Symposium

In commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)

Overview Presentation on Effective Governance and Public Institutions for Building Back Better and Accelerating Progress on the SDGs

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1. **Emerging Challenges and Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Climate Crisis on the SDGs**
2. **The Role of Effective Public Governance and Public Institutions in Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic and Climate Crisis**
3. **Promoting Effective Public Governance through Training Toolkits**
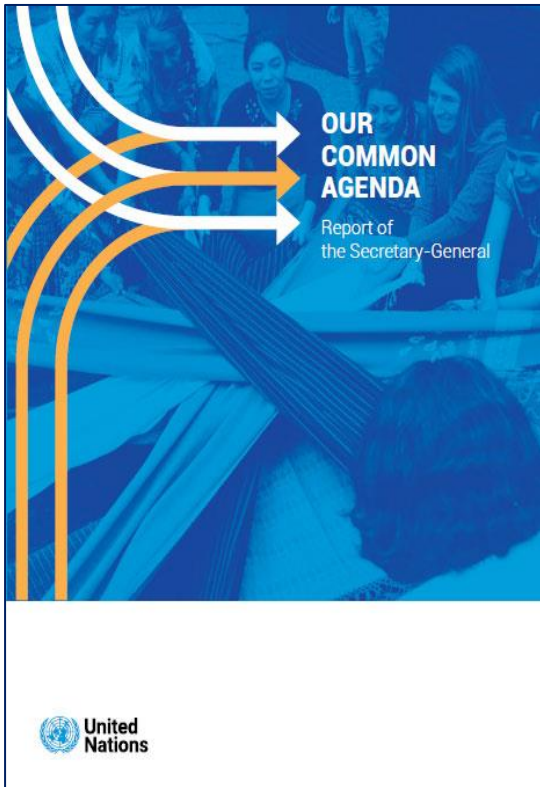4. **Policy Implications and Key Takeaways**

UN Secretary-General's Report on "Our Common Agenda"

Our Common Agenda presents the **UN Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation** through an inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism.

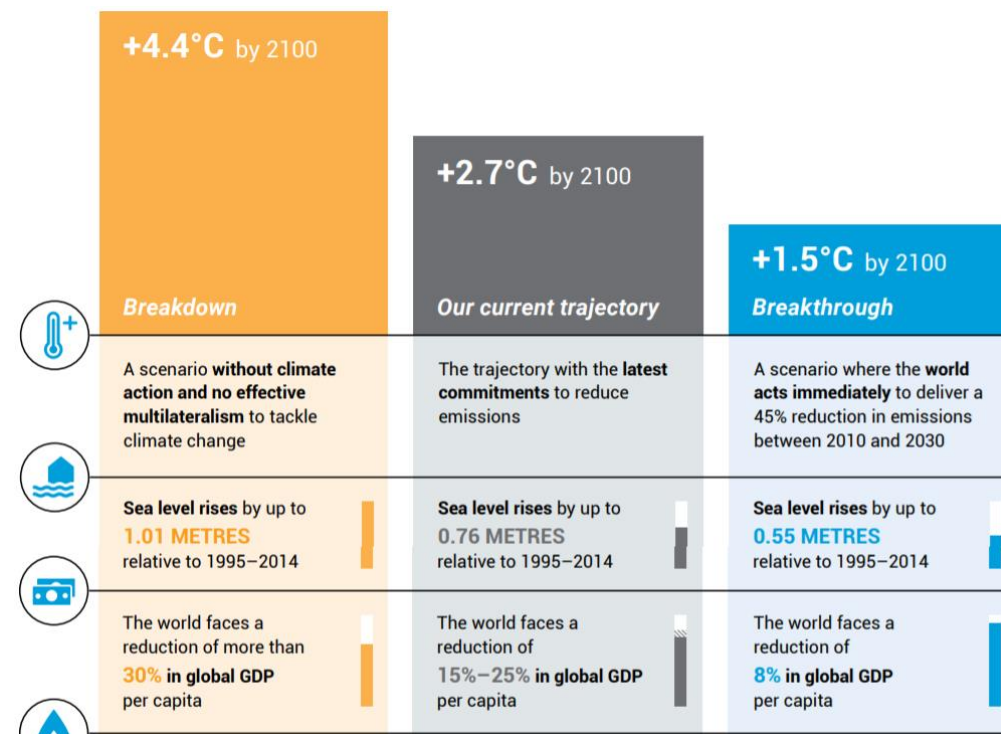**Key Points of the Report**

"Our Common Agenda" – It highlights that –

- ✓ we are at an <u>inflection point in history</u>.
- ✓ <u>humanity faces a stark and urgent choice</u>: **breakdown** or **breakthrough**.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a **wake-up call** and **the world is experiencing its biggest shared test since WWII**. The pandemic is threatening
  - ✓ *health, destroying economies* and *livelihoods*
  - ✓ *deepening poverty* and *inequalities*.

Climate **Breakdown** or Breakthrough

+4.4°C by 2100	+2.7°C by 2100	+1.5°C by 2100
Breakdown	*Our current trajectory*	*Breakthrough*
A scenario **without climate action and no effective multilateralism** to tackle climate change	The trajectory with the **latest commitments** to reduce emissions	A scenario where the **world acts immediately** to deliver a 45% reduction in emissions between 2010 and 2030
Sea level rises by up to **1.01 METRES** relative to 1995–2014	Sea level rises by up to **0.76 METRES** relative to 1995–2014	Sea level rises by up to **0.55 METRES** relative to 1995–2014
The world faces a reduction of more than **30%** in global GDP per capita	The world faces a reduction of **15%–25%** in global GDP per capita	The world faces a reduction of **8%** in global GDP per capita

Photo: https://www.un.org/en/un75/common-agenda

THE COSTS OF COVID-19

- Global GDP decreased by **an estimated 3.5 per cent in 2020**.
- The pandemic has pushed a further **124 million people into extreme poverty.**
- Nearly **one in three people** in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020
- Early estimates suggest a potential **increase of up to 45 per cent in child mortality.**
- **Total working hours fell by 8.8 per cent in 2020**, the equivalent of 255 million fulltime jobs.
- Restricted movement, social isolation and economic insecurity are increasing **women's vulnerability to violence in the home** around the world.

Our Common Agenda - *A wake up call*

- ✓ *The UN SG calls for **all States to declare a climate emergency***

- ✓ *This requires **renewed commitments or governance improvement and arrangements***

- ✓ *Member States to **establish Emergency Platform to respond to complex global crisis***

- ✓ *Need to **develop new capabilities** that promotes agility and cohesion across the system*

- ✓ *The Common Agenda **reinforces the need for robust action on the 2030 Agenda** and the SDGs*

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

As of 15 November 2021, over 251 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 5.07 million deaths were reported globally by WHO (https://covid19.who.int/)

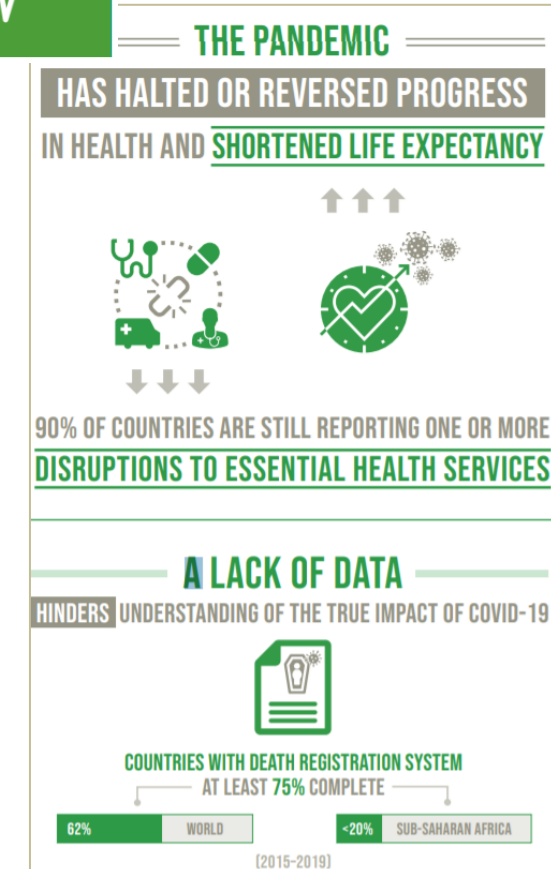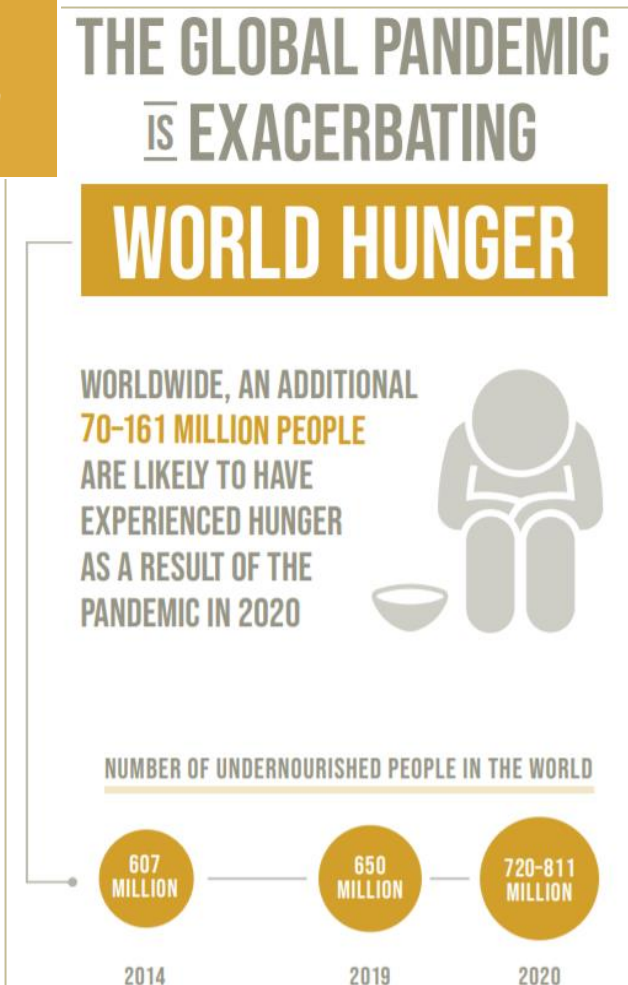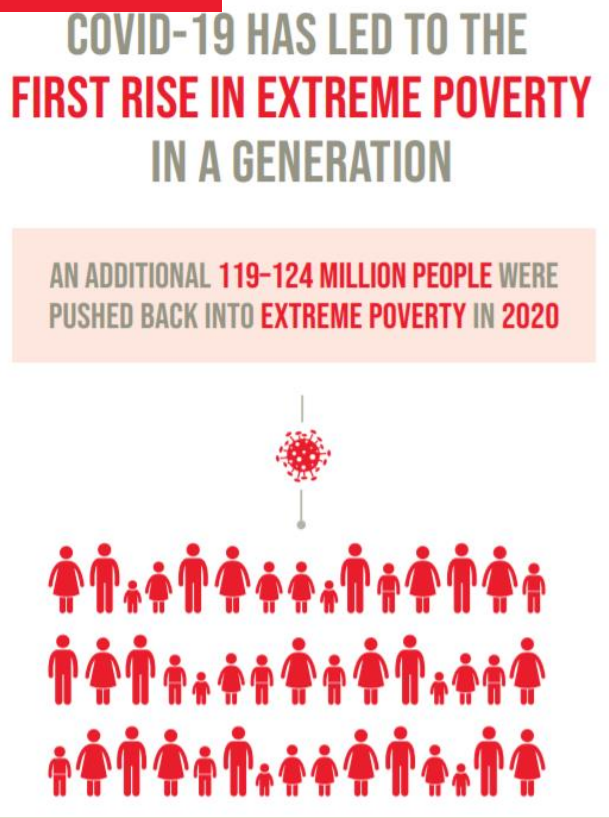The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

United Nations

As the pandemic continues to unfold, the *SDGs Report 2021* outlines some significant impacts in many areas that are already apparent.

> ➤ The current crisis is <u>threatening decades of development gains</u>
>
> ➤ The climate crisis has well and truly arrived, and <u>its impacts are being felt across the world</u>
>
> ➤ The pandemic has also <u>brought immense financial challenges</u>, especially for developing countries

SDG Report, 2021 (https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/)

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY

COVID-19 HAS LED TO THE FIRST RISE IN EXTREME POVERTY IN A GENERATION

AN ADDITIONAL **119-124 MILLION PEOPLE** WERE PUSHED BACK INTO **EXTREME POVERTY** IN 2020

2 ZERO HUNGER

THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC IS EXACERBATING WORLD HUNGER

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

NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

607 MILLION — **650 MILLION** — **720-811 MILLION**

2014 — 2019 — 2020

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

THE PANDEMIC HAS HALTED OR REVERSED PROGRESS IN HEALTH AND SHORTENED LIFE EXPECTANCY

90% OF COUNTRIES ARE STILL REPORTING ONE OR MORE **DISRUPTIONS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES**

A LACK OF DATA HINDERS UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE IMPACT OF COVID-19

COUNTRIES WITH DEATH REGISTRATION SYSTEM AT LEAST **75%** COMPLETE

62% WORLD — <20% SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(2015-2019)

COVID-19
HAS WIPED OUT 20 YEARS OF EDUCATION GAINS

AN ADDITIONAL 101 MILLION OR 9% OF CHILDREN IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 8 **FELL BELOW** MINIMUM READING PROFICIENCY LEVELS IN 2020

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
PERSISTS AT UNACCEPTABLY HIGH LEVELS AND IS INTENSIFIED BY THE PANDEMIC

1 IN 3 WOMEN (736 MILLION)
HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE **AT LEAST ONCE** IN THEIR LIFETIME SINCE THE AGE OF 15
(2000-2018)

5 GENDER EQUALITY

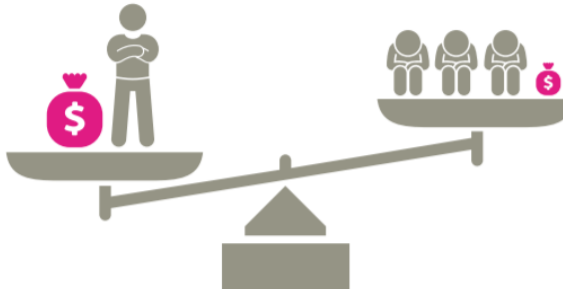### THE PANDEMIC
HAS WORSENED THE PLIGHT OF
SLUM DWELLERS

THE MAJORITY OF THE MORE THAN
1 BILLION SLUM DWELLERS
RESIDE IN THREE REGIONS [2018]

EASTERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ASIA
370 MILLION	**238 MILLION**	**226 MILLION**

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

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

13 CLIMATE ACTION

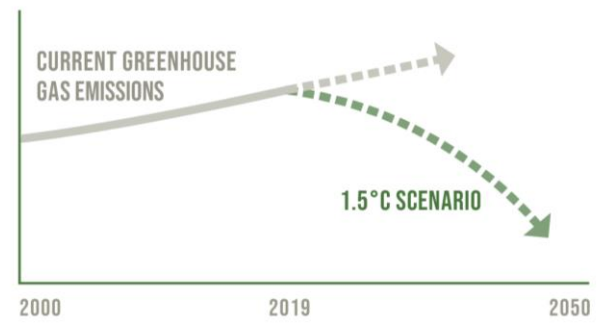## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

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

RISING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REQUIRE SHIFTING ECONOMIES TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY

CURRENT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

1.5°C SCENARIO

2000   2019   2050

CLIMATE FINANCE INCREASED

BY 10% FROM 2015–2016 TO 2017–2018, REACHING AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF $48.7 BILLION

125 OF 154 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANS

HIGHEST PRIORITY AREAS INCLUDE

FOOD SECURITY AND PRODUCTION | TERRESTRIAL AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS | FRESHWATER RESOURCES | HUMAN HEALTH | KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS AND SERVICES
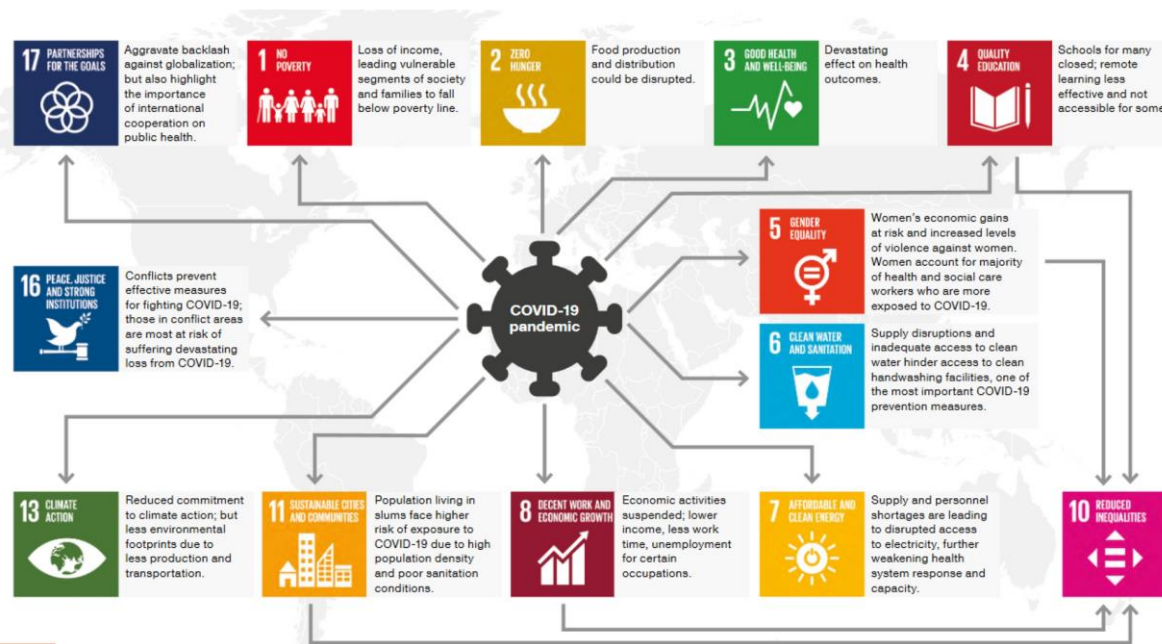
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/

Other Systemic Effects of COVID-19 on the SDGs

The current COVID crisis is an opportunity for a profound, systemic shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet

Secretary-General's Initiative six climate-related actions to shape the recovery

1. Green transition

2. Green jobs and sustainable & inclusive growth

3. Green economy

4. Invest in sustainable solutions

5. Confront all climate risks

6. Cooperation – no country can succeed alone

- **In the face of all these challenges/crisis - the critical role of <u>effective governance and public institutions </u> has become even more important in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis.**

- **SDG 16 calls for building <u>strong, effective, accountable and inclusive </u>institutions at all levels.**

- **CEPA has proposed <u>11 Principles of Effective Governance</u> for Sustainable Development; thus, _Effectiveness, Accountability_ and _Inclusiveness._**

Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

Effectiveness
» Competence
» Sound policymaking
» Collaboration

Accountability
» Integrity
» Transparency
» Independent oversight

Inclusiveness
» Leaving no one behind
» Non-discrimination
» Participation
» Subsidiarity
» Intergenerational equity

Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

What are they for?
» Building strong institutions at all levels
» Serving as a reference point that brings together relevant standards and technical guidelines
» Informing public sector reform initiatives for the SDGs

Where do they come from?
» Developed by CEPA specifically for SDG implementation
» Endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council
» Based on United Nations agreements

How can countries benefit from them?
» As an analytical framework in policy formulation
» As a guide in assessing institutional capacities, processes and culture
» As a foundation of SDG awareness raising and training initiatives

Committee of Experts on Public Administration
CEPA is an expert body of the United Nations that studies and makes recommendations to improve governance and public administration structures and processes for development.

The 11 Principles of Effective Governance

Effectiveness	▪ *Competence*
	▪ *Sound policymaking*
	▪ *Collaboration*
Accountability	▪ *Integrity*
	▪ *Transparency*
	▪ *Independent oversight*
Inclusiveness	▪ *Leaving no one behind*
	▪ *Non-discrimination*
	▪ *Participation*
	▪ *Subsidiarity*
	▪ *Intergenerational equity*

Current Global Issues and Implications for Governance

1. Interdependence
- *Collaborate across sectors, governments, and country boundaries*
- *Collective decision making*
- *Coordinated actions between national and local governments*

2. Velocity
- *Capture a risk signal and Early intervention*
- *Streamline the process*
- *Digital transformation, data governance*
- *Empower local governments*

3. Complexity
- *Effective communication and Transparency*
- *Inclusive participation and stakeholder engagement*
- *Embrace and explore uncertainty in the face of complex future*

Response Mechanisms/Strategies

1. Innovation
- *Ownership starts with leadership*
- *Prioritize sustainable and green future*
- *Field-based agile decision making*
- *Addressing outdated rules and regulations*
- *Streamlining procedures and processes for flexibility*
- *Embrace failure and Continue experimentation*

2. Embed the change
- *Share common goals, ensure consensus within the organization*
- *Create own values, empathize with citizens*
- *Resilient supply chains i.e., stable supply chain*

3. Address the Social Issues
- *Return of big government*
- *Inequalities*
- *Social unrest (poverty, unemployment, sense of deprivation, leave no one behind)*

4. Revisit the Governance Principles

**Curriculum on Governance
for the Sustainable Development Goals**

CHANGING MINDSETS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | UN DESA

UN DESA | TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES FOR POLICY COHERENCE | UN DESA

UN DESA | EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TO LOCAL PUBLIC GOVERNANCE FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

GOVERNEMENT INNOVATION FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS | UN DESA

UN DESA | RISK-INFORMED GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE

INNOVATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY | UN DESA
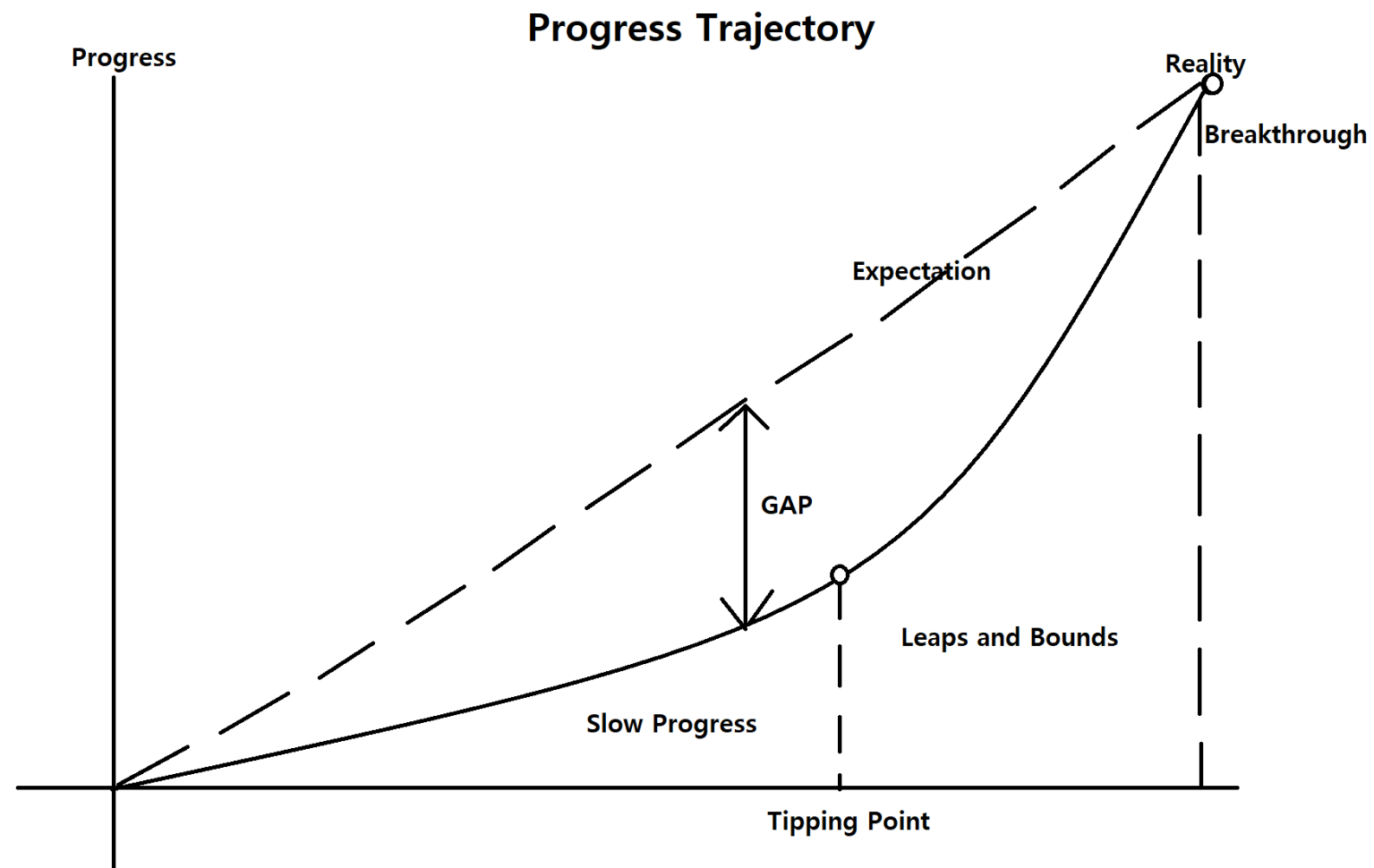
UN ESCAP UN DESA | E-GOVERNEMENT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

PURPOSE

- *Promote critical understanding of sustainable development issues*
- *Enhance governance capacity and strengthen public servants' awareness of their active role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.*
- *Develop the knowledge and capacities required to implement the 2030 Agenda*

**For details on UN DESA/DPIDG's Toolkit,
please contact: unpan@un.org.**

✓ *In the face of all these unparalleled challenges, it reminded us of the significant role of the <u>principles of effective public governance</u> as an indispensable guide for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis.*

✓ *The <u>critical role of governments has become even more important</u> during this COVID-19 pandemic; however, care must be taken to avoid big government issues with more centralized systems and big government spending.*

✓ *Effective public governance through the <u>whole-of government approach</u> is required for the <u>national to local government coordination and collaboration</u>.*

✓ *Adopting a <u>people/citizen-centered approach through the whole-of-society approach</u> with stakeholder engagement is important to build trust and ensure citizen buy-in in tackling the climate change impact and other crisis.*

✓ *<u>Leveraging digital government, and frontier technologies including data governance has become an essential part of people lives</u> because it fosters efficient, transparent, accountable and inclusive service delivery. It has been a key tool in addressing the COVID-19 crisis.*

✓ *Systemic issues like the COVID-19 pandemic require <u>systems thinking and design thinking</u>. There should be <u>long-term thinking in an agile manner</u> to be able to address critical societal challenges.*

✓ *Building and <u>promoting national, regional and global partnerships</u> is very important for exchange of technology, innovations, good practices and other resources for current and future crisis response.*

A long-term perspective should be adopted. The tipping point will come sometime.

Progress Trajectory

Thank you

Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
United Nations Project Office on Governance

www.unpog.org

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