



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Sustainable
Development
Goals

UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**





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1

Foreword by
the Director-General

2

Introduction

3

The principles of the 2030
Agenda

4

UNESCO's two global
priorities

5

UNESCO supports
the data revolution
across the SDGs

6

UNESCO's direct
contribution to nine SDGs

8

Inclusive quality
education and lifelong
learning for all

10

Harness science,
technology,
innovation and
knowledge

12

Protect and sustainably
manage the ocean

14

Understand social
transformations for
peaceful, inclusive and
right-based societies

16

Culture as a
driver and enabler
for sustainable
development

18

Freedom of expression
and universal access to
information and knowledge

UNESCO Task Force on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Foreword by the Director-General

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, sets forth a bold new framework for development cooperation over the next 15 years. This agenda aspires to ensure prosperity and well-being for all women and men, while protecting our planet and strengthening the foundations for peace. The Sustainable Development Goals represent the most universal, ambitious and comprehensive agenda ever seen, to leave no one behind.

This is a paradigm shift that requires us all to act in new ways. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals are connected – this places a premium on comprehensive approaches, on partnership, on linking policies and action. Moving forward, the Agenda must build on national ownership and on the mobilization of effective action and resources at the national, regional and global level.

Inclusivity, integration, and universality -- these are the hallmarks of the new agenda. Soft power is essential to taking it forward.

This is the importance of UNESCO's universal mandate to contribute to the "building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information." Human rights and dignity are the starting point of the Organization's action – and the criteria for assessing its results, with a focus on the most disadvantaged and excluded groups, as well as countries and segments of societies furthest behind. UNESCO mainstreams specific interventions for youth, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and marginalized social and ethnic groups, including indigenous peoples and local communities, while giving global priority to promoting gender equality and to supporting countries in Africa in all of its programmes. The Organization also places emphasis on action with countries in conflict and crisis, or affected by disasters, to build resilience.

UNESCO is bringing all its weight to supporting countries through new, innovative and integrated approaches to reach the goals they set for themselves – from advancing inclusive quality education for

all to promoting integrated water resources management, ocean sustainability and protection of biodiversity, from advancing sustainable cities, deepening social inclusion, mitigating and adapting to climate change, to preventing violent extremism and 'cultural cleansing' and defending freedom of expression and media development.

Data is vital to all this. The Organization is responsible for collecting and disseminating data on the global and thematic indicators needed for the review and follow-up of many of these goals. While focusing on the 9 Sustainable Development Goals that have direct relevance to UNESCO's mandate – the Organization's action will impact across all new goals.

To support countries in embedding the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and budgets, and support follow up and review, UNESCO is acting across the board. This starts with providing demand-driven, evidence-based normative and policy advice in its areas of competence and delivering capacity building, including on data collection and analysis. It includes also convening multi-stakeholder partnerships, and supporting South-South and North-South-South cooperation. I have created a dedicated Task Force on the 2030 Agenda, to ensure sharp, effective and coordinated action for countries as they take forward, implement and review the new agenda.

Accelerating momentum towards the Sustainable Development Goals is a human rights imperative, a development imperative, and a peace imperative – this is about delivering on the collective promise we made, as the United Nations, as Governments, as the wider public, to build a better future for all. It is our responsibility now to meet expectations, to do everything to translate promises into reality. This is UNESCO's pledge – now, and in the years to come.

Irina Bokova
Director General of UNESCO

“ UNESCO is bringing all its weight to supporting countries through new, innovative and integrated approaches to reach the goals they set for themselves...”



Introduction

UNESCO actively contributed to the shaping of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 – drawing on its humanist mandate, and mobilizing all of its partners and stakeholders. Designed as an agenda of the people, by the people and for the people, it highlights the vital importance of human capacities, skills and knowledge to adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities of the present and the future, many of which are still unknown. It places national ownership and support at the country level as a cornerstone for its successful implementation. Building upon the achievements and lessons learned of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it seeks to address their unfinished business.

The 2030 Agenda gives new impetus to UNESCO's actions at the global, regional and national levels. It gives pride of place to the fundamental contribution of quality, inclusive education at all levels and to the importance of lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4).

It breaks new ground in acknowledging the growing importance of science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable development (SDG 9). It contains ambitious goals in the areas of freshwater (SDG 6), biodiversity (SDG 15), the ocean (SDG 14), and climate change (SDG 13), which are major priorities for the Organization. It recognizes the role of public access to information and the safety of journalists in accelerating development opportunities and in promoting good governance and the rule of law (SDG 16). It promotes culture as a key enabler of sustainable development. It acknowledges the value of creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, and contains targets on the preservation of natural and cultural heritage (SDG 11), as well as on the recovery and return of stolen assets (SDG 16), which also include the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. It upholds a vision of just, peaceful, equitable and inclusive societies recognizing the value of knowledge, heritage and diversity. It promotes human rights and has a strong focus on gender equality (SDG 5).

“ UNESCO is actively contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development drawing on its humanist mandate, and mobilizing all of its partners and stakeholders.

The principles of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda provides a new framework for development cooperation over the next 15 years. It is the point of reference for all new national development strategies and plans. It has considerable importance for the entire United Nations system, including for UN specialized agencies like UNESCO. The Organization will continue to actively participate in UN-wide efforts to improve coherence and coordination within the UN system.

It will also continue to play an active role in the follow-up and review processes at the global levels and as appropriate at the regional and national levels.

UNESCO is embedding the principles of the 2030 Agenda into all of its programmes:

› **Sustainable development:** the 2030 Agenda is first and foremost about shifting the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. UNESCO is supporting countries in making this transformative change, through its work to ensure that all learners have the skills and knowledge they need to become responsible, green, global citizens; to advance science, technology and innovation for the development of sustainable solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other global challenges; to expand access to ICTs to promote socio-economic development; and to ensure that culture is integrated into sustainable development strategies so that they are relevant, effective and adapted to local contexts.

› **Universality and interdependence:** the 2030 Agenda is a universal agenda, reflecting a changing world and a new appreciation for the growing complexity and interconnectedness of development challenges reaching beyond

borders, which need to be addressed in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner; it emphasizes that developed countries can no longer achieve sustainable development without commensurate progress in developing countries and vice versa.

› **Inclusivity (“leaving no one behind”):** the new Agenda is deeply committed to inclusivity (“leaving no-one behind”), including ending poverty in all its forms and reducing poverty within and among countries; it requires giving highest priority to support to LDCs and those in conflict and other special development situations.

› **Peace, intercultural understanding, global citizenship:** Critically for UNESCO, the 2030 Agenda recognizes that “sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace and security” and commits to intercultural understanding, mutual respect, and “an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility”. Under SDG 16, it commits the international community to preventing all forms of violence and to promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies free from fear and violence, with accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

› **Inequalities:** the 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of addressing rising inequalities. UNESCO supports countries in addressing inequalities through its work to promote quality, inclusive education for all; narrow the science and knowledge gaps between and within countries; close the digital divide; and develop inclusive public policies that promote social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) also collects and shares disaggregated data related to the Organization’s areas of expertise.

› **National ownership:** the 2030 Agenda is first and foremost about the national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are incorporated in national planning processes, policies and strategies. Supporting national ownership of the SDGs will be a fundamental task for UNESCO. In doing so, UNESCO will adapt its support to the specific and diversified needs of its Member States, taking into account the increased diversification of the capacity of Member States, in particular in emerging Middle Income Countries (MICs).

› **Integration and interlinkages:** the 2030 Agenda recognizes that sustainable development strategies should respond in an integrated manner to the complex challenges of today. UNESCO is approaching the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner across all its areas of competence (education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information), capitalizing on its multidisciplinary expertise and intersectoral mandate. It is also taking an integrated approach across its modalities of work by more closely interlinking its normative and country-level operational work and supporting closer integration across the pillars of the United Nation’s work, including the recent push for stronger humanitarian-development linkages.

› **Crisis, conflict and disasters:** the Agenda stresses the need to pay greater attention to the special needs of the countries which are in conflict and crisis situations – 33 of today’s 49 least-developed countries, with a population of almost 900 million – and to address the protracted nature of crises in many humanitarian and conflict-affected settings, as

well as building the resilience of the poor and of those in vulnerable situations, by reducing their exposure and liability to climate-related extreme events; It is committed to bridging the humanitarian-development divide.

› **Rights-based:** the 2030 Agenda is a rights-based agenda, which commits to realizing the human rights of all and mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across all of the Goals and targets; it places emphasis on the role of support to policy and normative work for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

› **Knowledge, science, technology and innovation (STI):** the new Agenda recognizes the importance of fully harnessing STI and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for sustainable development, as well as the need to build human capacity, skills and knowledge, including through quality education for all throughout life; STI, access to information, and the provision of quality data across all goals.

› **Multi-stakeholder partnerships:** the 2030 Agenda has placed a clear premium on partnerships and on integration and integrated approaches. UNESCO will play a significant role in its domains as the convener, broker, facilitator and implementer of multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda, and it will also support South-South and North-South-South cooperation to implement the SDGs. Similarly, UNESCO is also pursuing the development of a structured financing dialogue, which should also help in designing multi-partner approaches.

UNESCO's two global priorities

GENDER EQUALITY



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Contributing to SDG 5 on Gender Equality

UNESCO recognizes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as one of its two global priorities. The Organization has intensified its efforts to mainstream gender equality considerations in all its programmes, and will continue to do so in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This

includes promoting girls' and women's education; increased participation, especially in decision making levels, of women in science; promoting women as agents of social transformations; promoting the full participation of women in cultural life, and promoting women in the media and the empowerment of women through ICTs. Special focus will also be put on combating violence against women in all its forms, including school-related gender-based violence and gender-based violence in emergencies. Safe access for girls and women to drinking water and adequate sanitation (SDG 6) and their involvement in decision-making in relation to water management will also be promoted as a key vector for implementing SDG 5. UNESCO supports countries in analyzing all SDG targets through a gender-equality lens (including collection of sex-disaggregated data) and provides guidance on possible approaches in the contextualization and localization process to advance gender equality and empowerment of women in all of UNESCO's fields of competence. In this context, multi-stakeholder partnerships with other UN entities, as well as national and local partners, including civil society, the private sector and academia, will be strengthened to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

AFRICA

UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Priority Africa is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which in turn integrates fully the 2063 Agenda of the African Union. Moreover, UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Priority Africa is in line with Africa's official position for the 2030 Agenda, namely the Common African Position (CAP), which focuses on six pillars: (i) structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; (ii) science, technology and innovation; (iii) people-centered development; (iv) environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management; (v) peace and security; and (vi) finance and partnerships, which are all part of the SDGs.



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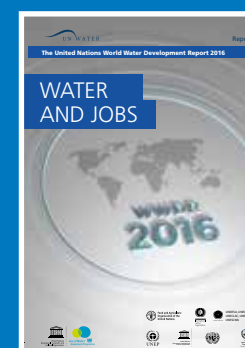
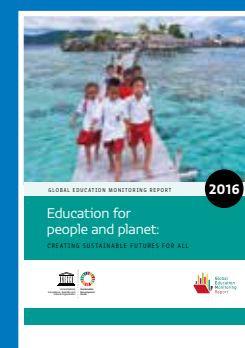
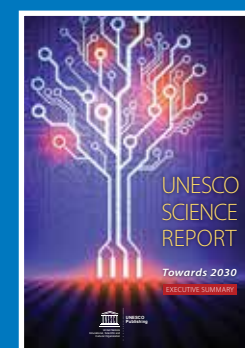
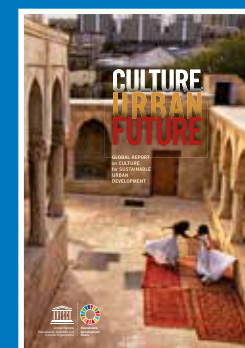
This strategic alignment will enable UNESCO to increase the scope of its action in and for Africa, and to improve the commitment of its sectors, institutes and specialized networks, as well as the mobilization of external actors, including strategic and financial partners. The ability of UNESCO to work with a wide array of stakeholders in Africa will be an important comparative advantage for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which promotes South-South and North-South-South cooperation, both regionally and internationally.

UNESCO supports the data revolution across the SDGs

To support the data revolution called for by the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that sustainable development plans and policies reach those most in need, UNESCO has geared up its efforts both through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and through its programme sectors, involving conceptual work as well as capacity-building efforts. UIS is contributing to the development of the SDG global indicator framework through its participation in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the UN Statistical Commission on indicators related to targets for SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17. It is also contributing to building consensus, developing and implementing thematic indicators with a focus on maintaining the standards to ensure international comparability. To date, UIS has led the thematic indicators for internationally-comparable sectoral reviews for education (through the Technical Cooperation Group and the Global Alliance for Learning) and ICTs for development (through the Partnership on Measuring for Development), as well as public access to information, and is also developing thematic indicator sets for STI, cultural heritage and for measuring gender equality in education and in STEM. A special focus has been placed on measures of equity and equality in order to support the development, implementation and monitoring of policies aimed at reducing inequalities and overcoming all forms of discrimination.

Going forward, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) will continue to collect disaggregated data related to the Organization's areas of expertise and provide institutional expertise in the development, collection, and analysis of internationally comparable statistics and related capacity-development and policy. UNESCO's global monitoring reports, such as the Global Education Monitoring Report, the UNESCO Science Report, the World Water Development Report, the Global Ocean Science Report of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development, the Broadband Report and the World Social Science Report will continue to report disaggregated data, as well as analyze progress in achieving the SDG targets.

UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) has developed the methodology for the monitoring of transboundary cooperation to achieve target 6.5 of SDG 6 on water (indicator 6.5.2) and is supporting Member States in a pilot implementation within the UN-Water Global Expanded Water Monitoring Initiative (GEMI); decisions at local and transboundary level will be supported by the IHP Water Information Networking System (WINS). Furthermore, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) of UNESCO coordinates a UN-Water Task Force to produce the SDG 6 Synthesis Report, which will summarize the results of all related monitoring efforts and offer Member States policy recommendation to accelerate achieving SDG 6 in the wider context of the 2030 Agenda.





UNESCO's direct contribution to nine SDGs

Based on a global mapping, UNESCO contributes significantly to nine SDGs where the Organization has the following key roles: internationally recognized global or shared leadership and coordination; monitoring and benchmarking; global advocacy to sustain political commitment; leading or co-leading global multi stakeholder coalitions; normative mandate and provider of upstream policy support and capacity development. These roles are played in close partnerships with UN entities and partners from the public and private sector.

As stated in UNESCO's mission statement, the Organization also contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty through its work to promote quality education and skills development to help people obtain decent work; harness science, technology for poverty reduction and sustainable development; promote culture as an enabler for sustainable development; support media development and access to information; and build resilience to the effects of climate change, natural disasters and conflicts.

UNESCO also aims to reduce inequalities (SDG 10) through its work to ensure that all learners have access to quality education at all levels; reduce the science and knowledge gaps between and within countries; close the digital divide and ensure that all development policies are inclusive and respect cultural diversity.

UNESCO promotes an integrated approach to achieving these 9 SDGs and focuses on the following Means of Implementation as described in SDG 17: mobilizing additional financial resources for developing countries; supporting South-South and North-South-South Cooperation in all of its areas of competence; promoting international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, including through its support to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Technology Bank for the LDCs; providing effective, targeted capacity building, including on data collection and monitoring; promoting policy and institutional coherence; and convening multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Recognizing the interrelated nature of the SDGs, UNESCO's action will also contribute to a number of the other SDGs, as described in this publication.

“ UNESCO contributes significantly to nine SDGs through an integrated approach, drawing on all of its areas of specialized expertise and in close partnership with UN entities and partners from the public and private sector.

UNESCO

Build peace, eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information



1 NO POVERTY



Eradicate poverty by developing human capacity and productivity through quality education and skills development; science, technology and innovation; and access to ICTs and the media; sustainable management of terrestrial and marine resources and protection of cultural diversity.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



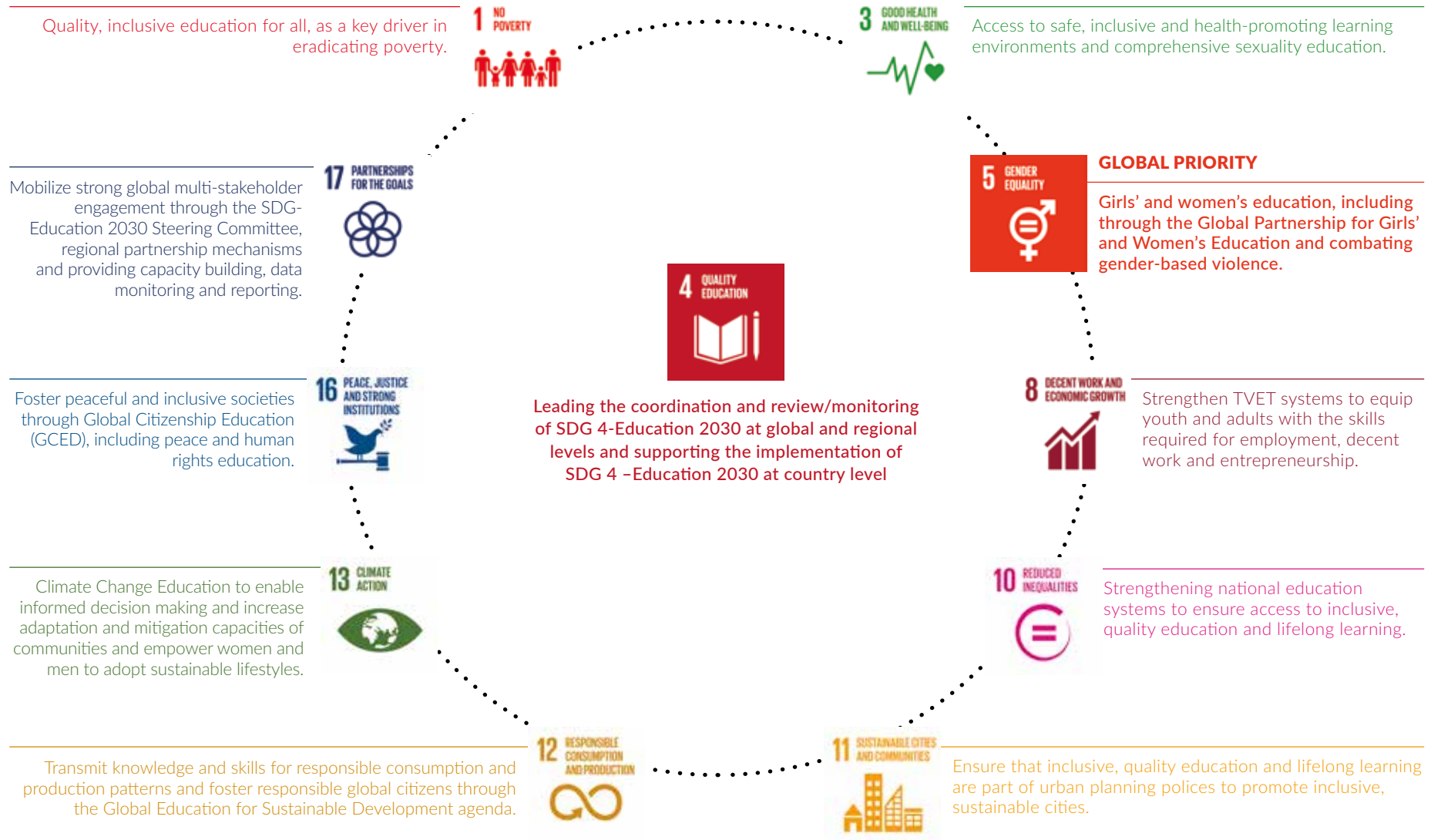
Reduce inequalities through quality education for all, reduce the science and knowledge gaps between and within countries, close the digital divide, developing inclusive public policies, which include the contribution of culture to sustainable development data.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the Means of Implementation by providing capacity building, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and supporting data monitoring and reporting.

Inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all



UNESCO is supporting countries in implementing the SDG 4-Education 2030 Agenda through convening the multi-stakeholder SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, providing strategic guidance to Member States and the education community, making recommendations for catalytic action, advocating for adequate financing, and monitoring progress toward Education 2030 targets through the Global Educational Monitoring (GEM) Report.

UNESCO was decisive in the formulation of the Education 2030 Agenda, encapsulated in the stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). The Organization was mandated to lead and coordinate the implementation of the SDG4 – Education 2030 Agenda, through the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FfA) as decided by the World Education Forum (Incheon, Republic of Korea, May 2015).

UNESCO's education programme will be aligned with SDG 4 and its targets. The focus will be on: a) supporting the implementation of SDG 4–Education 2030 at country level; and b) leading the coordination and monitoring of SDG 4-Education 2030 at global and regional levels.

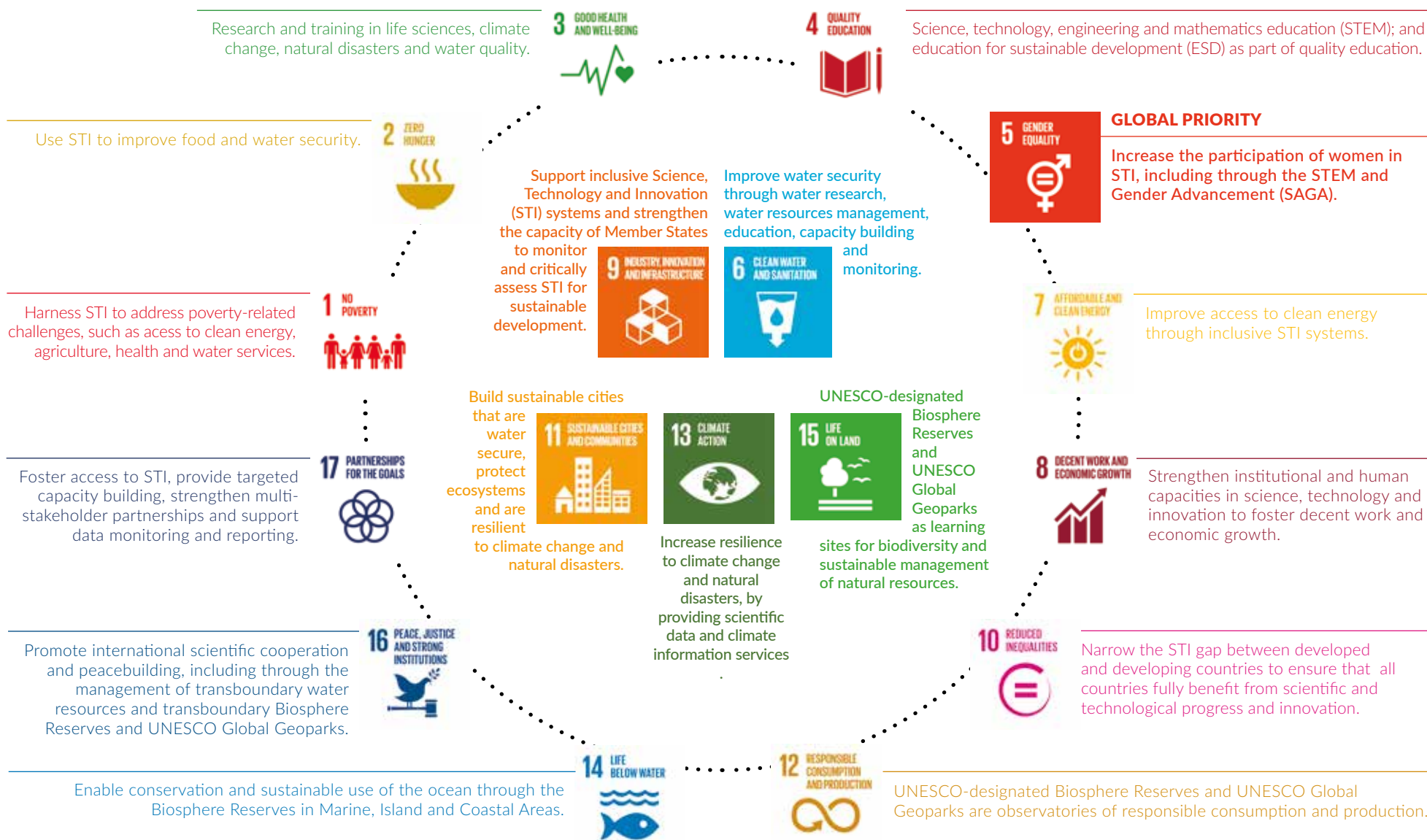
Support for the advancement of SDG-Education 2030 will be guided by the principles of equity, quality, inclusion and gender equality whilst promoting creativity and critical thinking. UNESCO will continue to foster Member States' commitment to the right to education and the concept of lifelong learning, as a key principle for holistic and sector-wide educational reform and a response to emerging socio-economic challenges. The work will be demand-driven and results-oriented, contributing directly to supporting Member States in advancing SDG 4 and other education-related SDG targets. UNESCO will focus in those areas where it has a clear demonstrated comparative advantage and a unique role as a specialized agency.

Capitalizing on its convening power, UNESCO will bring together global, regional and national stakeholders to guide the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda and functions as a focal point for education within the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development coordination structure. It convenes the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee - a multi-stakeholder partnership acting as a key structure for coordinating global education efforts.

The mandate of the Steering Committee is to provide strategic guidance to Member States and the education community, make recommendations for catalytic action, advocate for adequate financing, and monitor progress toward Education 2030 targets through the Global Educational Monitoring (GEM) Report. This includes supporting Member States in implementing the agenda, leading global advocacy on SDG 4, reviewing and monitoring progress, facilitating South-South and North-South-South cooperation, and convening high-level global and regional meetings to take forward the 2030 Agenda. Global monitoring on SDG 4 and its related targets will be provided through the Global Education Monitoring Report, drawing on data collected and disseminated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Recognizing that all 17 SDGs are interrelated and that education underpins all SDGs, UNESCO's work in the area of education will also contribute to the achievement of other SDGs, more particularly those related to: Ending poverty (SDG 1); Health and well-being (SDG 3); Gender equality (SDG 5); Decent work (SDG 8); Reducing Inequalities (SDG 10), Sustainable Cities (SDG 11) Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12); Climate action (SDG 13); Peace (SDG 16) and Partnerships (SDG 17).

Harness science, technology, innovation and knowledge



The new 2030 Agenda represents a significant step forward in the recognition of the contribution of science, technology and innovation (STI) to sustainable development and to achieving all of the SDGs.

In this context, UNESCO will support Member States in creating the enabling environment for comprehensive STI systems, policies and institutional and human capacity development, with a focus on SDGs 4, 5, 9 and 17.

UNESCO's work in this area also contributes to reducing inequalities (SDG 10) by narrowing the STI gap between developed and developing countries so as to ensure that all countries fully benefit from scientific and technological progress and innovation across the SDGs. The Organization's engagement in both the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) and in the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries also aim to bridge the STI gap, improve knowledge sharing, and develop the scientific and research knowledge base needed to access and utilize critical technologies.

UNESCO's Science Report and GO-SPIN country reports monitor and assess trends in STI and engineering throughout the world, in particular for developing countries, drawing on data collected and disseminated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. The Institute is the custodian agency for the indicators related to Target 9.5, and is developing a thematic set of indicators to cover the contribution of STI to achieving the SDGs.

UNESCO's Natural Sciences will also address specific challenges such as the impact of climate change and natural hazards, the management of limited and rapidly changing freshwater resources, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, sustainable economic development, entrepreneurship and employment. The specific application of STI for SDGs 6, 11, 13 and 15 will be the focus of UNESCO's work. It will also contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 12.

UNESCO's work in freshwater through the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and its Water Family focuses on water security and provides support to Member States in six (6) thematic areas network covers all of SDG 6 targets as well as other water-related SDG targets. The UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) assesses progress in achieving SDG 6 and its interlinkages with other SDGs through the publication of the World Water Development Report (WWDR). The highly recognized work of the IHP will continue to improve water security in response to local, regional, and global challenges. In addition, IHP provides contribution to implement SDG 11 and 13, particularly to address the impacts of climate change on water resources and help enhance resilience to extreme events such as floods and droughts.

UNESCO's other intergovernmental programmes, such as the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), as well as its programmes on science for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change, coupled with its unique global network of sites dedicated to sustainable development (Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks) also make notable contributions to supporting countries in addressing sustainable development and climate change challenges. Overall these programmes contribute to SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. UNESCO's work to promote international scientific cooperation, including through the management of transboundary water resources and through its transboundary Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks, also contributes to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16).

Protect and sustainably manage the ocean



The stand-alone Ocean SDG 14 recognizes the role of ocean science and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) standard-setting role as essential contributions to all challenges or dimensions of ocean sustainability.

The stand-alone Ocean SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) recognizes the role of ocean science and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) standard-setting role as essential contributions to all challenges or dimensions of ocean sustainability (e.g. pollution, ocean acidification, fisheries, coastal livelihoods). The Commission will build on this recognition to fulfill its mandate as the leading UN mechanism for global cooperation on ocean science. Beyond SDG 14, most of the Goals are dependent on the ocean, especially SDG 1 on poverty eradication, SDG 2 on food security and improved nutrition, SDG 3 on health, SDG 4 on quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, SDG 5 on gender equality, , SDG 9 on sustainable industries and innovation, SDG 8 on economic growth and productive employment, SDG 11 on resilient and sustainable cities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate change, SDG 15 on biodiversity and SDG 17 on partnerships. UNESCO-IOC will also contribute to addressing SDG 10 on inequalities through its work to narrow the ocean science and knowledge gaps between and within countries and to build the capacity of countries to achieve SDG 14.

IOC will focus its contribution to SDG 14 in three areas:

- the facilitation of capacity development and transfer of marine technology;
- the provision of normative support to countries to establish, implement, monitor and report on implementation of the Ocean SDG in accordance with its role as custodian agency for specific SDG 14 targets;
- and the provision of science-based policy advice for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean.

IOC will use its convening power to strengthened support for the new 2030 ocean development agenda, reinforcing and widening its association with NGOs, regional science organizations, practitioners and the public through its regional and other subsidiary bodies. In the framework of the 2017 UN Conference on the implementation of SG 14, IOC will work through UN inter-agency mechanisms on ocean matters to develop 'SDG enabling activities' with a view to providing technical resources to Member States, including on capacity development and on facilitating approaches to access funding agencies.

In the context of SDG 13, IOC will coordinate international scientific cooperation to ensure that the best scientific knowledge leads to appropriate understanding of climate change and to bolster ocean-based adaptation and mitigation strategies to address its negative impacts. Through its regional networks, IOC will coordinate early warning and sustained ocean services to protect life, health and property on the coast and at sea; disaster risk education and preparedness programmes for coastal communities, and the provision of scientific assessments to inform environmental and climate policy and action.

IOC's work will aim at achieving the following result: 'Science-informed policies for reduced vulnerability to ocean hazards, for the global conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, and increased resilience and adaptation to climate change, developed and implemented by Member States, towards the realization of Agenda 2030, with particular attention to ensuring that all of its Member States have the capacity to meet their objectives.

Understand social transformations for peaceful, inclusive and right-based societies



The social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG targets on social inclusion, the eradication of extreme poverty, the reduction of inequalities, inclusive policies for cities, as well as inclusive and participatory decision-making are directly related to UNESCO's mandate to support Member States in managing contemporary social transformations.

Intercultural dialogue is essential to understanding contemporary social transformations, new levels and forms of human interaction and interdependence, and to ensuring peaceful societies.

The achievement of the SDGs will depend on researchers and policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders having access to and being able to share pertinent and accurate information about the societies and communities targeted by their actions, as well as a coherent intellectual framework in which to proceed.

Alongside Member States' engagement in the production of knowledge, the effective use of research through a strengthened research-policy nexus can improve evidence-informed public policy, guided by universal values and principles, based on human rights and ethical principles; enhance public services and raise the level of public debates. The integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs requires greater policy coherence at the national, regional and international levels that can be obtained through stronger links between social science research and public policy-making, including globally-comparable data for trend monitoring, priority-setting and the assessment of programmes and policies.

The work of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Programme, focusing on policy advice and capacity-building, makes a direct contribution to supporting Member States in the achievement of three Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 16 (targets 16.6 and 16.7) and SDG 11 (target 11.3).

It also provides contributions to supporting Member States in the implementation of other SDGs and a number of associated targets: SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 13 and SDG 17.

The six thematic areas on which UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences will focus its efforts are included in the mapping below.

Culture as a driver and enabler for sustainable development

Share knowledge and skills and manage health risks taking into account the cultural contexts.
Contribute to well-being and quality health care by traditional health practices.

Cultural diversity and traditional knowledge are important assets for food security and sustainable farming.

Provide capacity building, strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and support data monitoring and reporting.



UNESCO Culture Conventions on natural, cultural, under-water and intangible cultural heritage allow to protect the environment, water-related ecosystems, coastal and marine areas, aquaculture and to foster responsible tourism.



Culture enhances access to education and ensures more locally relevant curricula, textbooks and teaching methods. Cultural expressions are essential to achieve better educational results.

Protection and promotion of world's cultural and natural heritage makes cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Culture Conventions allow to combat illicit trafficking of cultural objects, protect and promote cultural and natural heritage, cultural diversity and cultural expressions, build inclusive societies and fight against discrimination.



GLOBAL PRIORITY

Consider the cultural context and foster cultural participation helps to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.



Culture is an asset for eradicating poverty by linking both its economic and social dimensions. The cultural and creative industries, cultural tourism and the safeguarding of heritage are powerful drivers for poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and employment.



Promote the intrinsic link between cultural diversity and biodiversity to ensure greater environmental sustainability. Traditional knowledge and skills build resilience to counter the effects of natural disasters and climate change. Culture is a resource for sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Culture is a driver and enabler of sustainable development and essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda as it contributes to human and socio-economic development, quality education, social inclusion, sustainable cities, environmental sustainability, and peaceful societies.

UNESCO's Culture programme will directly contribute to implementing SDG 11 on making cities sustainable, particularly target 11.4 on protecting natural and cultural heritage, for which the UIS will also support the development of indicators. In addition, UNESCO's normative tools, namely its six culture conventions on cultural heritage and creativity, also support the implementation of several other SDGs including 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. UNESCO's work to protect culture in emergency situations, including in conflict and disaster situations, will also contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, in particular SDG 16, aiming to strengthen resilience and promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

Flagship operational initiatives and programmes such as the Culture and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, the World Heritage Education Programme, the UNESCO Heritage Routes projects, and the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism and Marine Programmes, provide frameworks and key recommendations to support Member States in integrating culture into strategies and policies for implementing the SDGs.

UNESCO works to foster South-South and North-South-South cooperation and strengthen national and local capacities, providing policy advice at global, national and local levels and promoting innovation and exchange by means of its extensive global networks to support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In particular, UNESCO's networks for sustainable urban development, including World Heritage and Cities, and the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), provide a comprehensive platform to advance the implementation of the SDGs, especially SDG 11.

As pictured in the graphic below, the UNESCO Culture Conventions and their operational activities demonstrate how culture as a driver and an enabler of sustainable development can help achieve the 2030 Agenda by promoting: human and socio-economic development, as a source of identity and catalyst for inclusive economic development; quality education, by ensuring that education systems are adapted to local needs, and addressing social exclusion and discrimination through intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity; sustainable cities, by strengthening the link between communities and their built environment and enabling a vibrant cultural life and quality urban environments; environmental sustainability, as an inherent element of the natural environment and contributing to preserve biodiversity and an ecologically sound development; peaceful societies and inclusion, as the respect for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue can foster an environment conducive to mutual understanding and social inclusion.

Freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge

Enhance Open Access policies for sharing of medical research and texts, wide access to quality contents on health issues, and access to information and knowledge for persons with disabilities.



Communication and media are central to promoting sustainable development and democracy. The right to freedom of expression underpins a free, pluralistic, inclusive and independent media environment as well as freedom of information.

Communication and media are central to promoting sustainable development and democracy. The right to freedom of expression underpins a free, pluralistic, inclusive and independent media environment as well as freedom of information. These are preconditions for optimizing progress in regard to building knowledge societies. On this basis, public access to information, the safety of journalists, youth and gender equality in and through media, diversity and plurality in media, improved professional standards and the empowerment of people with media and information literacy, are advanced. This enables journalists to make an independent contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector (CI) will continue to strengthen freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge through ICTs to support Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It supports Member States in the achievement of SDGs 1,3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17. ICTs have the power to play a crosscutting enabling role to achieve all of the SDGs.

Through its leadership of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, UNESCO continues to build a safe environment for access to information and fundamental freedoms. The Programme includes regular monitoring of the progress of SDG 16, target 16.10 and fulfilling the role of custodian and contributing agency for global reporting on indicators 16.10.2 and 16.10.1 respectively. UNESCO will continue to actively participate in the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to help governments harness broadband networks and services to meet the 17 SDGs. UNESCO will also promote a concept framework of Internet Universality, which highlights the principles of Rights, Openness, Access and Multi-stakeholder participation as pillars for the Internet's contribution to knowledge societies

Knowledge has always remained crucial to human development. The high-level panel of eminent authorities on SDGs recognized the "Knowledge Challenge" as one of the key barriers to achieving sustainable development. Innovation in ICT for learning and equal participation in societal development will be essential for achievement of SDG 4 and 11, which calls for equitable and inclusive access to quality education for lifelong learning, including most marginalized social groups. Advances in ICT and increasingly interconnected Knowledge Societies also underscore the importance of ensuring a push to creativity and innovation through an "Open Solutions" approach towards empowerment and social, economic inclusion of all (SDG 10.2) and the reduction of the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (SDG 8.6).

Concerning SDG 13 and under the Paris Agreement, action will be targeted at strengthening the monitoring and public awareness-raising role of free, independent and pluralistic media as regards climate change and protection of the environment.

“ Our collective commitment to the 17 Global Goals is our most important defense in ensuring that the benefits of our modernizing world are shared among all nations and people and not just by the privileged few. These goals are intended to serve the interest of every woman, man, and child on our planet. And that means that achieving these goals is up to all of us. This has to be an international movement—a coming together of people and a rallying around a common cause on a scale. I believe that UNESCO, through its specialized expertise in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, is very well positioned to support countries in making these Global Goals a reality for all.

Forest Whitaker
UNESCO Special Envoy for peace and reconciliation,
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Advocate

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