



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



**SDG
YOUTH FORUM**

10 September 2021 | UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA

Leveraging Public Governance and Enhancing Youth Engagement
to Promote Green, Resilient and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19

Open Dialogue Session

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Contents

1. Time for transformative changes for SDGs – what the data tells us
2. Role and contributions by UNPOG in empowering youth and supporting Member States in Asia and the Pacific for combating COVID-19 and building back better
3. Experience and advice on how to prepare oneself to better serve international community and eventually pursue a career at United Nations or other international organizations



1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, undermining decades of development efforts.

The crisis has pushed hundreds millions of people back into poverty and hunger, caused decades of learning loss, worsened inequalities, and much more.



1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

Years, or even decades, of progress have been halted or reversed by the pandemic

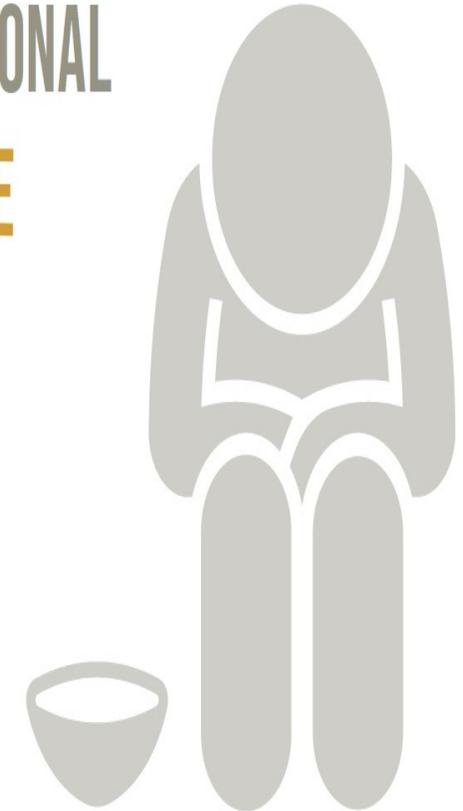
THE PANDEMIC

HAS LED TO THE LOSS OF THE EQUIVALENT OF **255 MILLION FULL-TIME JOBS**



ABOUT **4X** THE NUMBER LOST DURING THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS (2007-2009)

WORLDWIDE, AN ADDITIONAL **70-161 MILLION PEOPLE** ARE LIKELY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED HUNGER AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC IN 2020



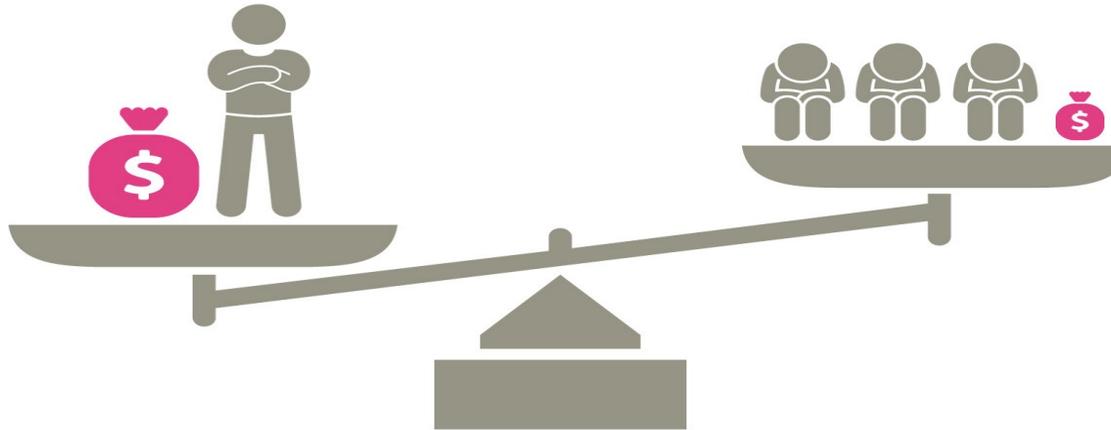


1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

The crisis has exposed and intensified inequalities within and among countries

THE PANDEMIC

IS LIKELY TO REVERSE PROGRESS MADE IN REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY SINCE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS



VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

(AS OF 17 JUNE 2021)

EUROPE AND NORTHERN AMERICA
68 PER 100 PEOPLE

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
FEWER THAN 2 PER 100 PEOPLE

COVID-19 ESTIMATED TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE GINI FOR EMERGING MARKET AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY 6%





1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

The climate, biodiversity and pollution crises persist

THE CLIMATE CRISIS CONTINUES, LARGELY UNABATED



2020 GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT 1.2°C ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL BASELINE

WOEFULLY OFF TRACK TO STAY AT OR BELOW 1.5°C AS CALLED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT

THE GLOBAL "MATERIAL FOOTPRINT" INCREASED BY 70% BETWEEN 2000 AND 2017



1 MILLION PLASTIC DRINKING BOTTLES ARE PURCHASED EVERY MINUTE

5 TRILLION SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS ARE THROWN AWAY EACH YEAR



1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

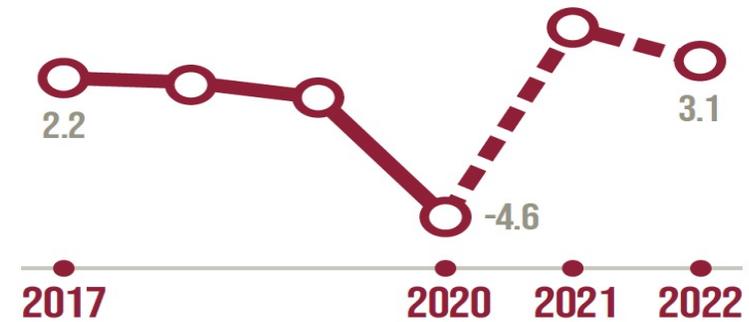
The means of implementation to enact the SDGs have been negatively affected

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT DROPPED BY UP TO 40%



ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS UNDER WAY

GLOBAL REAL GDP PER CAPITA
(2017-2022)



BUT FOR MANY COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC GROWTH IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS ONLY IN 2022 OR 2023



1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

The crisis demonstrates the interdependency and interlinkages among the various dimensions of sustainability – from health, well-being, and social and economic prosperity to climate and ecosystems.

To address the vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic, Governments should make structural transformations and develop common solutions guided by the SDGs.





1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

How to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic - Resilience, Adaptability, Innovation

- ① **Emergency measures for shoring up social protection** - Between 1 February and 31 December 2020, Governments worldwide announced more than 1,600 new social protection measures in response to the crisis, but almost all (95 per cent) were short term in nature.
- ② **Embracing digital technologies to deliver accessible, reliable, and inclusive services, especially for vulnerable groups** - including health systems, education, water, sanitation and other basic services
- ③ **Accelerate digital transformation** - Governments and businesses – the pandemic profoundly changing the ways in which we interact, learn and work – digital divide (digital skills and literacy, access and affordability to internet, digital infrastructure)
- ④ **Development of national instruments and strategies for the SDGs** – special bond



1. Time for Transformative Change for SDGs

How to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic - Resilience, Adaptability, Innovation

- ⑤ **Increasing investments in science, technology and innovation**
- ⑥ **Taking a green-economy approach and investing in clean energy and industry**
- ⑦ **Promoting social innovation – Sri Lanka’s Citralab, Korea Commonz project**
- ⑧ **Investing in data and information infrastructure is critical – data disaggregation and monitoring and reviewing of SDG implementation**



2. Role and Contributions by UNPOG in Empowering Youth and Supporting Member States in Asia and the Pacific for Combating COVID-19 and Building Back Better

Conducting thematic research - The critical role of youth in building resilience in countries in special situations, leveraging digital technologies for addressing youth unemployment, strengthening local governance, digital government transformation capability, local digital transformation, instituting data governance framework, risk-informed governance for resilience, national to local governance for climate change mitigation and adaptation, smart city, and the Curriculum on Governance for SDGs, among others

Capacity development - UNPOG promotes capacity development at the national and sub-national levels through a holistic and integrated approach, including organizing online training workshops, webinars, and development toolkits.

- Capacity Development Webinar Series
- Online training workshops



3. How to Prepare Oneself to Better Serve the International Community

a) Awareness of major development issues

- ✓ Global development agenda - 2030 Agenda & the progress report, AAAA agenda, Sendai Framework – policy coherence, tradeoffs and prioritization, integration between different agreements, and partnership with whole society
- ✓ Climate change and the Paris Agreement – green growth and green jobs, ESG values and principles, renewable energy industries, sustainable production and consumption patterns
- ✓ Migration issues (remittances) – IOM, social problems e.g. Afghanistan crisis
- ✓ Trends of global economy - disruption in global supply chains and reversal of globalization – global inflation, asset market booming to create new inequality
- ✓ The impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to developing countries and the rising inequalities within and between countries – AI and other frontier technologies – digital economy/digital new deal and digital transformation



3. How to Prepare Oneself to Better Serve the International Community

a) Awareness of major development issues

- ✓ Public health emergencies and global health partnership - equity in vaccines distribution – especially the developing countries
- ✓ Urbanization and smart cities – data-driven smart city management, reliant on big data and data analytics, frontier technologies like AI and IOT, data privacy
- ✓ Youth unemployment and innovation – leveraging digital technologies and partnership with private sector
- ✓ Gender mainstreaming - gender equality and women's empowerment - UN DESA meeting to mainstream gender equality issues in our products and use data disaggregation
- ✓ Understand development challenges in LDCs, SIDS (sea level rise, climate change), LLDCs and post-conflict countries



3. How to Prepare Oneself to Better Serve the International Community

b) Development assistance programme by major countries, major development players and regional/international organizations

- ✓ KOICA
- ✓ JICA - The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- ✓ USAID
- ✓ UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- ✓ Australian Aid (Pacific SIDS)
- ✓ China CIDCA (China International Development Cooperation Agency)
- ✓ SIDA - Swedish development cooperation
- ✓ ADB, World Bank
- ✓ EU, OECD
- ✓ New South Policy – ASEAN countries
- ✓ APEC - 2020 APEC Ministerial Meeting
- ✓

Public governance is one important component of aid programmes





3. How to Prepare Oneself to Better Serve the International Community

c) Preparation and Exploring Career Opportunities at International Organizations

- ✓ Strong academic background
- ✓ Leadership skills and team work spirits
- ✓ Drafting and presentation skills in English and other UN official languages
- ✓ Technology awareness
- ✓ Participate in activities organized by UN agencies resident in Korea and networking
- ✓ UN internships
- ✓ UN volunteers
- ✓ JPOs
- ✓ YPP at UN and other international agencies
- ✓



Thank you

