



Strategies for change and transformation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – progress and monitoring

Eberswalde 19 March 2025

Pairwise discussions: Your take on SGDs?



A bit of history: Who was behind the idea?

1992 → Earth Summit: Agenda 21

2000 → UN Millennium Declaration (8 MDGs)

2011 → Colombia initiates the idea of having SDGs

- Process led by Paula Caballero
- From MDGs to SDGs

2012 → Rio+20 Conference

- X Green Economy
- ✓ Process to develop SDGs is launched (The future we want)
- ✓ UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

2013 → Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.

2015 → UN Sustainable Development Summit:

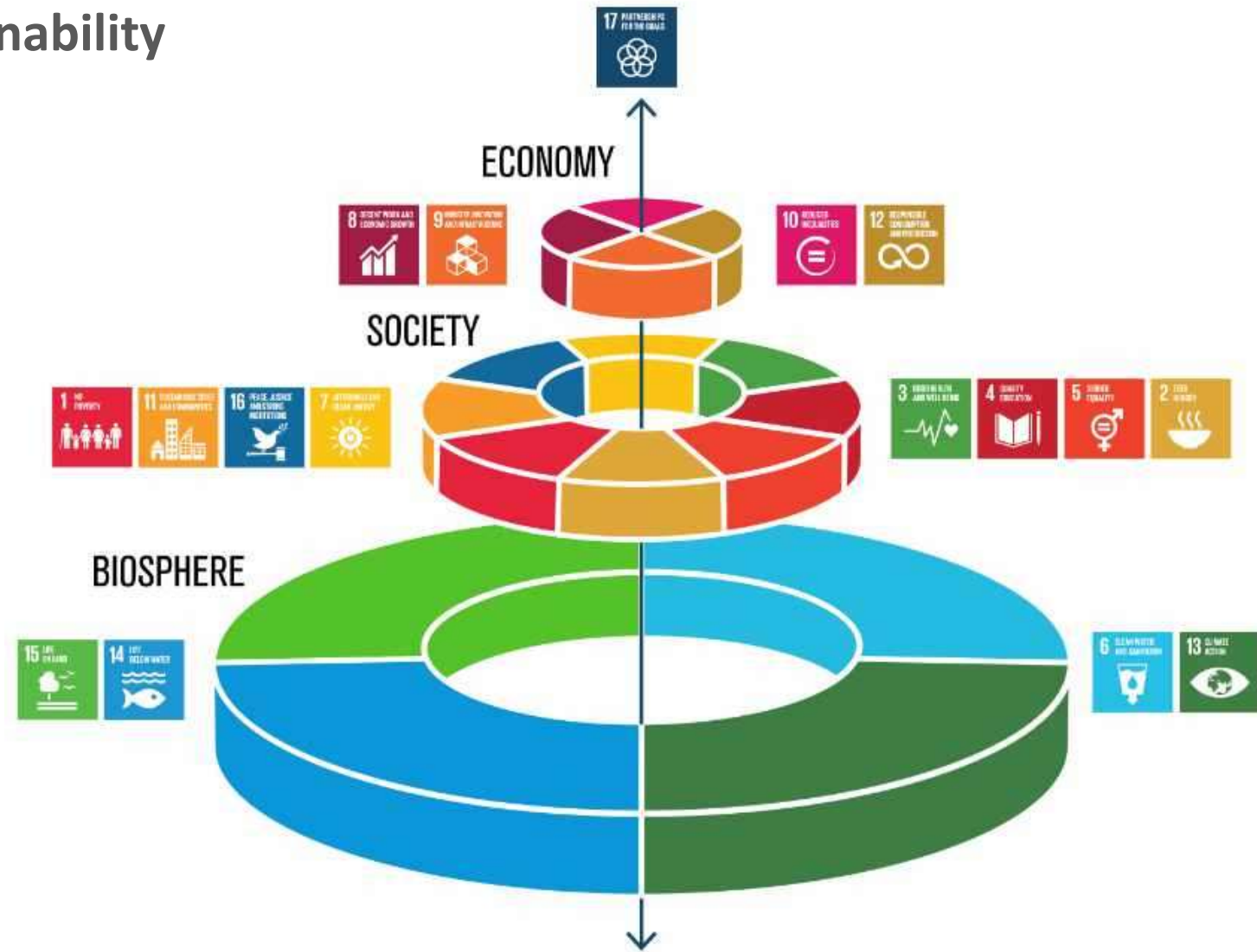
- 2030 Agenda for SD with 17 SDGs



“...why don't we propose the real agenda, the big agenda with all the stuff that has to be done for everybody? In that first meeting, we tentatively called them global environment objectives. But after I proposed the idea to Patti, we thought it better to change them to Sustainable Development goals.” *(Paula Caballero)*

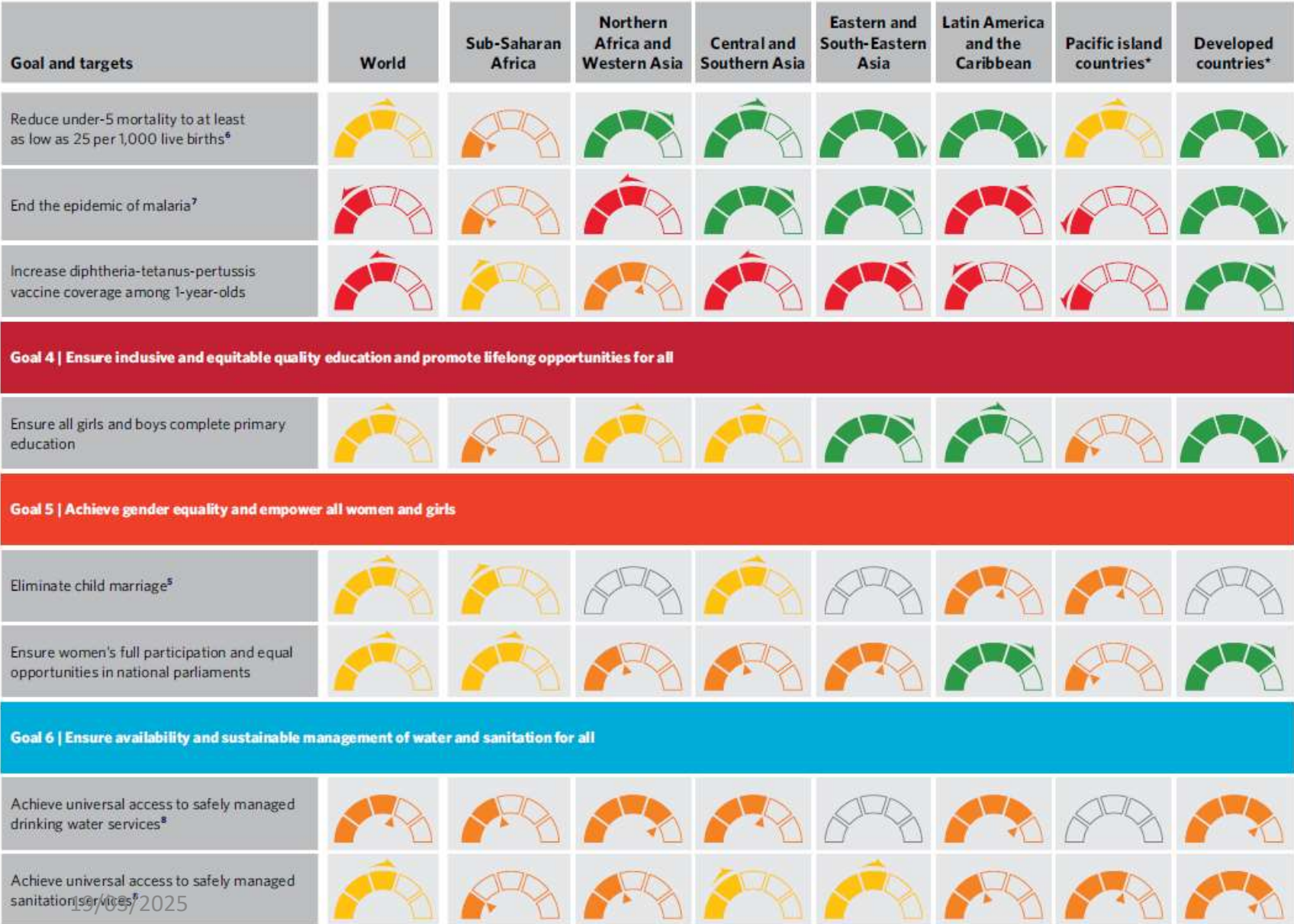
The model of strong sustainability

The **SDGs wedding cake** by the Stockholm Resilience Centre in 2016



<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2016-06-14-the-sdgs-wedding-cake.html>

Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2022





2023

The Sustainable Development Goals Report

Special edition



„The SDGs are in peril. The world has entered an age of polycrisis and hard-earned SDG progress is threatened by the climate crisis, conflict, gloomy global economic outlook and lingering COVID-19 effects. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition sounds the alarm and urgently calls for redoubled efforts to get the Goals back on track.“

“Unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda will become an epitaph for a world that might have been.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General, United Nations

Call to action (entry points):

Push transformation by activating synergies in the six entry points

1. Human well-being and capabilities
2. Sustainable and just economies
3. Sustainable food systems and nutrition patterns
4. Energy decarbonization with universal access
5. Urban and peri-urban development
6. Global environmental commons

Global Sustainable Development Report (2023)

TIMES OF CRISIS,
TIMES OF CHANGE
SCIENCE FOR ACCELERATING
TRANSFORMATIONS
TO SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



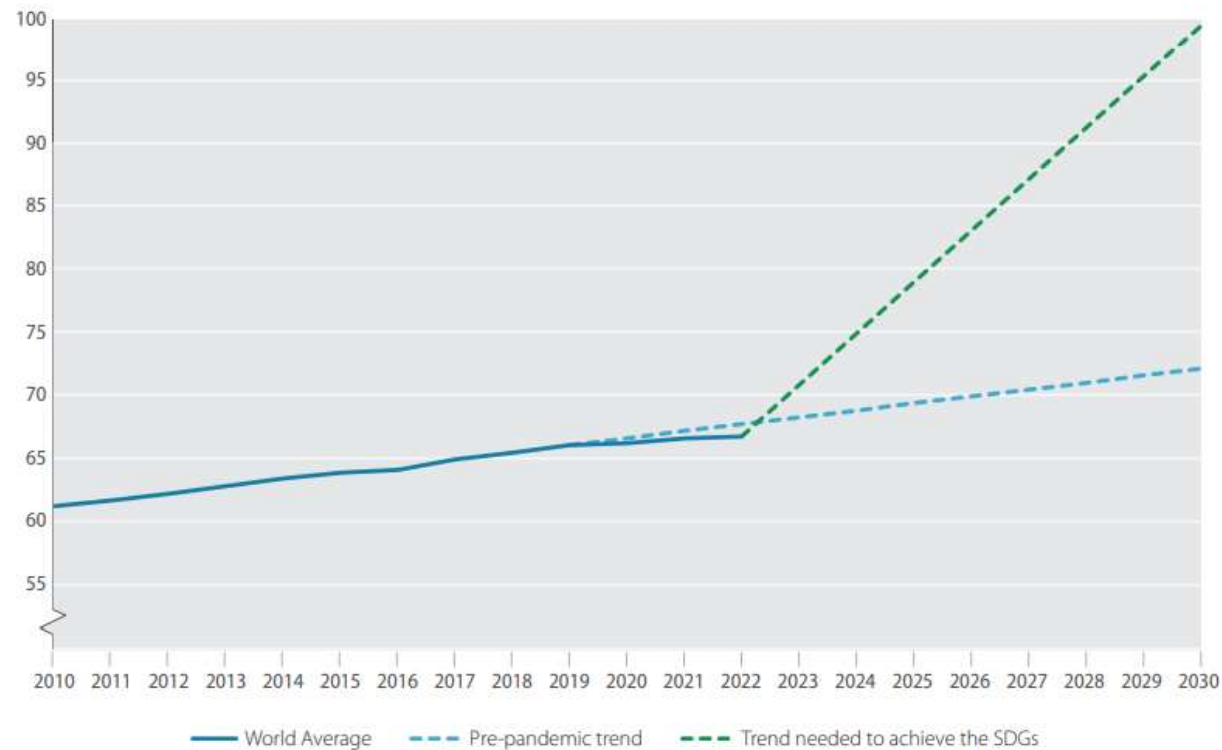
Levels of Reporting and Measuring

- UN Level
- Supranational Unions
- Countries
- Regions
- Cities
- NGOs
- Companies
- and other

UN Level – Sustainability Report 2023

Figure 1.1

SDG Index world average: pre-pandemic trend and trend needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030



Note: Pre-pandemic trend corresponds to the extrapolated annual growth rate over the period 2015–2019. See Part 2 for further details.

Source: Authors analysis

232 Indicators (not all are reported on by each country)

193 Countries – but 2022 only 44 countries that submitted the voluntary national report

Supranational Unions

- African Union
- European Union
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- Pacific Alliance
- etc.

Countries

Tunisia

Middle East and North Africa



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SDG Index Rank

58_{/166}

SDG Index Score



Spillover Score



Environmental and social impacts embodied into trade

- ● Exports of hazardous pesticides
- ● Scarce water consumption embodied in imports
- ↑ Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports
- ● Victims of modern slavery embodied in imports
- ● SO₂ emissions embodied in imports
- ↑ Nitrogen emissions embodied in imports
- → Exports of plastic waste
- ↑ CO₂ emissions embodied in imports
- ● Marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports
- ● Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity threats embodied in imports

Spillover-effect Tunisia

(Sustainable Development Report 2023)

Spillover-effect Luxembourg

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(Sustainable Development Report 2023)

Countries

Chile

OECD member



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SDG Index Rank

30_{/166}

SDG Index Score



Spillover Score



(Sustainable Development Report 2023)

Chiles rating in the indicators of SDG 17, 2023

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

- ↑ Government spending on health and education
- ● For high-income and all OECD DAC countries: International concessional public finance, including official development assistance
- ● Other countries: Government revenue excluding grants
- ● Corporate Tax Haven Score
- → Financial Secrecy Score
- ↑ Shifted profits of multinationals
- ↑ Statistical Performance Index

(Sustainable Development Report 2023)

Explore the spillover scores

URL: <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/map/spillovers>



Cities/Regions

“At present, over half the world’s population lives in cities, and both the number of cities and urban populations are expected to continue to rise. While situations differ from city to city, most cities face an array of socio-economic problems such as unemployment, inequality, poor living environment and environmental problems such as air and water pollution. Meanwhile, it can be argued that with their economic power and diversity, cities are equipped with the potential to solve these problems. Actions by cities on sustainable development lead to solutions to global issues including climate change not only locally, but also to the achievement of international goals such as the SDGs.”

(Institute for Global Environmental Strategy 2018)



Shimokawa Town the Sustainable Development Goals Report

—The Shimokawa Challenge:
Connecting people and nature with the future—

2018



LAGOS THEMES MEETS GLOBAL SDGs



(Lagos Global 2023)

Companies

- Reporting
- Advocacy
- Alignment with the goals
- Pushing technology

NGOs

Sustainable Development Goal #4

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING



Encourages the growth, development and distribution of free, multilingual, educational content, and provides the full content of these wiki-based projects to the public free of charge.



Contributes to literacy worldwide by innovating and implementing simple, scalable, and cost-effective solutions, especially using mass media and information technologies.



Focuses on literacy and gender equality in education and works with communities and local governments across Asia and Africa to develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children. Supports girls to complete secondary school with the life skills they'll need to succeed in school and beyond.



Demystifies technologies and decentralizes their uses by transferring the access, control, management and ownership of sophisticated technologies to rural men and women who can barely read and write.

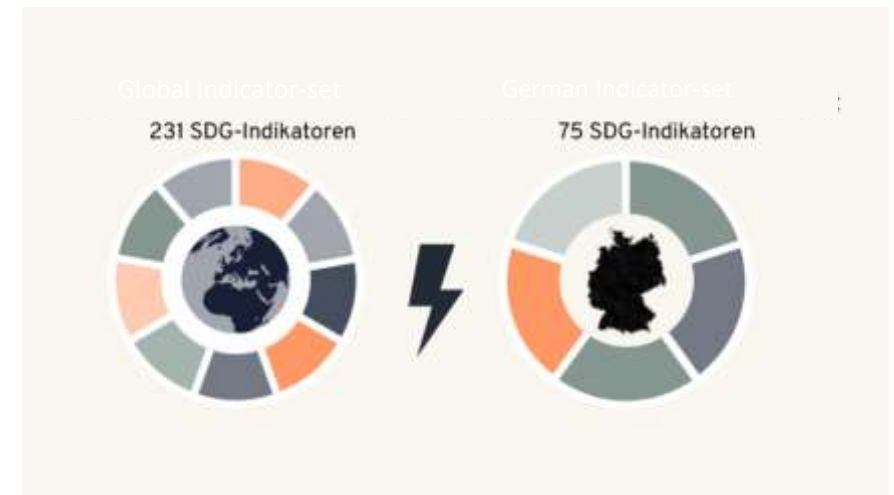


Works to improve the quality of education in India. As one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the country, Pratham focuses on high-quality, low-cost, and replicable interventions to address gaps in the education system.

PROBLEMS

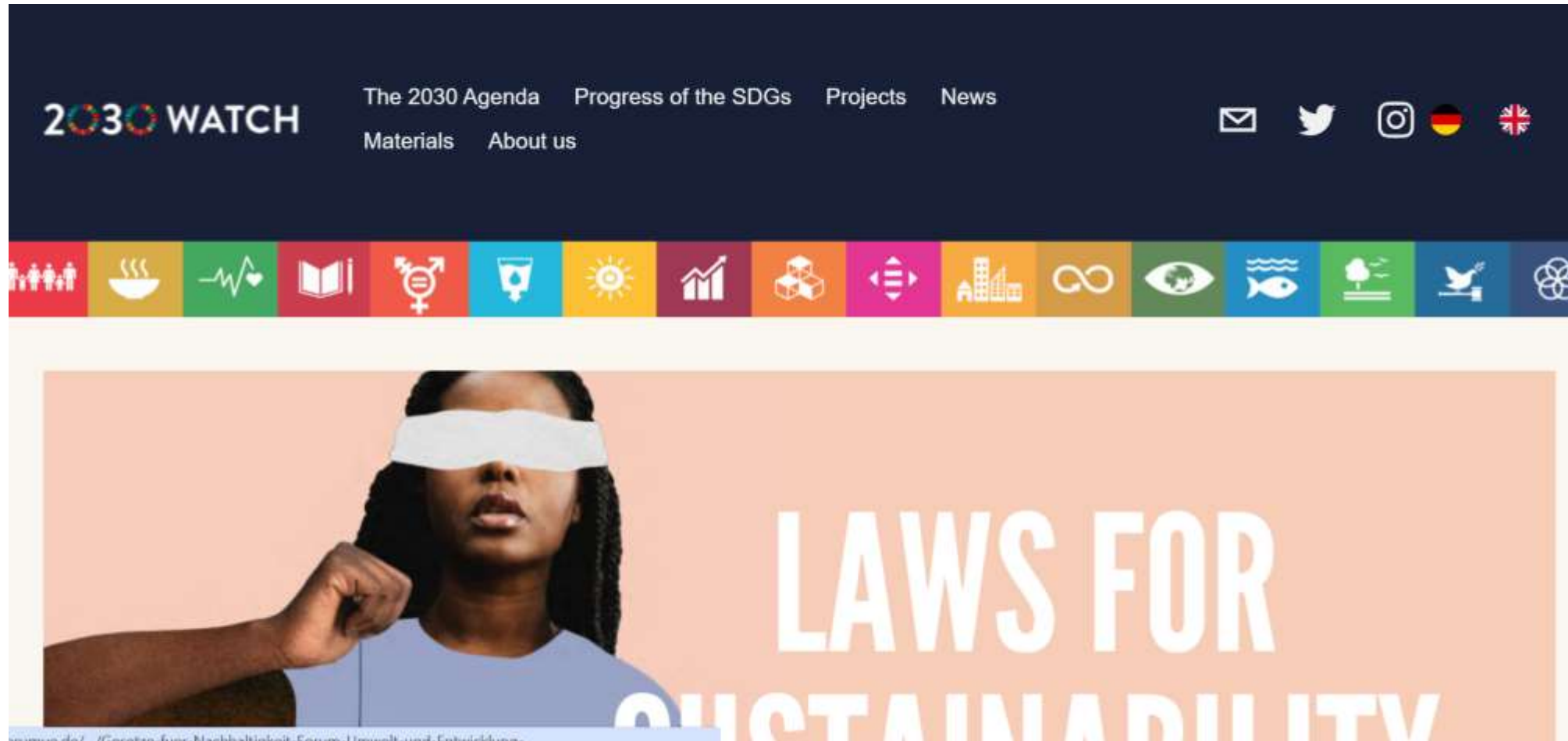
- Voluntary Reporting
- Divergent Indicators on different levels
- Divergent Measurements of Indicators
- Data Assessment Quality
- Only Reporting - no action included

SDG Monitoring



(Watch 2030 2023)

External monitoring by civil society



(Watch 2030 2023)

Progress report 2024



**KEY
TAKEAWAYS**

No. 1

On average, only 16 percent of the SDG targets are on track to be met globally by 2030, with the remaining 84 percent showing limited progress or a reversal of progress



No. 2

The pace of SDG progress varies significantly across country groups. Nordic countries continue to lead on SDG achievement, with the BRICS countries making significant progress while poor and vulnerable nations lag far behind

No. 3

Sustainable development remains a long-term investment challenge. Reforming the global financial architecture is more urgent than ever



No. 4

Global challenges require global cooperation. Barbados ranks the highest in its commitment to UN-based multilateralism; the United States ranks last



No. 5

The SDG targets related to food and land systems are particularly off-track. The SDR evaluates three possible pathways towards achieving sustainable food and land systems

Let us have a look at country reports on **food and land-use systems & national pathways**

- URL: <https://fableconsortium.org/publications/fable-pathways-for-sustainable-food-and-land-use-systems/>

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