

INFORMATION BRIEF ON SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

20 May 2020

BACKGROUND

More than ever, people and countries everywhere rely on the United Nations to rise to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic – a human crisis. The Secretary-General has emphasized that the creativity of the response must match the unique nature of the crisis – and the magnitude of the response must match its scale.

Moving ahead on the Decade of Action for SDG implementation¹, the recovery from the COVID-19 is an opportunity for governments and stakeholders alike to Build Back Better their societies. The SDG Acceleration Actions online database is a tool to help inspire and mobilize actions around the world to promote the implementation of the SDGs, as well as build resilience and bring inclusive recovery in the context of new realities post COVID-19, so that the global economy, planet and people we serve could emerge stronger together from the crisis.

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 20 May 2020, a total of **151 Acceleration Actions have been published**, including major commitments from Finland, United Kingdom and India. Actions submitted by a significant number of countries (79%) aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages, while 21% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 147 registered actions, SDGs 16 and 17 have mobilized the largest number of actions, followed by SDGs 13, 8, 5 and 1. With regard to geographical location of initiatives, 41% of registered actions come from Europe; 20% from Latin American and the Caribbean; 13% from Asia and the Pacific; 11% from North America; 8% from Africa; and 4% from West Asia (Middle East).

WHAT IS AN SDG ACCELERATION ACTION?

The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit stresses the urgent need for concerted, accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the lead up to the SDG Summit, UN DESA set up an online platform to capture new and ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions.

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>)

SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to accelerate the SDG implementation by governments and any other non-state actors - individually or in partnership. Any new action or action that builds on existing efforts (scaling up, new phase, etc.) related to the achievement of one or more of the 17 SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action.

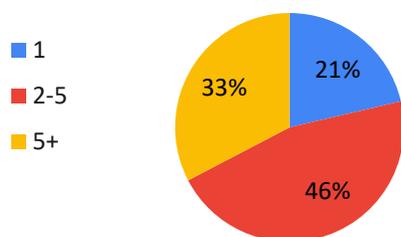
IMPACT?

Registered actions will be highlighted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and other key global meetings, including the annual ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and through UNDESA's Acceleration Action platform and social media channels.

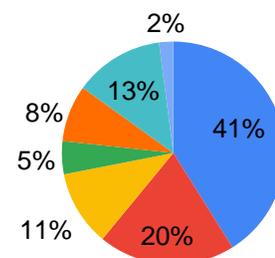
HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Registration is [open](#) online. Submissions will be reviewed by UNDESA in accordance with a set of criteria (click [here](#) for more information).

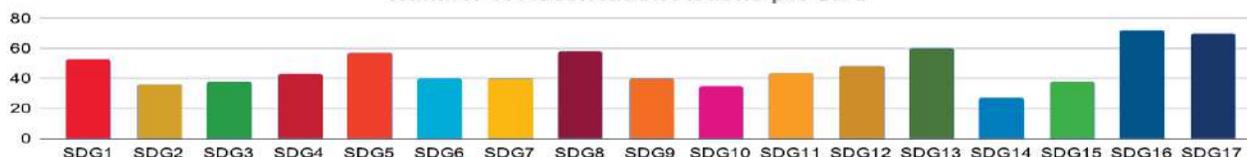
Number of SDGs Addressed



Regions



Number of Acceleration Actions per SDG

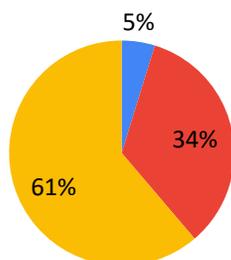


¹ For more information, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>

In terms of country breakdown by GDP (ppp), 61% of submissions are from high-income countries, while 34% from middle-income countries and 5% from low-income countries. There is a scope for mobilizing more SDG Acceleration Actions from the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) as they account for only 5% and 1% of total actions published. Civil society organizations have submitted the majority of SDG Acceleration Actions (35%), followed by national Governments (32%), UN entities (18%) and the private sector (9%).

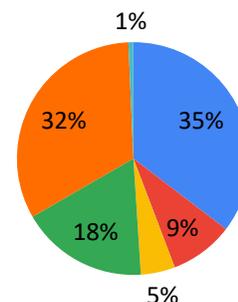
Income Status

- Low Income
- Middle Income
- High Income



Sectors

- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Academia
- UN System
- Government
- Other



EXAMPLES OF SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

- 🕒 [Mexico's](#) Office of Presidency has launched more inclusive, differentiated social protection programme aiming to cover 2.5 million women including rural women, in collaboration with UN women, FAO and ILO.
- 🕒 38 Member States released the [joint statement](#) committing to increasing acceleration actions in support of SDG 16+. Facilitated by Pathfinder, the statement was prepared under the leadership of the Permanent Mission of Argentina with inputs from Member States at breakfast meetings hosted by Argentina, Norway, ROK and Switzerland.
- 🕒 The Governments of [Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Austria](#) have committed to reducing the number of people in modern slavery, estimated at 40.3 million, to zero by 2030, through the "Liechtenstein Initiative", a public-private partnership aimed to put the financial sector at the heart of global efforts to accelerate actions against human trafficking.
- 🕒 The [Government of Finland](#) has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 and to become carbon negative soon thereafter.
- 🕒 The [United Kingdom](#) announced a £515 million education package for reaching the most marginalized girls in Africa and investing in new international financing facility for education (IFFEd) that combines guarantees and grants of donors to leverage additional finance for girls' education in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).
- 🕒 The [Government of Afghanistan](#) is developing a comprehensive legal aid system by 2022 to strengthen its institutional capacity and to provide quality criminal defense services to the poor and vulnerable across Afghanistan.
- 🕒 The [Government of India](#) has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.
- 🕒 [SDGs for Haiti](#) is a student-led initiative led by State University of Haiti aiming to establish 4 community pharmacies in Port-au-prince and reach 60 % of Haitian population via public health awareness campaigns including on COVID-19 pandemic by 2021.
- 🕒 [BBC's 50:50 The Equality](#) project aims to reach 50% women on-screen, on-air and in lead roles across all genres by 2020 through monitoring media content, working with over 600 BBC teams and 60 partner organizations around the world. It is now piloting to expand 50:50 methodology to represent persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.
- 🕒 [WEFRAH](#) is an initiative of American University of Beirut to promote multidisciplinary research collaboration with its partners for leveraging water-energy-food-health nexus system in support of SDGs, taking bottom-up, systems thinking approach.
- 🕒 In Denmark, [Youth Climate Council](#) has been set up with its youth-led advisory board surveying the opinions of youth and informing government policies on climate change aimed at translating youth driven ambitions into concrete policies.
- 🕒 [Kadiwaku Family Foundation](#) in DRC promotes inclusive entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities and trained 650 youth with disabilities.
- 🕒 [Siemens Stiftung](#), a philanthropic organization in Germany, offers young learners high-quality science and technology education, employing design-thinking structured around 17 SDGs.
- 🕒 The [Dzivarasekwa Community Waste Transfer Centre](#) in Zimbabwe is a place in which members of community can come with their wastes and instantly get paid by recycling companies – this "trash to cash" programme, which has been providing an additional source of income and livelihood to the community and reducing the amount of waste produced by the community.
- 🕒 [UNDP Colombia](#) is aiming to improve connectivity and biodiversity conservation by strengthening local institutions and organizations in the Amazon region to ensure comprehensive low-carbon management and peace-building.