it often emphasises knowledge transfer and solidarity, countries such as China, the Gulf States and others have rapidly scaled up the volume of financial transfers they offer.





# Integrated National Financing Frameworks

The integrated national financing framework for sustainable development set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda helps countries look at the full range of financing sources as well as non-financial means of implementation.

Governments are increasingly using this framework to inform financing strategies that raise resources, manage risks and achieve sustainable development priorities.

Integrated financing frameworks can:

- ✓ Manage a complex financing landscape
- ✓ Align financing with long-term priorities
- ✓ Overcome silos and strengthen coherence among financing policies
- ✓ Translate priorities into strategic action



Integrated national financing frameworks provide a coherent means to connect a national sustainable development strategy with the right financing sources, policies and other means of implementation.



# Building Blocks of an Integrated National Financing Framework

Four building blocks to operationalize an integrated national financing framework have several key, broadly sequential steps, as illustrated here:

- A. Assessments of financing needs, flows, risks and binding constraints
- B. A financing strategy that matches resources with these needs
- C. Monitoring, review and accountability
- D. Governance and coordination mechanisms to provide political backing and ownership



Learn more about support for implementing integrated national financing frameworks [here](#).



## DECADE OF ACTION

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

## UN75

<https://www.un.org/en/un75>

# GRACIAS

[https://sdgprimer.un.org/story\\_html5.html](https://sdgprimer.un.org/story_html5.html)