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the high-level political forum on sustainable  
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of the Economic and Social Council**

**High-level political forum on sustainable  
development convened under the auspices of  
the Economic and Social Council**

## Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

### Report of the Secretary-General\*\*

#### *Summary*

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), the present report contains a global overview of the progress made since 2015 towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals using inputs from more than 50 international and regional organizations. The data contained herein are derived from indicators in the global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which was adopted by the Assembly on 6 July 2017 (see Assembly resolution [71/313](#)).

\* [A/79/50](#).

\*\* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



## I. Introduction

1. The midpoint of our journey to 2030 has passed, and signs of a determined, sustained global comeback have yet to emerge. This year's report reveals that, currently, the world is on track to achieve only 17 per cent of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals. While minimal or moderate progress is being made on nearly half of the targets, there is a pressing need for acceleration. Moreover, progress towards over one third of the targets has stalled or even regressed.

2. The early years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development saw slow but steady progress in some critical indicators, but, since 2019, national efforts have faced severe global headwinds. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a growing number of conflicts, geopolitical and trade tensions, and the ever-worsening effects of climate change have combined to leave the Goals in peril. In addition, the existence of massive shortcomings in global economic and financial systems, coupled with historical injustices and a weakening of global solidarity, means that developing countries and the world's most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt.

3. The pandemic and other factors led to 23 million more people living in extreme poverty and 123 million more suffering from hunger in 2022 compared with 2019, widening the gap in per capita income growth between the poorest and the richest countries. While some health targets have improved, overall progress in global health has slowed since 2015. Progress on education – the foundation upon which so much rests – remains of grave concern, with, in 2019, only 58 per cent of students worldwide achieving minimum proficiency in reading by the end of primary school and one in five young people not in employment, education or training. The commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to achieve gender equality remains a distant objective, with limited progress in achieving gender parity in public life and managerial roles and persistently high levels of violence against women and girls.

4. In the area of climate and biodiversity, despite some reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries, greenhouse concentrations hit record highs in 2022, with real-time data from 2023 indicating a continued rise. Carbon dioxide levels have surged to 150 per cent above pre-industrial levels. Public funding for oil, coal and gas production and consumption more than doubled from 2021 to 2022 and has tripled since 2015, hindering progress towards a net-zero transition. Ocean acidification is on the rise and will persist if carbon dioxide emissions continue to climb. Species extinction risk is worsening, with a 12 per cent decline in the aggregate Red List Index since 1993.

5. All the while, violent organized crime and illicit arms trafficking continue to plague numerous countries, posing paramount security threats. In addition, with the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation now in its third year, a brutal war currently taking place in Gaza and the conflict in the Sudan yet to show signs of easing, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide has reached an unprecedented 110 million. Between 2022 and 2023, civilian casualties in armed conflict increased by 72 per cent.

6. While official development assistance (ODA) reached another new high, at \$223.7 billion, in 2023 (corresponding to 0.37 per cent of the combined gross national income of member countries of the Development Assistance Committee) and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows reached \$1.37 trillion, overall sustainable development grants to developing countries fell in 2022, and debt levels – while falling slightly – remained exceptionally high. The annual investment gap for developing countries to achieve the Goals stands at \$4 trillion.

7. Despite those challenges, there are glimmers of hope. As shown in the present report, progress is being made in such areas as reducing the global infant mortality rate, the incidence of HIV infections and the cost of remittances, and increasing access to water and sanitation, energy and mobile broadband. In addition, behind the global trends, many countries are pursuing transformation agendas with real determination in order to bolster efforts to achieve the Goals and are making tangible progress.

8. What's more, Governments are united behind the 2030 Agenda, which was one of the main takeaways from the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023. It is essential that we protect that commitment by taking the critical steps necessary to deliver transformative progress between now and 2030, at a much greater speed and on a much larger scale.

9. First, in order to achieve the Goals, we need peace. The conflicts and violence that are causing untold death, destruction, displacement and disruption across the world must end and a new period of international relations that respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations must begin.

10. Second, if the commitment to leave no one behind is to mean anything, we must unlock much greater financing and fiscal space for developing countries and secure a more equitable, representative and effective international financial system. Over the course of the next 18 months, through the Summit of the Future, the work of the Group of 20 and international financial institutions, the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, countries must deliver tangible changes to the international policies, instruments and institutions that greatly affect the flow of development finance.

11. Third, we must redouble efforts in areas in which transformative progress can be made across the Goals. Transitions around energy, food and digital connectivity – underpinned by expanded access to social protection and decent jobs – and education and skills for the future, are essential for rewiring economies to combat the triple planetary crisis and to reduce inequalities within and between countries. Achieving those objectives requires not only strengthened institutions and policy frameworks but also robust investment pathways and strengthened support from the United Nations development system, multilateral and regional development banks, and private investors. Plans for those transitions can also inform updated national climate plans for 2025, which should cover the whole economy and be aligned with the 1.5°C limit. Furthermore, implementation efforts must be made hand in hand with a continued push to tackle the root causes of gender inequality.

12. As shown in the present report, international cooperation and decisive action are urgently needed to recapture the spirit and resolve that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda nine years ago. Our shared aspirations for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for all people and the planet itself hang precariously in the balance. Only through renewed multilateral efforts and the unwavering commitment of all stakeholders can we uplift the millions currently being left behind and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Goals by 2030.

## **II. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals as of 2024**

13. The progress assessment carried out in 2024 reveals that the world is severely off track to realize the 2030 Agenda. As illustrated in figure I, out of 135 targets on which there are trend data and additional insights from custodian agencies, only 17

per cent show progress as expected in order to be reached by 2030. Nearly half (48 per cent) exhibit moderate to severe deviations from the desired trajectory, with 30 per cent showing marginal progress and 18 per cent indicating moderate progress. Alarming, 18 per cent show stagnation and 17 per cent indicate regression below the baseline levels of 2015.<sup>1</sup> A progress assessment by Goal is provided in figure II.

Figure I  
**Overall progress assessment across targets (2015–2024 trend data)**  
(Percentage)

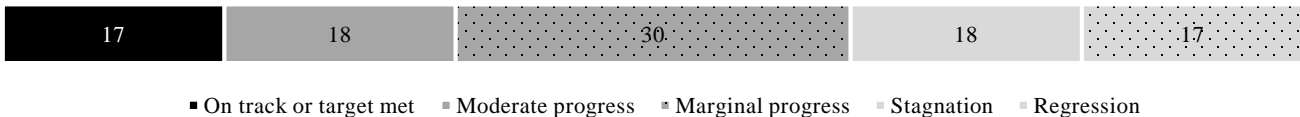
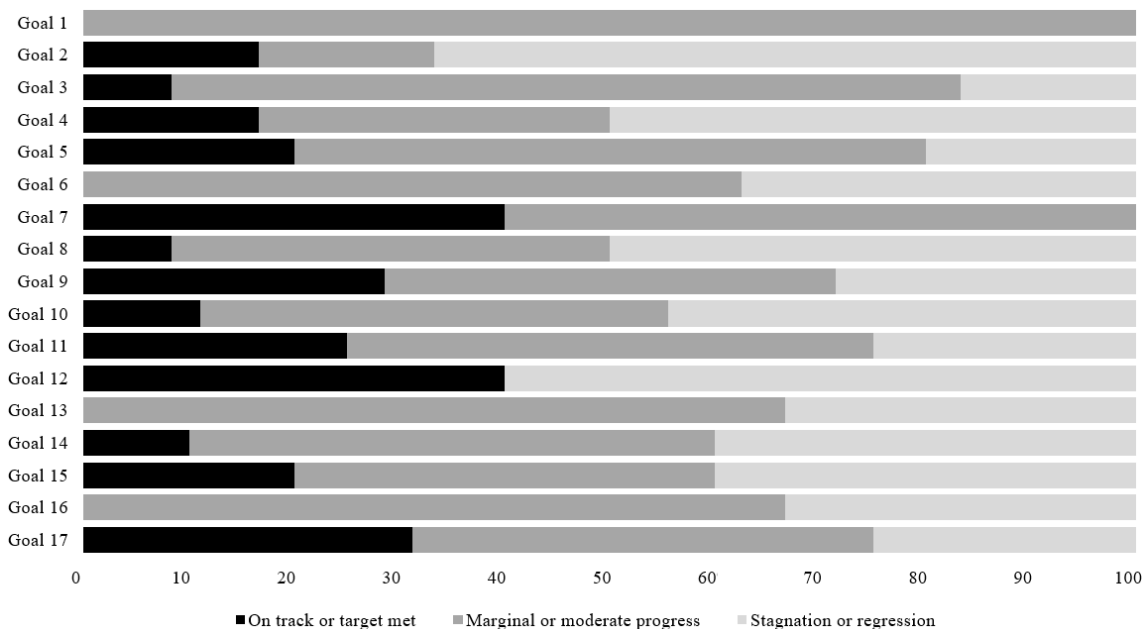


Figure II  
**Progress assessment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals based on assessed targets, by Goal (2015–2024 trend data)**  
(Percentage)



14. The assessment was affected by ongoing challenges pertaining to the availability and timeliness of data on the Goals. Overall, as illustrated in figure III, commendable progress has been made in improving data availability to monitor the Goals when comparing the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database for 2019 with that for 2024. Back in 2016, when the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was initially adopted, only about one third of the indicators had good data coverage (that is, data were available for more than 50 per cent of countries), while 39 per cent of the indicators under the Goals lacked internationally established methodologies or standards. Today, 68 per cent of the indicators have good data coverage and, since

<sup>1</sup> Due to new data and revised methodologies, this year's progress assessment is not comparable to the assessments of previous years

2020, all 231 indicators have a well-established and internationally agreed methodology. In addition, good trend data are available for 51 per cent of the indicators (at least two data points since 2015) in more than half of all countries.

15. The variance in country data coverage plays out differently across the Goals, with significant data gaps in priority development areas, such as gender equality (Goal 5), climate action (Goal 13) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). Moreover, data timeliness remains a challenge, with approximately one third of the indicators lacking data for the past three years. The lack of timely data hampers the ability of policymakers to make informed decisions and course corrections.

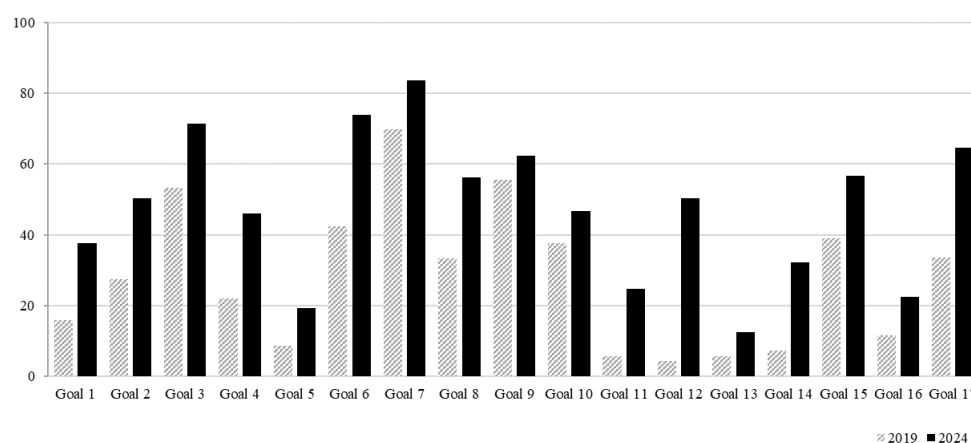
16. In recognition of the relevance of data to guide progress across all Goals, a high-impact initiative on the power of data was launched at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2023. The initiative is aimed at delivering the data necessary to achieve the Goals by mobilizing political support for and investments in national data systems, rallying around one national data strategy and strengthening partnerships, collaboration and coordination. The expanding initiative currently comprises 15 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. More countries and partners are encouraged to join that important quest to ensure that every Government has the data it needs to both track and drive progress towards the achievement of the Goals by 2030.

17. The remainder of the present section of the report provides an overview of the progress made under each Goal with brief assessments of selected targets. Global and regional data, along with progress assessments for all targets and indicators for which information is available, can be found in the statistical annex.<sup>2</sup>

Figure III

**Proportion of countries or areas with available data (at least two data points since 2015), with a comparison of the databases from 2019 and 2024, by Sustainable Development Goal**

(Percentage)



## Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

18. Global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty have been hampered by significant setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of major shocks during the period 2020–2022. The pandemic caused extreme poverty to increase in 2020 for the

<sup>2</sup> The global indicator framework, the statistical annex to the present report and the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database are available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs>.

first time in decades, reversing global progress by three years. Recovery has been uneven, with low-income countries lagging behind. With the ongoing crises, ending poverty by 2030 appears to be increasingly out of reach, in particular in regions that lack the fiscal capacity to cope with economic stresses.

#### **Target 1.1**

19. Extreme poverty levels had returned to pre-pandemic levels in most countries by 2022, except in low-income countries, where recovery has been slower. In 2022, 9 per cent of the world's population, or 712 million people, were living in extreme poverty, an increase of 23 million people compared with 2019. If current trends continue, 590 million people, or 6.9 per cent of the world's population, will still live in extreme poverty by 2030.

20. The share of the world's working population living in poverty has steadily decreased, from 8.4 per cent in 2015 to 6.9 per cent in 2023. However, nearly 241 million workers globally were still living in extreme poverty in 2023 and little positive change is expected in 2024.

#### **Target 1.2**

21. Although data covering the period of the COVID-19 crisis are limited, the pandemic is likely to have slowed progress made towards halving national poverty rates. Given historical trends, less than 30 per cent of countries worldwide will have halved poverty by 2030.

#### **Target 1.3**

22. In 2023, only 28.2 per cent of children worldwide received child cash benefits, compared with 22.1 per cent in 2015, leaving 1.4 billion children aged 0–15 years without coverage. To guarantee at least a basic level of social protection for all children, upper- and lower-middle-income countries would need to invest an additional \$98.1 billion and \$88.8 billion, respectively, while low-income countries would require an additional \$59.6 billion.

#### **Target 1.5**

23. Economic losses due to disasters have remained stubbornly high in recent years and have shown no sign of alleviation. Between 2015 and 2022, direct economic loss was reported to exceed more than \$115 billion per year worldwide, which amounted to 0.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the reporting countries.

#### **Target 1.a**

24. Data from approximately 100 countries show that the proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) is approximately 50 per cent, with an average of 60 per cent among advanced economies and 40 per cent among emerging market and developing economies. While that indicator has trended slightly upward for both groups over the past two decades, the gap between them remains stable at approximately 20 percentage points.

### **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

25. Globally, hunger persists, with nearly 1 in 10 people in the world facing it in 2022, while 2.4 billion people experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in the same year. Also in 2022, over 60 per cent of countries worldwide saw significant

increases in food prices owing to conflicts and disrupted supply chains. Achieving zero hunger requires intensified efforts to transform food systems in order to increase their sustainability, resilience and equity. Furthermore, accelerating improvements in diet, nutrition, health and hygiene is crucial to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal target of halving the number of children suffering from chronic undernutrition.

### **Target 2.1**

26. After a sharp increase following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, global hunger stabilized in 2022 at about 9.2 per cent of the population. Between 691 million and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022. Considering the mid-range (735 million), 122 million more people faced hunger in 2022 than in 2019, when the prevalence stood at 7.9 per cent. In addition, an estimated 29.6 per cent of the global population – 2.4 billion people – were moderately or severely food insecure in 2022.

### **Target 2.2**

27. Globally in 2022, an estimated 22.3 per cent of children under 5 years of age (148 million) were affected by stunting, down from 24.6 per cent in 2015 and 26.3 per cent in 2012.<sup>3</sup> Based on current trends, one out of five (19.5 per cent) children under 5 years of age will be affected by stunting in 2030. Overweight affected 37 million children under 5 years of age (or 5.6 per cent) and wasting affected 45 million (or 6.8 per cent) in 2022.

### **Target 2.3**

28. The income gap between small-scale and non-small-scale food producers remains significant. In 95 per cent of countries with available data, the average annual income of small-scale producers is less than half that of non-small-scale producers. Among small-scale food producers, units headed by men typically generate higher incomes compared with those headed by women.

### **Target 2.a**

29. In 2022, global public expenditure reached \$36 trillion, of which \$749 billion went towards agriculture – an all-time high. Agriculture represented 2.1 per cent of total government expenditure, an increase from the level during the height of the pandemic, and is only marginally below the level for 2019. Government expenditure on agriculture relative to the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP, measured in terms of the agriculture orientation index, declined from the 2015 baseline of 0.50 to 0.43 in 2021, but rebounded to 0.48 in 2022.

### **Target 2.b**

30. Total notified annual agriculture export subsidy outlays fell from a peak of \$6.7 billion in 1999 to \$33 million in 2022. As at 1 January 2024, only least developed countries and net food importing developing countries were permitted to use certain forms of export subsidies.

### **Target 2.c**

31. In 2022, the share of countries facing moderately to abnormally high food prices reached a new record high of 58.1 per cent, after having fallen by more than half in 2021 from the previous historical peak of 48 per cent in 2020. The share for 2022 represented a nearly fourfold increase from the average level of 15.2 per cent for the period 2015–2019. Major disruptions to logistics and food supply chains, following

<sup>3</sup> The year 2012 was the baseline year of nutritional targets of the World Health Organization.

the outbreak of war in Ukraine, resulted in higher food and energy prices, in particular during the first half of 2022.

### **Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

32. There are significant challenges in achieving global health goals, with progress slowing since 2015 in such areas as maternal mortality, premature deaths from major non-communicable diseases and access to essential health care. Inequalities persist, especially among vulnerable populations, and are exacerbated by the climate crisis. To meet the targets under Goal 3 by 2030, substantial investment and focus are needed to address those challenges, including tackling inequality and environmental factors. Urgent action is required to protect vulnerable groups and regions with high disease burdens.

#### **Target 3.1**

33. The global maternal mortality ratio marginally declined from 227 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 223 in 2020. Reaching the global target of 70 per 100,000 live births will require an annual rate of reduction of 11.6 per cent between 2021 and 2030. Two geographical areas, namely sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, accounted for about 87 per cent (249,000) of the estimated global maternal deaths in 2020. Worldwide, skilled birth attendance rose from 80 per cent in 2015 to 86 per cent in 2023. There are, however, significant geographical disparities, the most notable being in sub-Saharan Africa, where the rate was just 73 per cent in 2023.

#### **Target 3.2**

34. In 2022, the number of global under-5 deaths was 4.9 million, down from 9.9 million in 2000 and 6.0 million in 2015. The under-5 mortality rate fell to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 – 51 per cent lower than in 2000 and a 14 per cent decline from 2015. Similarly, the global neonatal mortality rate fell to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, a 44 per cent and 12 per cent decrease from the 2000 and 2015 levels, respectively.

#### **Target 3.3**

35. Mixed progress is observed towards the Sustainable Development Goal target of ending communicable diseases:

(a) There were an estimated 1.3 million new HIV infections in 2022, 27 per cent fewer than in 2015 and 38 per cent fewer than in 2010, and increased access to HIV treatment has averted almost 20.8 million AIDS-related deaths during the past three decades;

(b) The reported global number of people newly diagnosed with tuberculosis was 7.5 million in 2022, the highest since 1995, while annual deaths from tuberculosis decreased in 2022 after two consecutive years of increase owing to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) In 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases globally, exceeding the pre-pandemic level of 233 million in 2019;

(d) In 2022, 1.62 billion people required interventions and care for neglected tropical diseases, a 26.1 per cent decline from 2010, while as of December 2023, 50 countries, territories and areas had eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease.



**Target 3.5**

36. Global drug-related treatment coverage decreased from approximately 11 per cent in 2015 to under 9 per cent in 2022. Alarming, treatment coverage for women consistently lags behind that for men across all regions. In 2022, over 13 per cent of men with drug-use disorders received treatment globally, while less than 6 per cent of women did. Moreover, data on treatment coverage for alcohol-use disorders vary widely, ranging from a mere 0.3 per cent to a maximum of 14 per cent in reporting countries.

**Target 3.7**

37. The proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods increased slightly from 76.5 per cent to 77.6 per cent between 2015 and 2024. That corresponds to an increase of 75 million women of reproductive age using modern methods since 2015. The adolescent birth rate declined globally from 47.2 births per 1,000 girls and women aged 15 to 19 years in 2015 to 40.7 in 2024.

**Target 3.8**

38. The proportion of the population not covered by essential health services decreased by about 15 per cent between 2000 and 2021, with minimal progress made after 2015. In 2021, about 4.5 billion people were not covered by essential health services.

**Target 3.a**

39. In 2022, the global prevalence of current tobacco use among the population aged 15 years and over was estimated at 20.9 per cent. That translates to about 1.25 billion adult tobacco users in the world. The prevalence has declined since 2015, when it was 23.9 per cent, and the number of users has decreased by 50 million.

**Target 3.b**

40. The coverage of the third dose of the vaccine protecting against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis recovered to 84 per cent in 2022, an improvement from 81 per cent in 2021, but still below the 2019 level of 86 per cent. In 2022, 20.5 million children remained vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. The current two-dose measles vaccine coverage of 74 per cent is insufficient to prevent outbreaks. The human papillomavirus vaccination rate declined significantly during the pandemic, but 2022 saw the first encouraging signs of recovery in vaccination with 15 per cent full scheduled coverage among girls.

**Target 3.c**

41. While a recent study showed that the projected global shortage of health workers by 2030 had decreased from 18 million to 10 million, the ageing of the population will lead to an increased health need and further widen that gap. An additional 1.8 million health workers are needed in 54 countries (mostly high-income countries) just to maintain the current age-standardized density of health workers.

**Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

42. Goal 4 is a main enabler of most other Goals. Unfortunately, global progress in education has not been progressing quickly enough. Only 58 per cent of students

worldwide had achieved at least the minimum proficiency level in reading at the end of primary schooling in 2019. A large share of countries are moving backwards in terms of learning outcomes at the end of lower secondary school. Improvements in upper-secondary completion rates have slowed since 2015. Some areas, including sub-Saharan Africa, are facing teacher shortages, high student-teacher ratios, and inadequate training and a lack of professional development opportunities for teachers. Accelerating progress towards achieving Goal 4 should be prioritized, as it would have a catalytic impact on the realization of the 2030 Agenda overall.

#### **Target 4.1**

43. Completion rates in primary and lower-secondary level education are continuing on an upward curve, and the percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 53 per cent in 2015 to 59 per cent in 2023. That increase, however, is occurring at a slower pace relative to the progress made during the preceding eight-year period, and such improvements do not always result in positive learning outcomes. Between 2018 and 2022, based on learning outcomes at the end of lower secondary school across 81 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and their partners, performance in mathematics fell by a record 15 points while performance in reading fell by 10 points. However, mathematics and reading scores had been declining for those countries prior to 2015, suggesting that only part of the decline can be attributed to the effects of COVID-19. A complex set of factors affect the education systems of upper-middle-income and high-income countries.

#### **Target 4.2**

44. Data from 76 mainly low- and middle-income countries from 2015 to 2023 show that approximately two thirds of young children aged 24 to 59 months are developmentally on track, with no significant gender differences. However, there are wide variations among countries and regions. In 2022, globally, 7 out of 10 children participated in organized learning one year before reaching official primary school age. Despite a 1.5 percentage point decline between 2019 and 2021, participation levels have started to recover and return to pre-pandemic levels.

#### **Target 4.3**

45. In countries with recent data, about one sixth of individuals aged 15–64 years have participated in education and training. Participation is significantly higher among young people aged 15–24 years compared with people aged 25–55 years, with an average participation rate of nearly 50 per cent across most regions. However, less than 3 per cent of adults aged 25–55 years engage in education and training in most regions.

#### **Target 4.5**

46. Socioeconomic disparities are prevalent in education, affecting various indicators. Global and regional parity ratios may hide gender inequalities within countries, disadvantaging either girls or boys. Disparities based on location or household wealth are more pronounced, with rural or less affluent families facing greater challenges. Those gaps widen at higher education levels, leading to increased dropout rates and fewer opportunities for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

#### **Target 4.a**

47. In 2022, only half of all primary schools had the basic infrastructure and materials needed to provide an adequate schooling experience to pupils with disabilities, and one in five primary schools globally did not have single-sex sanitation

facilities. In the same year, on average, 44 per cent of primary schools, 56 per cent of lower secondary schools and 69 per cent of upper secondary schools had access to the Internet, almost double the rates for 2021. In 2022, at the upper secondary level, 91 per cent of schools had access to electricity, 81 per cent had computers for pedagogical use and 69 per cent of schools were connected to the Internet.

#### **Target 4.c**

48. In 2022, 15 per cent of teachers were still not trained according to national minimum standards in their country. No progress on that indicator has been observed since 2015. There are substantial disparities between various geographical areas: in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, only 70 per cent of teachers meet their national minimum qualification requirement to be considered trained, compared to 88 per cent in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia.

### **Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

49. Progress towards gender equality is clearly off track. Although the prevalence rates of such harmful practices as child marriage and female genital mutilation are decreasing, the total number of cases has increased owing to population growth. Gender parity, especially in women's participation in public life and managerial roles, remains distant. At the current rate, achieving gender parity in managerial positions will take 176 years. Furthermore, many women still lack control over their sexual and reproductive health, and violence against women persists. Urgent action is needed to challenge biased social norms, eliminate harmful practices and change discriminatory laws. Increasing women's leadership roles and investments in gender equality are crucial at the national, regional and global levels.

#### **Target 5.1**

50. Based on data collected in 2022 in 120 countries, 55 per cent of the countries lacked non-discrimination laws that prohibited direct and indirect discrimination against women, and half of the countries continued to lack quotas for women in national parliaments.

#### **Target 5.3**

51. Globally, in 2023, about 640 million girls and women had entered into marriage before 18 years of age, with India accounting for one third of that number. While progress has led to reductions in child marriage, one in five young women (19 per cent) continue to enter into marriage before 18 years of age, down from one in four 25 years ago. Despite averting 68 million child marriages in that period, the pace isn't sufficient to eliminate the practice by 2030.

52. Over 230 million girls and women worldwide are estimated have undergone female genital mutilation as of 2024, an increase of 30 million compared with the estimate in 2016.

#### **Target 5.4**

53. On an average day, women spend about 2.5 times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care work as men, according to the latest data from the period 2000–2022.

### **Target 5.5**

54. Progress in women's political participation remains slow. As at 1 January 2024, women held 26.9 per cent of seats in national parliaments worldwide, marking a modest increase of 4.6 percentage points since 2015 (22.3 per cent). In local governments, participation was higher, at 35.5 per cent as at 1 January 2023. While global employment sees nearly 40 per cent representation from women, they held only 27.5 per cent of management positions in 2022, a notable decrease from 28.5 per cent in 2021.

### **Target 5.a**

55. In 1 in 3 of the 49 countries with data, less than 50 per cent of women and men have ownership or secure rights over agricultural land. Furthermore, there is a notable disparity between the agricultural land ownership of women and men, with men owning land at least twice as often as women in almost half of the countries. Legal protections for women's land rights are low or not existent in approximately 58 per cent of the reporting countries.

### **Target 5.b**

56. In 2023, 78 per cent of the global population aged 10 years and above owned a mobile phone. Women were approximately 8 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone than men in 2023, a decrease from 10 per cent in 2020.

### **Target 5.c**

57. Data from 105 countries and areas for the period 2018–2021 show that 26 per cent of countries globally have comprehensive systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality, 59 per cent have some features of a system and 15 per cent do not have minimum elements of those systems.

## **Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

58. None of the targets under Goal 6 are on track to be met. As of 2022, 2.2 billion people were without access to safely managed drinking water and 3.5 billion lacked access to safely managed sanitation. Between 2002 and 2021, droughts affected more than 1.4 billion people. In 2022, roughly half of the world's population experienced severe water scarcity for at least part of the year, while one quarter faced extremely high levels of water stress. Climate change worsens those issues, posing significant risks to social stability. While transboundary river and lake basins are home to approximately 40 per cent of the world's population and are shared by 153 countries, less than one fifth of those countries have operational arrangements for cooperation in place for all their transboundary waters. Coordinating global action on integrated water management, addressing the impacts of climate change on water resources and better managing shared waters are key to restoring focus on the Goal.

### **Targets 6.1 and 6.2**

59. Between 2015 and 2022, the population using safely managed drinking water increased from 69 per cent to 73 per cent, the population using safely managed sanitation increased from 49 per cent to 57 per cent and the population using basic hygiene services increased from 67 per cent to 75 per cent. Achieving universal coverage of safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation and basic

hygiene services by 2030 will require sixfold, fivefold and threefold increases in the current global rates of progress, respectively.

### **Target 6.3**

60. Among the 73 countries reporting on both total wastewater generation and total wastewater treatment in 2022, 76 per cent of total wastewater flows received at least some treatment. Of the 42 countries that specified the level of treatment, 60 per cent of total wastewater flows were safely treated (that is, at least secondary treatment). In all world regions, many rivers, lakes and aquifers are still in good condition – as of 2023, 56 per cent of water bodies assessed in 120 countries had good water quality. However, countries that implement the most extensive monitoring programmes show that water quality has been degrading since 2017.

### **Target 6.4**

61. Water-use efficiency rose from \$17.40/m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 to \$20.80/m<sup>3</sup> in 2021, a 19 per cent increase. Globally, the water stress level reached an average level of 18.6 per cent in 2021, but that figure hides large regional variations, as some regions show critical water stress levels that may compromise their economic and social development. Globally, the water stress level slightly increased, by 3 per cent, from 2015 to 2021.

### **Target 6.5**

62. Global progress in implementing integrated water resources management remains slow – the level of implementation was 49 per cent in 2017, 54 per cent in 2020 and 57 per cent in 2023 – and the world is not on track to reach the 2030 target (91 per cent). Only 43 out of 153 countries have operational arrangements in place for 90 per cent or more of their shared transboundary waters (rivers, lakes and aquifers), and more than 20 countries have no operational arrangements in place for any of their transboundary waters. Since 2020, only about 10 new arrangements for transboundary water cooperation have been adopted.

### **Target 6.6**

63. The world experienced a net increase in permanent surface water between 2005 and 2022, much of which resulted from climate change and reservoir filling. While that global net gain is positive, it is important to recognize that the data also include losses of permanent water linked to droughts and increased water demands in some regions.

### **Target 6.a**

64. ODA disbursements to the water sector increased between 2021 and 2022 by 10 per cent to \$8.5 billion, reversing a declining trend seen over the previous five years.

## **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

65. In 2022, global electricity access declined for the first time in a decade, primarily owing to disruptions from COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine. Despite improvements in energy intensity and renewable energy growth, international financial flows for clean energy in developing countries remain insufficient. At the current rate, 660 million people will still lack electricity and 1.8 billion will not have access to clean cooking fuels by 2030. To achieve universal access to energy by 2030,

we need to expedite electrification efforts, boost investments in renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency and establish supportive policies and regulatory frameworks.

### **Target 7.1**

66. In 2022, global electricity access remained at 91 per cent, but the number of people without access had increased by 10 million from 2021 to 685 million people. Such factors as COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine disrupted progress. Projections suggest that, by 2030, 660 million people will still lack electricity. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 83 per cent of the deficit in 2022. However, Central and Southern Asia reduced their gap from 235 million people in 2015 to 33 million in 2022. Annual progress slowed to 0.40 per cent between 2020 and 2022, requiring a 1.08 per cent increase until 2030 to meet the target.

67. In 2022, about 74 per cent of the world used clean fuels for cooking. However, about 2.1 billion people still relied on polluting fuels, such as charcoal, coal, crop waste, dung, kerosene and wood, and traditional cooking stoves. The global access deficit decreased from 36 per cent in 2015 to 26 per cent in 2022. However, current trends suggest a 21 per cent shortfall in achieving universal access by 2030, leaving 1.8 billion without access to clean cooking by that year.

### **Target 7.2**

68. In 2021, the global share of renewable sources of total final energy consumption stood at 18.7 per cent. Excluding the traditional use of biomass, the share of modern renewable sources rose gradually from 10.0 per cent in 2015 to 12.5 per cent in 2021. The electricity sector led the charge with renewables, which constituted 28.2 per cent of total final energy consumption for electricity in 2021. However, insufficient progress in the heat and transport sectors underscores the need for stronger conservation measures and policy actions. Tripling the world's installed renewable energy generation, as agreed at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is an important step in aligning with Goal 7.

### **Target 7.3**

69. In 2021, primary energy intensity improved by 0.8 per cent, falling below both the average for the period 2016–2021 (1.2 per cent) and target 7.3 (2.6 per cent). To meet the target, annual improvements must now average about 4 per cent. The robust economic recovery in 2021 led to the largest annual rise in energy consumption in 50 years, exceeding 5 per cent. That surge was driven by a shift towards energy-intensive industries and the resurgence of other demand sectors after lockdowns had been lifted.

### **Target 7.a**

70. In 2022, international public financial flows supporting clean energy in developing countries rose to \$15.4 billion, a 25 per cent increase from 2021, but still half of the peak of \$28.5 billion in 2016. However, in 2023, it was anticipated that there would be a decrease of \$450 million in global five-year average flows for the period 2019–2023. The decreasing trend in those flows may hinder the achievement of Goal 7, especially in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

### **Target 7.b**

71. Installed renewable energy capacity is on the rise worldwide, reaching 424 watts per person globally in 2022. Developed countries averaged 1,073 watts per person, while developing countries averaged 293 watts per person. That represents an 8.5 per

cent increase from 2021, maintaining a steady compound annual growth rate of 8.1 per cent between 2018 and 2022.

## **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

72. Progress towards Goal 8 faces challenges resulting from the aftermath of COVID-19, trade tensions, rising debts in developing countries, conflicts and geopolitical strains, which collectively threaten global economic growth. While labour markets have shown resilience, uneven pandemic recovery, the declining protection of labour rights and emerging vulnerabilities erode social justice prospects. A worsening labour market outlook is foreseen, with higher unemployment and sluggish growth in 2024, exacerbating income inequality and jeopardizing equitable pay for women and decent work for young people. Achieving Goal 8 requires policies fostering economic growth with a focus on social justice and inclusive employment.

### **Target 8.1**

73. After a sharp 3.9 per cent decline in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy rebounded with a 5.3 per cent increase in real GDP per capita in 2021. However, growth slowed to 2.2 per cent in 2022 and is forecasted to slow further to 1.0 per cent in 2023, before picking up slightly to 1.8 per cent and 1.5 per cent in 2024 and 2025, respectively. For least developed countries, real GDP growth dropped from 5.1 per cent in 2019 to 0.7 per cent in 2020, then recovered to 3.8 per cent in 2021 and 4.6 per cent in 2022. Growth is expected to rise to 4.4 per cent in 2023 and 5.5 per cent in 2024. However, it is projected to slow to 4.9 per cent in 2025.

### **Target 8.2**

74. Productivity growth stagnated in 2022 and 2023, remaining below 0.5 per cent. That sluggish trend stands in stark contrast to the pre-pandemic period of 2015 to 2019, when the rate exceeded 1.5 per cent. The pandemic sharply interrupted that trend, with 2020 registering a marked decline as output fell at a faster rate than employment, although that was fully offset by a short-lived rebound in productivity during 2021. Recent slow productivity growth poses a risk to economic development and living standards, given its crucial role as a driver of overall economic growth.

### **Target 8.3**

75. In 2023, over 2 billion workers globally were employed informally, accounting for 58.0 per cent of the global workforce. That figure is expected to see a marginal decrease to 57.8 per cent in 2024. The decline of the informality rate by less than a percentage point since 2015 is far too slow for widespread formalization to occur anytime soon.

### **Target 8.5**

76. In 2023, the global unemployment rate not only improved, dipping below its pre-pandemic level, but also reached the lowest level since 2000, settling at 5.1 per cent. However, projections indicate a slight increase in global unemployment in 2024, with approximately 2 million more individuals unemployed, leading to a 5.2 per cent unemployment rate. Women and young people continue to experience higher unemployment rates compared with their male and adult counterparts, respectively, at the global level and across most regions.

### **Target 8.6**

77. In 2023, the global rate for young people not in employment, education or training was 21.7 per cent, showing a significant decrease since 2020 and nearing the 2015 baseline of 21.8 per cent. That rate is expected to persist through 2025. There is a critical need to intensify initiatives aimed at reducing those rates among young people, with a focus on young women. Globally, young women are still more than twice as likely as young men not to be in employment, education or training.

### **Target 8.8**

78. Globally, many workers face significant risks in their workplaces, and work accidents remain prevalent. In 11 out of 93 countries with data, more than 10 work-related fatalities per 100,000 workers were reported.<sup>4</sup> In addition, in half of the 96 countries with available data, the number of non-fatal injuries per 100,000 workers exceeded 641.

79. From 2015 to 2022, the global average level of national compliance with labour rights declined by 7 per cent. That decline is observed across both developed and developing countries and has become more pronounced in all regions since 2020. Recent data indicate that ongoing crises have led to an increase in violations of labour rights in practice. That increase is, alarmingly, caused by violations of fundamental civil liberties of workers, employers and their organizations.

### **Target 8.9**

80. In 2022, tourism rebounded to 82 per cent of its 2019 level, contributing 3.1 per cent to global GDP. Lifted travel restrictions and pent-up demand drove that recovery, but regional differences persisted. Oceania, excluding Australia and New Zealand, and small island developing States still faced challenges, with tourism economic performance at 68 per cent and 43 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, respectively.

### **Target 8.10**

81. Since 2015, global access to finance has increased, but recent years show changes in access methods. The number of automated teller machines per 100,000 adults declined from 64.6 in 2015 to 63.9 in 2022, while commercial bank branches dropped from 15.0 to 13.7 per 100,000 adults. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift towards digital financial access. That reflects the global decline in bank branches, except in Central Asia, Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

82. As reported in the Global Financial Inclusion Database from 2021, 74 per cent of adults have a bank account, but 41 per cent lack financial resilience. Financial resilience means being able to gain access to extra funds equivalent to 5 per cent of their country's gross national income per capita within 30 days of a financial shock, such as a health emergency or job loss. That varies by geographical area, with South Asia being the least financially resilient (only 32 per cent) and East Asia the most (77 per cent).

### **Target 8.b**

83. In 2023, fewer than half of the reporting countries (36 out of 87) had implemented a national strategy for youth employment. About one third of those countries possessed a strategy but lacked clear evidence of its implementation, while one fifth were in the process of developing one.

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<sup>4</sup> Data pertain to various dates between 2004 and 2022.



## **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

84. Since 2022, the manufacturing sector has faced stagnation, attributed to geopolitical instability, inflation, logistical challenges, rising energy costs and a broader global economic slowdown. Globally, the share of manufacturing in employment has regressed. While there has been progress in reducing the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions in manufacturing, the reductions fall short of the target values for 2030. To expedite progress towards Goal 9, efforts should prioritize accelerating the green transition, strategically prioritizing sectors, and addressing inequalities in digital and innovation sectors.

### **Target 9.2**

85. The manufacturing sector rebounded strongly in 2021, but growth has plateaued at about 2.7 per cent since 2022, and that rate is expected to continue in 2024. Despite the plateau, global manufacturing value added per capita rose by 16 per cent from 2015 to 2023, reaching \$1,922 per capita. Regional gaps are stark, with Europe and Northern America hitting a record \$4,986 per capita, contrasting with a stagnant level of \$163 in sub-Saharan Africa.

86. Since 2015, the global share of manufacturing in employment has fluctuated. It was at 14.3 per cent in 2015, then dipped to 14.2 per cent in 2020, but saw a marginal recovery in 2021. However, by 2022, the share had declined to 14.1 per cent, with notable subregional disparities. While sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia saw slight increases, other geographical areas experienced declines, with Australia and New Zealand recording the largest fall at 0.5 percentage points from 2021 to 2022. Those trends highlight the ongoing impact of crises on the growth of manufacturing employment.

### **Target 9.3**

87. Small enterprises face heightened vulnerability, in particular in low-income countries. According to survey data spanning from 2006 to 2023, only 16.9 per cent of small-scale manufacturing industries in sub-Saharan Africa had access to loans or lines of credit, compared with 45.4 per cent of those in Latin America and the Caribbean. That underscores how global uncertainty hampers investment flows and financial access for small businesses, hindering their resilience and adoption of new technologies.

### **Target 9.4**

88. Globally, carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP have steadily declined, dropping by 11.5 per cent from 2015 to 2021, with a reduction of 16.0 per cent observed in the manufacturing sector. Despite those positive trends, global carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion hit a record high of 33.6 gigatons in 2021, with manufacturing emissions also reaching their highest level since 2014, at 6.1 gigatons. Those figures highlight the insufficient rate of reduction in the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions to achieve a significant overall decrease in carbon dioxide emissions worldwide.

### **Target 9.5**

89. After a slowdown in 2020, global research and development expenditure appeared to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2021, climbing from 1.72 per cent of GDP in 2015 to 1.93 per cent in 2021. However, many developing economies have research and development expenditure relative to GDP below 1.00 per cent.

90. The number of researchers per million inhabitants worldwide increased from 1,143 in 2015 to 1,352 in 2021, with Europe and Northern America and Australia and New Zealand employing three times higher the global level (4,050 and 4,696, in 2021, respectively). Conversely, the figure for sub-Saharan Africa has been substantially lower, standing at 96 researchers per million inhabitants. In addition, women remain underrepresented, comprising only 31.5 per cent of all researchers worldwide in 2021.

#### **Target 9.b**

91. The gradual upward trend of medium and high-technology manufacturing value added in total value added, rising from 46.3 per cent in 2015 to 46.9 per cent in 2019, was briefly interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, dropping to 46.8 per cent. Despite uncertainties and economic challenges, the sector displayed resilience with a slight decline of 0.67 percentage points in 2021. In Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, the sector accounted for approximately 50.6 per cent of total manufacturing in 2021, whereas in sub-Saharan Africa, it represented just 18.3 per cent.

#### **Target 9.c**

92. Mobile broadband (3G or higher) is accessible to 95 per cent of the world's population, up from 78 per cent in 2015. In most developing countries, that type of access is the main way – and often the only way – to connect to the Internet. However, addressing the remaining 5 per cent coverage gap poses challenges. Notably, in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), the gap remains significant at 31 per cent. Although the gap in sub-Saharan Africa is shrinking, it still stands relatively high at 17 per cent and affects Central and Western Africa in particular.

### **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

93. Incomes of the poorest 40 per cent of the population have generally grown faster than the national average in many countries, and financial transfers during the pandemic boosted shared prosperity. However, over the past five years, the gap in per capita income growth between the poorest and the richest countries has widened. In addition, discrimination based on age, gender, religion, race or belief affects one in six people globally. The year 2023 marked a record high of 35.8 million refugees, and over 8,000 migrant deaths were recorded globally. Addressing both within- and between-country inequality necessitates equitable resource distribution, investing in education and skills development, implementing social protection measures, combating discrimination, supporting marginalized groups and fostering international cooperation for fair trade and financial systems.

#### **Target 10.1**

94. Among the 124 countries with available data, more than half have achieved income growth for the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. However, there are notable geographical disparities. In 78 per cent of countries in Europe and Northern America, the bottom 40 per cent experienced faster income growth than the national average, while only 30 per cent of countries in Central and Southern Asia demonstrated that trend. Limited data from the pandemic period suggest that, in most areas, financial transfers boosted shared prosperity in many countries by supporting the income growth of disadvantaged populations.

#### **Target 10.3**

95. The number of countries reporting on discrimination has increased by 37 per cent since 2022. However, one person in six continues to encounter discrimination.

Racial discrimination and discrimination based on age, gender, religion or belief remain pervasive. While 7 per cent of the population surveyed report being discriminated against on the ground of social origin or socioeconomic status, less than one fifth of countries monitor that ground.

#### **Target 10.4**

96. The share of economic output earned by workers decreased from 54.1 per cent in 2004 to 52.7 per cent in 2021, amounting to an average decline of \$568 (purchasing power parity) per worker. The pandemic exacerbated that situation, with economic output and labour income in 2021 still below 2019 levels in many regions. As earnings from work are crucial for those who are vulnerable or who are less well off, the long-term decline in the labour-income share of GDP creates upward pressure on inequality.

#### **Target 10.5**

97. In 2022, banks improved their overall performance compared with 2015 amid ongoing COVID-19 recovery. The proportion of countries reporting a return on assets above 1 per cent increased to 77.2 per cent from 70 per cent in 2021, with the median return on assets rising from 1.34 per cent to 1.56 per cent. Asset quality also improved, with the median non-performing loans to total loans ratio decreasing from 4.07 per cent in 2021 to 3.52 per cent in 2022. However, the capital buffer remained stable, with the median Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets at 16.8 per cent in 2022 compared with 17 per cent in 2021.

#### **Target 10.7**

98. In 2023, there were 8,177 migrant fatalities globally, marking the deadliest year on record, according to data from the Missing Migrants Project of the International Organization for Migration. That underscores the urgent need for safe migration pathways, as people continue to risk their lives on irregular routes owing to limited alternatives.

99. As of mid-2023, 35.8 million refugees under the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as other people in need of international protection, remained forcibly displaced owing to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order. That figure represents the highest total recorded to date and reflects increases due to new situations and to the fact that there has been no progress in resolving protracted refugee situations. In 2015, there were 213 refugees per 100,000 people worldwide, but, by mid-2023, that figure had doubled to 441 refugees per 100,000 people.

#### **Target 10.c**

100. The global average remittance cost as a proportion of the amount remitted dropped from 7.42 per cent in 2016 to 6.18 per cent in 2023. Corridors offering costs below 5 per cent increased from 23 per cent in 2016 to 75 per cent in 2023. While progress is evident, sustained efforts are needed to meet target 10.c.

### **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

101. More than half the world's population currently reside in cities. However, cities are grappling with a multitude of complex issues, made more difficult by rising global urban poverty levels in the wake of COVID-19. From rising slum populations,

insufficient public transport and city expansion outpacing population growth to threats to critical infrastructure and the disruption of basic services owing to disasters, it is essential that cities be equipped to adequately handle those challenges. As the world turns more urban, with nearly 70 per cent of the global population projected to reside in cities by 2050, critical infrastructure, affordable housing, efficient transport and essential social services are crucial for creating resilient, sustainable cities for all.

#### **Target 11.1**

102. In 2022, 24.8 per cent of the urban population lived in slums or slum-like conditions, slightly lower than in 2015, when the figure was 25.0 per cent, but higher than in 2020, when it was 24.2 per cent. The total number of slum dwellers was 1.12 billion in 2022, 130 million more than in 2015. Over 85.0 per cent of slum dwellers were concentrated in Central and Southern Asia (334 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (362 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (265 million). In 2022, sub-Saharan Africa had the highest percentage of the urban population living in slums, at 53.6 per cent. Projections suggest that sub-Saharan Africa will experience the greatest proportional increase in slum dwellers, with an additional 360 million expected by 2030. That emphasizes the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to addressing the urban housing crisis, including by providing varied housing options and equitable access to basic services.

#### **Target 11.2**

103. Data collected in 2023 from 2,039 cities across 188 countries show that 6 out of 10 urban residents worldwide have convenient public transport access, with notable gaps between developed and developing regions. In least developed countries, only 4 out of 10 people have access, compared with 8 out of 10 in more developed regions. Investments are urgently needed to expand access, especially in impoverished urban areas in developing countries.

#### **Target 11.3**

104. Data from 1,217 cities across 185 countries show that cities are sprawling faster than they are densifying. Between 2000 and 2020, cities expanded up to 3.7 times faster than they densified. Globally, sprawl averaged 5.6 per cent annually, while densification was only 1.5 per cent. Despite a slight decline in sprawl rates from 2010 to 2020, they still exceeded densification rates, displacing ecologically valuable lands. Balancing people, prosperity and the planet by 2030 requires concerted efforts at the local, subnational and national levels to curb urban sprawl.

#### **Target 11.5**

105. On average, 104,049 critical infrastructure units and facilities were destroyed or damaged by disasters annually from 2015 to 2022. Furthermore, disasters disrupted over 1.6 million basic services, including educational and health services, each year.

#### **Target 11.6**

106. Globally, there was a 9 per cent decrease in the population-weighted exposure to fine particulate matter from the period 2010–2014 to the period 2015–2019, dropping from 39.1 micrograms per square metre to 35.7 micrograms per square metre. That is close to the interim target 1 value of 35 micrograms per square metre under the air quality guidelines of the World Health Organization.

**Target 11.7**

107. Data from 1,365 cities across 187 countries reveal that access to open public spaces is notably deficient in least developed countries, where fewer than 3 in 10 people can conveniently reach such areas. Conversely, in high-performing areas, such as Australia and New Zealand or Europe and Northern America, approximately 6–7 out of 10 urban residents enjoy convenient access to open public spaces. That disparity highlights the prevalent global challenge.

**Target 11.b**

108. Local-level risk governance has improved in recent years; in 2023, 106 countries cumulatively reported having local disaster risk reduction strategies in place and in line with national strategies. On average, 72 per cent of local governments in reporting countries specified having local disaster risk reduction strategies.

**Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

109. The crisis of unsustainable consumption and production patterns worldwide is fuelling the ongoing triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution. Domestic material consumption and the material footprint continue to rise, some 1 billion meals worth of edible food are wasted every day in homes around the world and stockpiles of electronic waste steadily grow. While countries are fulfilling their environmental agreement obligations and embracing comprehensive approaches to address environmental degradation, public funding supporting the production and consumption of fossil fuels has more than tripled since 2015, impeding the transition to net-zero emissions. Each stage of production or manufacturing presents an opportunity to reduce resource and fossil fuel use, foster innovation, conserve energy, cut emissions and advocate for a circular economy approach.

**Target 12.1**

110. From 2019 to 2023, one third of member States (63 countries) reported having 516 policy instruments related to sustainable consumption and production.

**Target 8.4/12.2**

111. From 2015 to 2022, domestic material consumption increased by 5.8 per cent and the material footprint rose by 6.8 per cent. Regional disparities between domestic material consumption and the material footprint continue to grow, in particular between geographical areas where the material footprint is higher than domestic material consumption (Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Europe and Northern America, Northern Africa and Western Asia) and those where the material footprint is lower than domestic material consumption (Central and Southern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania), showing different patterns of material consumption and their corresponding environmental impact.

**Target 12.3**

112. In 2022, 19 per cent of global food was wasted, totalling 1.05 billion metric tons, with household waste accounting for 60 per cent. That waste generates significant greenhouse gas emissions, costing over \$1 trillion annually, while 783 million people suffer from hunger. Addressing that issue is crucial for halving food waste by 2030, yet only 9 out of 193 countries had included food waste in their nationally determined contributions as of 2022. Meanwhile, the percentage of food lost globally after harvest

at the farm, transport, storage, wholesale and processing levels was estimated at 13.2 per cent in 2021.

#### **Target 12.4**

113. The status of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals meeting their commitments and obligations to transmit information as required by each relevant agreement is as follows:

(a) *Minamata Convention on Mercury*. Most parties have met their obligations, with 94 per cent appointing national focal points and 95 per cent submitting complete national reports in 2023;

(b) *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal*, *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* and *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*. Parties continue to make strides towards meeting their obligations and in developing policies to keep pace with rapidly changing global circumstances, including by responding to the growing challenges created by contemporary waste streams, such as plastic waste and e-waste, improving the procedure to control transboundary movements of wastes and enlarging the scope of the conventions with the listing of new chemicals;

(c) *Montreal Protocol*. Parties consistently fulfil their reporting obligations on the production and use of ozone-depleting substances, with 156 out of 198 parties having ratified the Kigali Amendment by January 2024, thereby demonstrating an increased commitment to mitigating climate change under the Protocol.

#### **Targets 12.4 and 12.5**

114. In 2022, the generation of e-waste rose to 7.8 kg per capita from 6.2 kg per capita in 2015, but only 1.7 kg per capita was properly managed. Mismanaged e-waste leads to resource loss, the increased use of virgin resources and environmental hazards, which underscores the urgency to have improved and environmentally sound management of e-waste.

#### **Target 12.6**

115. In 2022, 73 per cent of companies included in the sample published sustainability reports, with the number of companies tripling from 2016. That growth was observed in all regions.

#### **Target 12.c**

116. Fossil fuel subsidies hit a record high of \$1.53 trillion in 2022, reversing the declining trend observed from 2012 to 2020. The energy price surge that began in 2021, after the onset of COVID-19, has inflated those subsidies, prompting some Governments to introduce new support measures. Consequently, public funding for oil, coal and gas production and consumption more than doubled from 2021 to 2022 and has tripled since 2015, impeding progress towards the net-zero transition.

### **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

117. Climate records were shattered in 2023, with the world watching the climate crisis unfold in real time. Communities around the world are suffering the effects of extreme weather, which is destroying lives and livelihoods on a daily basis. The road

map to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and avoid the worst of climate chaos cannot afford any delays, indecision or half measures by the global community. It demands immediate action for drastic reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions during the present decade and the achievement of net-zero emissions by 2050.

#### **Target 13.1**

118. The number of disaster-related deaths and missing persons per 100,000 population (excluding deaths from COVID-19) has nearly halved, from 1.62 during the period 2005–2014 to 0.82 during the period 2013–2022. However, the absolute number remains high. Between 2013 and 2022, disasters worldwide claimed 42,553 lives each year. Furthermore, the number of persons affected by disasters per 100,000 population has increased by over two thirds, from 1,169 during the period 2005–2014 to 1,980 during the period 2013–2022.

119. In 2023, 129 countries reported the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies, increasing from 55 countries in 2015. Among those countries, 122 reported promoting policy coherence and compliance with the Goals and the Paris Agreement as an important element of the strategy.

#### **Target 13.2**

120. The year 2023 broke every single climate indicator and was the warmest year on record according to the World Meteorological Organization. Global temperatures reached 1.45°C above pre-industrial levels, for the first time dangerously close to the 1.5°C lower limit referred to in the Paris Agreement. Despite some reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries, concentrations of greenhouse gases reached observed record high levels in 2022, and real-time data from 2023 show greenhouse gases continuing to increase. Carbon dioxide levels are 150 per cent above pre-industrial levels.

#### **Target 13.3**

121. A study conducted in 2023 of more than 530 grade 9 science and social science subject curricula found that 69 per cent contained no reference to climate change and 66 per cent made no mention of sustainability. However, three quarters of countries reported that they had plans to revise their curricula in the next three years to focus more on climate change and sustainability.

#### **Target 13.a**

122. Climate finance, reported by annex I parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as support provided to developing countries, increased at a compound rate of 5 per cent from 2015 to 2020, amounting to \$41 billion. Although there is a range of estimates and a lack of an agreed accounting methodology for the goal of \$100 billion per year, the goal had not yet been met as of 2021. However, recent progress made in the provision and mobilization of climate finance amounted to \$89.6 billion in 2021.

### **Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

123. Oceans cover over 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and play a crucial role in providing food and livelihoods for more than 3 billion people and in combating the effects of climate change. However, alarming trends in declining fish stocks, marine

pollution, ocean acidification and habitat destruction threaten marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities worldwide. Urgent action is needed to address those challenges and to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the oceans through sustainable fishing practices, marine conservation efforts, pollution reduction and global cooperation to safeguard marine life and ecosystems for future generations.

#### **Target 14.3**

124. Ocean acidification is increasing and will continue to do so if carbon dioxide emissions do not stop rising. An increasing number of countries and ocean observation stations (from 178 stations in 2021 to 638 in 2024) that collect data highlights the growing capacity of countries to observe the continued decline of ocean potential of hydrogen (pH) in the global ocean and strong regional variations in the pace of change.

#### **Target 14.6**

125. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing threatens the social, economic and environmental sustainability of global fisheries, hindering the ability of countries to manage their fisheries effectively. The first binding international agreement to specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing was the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Effectively, the number of States that are now covered by the Agreement has risen to 104 (from 25 in 2016), covering 64 per cent of the world's coastal States. States have made good overall progress, with close to 75 per cent scoring high in their degree of implementation of relevant international instruments in 2022 compared with 70 per cent in 2018.

### **Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

126. Goal 15 underscores the critical importance of biodiversity as humanity's life-support system. However, the relentless depletion of forests, coupled with an alarming rate of species extinction and stagnation in safeguarding key biodiversity areas, jeopardizes the delicate balance of ecosystems. To address the pressing global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, it is imperative to intensify efforts to fulfil our global environmental and biodiversity commitments.

#### **Targets 15.1 and 15.2**

127. The world's forest area continues to decline, albeit at a slightly reduced pace compared with previous decades. The proportion of forest cover to total land area decreased from 31.9 per cent in 2000 to 31.2 per cent in 2020, with agricultural expansion accounting for nearly 90 per cent of global deforestation. However, there has been notable progress towards sustainable forest management, marked by an increase in the proportion of forests under management plans and within protected areas. Moreover, certified forest area, which had shown steady long-term growth, has experienced a significant decline during the past two years, attributed to the suspension of certificates owing to the conflict in Europe.



**Targets 14.5, 15.1 and 15.4**

128. The global protected and conserved area coverage of marine, terrestrial, freshwater and mountain key biodiversity areas had shown substantial improvements prior to 2000, but that growth has stagnated over the past two decades. Particularly worrying are Central, Southern and Western Asia, Northern Africa and Oceania, where the average protected and conserved area coverage of key biodiversity areas is less than 30 per cent. Progress has been more positive in Australia and New Zealand, Europe and Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa, where, on average, coverage has reached over 40 per cent.

**Target 15.5**

129. Species extinction risk continues to worsen, as evidenced by a 12 per cent deterioration in the aggregate Red List Index between 1993 and 2024 (and 4 per cent since 2015). The extinction risk of the world's amphibian species was recently comprehensively reassessed, revealing that, for amphibians, climate change impacts, habitat conversion and alien invasive fungal disease are the most severe drivers of increasing extinction risk.

**Target 15.6**

130. Countries continue to make progress in ratifying and implementing access and benefit-sharing instruments. By the end of 2023, 75 countries (up from 6 countries in 2016) had reported on their legislative, administrative or policy measures under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and 93 countries (up from 12 countries in 2015) had done so for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

**Target 15.7.1/15.c.1**

131. Estimates available for the first time show that, globally, intercepted illegal wildlife trade as a proportion of all wildlife trade (legal and illegal) increased from 2017 onwards, reaching its highest levels during the pandemic, from 2020 to 2021. It is estimated that wildlife seizures made up about 1.4 per cent to 1.9 per cent of global wildlife trade during the period 2020–2021.

**Target 15.9**

132. In 2023, 90 countries implemented the international statistical standard to measure the environment and ecosystems and their connection to the economy, an increase of 30 per cent from 2017.

**Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

133. Around the world, we need peace in every sense. Nevertheless, the road to global peace and security has become even more complex. Global forced displacement is at an all-time high, with over 110 million people forced to flee from persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations as of May 2023. Between 2022 and 2023, civilian casualties experienced the highest spike since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Persistent threats to human security across the globe underscore the breakdown of peaceful and inclusive societies, which are crucial for sustainable development,

and the need to restore trust and strengthen and renew global peace and security frameworks to heed the desperate pleas for peace from countless voices worldwide.

#### **Target 16.1**

134. The global homicide rate gradually decreased, falling from 5.9 victims per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.5 in 2020. However, that trend was disrupted in 2021, with a sharp rise to 5.8 victims per 100,000 population, only slightly decreasing to 5.6 in 2022. High levels of violence linked with organized crime and gang activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, along with heightened vulnerability to homicide in Africa, continue to contribute to those regions having the highest homicide rates and numbers globally.

135. The number of civilian deaths in armed conflict skyrocketed in 2023. Between 2022 and 2023, civilian casualties increased by 72 per cent, the highest increase since 2015. In 2023, 7 out of 10 recorded deaths occurred in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel. Moreover, for the second consecutive year, the number of civilians killed in conflict rose dramatically, reversing the downward trend that had occurred between 2016 and 2019. By 2023, the number of civilian casualties had risen to over 33,400, almost matching the peak of 2015. By 2023, 4 out of every 10 civilians killed in conflicts were women, and 3 in 10 civilians killed were children, doubling and tripling, respectively, the previous year's proportion.

136. Data on the experience of violence remain limited outside of Europe and Northern America and Latin America and the Caribbean. Available data show that women and men are not affected by the same type of violence. The median prevalence of sexual violence in countries with data is 3.0 per cent for women compared with just 0.8 per cent for men. However, the median prevalence of physical violence is 3.0 per cent for men compared with 2.1 per cent for women.

#### **Target 16.2**

137. Violent discipline is the most common and widespread form of violence against children. In 82 (mostly low- and middle-income) countries with available data from 2015 to 2023, nearly 8 in 10 children between 1 and 14 years of age were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home during the previous month.

#### **Target 16.3**

138. According to the available data on crimes that were reported to the competent authorities in 53 countries for the period 2010–2022, the median percentage for those reporting physical assault in the past 12 months was 36 per cent, while the analogous figure for robbery was 45 per cent. Those proportions are notably higher than for reports of sexual assault, for which the median in countries with available data was 17 per cent.

139. Globally, the estimated number of persons in detention was 11.4 million in 2022, representing a prison-population rate of 142 prisoners per 100,000 population. In 2022, nearly one third (3.5 million) of the global prison population were being held in pretrial detention, and their share remained stable between 2015 and 2022 (about 30 per cent).

#### **Target 16.5**

140. Based on data from 138 countries between 2015 and 2022, 19 per cent of people who had had contact with public officials during the previous 12 months reported being asked to pay, or having paid, a bribe to a public official. Regional differences

range from an average of 32 per cent in low-income countries to 9 per cent in high-income countries.

#### **Target 16.6**

141. Budget reliability improved in 2021 and 2022, reaching an average of 13.5 per cent compared with 15.3 per cent in 2020, but remained weaker than pre-pandemic levels, with 10.6 per cent on average. That is in part owing to the incidence of new international challenges, including global political stresses, inflation and resource price volatility.

#### **Target 16.7**

142. The overall representation of people under 45 years of age in parliaments is increasing globally, but with contrasting trends, namely, a rise in developing countries and a decline in developed ones. Moreover, growth in women's share of parliamentary leadership posts continues to be slow, albeit steady. As at 1 January 2024, women presided over 23.8 per cent of parliaments as speakers (an increase of 2.9 percentage points since 2021) and held 27.2 per cent of committee chair posts.

#### **Target 16.9**

143. While a few geographical areas, including Europe and Northern America and Australia and New Zealand, have achieved universal birth registration, only half of African children under 5 years of age have had their births registered.

#### **Target 16.10**

144. The number of killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists recorded by national human rights institutions and the United Nations decreased in 2023 to 320 cases in 40 countries, compared with 448 cases in 36 countries in 2022. In conflict zones, however, there was a sharp increase in the number of journalists and media workers killed – 40 lives lost – reversing the downward trend since 2017. In addition, enforced disappearances nearly doubled for the second consecutive year, with at least 54 cases reported across 14 countries in 2023. Strong protection frameworks are therefore needed to stem that trend, in particular in countries where violent conflict or social unrest erupts or escalates.

145. In 2024, 140 countries had laws that specifically guaranteed the rights of citizens to have access to public information, up from 105 in 2015 and 14 in 1990.

#### **Target 16.a**

146. Between 2015 and 2023, the number of countries with independent national human rights institutions that met international standards increased by 23 per cent. More than 40 per cent of countries now have independent national human rights institutions.

### **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

147. Global partnerships for sustainable development encompass important areas, such as finance, technology, trade and data. There are mixed trends in mobilizing financial resources for development, in expanding Internet connectivity and in strengthening statistical systems. However, a substantial \$4 trillion annual investment gap for developing countries to achieve the Goals and persistent and crippling issues, such as unprecedentedly high external debt levels and limited access to online

connectivity in low-income countries, underscore the need for sustained collaboration and enhanced cooperation and support in a landscape of worsening international cooperation and geopolitical tensions.

## **Finance**

### *Target 17.1*

148. Data for 2022 from approximately 130 countries show that, globally, government revenue accounts for approximately 33 per cent of GDP. The average overall tax burden or revenue in the form of taxes is 26 per cent of GDP among advanced economies and 18 per cent of GDP among emerging market and developing economies. In 2019, the overall average proportion of government expenditure funded by taxes was about 66 per cent among advanced economies and 61 per cent among emerging market and developing economies. The overall average sharply declined following the onset of the pandemic to about 52 per cent in 2020 and, although it rebounded in 2021 and 2022 for both groups of economies (to 62 per cent for advanced economies and 59 per cent for emerging and developing countries), it is still lower than the pre-pandemic level.

### *Target 17.2*

149. In 2023, ODA from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee amounted to \$223.7 billion, representing 0.37 per cent of the combined gross national income of member countries. Total ODA in 2023 rose by 1.8 per cent in real terms compared with 2022 and by 47.0 per cent compared with 2015. That was the fifth consecutive year that ODA reached a new high. The increase was primarily owing to aid for Ukraine, humanitarian aid and contributions to international organizations.

### *Target 17.3*

150. In 2022, financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources reported by 101 bilateral and multilateral providers amounted to \$276.6 billion in official resources, \$55.3 billion mobilized from private finance and \$10.2 billion from private grants for development. Sustainable development grants (both official and private) decreased in 2022 compared with 2021. However, sustainable concessional development loans increased by 6 per cent, while non-concessional loans decreased by less than 1 per cent and mobilized private finance increased by 21 per cent, compensating for the decrease in 2021.

151. Global FDI flows in 2023 amounted to an estimated \$1.37 trillion, a marginal increase over 2022. However, the increase was largely owing to higher values in a small number of conduit economies; excluding those conduits, global FDI flows were 18 per cent lower. The number of international investment projects announced in developing countries in sectors relevant to the Goals – including infrastructure, renewables, water and sanitation, food security, health and education – remained flat.

152. The annual investment gap for the achievement of the Goals in developing countries is now about \$4 trillion. If the investment needs to achieve the Goals by 2030 are to be met, some \$30 trillion of additional investment must be found over the next eight years. More than half of the gap, or \$2.2 trillion, relates to the energy transition alone.

153. In the period following the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, remittances have proved to be resilient and have become a premier source of external finance for developing countries. In 2022, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries increased by 8.0 per cent to reach \$647 billion. That increase is remarkable, given

that it followed a 10.6 per cent growth rate in 2021. The remittance growth rate was expected to moderate to about 4.0 per cent in 2023.

*Target 17.4*

154. The external debt stock level of low- and middle-income countries decreased in 2022 for the first time since 2015, to \$9.0 trillion from \$9.3 trillion in 2021. Despite the slight decrease in 2022, external debt stock levels remained unprecedentedly high following more than a decade of rapid debt accumulation. Moreover, going forward, interest costs both in nominal terms and in relation to gross national income and export revenue are expected to increase given the aggressive rise in global interest rates to tame inflation and could become increasingly burdensome by crowding out spending on other priorities for many low- and middle-income countries.

*Target 17.5*

155. The number of countries that actively promote outward FDI to developing countries, including least developed countries, remains limited. In 2023, at least 50 countries, including 19 emerging or developing economies, had at least one type of investment promotion mechanism for outward FDI in place. However, of those, only 23 countries have adopted an outward FDI promotion scheme specifically targeting developing countries, including least developed countries.

**Information and communications technology**

*Target 17.6*

156. Fixed-broadband subscriptions continue to grow steadily; between 2015 and 2019, the average annual growth rate was 6.4 per cent, and subscriptions reached 19 per 100 inhabitants in 2023 globally. Nevertheless, while fixed connections are common among households in upper-middle-income and high-income countries, they are nearly non-existent in low-income countries owing to high prices and a lack of infrastructure.

*Target 17.8*

157. Approximately 67 per cent of the world's population, or 5.4 billion people, were online in 2023. That represents a growth of 4.7 per cent since 2022, a higher increase than that recorded from 2021 to 2022, at 3.5 per cent. While there was an uptick in the increase in the number of Internet users during the COVID-19 pandemic, during the past three years growth rates in the number of Internet users were back to pre-pandemic levels.

**Data, monitoring and accountability**

*Target 17.18*

158. One of the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was the limited ability of national statistical offices to collect recent data for the Goals. That was reflected in a drop in average data coverage scores in the Open Data Inventory. Despite the recent decrease in data production capabilities, a comparison of coverage scores in the Open Data Inventory from 2017 to 2022 shows that the scores of low- and middle-income countries increased at the same pace as those of high-income countries.

159. Globally, scores on the Data Sources Performance Index (pillar 4 of the statistical performance indicators) and Data Infrastructure Performance Index (pillar 5 of the statistical performance indicators) have been improving since 2016. Data sources improved by only 3 points, held back in part because of disruptions

owing to COVID-19, while data infrastructure – meaning that both the hard and the soft infrastructure needed to produce data are available – has increased by about 14 points.

160. In 2023, 159 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, representing a significant increase from 132 in 2019 and marking the fastest annual growth in terms of the number of countries.

161. In 2023, a total of 163 countries and territories reported having implemented a national statistical plan, marking an increase from 143 in 2019 and 156 in 2022. Of those, 109 plans were fully funded, up from 91 in 2019 and 100 in 2022. Those trends suggest a recovery from the long-term disruptions caused by the pandemic on the planning and execution of statistical activities.

*Target 17.19*

162. There has been a resurgence in international support for the development of data and statistics, reaching \$799 million in 2021 and representing a 14 per cent increase from 2020 and a substantial 44 per cent increase from 2015. Notably, 2021 marked the first time that multilateral aid providers emerged as the main source of funding.

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