







# Working Team

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- **Monia BRAHAM** from Tunisia, Natural Resources and Gender Approach in 2030 Agenda: What role does civil society play in moving to the Green Local Development Model in the Arab Region?
- **Gihan ABOUZEID** from Egypt, Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development Goals: A Case Study on «The Role of Egyptian Grassroots Associations in the Empowerment of Women in accordance with the Sustainable Development Plan»
- **Ziad ABDEL SAMAD** from Lebanon , Sustainable Development Agenda: The Role of Civil Society - Prospects and Challenges
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- Thanks should go to **Maysoun EL Houjairi** who translated the SDG guide

## List of participants to the paper delivery Call (approved)

Full name	Country	Paper thesis
<b>Amal ATHIMNI</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>	The Fifth Background Paper: the 2030 Agenda and Gender "Integrated Local Intervention"
<b>Malek SGHIRI</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>	The new movements that played a key role in the Arab Spring
<b>Aomar IBOURK</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	Role of Civil Society and Media in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Analysis of the dynamics of associative movement in the field of literacy in Morocco: Issues, challenges and prospects.
<b>Yusry MUSTAPHA</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	The 2030 Agenda and Gender The cultural dimension
<b>Rashid LBOUCHOUARI</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	Request for sustainable development and the debate on development discourse and culture in Morocco: The situation of rural women in the national strategy for sustainable development 2016 - 2030.
<b>Dorra HARARR</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>	Sustainable development: the case of the village of Douiret, Assets, handicaps and prospects
<b>Youssef EL GUAMRI</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	Management of water resources and a gender approach in rural areas.
<b>Azza DARBALI</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>	Compare the paths of Tunisian civil society organizations from different categories
<b>Mina HOUJIB</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	Sex for Work through a Moroccan journalist's file pursuing the trafficking charges in human beings How did the Moroccan press deal with the event?
<b>Alaa ABO DAYA</b>	<b>Palestine</b>	The enrolment of Palestinian refugee's woman in university education and her role in development process in the Gaza Strip - case study



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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Preamble

“This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development...The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet”.

Dimensions of Sustainable Human Development



Areas mentioned in the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda



The 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda consists of the General Assembly’s resolution (a document entitled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Plan for 2030”). This document is made up of five components: the preamble, the declaration, the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), the means of implementation, and the follow-up and review mechanisms. Together, these components form the global development agenda. The Preamble and the declaration are of particular importance since they clarify the frame of reference, form the unity of the Agenda, and constitute the basis for its coherence and consistency.

The Integration of the Areas of the 2030 Agenda

In our endeavour to understand the 2030 Agenda and use it as a framework to shape national policies, a challenge arises due to the large number of SDGs (17), targets (169), and indicators (232). National policy making and planning require a commitment to the Agenda’s unity without discounting or dividing, a balance between national priorities and limited capacities and resources, as well as between the large number of SDGs and all the targets.

The Agenda’s Preamble, by proposing five areas, suggests a practical way to deal with this issue. It implicitly suggests that we need not deal with each SDG (and target) in isolation, but instead, we must think of a package or unit (a nexus of SDGs and targets) that can link them all within a particular area. Practically speaking, we propose that this be done through the five dimensions of development corresponding to the four areas, in addition to the knowledge/cultural dimension.

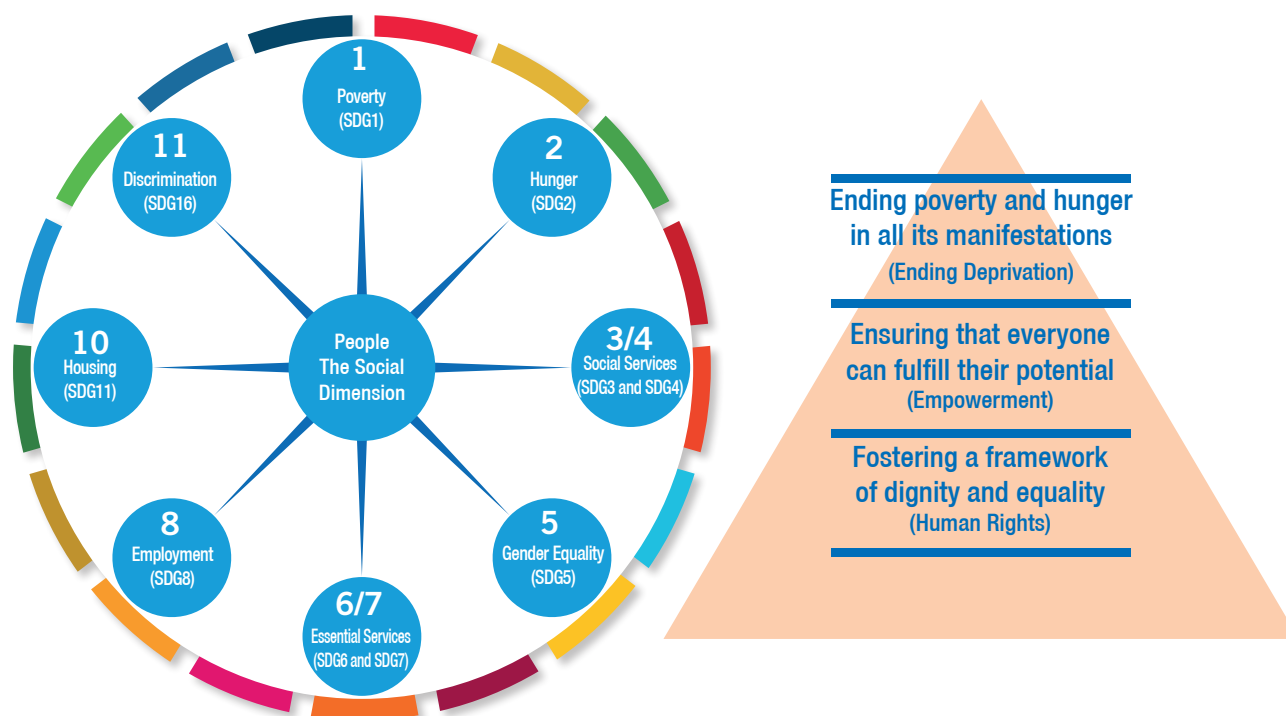
The partnership dimension should also be added as a way of working and as a condition for the development work’s success. In this sense, what is required is to ensure that national plans ignore none of the five dimensions/areas (or six if we add partnership), and to look into regrouping SDGs and targets into interconnected clusters/nexuses within each dimension or area.

The Five Dimensions of Sustainable Human Development

The five dimensions of sustainable human development are the social, economic, environmental, political and cultural. All are equally important, and not one should be ignored in planning and development work. These five dimensions correspond directly to the five areas mentioned in the Preamble: people (social), the planet (environmental), prosperity (economic), peace (political), and partnership (the modus operandi). In our approach, we add the knowledge/cultural dimension, which is usually included within the social. We prefer to consider it as a separate dimension, equal in importance to the others.



## The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The area called «People» in the Preamble corresponds to the social dimension of sustainable human development. People are at the heart of the Agenda and its goals, but some of these goals, and some of the targets, are directly related to this dimension in particular.

The «People» area also encompasses the knowledge/cultural dimension of development (education) since the five areas do not include «culture» independently. However, in what follows we will give it a place of its own, as a dimension in its own right.

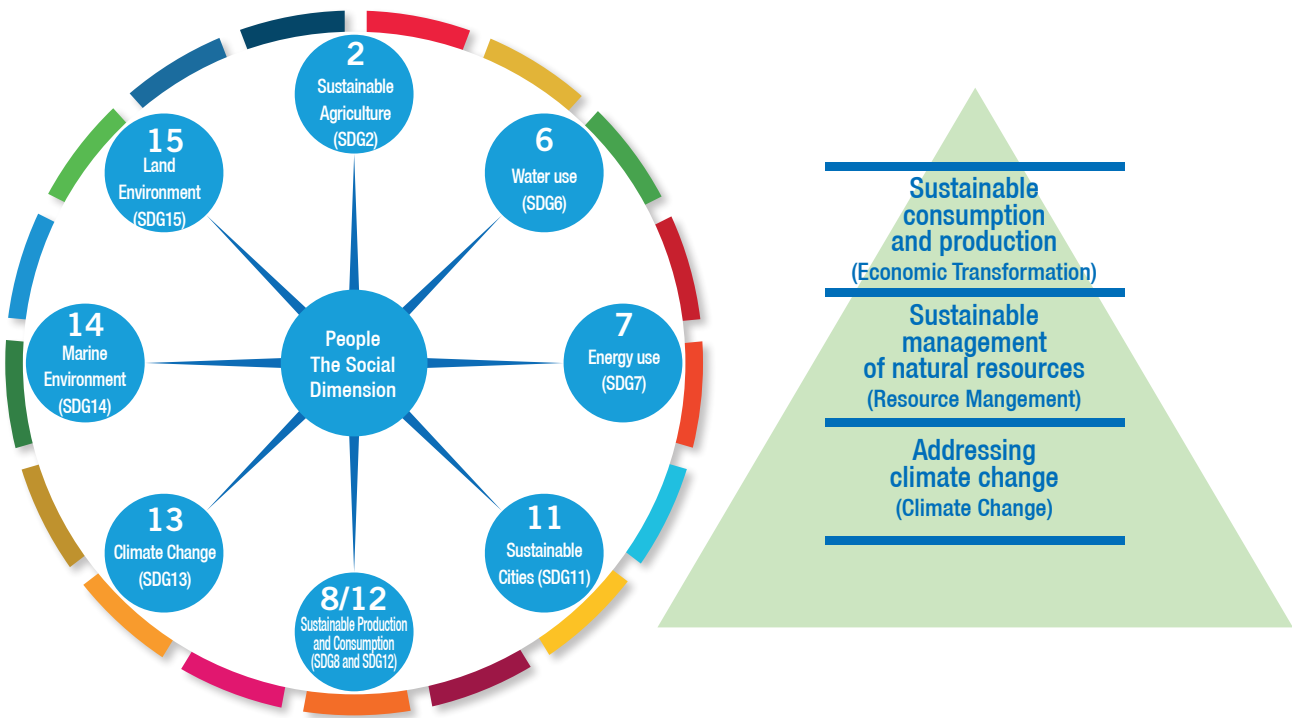
The circular chart shows the goals primarily related to the social dimension in the Agenda, as well as some subsidiary dimensions mentioned in other goals» targets. It is suggested that they be treated as one package (or nexus) in development planning, which will usually come under the heading of “social policies” in national plans.

### People

**“We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.”**

**The Preamble**

## 2. Planet - The Environmental Dimension



The area called «Planet» in the Preamble corresponds to the environmental dimension of sustainable human development. Preserving the planet is a distinct, central goal and is integrated into the other goals as well.

There are some goals that are primarily environmental, and there are some environmental targets included in certain goals. Preserving the planet, sustainable living, and sustainable resource management are the overall results of effective collaborative action in the different economic, social, cultural, and political areas.

Sustainability is an overarching principle relevant to all dimensions, not just the environmental. For this reason, it is referenced throughout the Agenda, goals and targets. Sustainability crucially focuses on long term planning and relates development to the existence of strategic and planned visions and goals.

### Planet

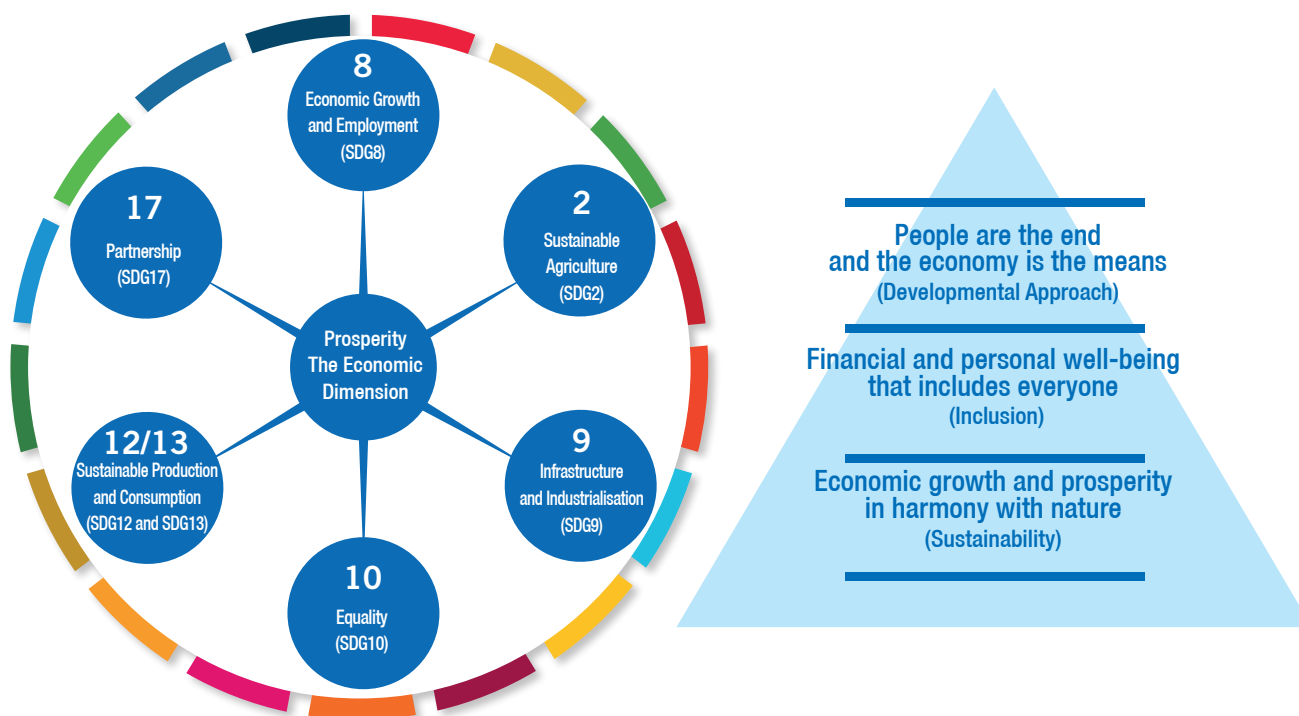
**“We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.”**

**The Preamble**





### 3. Prosperity – The Economic Dimension



The area called «Prosperity» in the Preamble corresponds to the economic dimension of sustainable human development.

It is a means to achieve development and welfare for everyone and not an end in itself. The transition from a focus on economic growth in the strict sense to a focus on «prosperity» is achieved when growth is used to facilitate development for everyone, without discrimination (this is the social inclusive dimension). Further, such a transition can only be achieved when this growth happens in accordance with the requirements of sustainability, rational use of natural resources, and preserving the planet (environmental dimension).

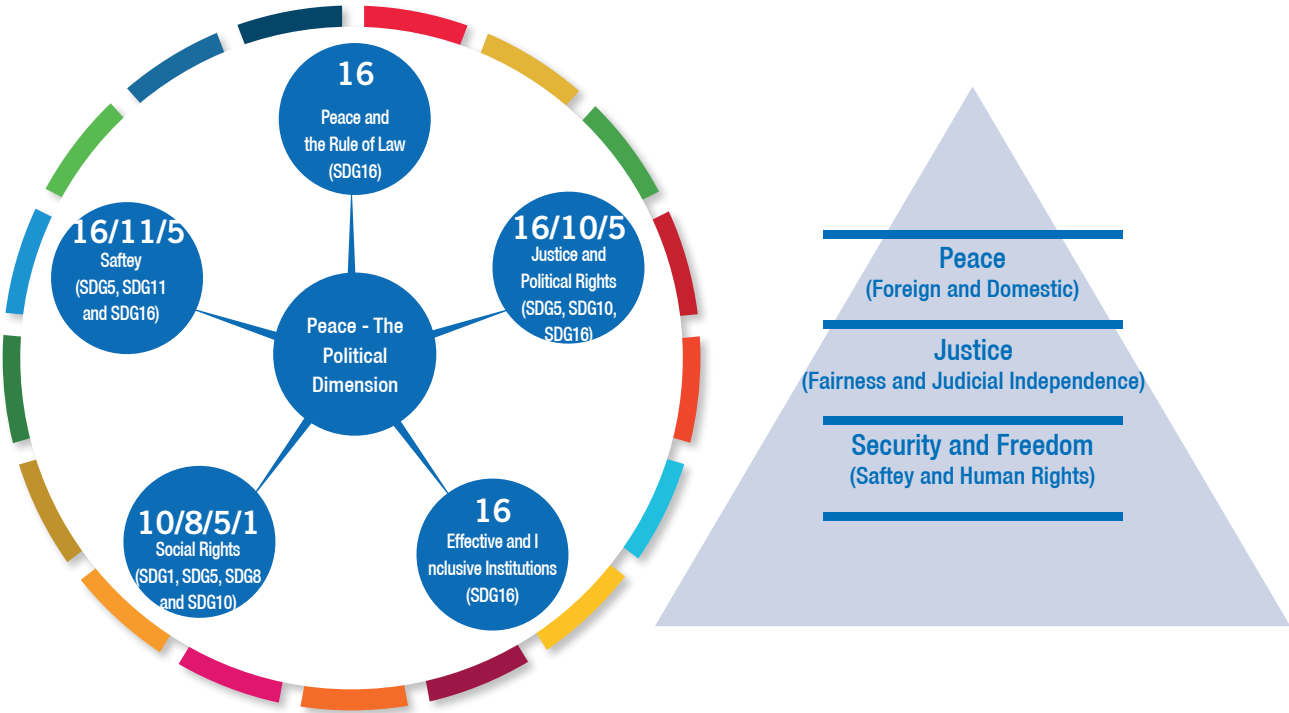
Prosperity (economic dimension) is intrinsically related to equality (SDG10), changing consumption and production patterns (SDG12 and SDG13), and partnership (SDG17). This is because the prevailing economic model remains one of the main causes of inequality and environmental degradation.

#### Prosperity

**“We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.”**

**The Preamble**

## 4. Peace – The Political Dimension



The area called «Peace» in the Preamble is at the centre of the political dimension of sustainable human development. Peace is a necessary precondition of development. Justice, security, freedom for people, and inclusive institutions are all essential for social stability, peace keeping, and, crucially, avoiding relapse into conflicts and war. This dimension is at the core of the political and civil rights system. It consists of three components related to peace: stopping external wars, stopping internal conflicts, and establishing democratic states and inclusive institutions. These institutions are often mistakenly referred to as «strong» (as in the phrasing used for the promotion of SDG16), however this phrasing detracts from the true meaning of the goal, which stresses that institutions must be inclusive - representing and including all. This is the heart of a representative and participatory democracy. This goal seeks to make justice and human rights the basis of the system of governance, security, and peace.

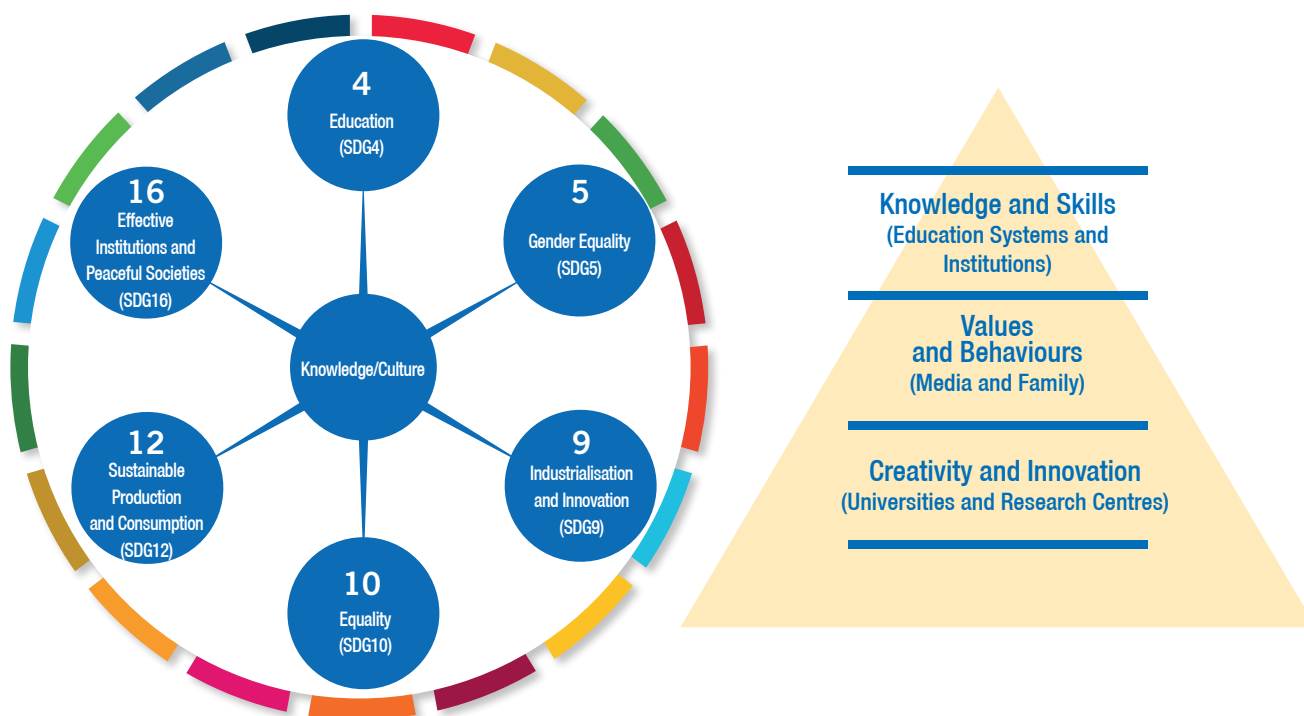
### Peace

**“We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.”**

**The Preamble**



## 5. The Knowledge/Cultural Dimension



The knowledge/cultural dimension and the accompanying value system are essential components of sustainable human development. Whilst it is not explicitly included in the five areas in the 2030 Agenda Preamble, the knowledge/cultural dimension is covered implicitly by numerous topics, including some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4), certain targets in other goals, and in the Agenda itself. Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs requires considerable progress in the spheres of science, technology, and innovation. It also requires a change of values within economic, political, and institutional guidelines: a move towards sustainability, gender equality, justice, and a culture of rights, tolerance, solidarity, etc.

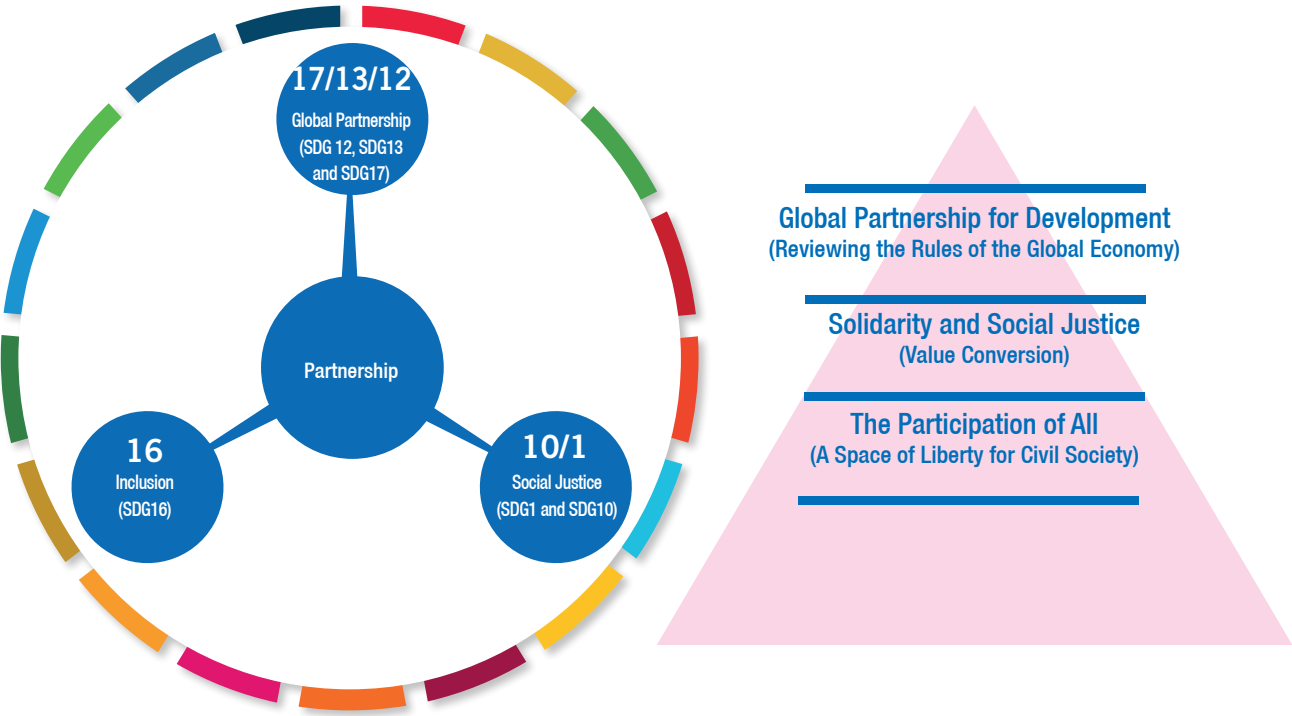
SDG4 constitutes a clear focus for this dimension, but it should be included within a more comprehensive and transformative «knowledge and culture» context. Moreover, anything related to the knowledge/cultural dimension in the rest of the Agenda and goals must be noted, as suggested in the above figure.

### Knowledge & culture

**“We are committed to enabling everyone to exercise their right to knowledge, to develop their skills and capabilities, to expand their choices, and to contribute to the making of their present and future. We are also committed to promoting the values of human rights, solidarity, diversity and difference, encouraging participation in sustainable development, building peace, and encouraging creativity and innovation.”**

**The Preamble**

# 6. Partnership



The area called «Partnership» is the method or modus operandi of the development approach.

Partnership includes within its global outlook and stresses the international responsibility for achieving the goals, and the solidarity necessary between states and societies for the sake of development. The principle of common but differentiated responsibility is to be noted.

Partnership includes a commitment to correcting distortions in the global economy, addressing the problem of debt, financing development (including addressing the perception of development aid), as well as to technology transfer etc. It is noteworthy that Partnership includes collaboration between states, civil society and the private sector within each country. This area is a development of Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) towards which no real achievements were made.

## Partnership

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.”

The Preamble



1 NO POVERTY



## END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



### SDG1 – No Poverty

This SDG includes five result targets and two policy targets. The five result targets represent five aspects of poverty: extreme poverty, deprivation in its broader sense, social protection, access to social services and public utilities, access to resources, and building resilience to unexpected circumstances.

The two policy targets are very important. They constitute the preconditions of success for eradicating poverty: sound policies, and provision of resources.

### What is the focus of SDG1?

The new wording of SDG1 makes it impossible to reduce or limit the goal of ending poverty to one form, or to measure it using just one indicator. Poverty and inequality are undoubtedly interrelated, and the goal of ending poverty cannot be separated from other goals such as providing essential public utilities (SDGs 6, 7, 9, and 11), providing economic resources and inclusive economic policies (8), providing education and health services (3 and 4), gender equality (5), peace, security, and justice (16) nor from sustainable production patterns sensitive to small farmers and producers, etc. If we do not respect this interrelation, we will fail to fully realise SDG1, and will be bound to the narrow understanding of ending poverty expounded by the MDG1.

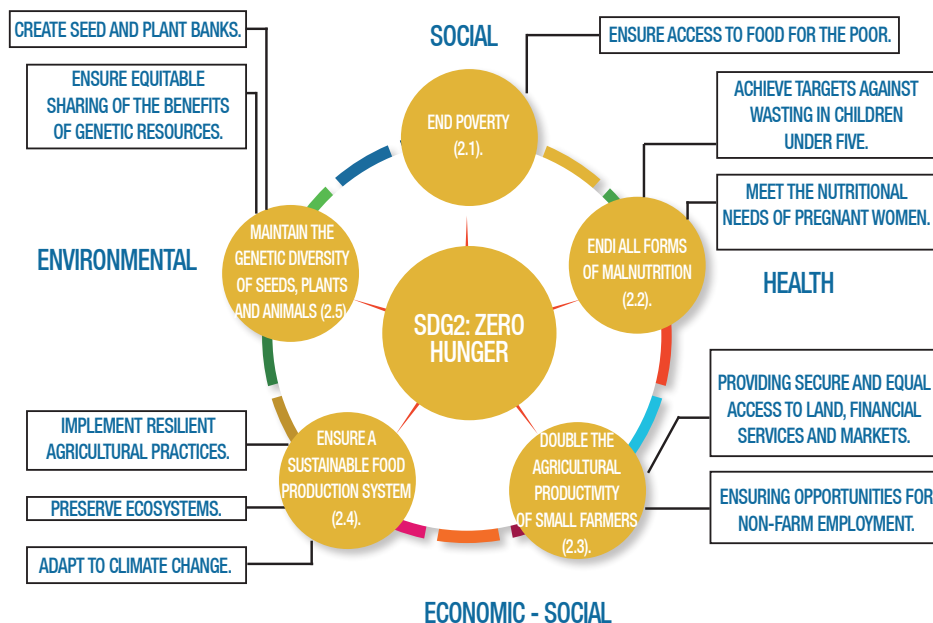
As for the measurement of this goal, the indicators are now more diverse. The first indicator for measuring extreme poverty (according to the international poverty line) is no longer the single most important indicator. The same applies to any multidimensional poverty measure that does not clearly provide higher poverty rates than the previous measurement (the second indicator). On the other hand, should we need to evaluate the most important and relevant indicator to measure progress achieved in ending poverty, then the social protection indicator would top the list as it most effectively reflects the concept of poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, connected to decent work and responsive to women's rights.

Ending poverty has retained its position as the first goal of the 2030 Agenda, the same position it held in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs.) The nature of this goal makes it the successful outcome of the whole development process. For this reason, it is always mentioned in the Preamble, the Declaration, and in the compelling reasons for every development plan, as a success indicator.

It should also be noted that the formulation of this goal in the two successive Agendas (the MDGs and the 2030 Agenda) was developed and expanded. While MDG1 focused on a narrow definition of poverty, limiting the goal to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (with the international poverty line as a standard - people living on less than \$1 a day), SDG1, of the 2030 Agenda, expanded the definition to include poverty and deprivation in a multidimensional and broader sense. By linking SDG1 to SDG10 (equality), SDG1 takes into account the concept of relative poverty and becomes relevant to all countries, regardless of their development level. Whereas, MDG1 applied in practice only to the least developed countries. This change is not merely a formality, but a transition with a profound effect on how we approach poverty eradication, policies to achieve it, and tools and indicators of assessment. Additionally, the reference in the formulation of the goal to "everywhere" makes clear that this goal is national, and that reducing poverty rates at the global level alone is not sufficient. This is what happened in the MDGs phase whereby the global goal was achieved theoretically and quantitatively by reducing poverty rates in India and China. The eradication of poverty must be achieved in all countries and all regions within a country.



## END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



### SDG2: Zero Hunger

This SDG includes five result targets and three policy targets. This goal is one of the most complex and multifaceted of the SDGs. It encompasses multiple issues including poverty, environment, economy, and health. It also has international, regional, and national impacts. The policy targets focus on greater investment in agriculture, the reconsidering of rules of international trade related to food, as well as the healthy functioning of national markets.

### LAND, PEOPLE AND FOOD SECURITY

When addressing this goal in national and local policies and practices, its complex nature must be taken into consideration and a detailed analysis must be made of the most important aspects of the food security problem within a country or at the local level. For example, in a rich country (such as rich, small, desert states like the Gulf countries), the food security issue may be the complete dependence on imports. Therefore, whenever political tension arises, a food (and water) security crisis emerges despite the abundance of funds. In another country where the poverty rate is high, food may be available, but people are unable to afford it, therefore, the food security issue is hunger or malnutrition. In a third scenario, the problem could be the imbalance in the distribution of food due to war or other factors, or perhaps water availability or mismanagement. Defining the specific problem is therefore necessary as «food insecurity» generally can mean different things and is insufficient for drawing up policies.

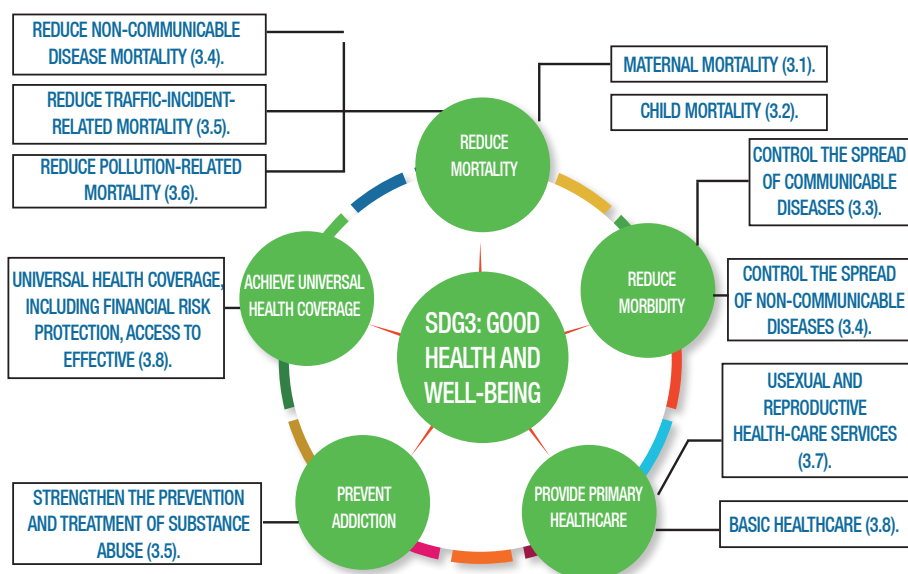
Furthermore, all agricultural activity (crops and livestock), along with climatic conditions, are related to this goal, which is also closely and clearly linked to the social and economic division of labour between men and women. It must therefore be considered in light of existing lifestyles and in the context of comprehensive rural and local development which includes smart investment in the environment and nature (the source of all life), empowering women and preserving the continuity and development of family and social relations.

Previously, MDG1 and its target considered ending hunger as an element of ending poverty, since hunger is an extreme form of poverty. The SDGs address the matter somewhat differently, since food security has become a goal in its own right and includes ending hunger as one of its main targets. There is a qualitative difference here. The phrasing used in the promotion of SDG2 in the SDG Icons: «Zero Hunger»- does not convey the full intended meaning as ending hunger will always remain a part of ending poverty (SDG 1) while SDG2 is concerned with food security, a goal which must have environmental, health, and economic dimensions. These three dimensions are more important than just ending hunger, which is a part of SDG 1. This is one of the common errors in addressing SDG2.





## ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



### SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being

This SDG includes nine result targets and four policy targets.

These targets centre around five pivotal points: reducing mortality, reducing morbidity, primary healthcare, addiction prevention and universal health coverage. The policy targets focus on two important points: access to medicines for all and reviewing intellectual property law for medicine, and retention of medical staff in developing countries.

### HEALTH IN NATIONAL POLICY

Similarly to other SDGs, it is necessary to adapt «Health» to each country's specific circumstances and priorities. In general, access to essential health services and an increase in staffing levels are the top priority in less developed Arab countries. In these areas there is a need to improve coverage and reduce mortality and morbidity. The priorities are different in some other countries, where the focus is quality of services and bridging any social and regional gaps in providing them. There is also a serious problem in terms of healthcare costs, especially in cases where the private sector dominates the healthcare system. There are other disparities between countries, often related to the age composition of each society, and to particular national policies such as the balance between the public and the private sectors, and between «preventive» and «treatment» approaches (in which the priority is hospitalization).

In all cases there are common points that must be considered which provide the basis of SDG3: transition from the medical concept and morbidity indicators to health indicators (including mental health which is usually neglected), attention to lifestyle, nutrition, preventive medicine, prevention at all levels, primary healthcare and anticipating the need for treatment, recognising the right to health and to have health insurance throughout one's life. Moreover, proper attention must be given to sexual and reproductive health and rights. These matters are frequently neglected, or addressed only partially, because they are related to women and girls or to culturally sensitive issues. In such cases, there is greater resistance to respecting these rights and fulfilling their requirements.

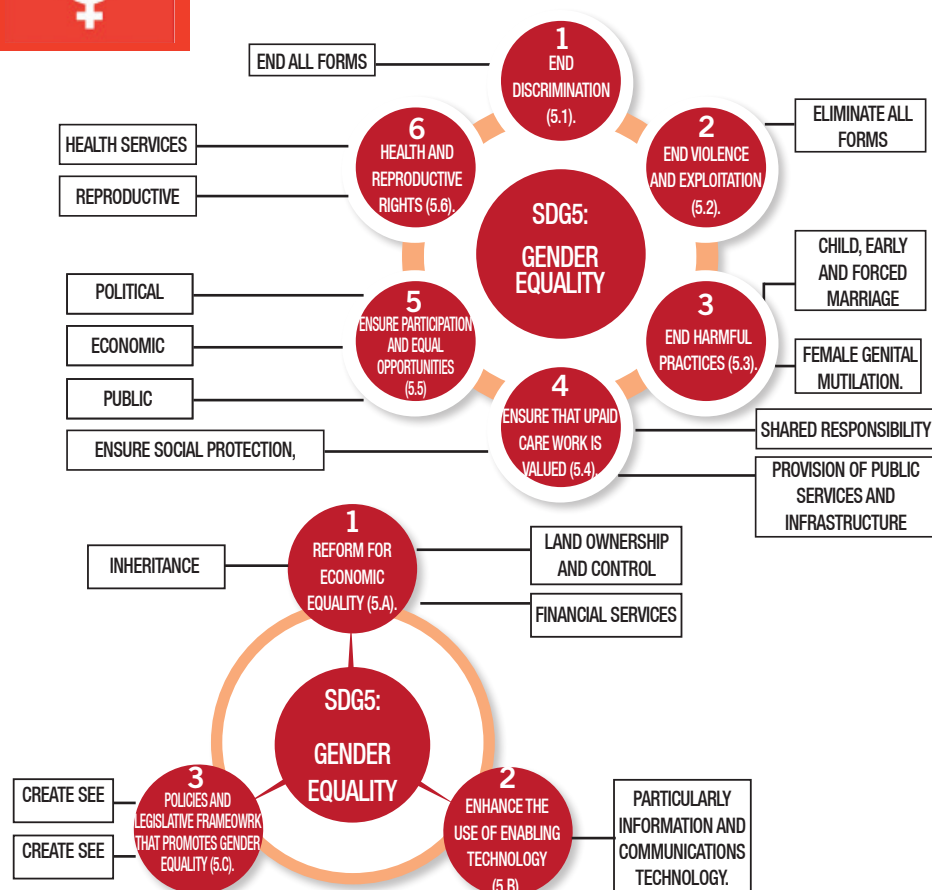
The 2020 spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) reveals that the world has not yet overcome the problem of pandemics. It has also revealed the deep-seated connection between pandemics and environmental problems, dietary patterns, and lifestyles. We are now more aware than ever of the weaknesses of health systems (those of developed countries included) and the gaps in scientific research in this area. It has reaffirmed the necessity of a holistic approach to health issues, and the importance of prevention, solidarity, and eco-friendly, people-friendly, healthy lifestyles.

This new approach to health has evolved from three direct and simple goals in the MDGs –child mortality, maternal health and communicable diseases. All of these have been merged in the 2030 Agenda into SDG 3, and now exist as targets within this broader goal. At the same time, new targets have been added which are not simply indicators of mortality and disease but are also related to prevention. This is a transition away from the narrow medical perspective to a broader approach, which links together health, social issues and the environment, all formulated from the human rights perspective of human rights.

In this regard, target 8, which states that universal health coverage must be provided for all, is an essential change from the MDGs from the perspective of human rights and converges with the ideas of the provision of social protection and ending poverty and inequality. The meaning of SDG 3 is now broadened and includes contingencies of disease, prevention, and health rights in all countries regardless of their development levels. As well as this, it takes into account environment-related diseases, chemical pollution, and other factors (such as those pertinent to countries suffering from war). As for the target related to victims of traffic accidents, there is a tendency to consider it as more related to traffic safety and security than to health.



## ACHIEVE GENDER AQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



### SDG5: Gender Equality

This SDG includes nine result targets and three policy targets. This goal seeks both to abolish all forms of discrimination against women and to support their comprehensive empowerment. Its methods are fully embedded in the human-rights-based approach. Gender equality is further reinforced by SGD10, which also strives to reduce inequality as a comprehensive principle and attaches great importance to policy in this regard.

### Comparison with MDG3

MDG3 had only one target: gender equality in education. It included three traditional indicators for education, economic participation, and political participation.

### GENDER EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (SDG5) has a critical place in the 2030 Agenda. It epitomises the majority of developmental and human rights challenges at the level of policies and institutions as well as at the level of society and culture. Therefore, the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of women lies at the core of the whole development process. SDG5 must be understood as an indivisible whole as there is no such thing as partial equality. It must be achieved totally and completely for this goal to be accomplished. This SDG involves:

- Committing to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere, and to ending all harmful practices. This is directly connected to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other resolutions related to addressing violence against women.
- Addressing traditional issues in a more integrated way, especially political and economic participation and reproductive and health rights.
- Adding a target of special importance which is to acknowledge the value of the care work that women perform within the family, and pointing to its prerequisites such as sharing the care responsibilities within the family. This will represent a significant cultural shift.
- Including within the targets the means of implementing this goal, i.e., the policy directions necessary in order to achieve it. There are two important targets here: target (a) which calls for economic reform in order to achieve equality and equal opportunities in the economic sphere, and target (c) which clearly calls for the adoption of empowering, non-discriminatory policies and legislations through the framework of public policy, not restricted only to individual programs, projects, and measures.

### The New Elements of SDG5

SDG5 represents a qualitative change when compared to MDG3. As gender equality in education is included in SDG4, this goal tackles important yet previously overlooked aspects of gender inequality, especially those related to violence against women, economic and political empowerment of women, and gender roles within the family. More importantly, it emphasises, through its policy targets, the mechanisms and means by which to achieve the goals effectively, all from a human-rights perspective.

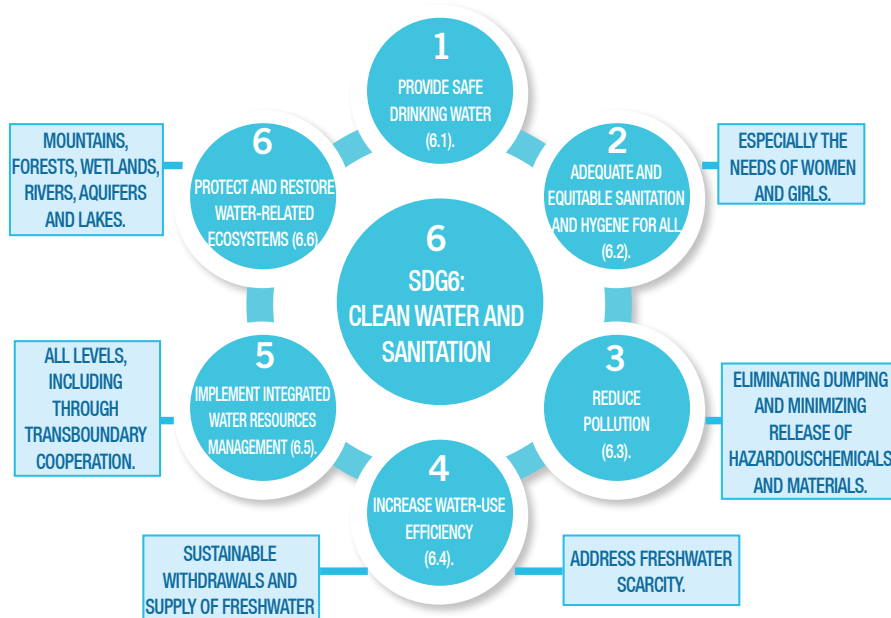




## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



# ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



## SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

This SDG includes six result targets and two policy targets.

This goal addresses the provision of drinking water, and the availability of sewage services. It covers the right for all to have access to such services, the health aspect of this issue (hygiene and pollution) and the environmental aspect (waste water treatment), as well as the good management of water in a sustainable way. Consideration of the disparity between rural and urban areas is essential for this SDG.

## WOMEN AND WATER

The relationship between women and water is closely connected to the gender division of labour, women's care role in the family, and agricultural work in rural areas. As we will see, a human-centred, sustainability-focused development approach to water management has clear, positive effects on the lives of individuals and social groups, as well as on the status of women and their ability to enjoy their rights and use their time more freely.

Availability of good-quality water (and sewage services) for all the family can unlock untapped potential which would be lost in collecting water or rationing its household use: functions that are particularly borne by women. For example, girls can often be deprived of their education because they need to fetch water for their families, especially in rural areas. Sustainable agricultural practices, especially in family farms and smallholdings, are based on a lifestyle centred around water, in which women's role in the fields, in the household, and in water management is intertwined. Women holding decision-making positions in water management at the local level can improve sustainable and balanced use of this most vital resource and can reduce local conflicts related to water use.

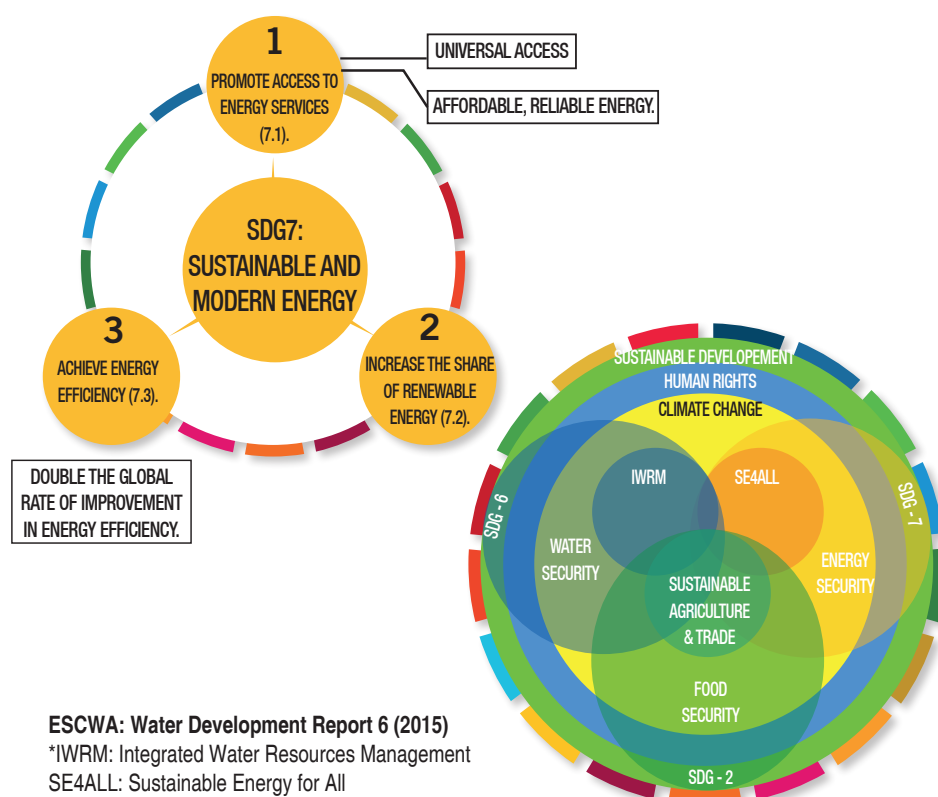
In comparison to the MDGs, this new approach [in the 2030 Agenda] centres around the following:

- The shift from representing clean water and sanitation as one target within MDG7, to having a specific goal dedicated to them in the 2030 Agenda.
- The shift from a one-dimensional goal/target (i.e. the availability of water and sewage services) to a complex multi-dimensional goal that covers the availability of the service and its sustainable management.
- Increasing the level of required achievement since this goal now includes providing this service to everyone without exception.

The two policy targets for this goal are concerned with international cooperation in this area, both in terms of relevant technology (e.g., salinity treatment and seawater desalination), and in supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving the management of water and sewage networks. Naturally, water becomes a more complex issue by virtue of its intersection with agriculture, food security, health, hygiene, and the reduction of pollution. It is also connected to industry and to issues related to public policy, such as whether water should be considered a common good and a human right, or a private commodity. This controversial topic is at the forefront of international trade conventions and national policy debates. Transboundary waters (such as rivers) represent another problem that must be taken into consideration here.



## ENSURE ACCE TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL



ESCWA: Water Development Report 6 (2015)  
 \*IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management  
 SE4ALL: Sustainable Energy for All

### SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy

This SDG includes three result targets and two policy targets. The result targets centre around three pivotal points: providing energy services to all, increasing the share of renewable energy and achieving energy efficiency. The two policy targets relate to developing scientific research and supporting developing countries with their energy infrastructure.

This goal ignores the political and economic dimensions of energy problems, despite their being essential factors in international politics including in war.

### ENERGY ISSUES IN THE ARAB REGION

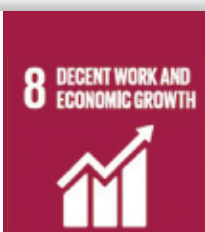
SDG7 focuses on energy issues from the perspective of availability, efficiency, and sustainability. However, it omits some aspects related to the strategic importance of this sector at the global, regional, and national levels. Oil and gas are strategic commodities in the global economy and will remain so until further notice. Controlling their production, trade and price is a critical issue in international politics. War can break out for the sake of control over oil and gas resources or to secure trade routes and pipeline security. The Arab region presents striking examples of this.

Moreover, control of these commodities represents a means of financing national and regional rentier policies and, frequently, influencing the decisions of regional bodies and neighbouring states. Furthermore, the energy sector (electric energy included) is a lucrative field for investment by global megafirms who often drain the resources of developing countries using global and local capital.

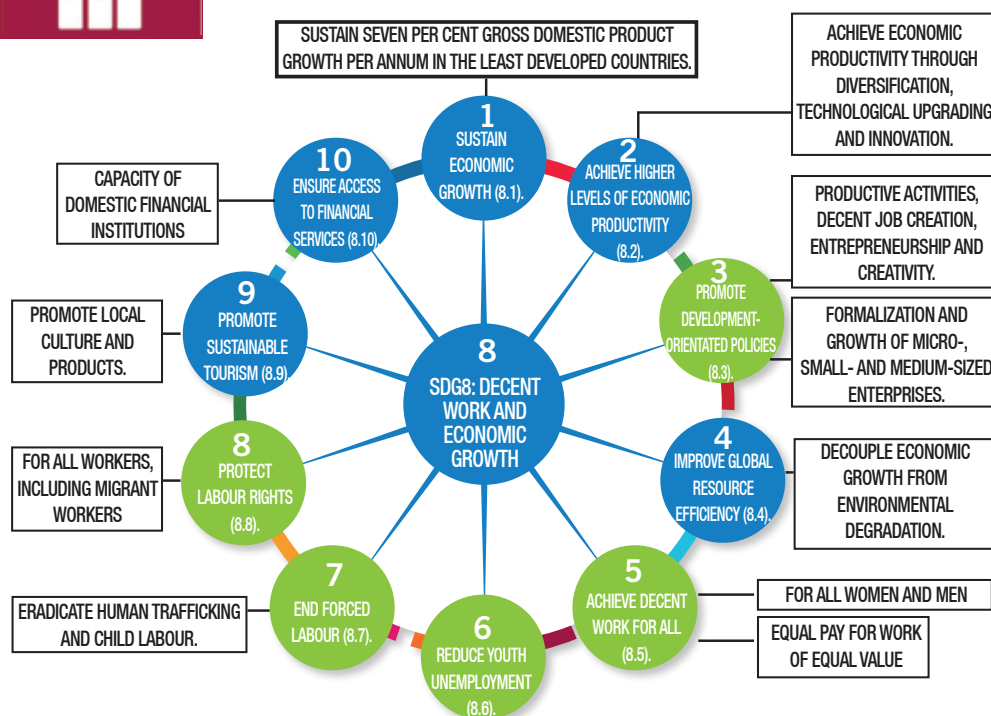
These considerations are extremely important in the Arab region, whether in the Gulf or the Mediterranean regions, where the recent discovery of gas fields will stimulate new alliances and conflicts that overlap with interests of states on both sides of the Mediterranean. The Israeli occupation of Palestine and its territorial waters, which contain gas fields, adds to the complexity of the issue.

All the SDGs are interconnected, and some are bound together, in “packages” or “nexuses”. These cannot be divided during policy making. This applies to the nexus of energy-water-food (and health). Therefore, energy sector planning must take into account these links.

In the Arab region, especially in the least-developed countries or those grappling with the effects of conflict, supplying energy services to the whole population remains a priority. In general, energy efficiency (relative to GDP) is a priority for most Arab countries where efficiency is relatively low due to the nature of the prevailing economic sectors and the technology used. Renewable energy use is still limited despite it being available and representing a solution to many environmental and economic problems.



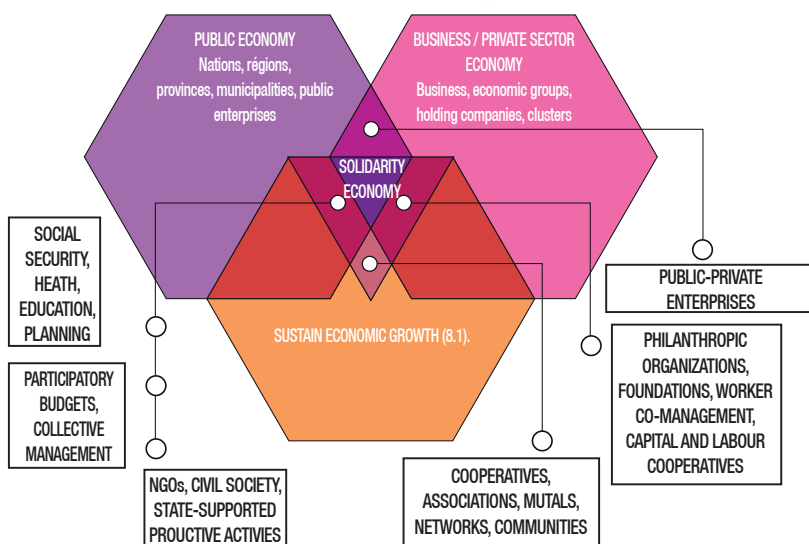
## PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



### SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

This SDG includes ten result targets and two policy targets.

The ten result targets are centred around two pivotal points: growth and economic development, and employment and decent work. This goal combines the economic and the social dimensions of sustainable human development, whilst also incorporating an environmental context and ensuring sustainability. The policy targets relate to development aid and global youth employment. This global outlook is more thoroughly covered in SDG17 (Partnership).



Solidarity economy in the comprehensive economic framework

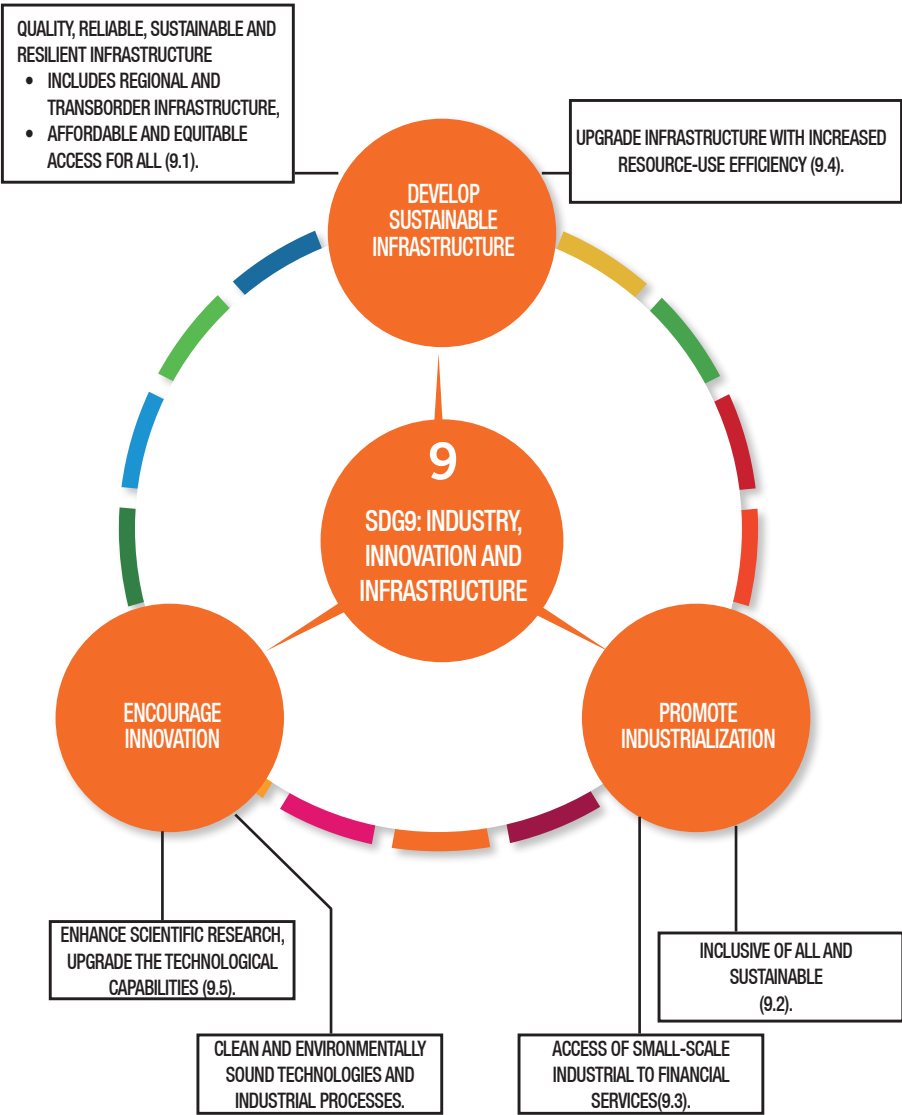
It is a mistake to limit the understanding of this goal to economic growth in the narrow sense, which would go against the 2030 Agenda's philosophy. A concern for employment and respect for decent work conditions underpins practically half of all the targets, so it is virtually impossible to divide or separate them. These targets emphasise the adoption of development policies, decent work requirements, reduction of unemployment, ending forced labour, ending child labour and respecting migrant workers, especially women. A number of the targets also stress the importance of decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, thus making respect for nature a key condition for development-oriented economic growth.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The first point relates to the fact that there is a gender dimension in economic growth policy options as defined in SDG8, as well as SDG5 and SDG10, whereby all grounds for discrimination between men and women must be eradicated. This is not only in terms of re/distribution but also at the level of economic philosophy and consequently the measures and indicators of national economies. Reorientation towards a social and solidarity economy and a care economy is at the core of this goal.
2. The second point of interest relates to the critical importance of fiscal and tax policies in redistribution of national wealth and income, the correction of vertical and horizontal imbalances and inequalities and the stimulation of developmental economic policy options. As such, this goal is strongly intertwined with the policy directions of international financial institutions which put pressure on national policies.



## BULD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION



### SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

This SDG includes five result targets and three policy targets. It centres around three pivotal points: efficient and sustainable infrastructure; promoting industrialisation and innovation and technology. This goal has a comprehensive character and quite diverse applications. It should be implemented in a manner that corresponds to national priorities and the specific conditions of each country, especially those with insufficient resources or those in a state of war. The latter would have undergone substantial destruction of infrastructure and facilities and would require large-scale reconstruction processes, such as the rehabilitation of infrastructure and residential environments to allow the return of inhabitants to areas abandoned and destroyed by armed conflict. Due to lack of resources, accumulation of problems, and institutional weakness in a post-war or post-conflict period, it is necessary to find innovative and participatory ways to make citizens the essential agents in the development process.

### THE ROLE OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, IN RECONSTRUCTION

The reconstruction process – the preparation of infrastructure, housing, and facilities - is not merely a technical process. Rather, the development perspective promotes a participatory and humane approach that allows inhabitants themselves to contribute to the rebuilding and rehabilitation of their neighbourhoods. This will strengthen their sense of ownership and help preserve public facilities. It transforms inhabitants from passive recipients to agents of development in their countries. In addition, it provides a living for them through work, not aid. The process is not necessarily limited to the large-scale construction contracts granted to corporations but can also provide room for simple, popular initiatives and innovation- in which the youth and women can play an essential and effective role- thus also creating collective ownership by men and women of their living spaces.



## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

### INTERNAL DIMENSION Inequality Within Countries

ACHIEVE AND SUSTAIN INCOME GROWTH OF THE BOTTOM FORTY PER CENT OF THE POPULATION (10.1).

PROMOTE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION OF ALL (10.2).

ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES OF OUTCOME, INCLUDING BY ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATORY LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES (10.3).

ADOPT POLICIES TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY, ESPECIALLY FISCAL, WAGE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES (10.4).

### EXTERNAL DIMENSION Inequality Between Countries

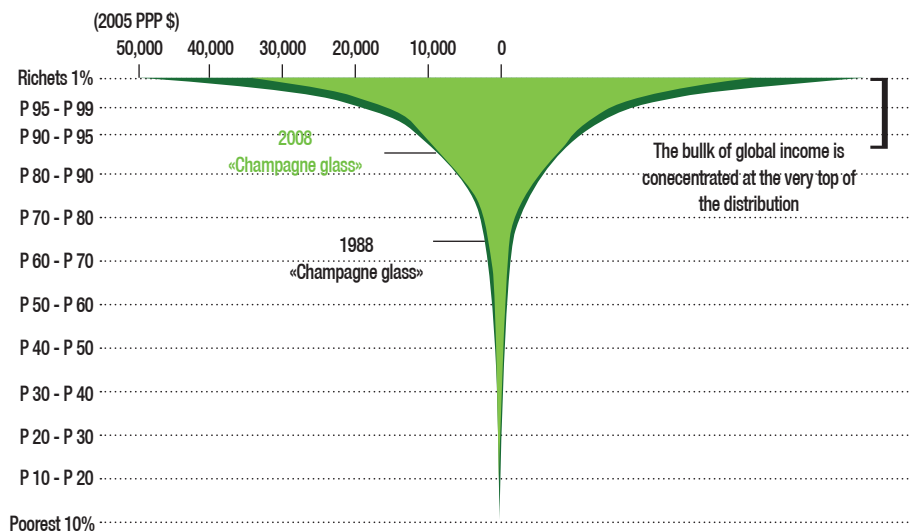
IMPROVE THE REGULATION AND MONITORING OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS AND INSTITUTIONS AND STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH REGULATIONS (10.5).

ENSURE ENHANCED REPRESENTATION AND VOICE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN DECISION MAKING IN GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (10.6).

FACILITATE SAFE MIGRATION AND MOBILITY OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED AND WELL-MANAGED MIGRATION POLICIES (10.7).

### SDG10: Reduced Inequalities

This SDG includes seven result targets that centre around national and global inequalities and three policy targets that focus on global inequalities and emphasize: preferential treatment for developing countries, investment in developing countries and a reduction in the transfer costs of migrant remittances for developing countries which is a major source of financing.



There is widespread consensus that inequality is a global problem that affects all countries and that it is a priority. The figure on the left shows that the share the rich in the total world's wealth has increased between 1998 and 2008. Consequently, the 2030 Agenda added a specific goal about inequality and obliged all countries to pursue it. This goal is strongly connected to SDG1 (ending poverty) but extends to the entire population. It is directly related to universal social justice including wealth and income distribution.

### HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL INEQUALITIES

Equality is a comprehensive principle and a complex reality and thus inequality is manifested in several ways. Some of these are vertical (inequality in wealth and income), and some horizontal (inequality among social groups). The most important of these inequalities –especially in the Arab region – are gender inequality, regional inequalities, age group inequality (between the youth and the elderly) and other inequalities related to specific groups (people with disabilities, the refugees and the displaced, etc.). SDG10 strives to fight against every form of inequality and is at the core of the humanrights-based approach. In this it is directly linked to SDG1& SDG2 (poverty), SDG8 (economic growth), and SDG5 (gender equality). The 2030 Agenda encourages the treatment of SDG5 (gender equality) as a special case of SDG10 (universal equality). It is worth noting that vertical inequalities generate other forms of horizontal inequalities, and as such no form can be isolated from the other. SDG10 is also closely related to SDG16, which is concerned with political and civil rights as well as with the right to life. Furthermore, it is closely linked to environmental goals as it not only tackles inequality within a generation, but also between generations. This is a new approach to equality that is essential to consider given how our civilization is evolving.





## ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

INCLUSIVITY

SAFETY

RESILIENCE

THESE CONCEPTS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY  
HUMAN-CENTRED.

SUSTAINABILITY

### SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

This SDG includes seven result targets and three policy targets. These targets centre around four dimensions: inclusion, safety, resilience and sustainability.

The policy targets emphasize the links between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, as well as the importance of integrated urban development planning, including building resilience to disasters and holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

SDG11 is a special type of goal. Cities are often considered microcosms of the world and, given the essence of SDG11 and its diversity, it encompasses the whole 2030 Agenda however on a smaller scale. As such, the dimensions and targets included in this goal are comprehensive and cover the development process in its entirety, intersecting with all the dimensions and the other 16 SDGs.

The underlying philosophy and construction of SDG11 are based on inclusion and integration, two essential principles in the Agenda. Its targets cover all dimensions and areas: the social dimension (People), in its focus on inclusion, the right to housing and services and poverty eradication by upgrading slums, the environmental dimension (Planet) in its focus on natural resource management, air pollution treatment and solid waste management, the economic dimension (Prosperity), through its attention to the connection between urban, semi-urban and rural areas in the context of integrated development plans, the cultural dimension, through its emphasis on the right of everyone to enjoy cultural heritage and the governance dimension (Peace and Partnership) in the way it clearly considers good local governance to be a precondition for building inclusive sustainable cities. Moreover, it is one of the most inclusive goals as a result of its emphasis on cities being friendly to women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

If we want to achieve this SDG in its entirety, we must bear in mind that we will be striving to realise a miniature, comprehensive 2030 Agenda, that does not exclude any dimension or any social group.

### WOMEN AND THE CITY

SDG11 will be considered successfully accomplished when cities are safe, inclusive environments for all their inhabitants, in particular for these six different groups: the urban poor, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, as well as refugees, the displaced and migrant workers. Municipal/local councils, associations, civil society organisations and trade unions have an essential role to play here, as they must be effective partners in the local governance of a city. They also have an important and direct role in grassroots mobilisation in their neighbourhoods, according to the local development approach which should not be considered as exclusive to rural communities.

Women will play a crucial role here in ensuring the participation and the inclusion of other groups. Women's participation in local action in neighbourhoods and at the city level is essential for the promotion of social cohesion within neighbourhoods. It also brings with it the possibility of including the elderly, children and entire families in urban life. It should be noted that this will never happen if participation and decision-making are restricted to men.



## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

# ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

### SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

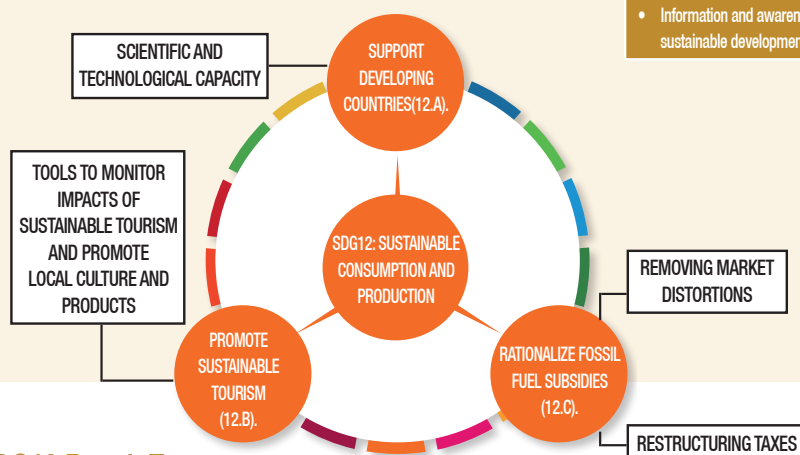
- Efficient use and management of natural resources (12.2).
- Reduce food waste (12.3).

### SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION PATTERNS

- Efficient use and management of natural resources (12.2).
- Reduce waste generation (12.5).
- Companies to adopt sustainable practices (12.6).

### JOINT (MANAGEMENT AND AWARENESS)

- Implement the 10-year framework (12.1).
- Achieve sound management of chemicals and all wastes (12.4).
- Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable (12.7).
- Information and awareness for sustainable development (12.8).



## SDG12 Result Targets

This SDG includes eight result targets which centre around three pivotal points: All that is connected with sustainable patterns of consumption, sustainable production and the joint actions that complement policy targets. While most of these targets are highly technical, some address the reasons behind the dominance of unsustainable production and consumption patterns. This aspect should be prioritized given the transformative nature of the SDGs which is manifested clearly in this goal. The wording used for this goal and for its promotion includes some deliberate ambiguity in the interchangeable use of words like «efficiency» and «responsibility» and the term «sustainability», with only the latter carrying clear connotations. SDG12 seeks to address highly important issues including the role of companies and economic policies and the need to transform awareness and value systems.

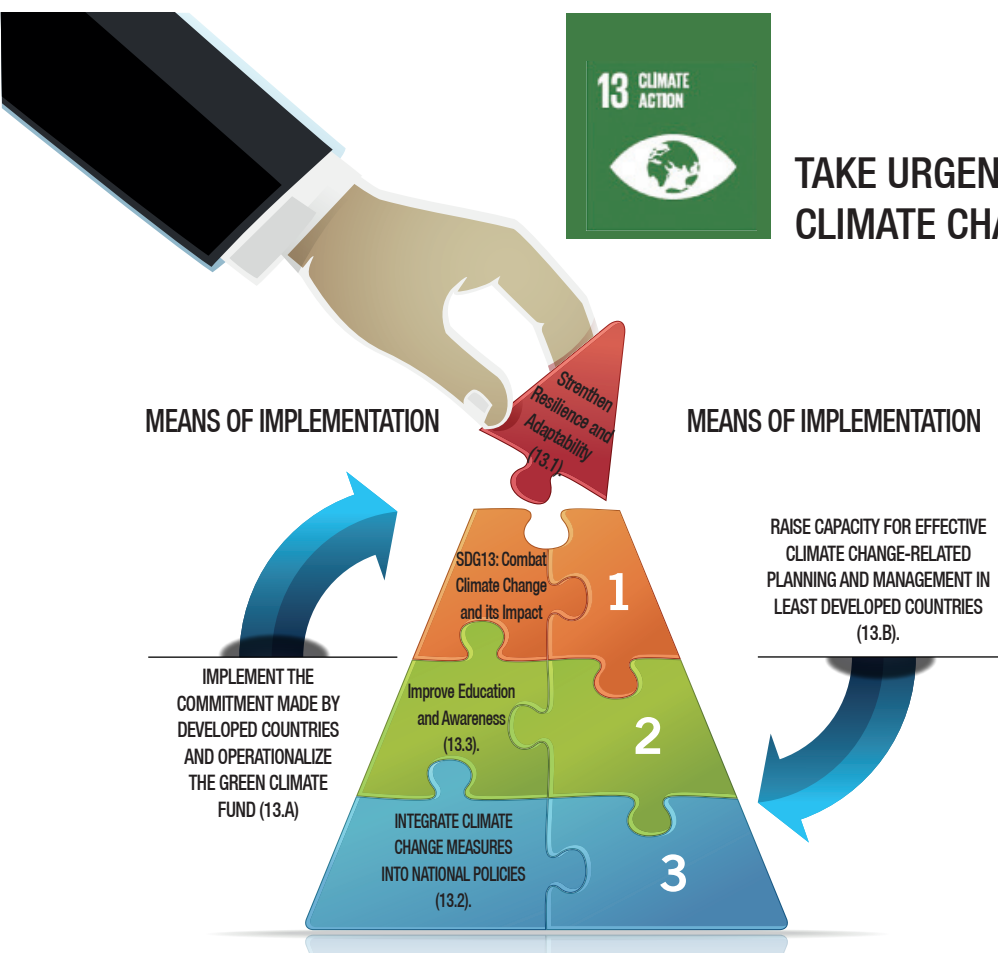
## SDG12 Policy Targets

SDG12 includes three policy targets which are considered a means for implementing this goal: Improving technology in order to make it more sustainable, promoting sustainable tourism and, most importantly, rationalising the consumption of fossil fuel (a persistent policy prescription by International Financial Institutions). The latter target provides the entry point for this goal to address the following issues: ending market distortions, ending the practices of large and transnational corporations (target 12.6), tax restructuring and protecting developing countries and the poor. It should be noted that the approach here is partial in contrast to the transformative nature of the goal itself, the elements of which are impossible to separate from one another. Partial measures can never provide the conditions necessary for achieving this goal, the right approach would be to tackle the targets and policies as per their wider meaning focussing on the ultimate objective.

## THE CIVIL SOCIETY APPROACH

The developmental and rights-based civil society has an integrated, transformative view of this goal that goes beyond merely a series of technical procedures. This is entirely aligned with the Brundtland Report: Our Common Future (1987) and with the guidelines of earth summits, beginning with Rio 1992 through to Rio +20 in 2012. Accordingly, what is required is a fundamental transformation in both the production and consumption patterns that have driven human civilisation into a downward fall that is depleting the planet's resources. This is owing to the dominant logic of profit and growth that are free of any environmental or social responsibility and that ignore the human rights of this and future generations. The 2030 Agenda warns that this reality represents a threat to life on the planet.

The two important reasons behind the regressive, unsustainable path we have taken are: the dominance of the profit and utilitarian philosophy and the expansion of economic interests at the expense of society, human rights, and nature. This goes hand-in-hand with the growing dominance of great powers over global political and economic governance, the narrowing margin of diversity and plurality, the shrinking policy space for national parties, and the free reign of giant global companies including financial ones, facilitated by trade and investment agreements, which control global resources without accountability. The most striking evidence of this is the rejection of climate treaties by some governments (the USA, and later Brazil), justified by reference to their economic interests and growth in the face environmental conspiracies. This highlights the essential issues that must be addressed in this goal.



## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

### SDG13: Climate Action

This SDG includes three result targets and two policy targets. The result targets centre around three pivotal points: resilience and adaptability, raising awareness and appropriate policies.

Any progress in stopping climate degradation will be the result of meeting the multiple environmental, economic, and behavioural goals all at once.

This goal is above all global but requires intervention at national and local levels.

### WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

At first glance, there does not seem to be any substantial connection between the empowerment of women and this goal. However, this is inaccurate both in terms of the concept of development and the general conditions for its fulfilment in which gender equality is essential, and in terms of the goal's practical manifestations, especially in targets 1 and 3. Climate change is a result of unsustainable production and consumption policies and behaviours, the unsustainable management of natural resources and unsustainable agricultural practices. Each of these issues is closely linked to gender relations and roles.

Regarding resilience and adjustment to the effects of climate change, traditional agricultural practices and family agricultural production will be severely affected both in arid regions and river/coastal zones. In both areas, any resulting population migration will directly impact women as they would either take responsibility for persevering in the affected zones after men's migration in search of work, or, in the case of the migration of entire families, they would have to endure forced displacement and its dire consequences.

As for the behavioural change necessary to contain (or prevent) climate change and its effects, it must be recognised that women deal directly with scarcity of resources and play a crucial role in behavioural change, be it their own behaviour or that of their family members.

Climate change has a central place in the 2030 Agenda because it is considered a serious threat to the planet and the future of humanity. The framework agreement that was settled upon in Paris in 2015 includes commitments made by signatory states to reduce this danger. However, views on the matter differ greatly and recently, some great powers (the USA) have called for withdrawal from this agreement, considering it harmful to economic growth.

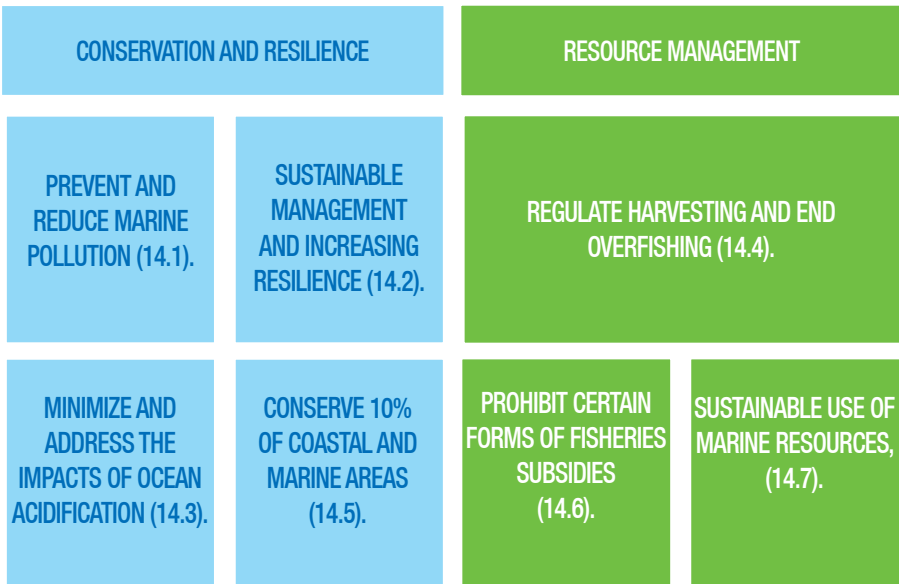
There is no country in the world that is not experiencing the drastic effects of climate change. The Arab region is particularly vulnerable to some of its most direct effects, especially those related to desertification, water scarcity and rising sea levels in some coastal areas. As such, all states have joined international efforts and made commitments which address either the global aspects of the problem or relevant national and regional priorities. Civil society organisations also have a role to play along three lines: Advocacy and pressure on governments and companies to comply with requirements; implementing local initiatives towards achievement of the goal and public advocacy and awareness.





# CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT

SDG14: LIFE BELOW WATER  
CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS,  
SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**SDG14: Life Below Water**

This SDG includes seven result targets and three policy targets.

The result targets centre around two pivotal points: the first is related to ocean conservation and strengthening their resilience, the second to the management of marine resources. The policy targets focus on developing relevant scientific knowledge, the rights of young fishermen, and commitment to International Maritime Law.

**SEAS AND OCEANS IN THE ARAB REGION**

As with some other goals, the implications of SDG14 are diverse and will raise different issues for different countries resulting in specific national policy priorities. In the Arab region, there are specific problems concerned with the Mediterranean Sea which is shared among some European states, Turkey and a number of Arab states. First its semi-enclosed nature, which makes it prone to pollution and the responsibility to address it necessary. Second, its economic importance, particularly because of the migration issue between its Northern and Southern banks and the numerous victims lost there. Finally, the recent discovery of oil in its eastern basin, the investment in which raises economic and security issues and risks to damage the marine environment should investors not respect the rules of environmental sustainability.

If we look to the Gulf states, some of the crucial issues connected to this goal are investment in fishing, seawater desalinisation, the increase in regional waters» salinity and land reclamation used in constructing urban projects. These last two issues interfere with the ecological balance of the marine environment. To the west in Morocco and Mauritania, fishing is a concern at the national level whereby the lives of fishermen are being adversely affected by international fishing conventions and patterns, and European Union agreements concerning fishing in the nearby high seas. This has implications on the level of benefit from fish as an economic resource and on fish prices in the national market. It is clear that when approaching SDG14, priority targets must be identified according to the needs of each country or region, and policies built on this basis.

The MDGs had no specific goal dedicated to the marine environment and oceans. Instead, all environmental goals were grouped under MDG7, and conserving the marine environment was one target within this goal. In the 2030 Agenda, MDG7 was expanded into several goals, giving the marine environment its own independent multi-targeted SDG. The relative importance and degree of priority of SDG14 depends on the country concerned: It is, naturally, less of a priority for landlocked countries but a high priority for island nations. Seas and oceans are by nature not restricted to only one country as several countries usually surround them. This fact is very important, as it makes the preservation of seas, oceans, and marine life an international or regional issue (depending on their geography and other factors). Responsibility for the marine environment is always shared (even if varyingly). The relevant states are doubly responsible both for their territorial waters, and for their participation in polluting a shared sea or abusing its resources.



PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT VIODIVERITUY LOSS

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION			
15.2	PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ALL TYPES OF FORESTS.		
15.3	COMBAT DESERTIFICATION.		
15.4	ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS.		
15.7	TAKE URGENT ACTION TO END POACHING OF PROTECTED SPECIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA		
15.8	PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF ALIEN SPECIES ON LAND AND WATER ECOSYSTEMS		
1.15	5.15	6.15	9.15
ENSURE THE CONSERVATION, RESTORATION OF TERRESTRIAL AND INLANDFRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR SERVICES IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS(15.1).	REDUCE THE DEGRADATION OF NATURAL HABITATS AND HALT THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECT AND PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF THREATENED SPECIES(15.4).	PROMOTE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE UTILIZATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES AS INTERNATIONALLY AGREED (15.6).	INTEGRATE ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY VALUES INTO NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING (15.9).

LAND ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE

In its current formulation, SDG15 does not attribute enough importance to people although they live on, interact with, influence and are affected by land and by their influence on it whether it occurs through their individual behaviour or through local, national or international policies. The natural environment is strongly connected to people»s lifestyles and to gender roles within a society, both in rural and agricultural areas where this relationship is very apparent, and in cities which are largely man-made. It also influences society»s capacity to respect diversity, be inclusive, and remove obstacles that people with disabilities, the elderly, children, women and the poorest in society, face in access to public spaces and as such in fully exercising their rights. These kinds of concerns permeate throughout the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, yet they are poorly developed in SDG15.

Land-environment issues can be local, and therefore can require local or national interventions. However, they can also require international cooperation for financial, geographical, or joint-policy reasons. An important example of this need for cooperation concerns investment in natural resources (including oil and gas) which have often involved corporate practices and agreements that do not take into account the environmental safety nor the rights of the local population in countries that they affect, or where the agricultural practices of large companies and powerful states involve a land-grab of the best arable lands, and investments at the expense of the national needs and those of small farmers and land owners. These practices and resulting shared problems require greater integration and coordination between national organisations and movements and the formation of transboundary alliances involving partnerships with international allies.

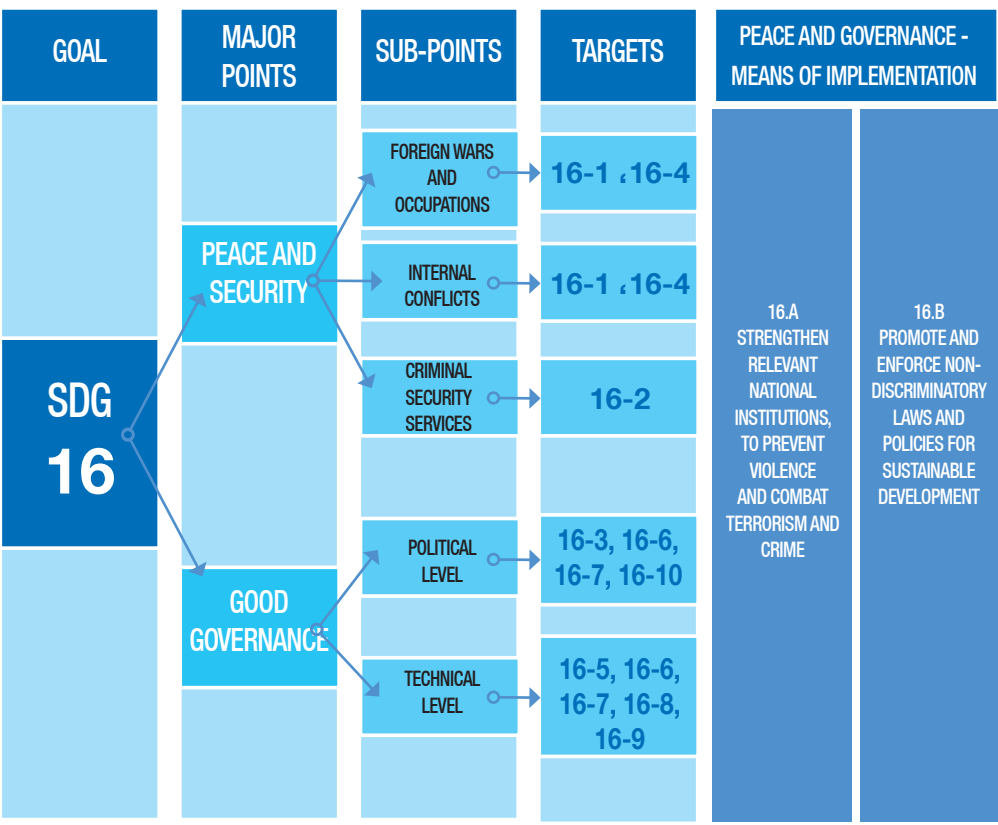
SDG15: Life on Land

This SDG includes nine result targets and three policy targets. The result targets centre around two main issues: management and international policies and specific issues concerning land environment, such as desertification, forests, genetic diversity, poaching, and others. The policy targets are not new and address financing, poaching and protection of forests.

Expanding MDG7 and its four targets into eight (partially or fully) environmental goals with a large number of targets and indicators resulted in a logic of specialization with the accompanying risk of fragmentation in implementing environmental goals. For this reason, SDG15 focuses specifically on the land environment (whereas, SDG12 is about production patterns, SDG13 about climate change, SDG14 about seas and oceans, SDG6 and SDG7 about water and energy etc.). This fragmentation leads to some selectivity concerning the choice of targets and to restricting them to issues that have previously been alluded to, like forests, hunting, genetic diversity, alongside more general statements about integrating sustainable development principles in planning. The wording of SDG15 thus implies the possibility of addressing these targets separately, without requiring an integrated approach neither to environmental issues specifically nor to development more generally.



# PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT, PROVIDE ACCES TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS



## SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

This SDG includes ten result targets and two policy targets or «means of implementation». This is a complex goal with diverse components. It comprises the issues of peace and security, good governance and democracy, justice, combating exclusion and marginalisation, and its targets are at both national and international levels. It must be noted, however, that good governance, in the sense of development management, is a necessary precondition for the success of each and every SDG, and is implicitly included within them all.

## WOMEN AT THE HEART OF CIVIL SOCIETY TRANSFORMATION

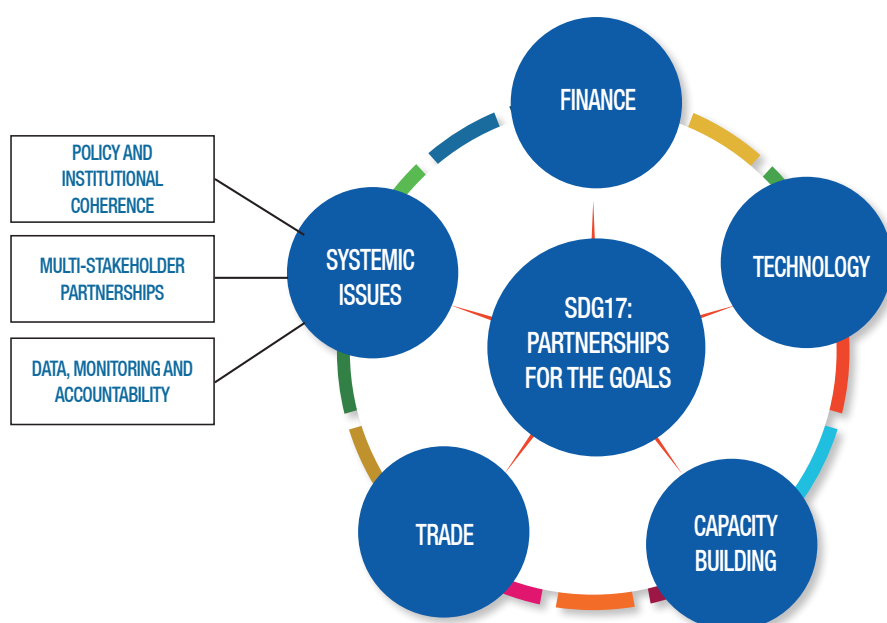
The popular civic mobilization of 2011 resulted in the emergence of new, unexpected roles within civil society, (understood as activists in the streets- a definition that goes beyond civil society organisations which are only one form of organizing). Some examples of civil society playing this transformative role can be seen in the first Palestinian Intifada of 1987, the beginning of the popular mobilization in 2011 (Arab Spring), the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, and the second wave of popular mobilization in 2019 (Algeria, Sudan, Lebanon, and Iraq). These movements played a major part in the complex process towards wider popular participation and democratic transition that went far beyond the traditional role of civil society organisations, including women and women's movements.

Whilst this civil participation included all social groups, women were among the first participants in popular civil coalitions calling for a democratic transition to a society without discrimination. Equality, including gender equality and ending all forms of discrimination, was at the heart of the popular transformative process. This represents one particularly important aspect of the of SDG16 in the Arab region, where discrimination (especially against women) is inherently related to international and social peace and democratic transition. The active participation of civil society, and of women in particular, is thus the main criterion for a genuine transformation.

The issues of peace, security and good governance (represented by political and institutional reform) are a top priority in the Arab states. The region stands out as the area with the highest frequency of wars and conflicts, and the highest number of victims, refugees and displaced people. It is also the home of many popular political movements and huge changes at the constitutional, institutional, and legislative levels. Therefore, SDG 16 holds a very important place in the region's development process. This goal, and its targets, require particular national tailoring, taking into account regional and national characteristics and challenges. SDG16 loses its effectiveness if it is not reproduced and integrated into the plans and processes of development partners in the region, whether governmental and non-governmental.



## STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT



### SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

This SDG includes 12 targets, centred around five pivotal points, as shown in the graph. Four are specific, whilst the fifth is more general and split into three sub-points: policy and institutional coherence, partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability. These general issues are highly important as they are related to all the other points.

#### ON THE MEANING OF PARTNERSHIP

The international responsibility to achieve development in the world is at the core of SDG17. It is concerned with partnership for sustainable human development, which involves the participation of all parties (government, private sector, civil society) in order to achieve the ultimate objective of development. There is no doubt that this idea is somewhat utopian and does not take into account the different interests of various players. Nonetheless, it does express a value-driven vision for the future of humanity, taking into account the needs of all people as well as those of the planet. It has, therefore, a positive stimulating impact as well as a normative role in guiding the positions and practices of all parties.

From the development perspective, partnership is a comprehensive principle and must happen at all levels, including both the regional and national. Therefore, working on strengthening the roles of the weakest parties is a clear development requirement. In the Arab region in particular, we often find coalitions of power and wealth at the top, which can sometimes amount to a merger. This phenomenon limits the role of most small and medium private sector organisations, as well as the role of civil society organisations, especially those that are independent, and are thus restricted both in legislation and in practice, or even denied the right to exist and act. On this basis, the interpretation of SDG17 in Arab countries must not omit any dimension or level. We must pay great attention to the participation of civil society organisations (women's organisations included) at all levels of development, this being a clear requirement for the implementation of SDG17 and of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

SDG17 has replaced MDG8. The latter can be summarised by these three interconnected points: Calling for a transparent and just global economic and trade system, dealing comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries and ensuring the commitment of donor countries to allocate 0.7% of their GDP to official development assistance. The outcome of the 15 year term of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 8 included) is failure on all three counts: no progress was made for the global economic system and debts, and the official development assistance did not exceed 0.33% of the GDP of the concerned states. This is one of the unanticipated reasons for the shortcomings in the achievement of the MDGs. SDG17 reclaims the same targets and adds to them however using softer language. It must be noted that the concept of development assistance has undergone some changes in recent years. Humanitarian aid and spending on the impact of terrorism are now understood as a part of official development assistance, which in practice reduces real development allocations. Alongside this, there has been a withdrawal from monitoring and evaluation in the form of voluntary reports that plainly attempt to bypass accountability.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Zero Hunger



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



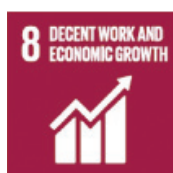
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Ensure access to water and sanitation for all



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy



Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Reduce inequality within and among countries



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss



Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies



Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



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