

INFORMATION BRIEF ON SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

09 February 2022

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 crisis 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 9 February, a total of 325 Acceleration Actions have been published. The majority of actions (76%) aim to address multiple SDGs leveraging interlinkages, while 24% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 323 registered actions, SDG 17 has mobilized the largest number, followed by SDGs 13, 6, 1, 16, 4 and 5. With regard to geographical location of initiatives, 35% of registered actions come from Europe; 20% from Africa; 14% from Latin American and the Caribbean; 12% from Asia and the Pacific; 10% from West Asia; and 9% from North America

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://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions>.)

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.) aimed to achieve the SDGs or addressing the interlinked nature of the 2030 Agenda could be considered as an SDG Acceleration Action.

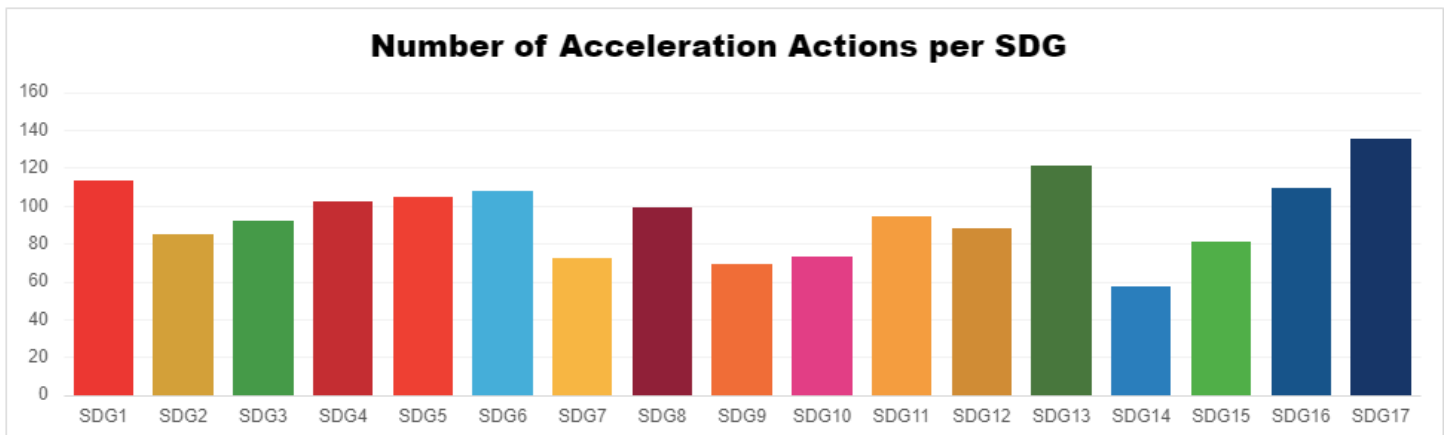
IMPACT?

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.

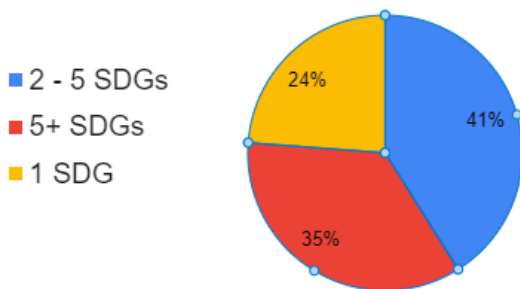
HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

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

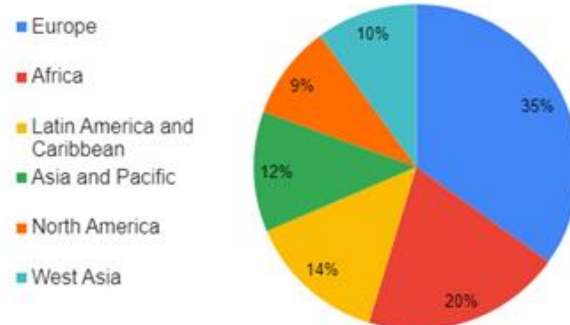
¹ For more information, see: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/acceleration-actions>



Number of SDGs Addressed



Regions

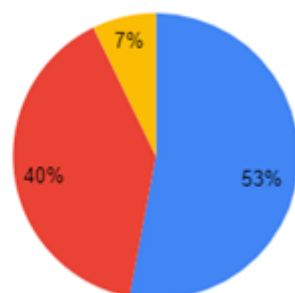


In terms of country breakdown by GDP (ppp), 53% of submissions are from high-income countries, while 40% from middle-income countries and 7% from low-income countries. There is a scope for mobilizing more SDG Acceleration Actions from the least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and post-conflict and fragile states as they account for 10%, 2% and 12% of total actions published, respectively. Governments have submitted the majority of SDG Acceleration Actions (31%), followed by civil society organizations (29%), UN entities (17%) and the private sector (11%).

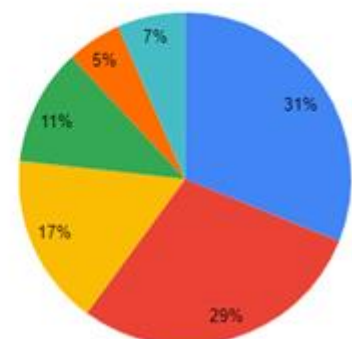
Sectors

Income Status

- High Income
- Middle Income
- Low Income



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



EXAMPLES OF SDG ACCELERATION ACTIONS

- ⌚ The [Government of Qatar](#) is planning to launch the world's third-largest solar power plant through its 800 MWp Al Kharsaah project (800 MW) near Doha by 2022, in close collaboration with the private sector companies and academic institutions.
- ⌚ The [Government of Zimbabwe](#), through its School Entrepreneurship Education Program (SEEP), aims to train 1500 high schoolers to be entrepreneurial; and to achieve at least 20 enterprises run by SEEP alumni by 2023.
- ⌚ The Government of the [Republic of Poland](#) is popularizing Alternative Dispute Resolution methods including through creating the National Register of Mediators (NRM) and by increasing the competencies of mediators with a view to enhancing access to justice by all including vulnerable groups in accordance with SDG 16.
- ⌚ Funded by the British Council, [COP26 Trilateral Research Initiative](#) is bringing together the universities in Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and UK, along with the Government of Malaysia and the private sector firms to develop a Software Framework for Optimal De-carbonisation Planning for ASEAN countries in support of the Paris Agreement.
- ⌚ The [Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies](#), operated by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) with support from Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, is a platform for National Councils for Sustainable Development and similar multi-stakeholder bodies to share the experiences of implementing a whole-of-society approach.
- ⌚ [Portugal's National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development](#) (CNADS) is promoting the localization of the SDGs among all Portuguese municipalities through "Plataforma ODSlocal", using dynamic technology-based online portal, which allows the visualization and monitoring of the progress and contributions of each municipality to all SDGs.
- ⌚ The Sustainable Cities Institute (ICS), in partnership with Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), launched the [Sustainable Cities Development Index – Brazil \(IDSC-BR\)](#) initiative, as a tool to encourage and monitor the achievement of the SDGs in 770 Brazilian cities based on over 80 indicators and using the timely data available in country's national data sources.
- ⌚ The Japanese [Cities of Nagoya and Toyota](#) in Japan, in partnership with Toppan Publishing and Nippon Engineering Consultants, have recently utilized the monitoring-and-evaluation tool package of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), which was developed taking into account the unique local contexts and prefectures.
- ⌚ The [Basque Network of Sustainable Municipalities of Spain](#) is mainstreaming the SDGs in municipal policies through Udalsarea 2030, transitioning from a governance model promoted by Agenda 21 to a new model based on 2030 Agenda, including through its latest Assessment and Monitoring Programme of Public Sustainability Polices.
- ⌚ The [Charter Cities Institute](#), a non-profit think tank dedicated to building the ecosystem for charter cities, aims to provide technical assistance to governments in Global South to create a charter cities legislative framework that can accommodate 5 million new urban residents and accelerate poverty reduction by 2025.
- ⌚ [Green Chemistry for Life](#), the multi-stakeholder initiative of UNESCO, PhosAgro and IUPAC, has recently updated to incorporate the SDGs 4, 6, 12, 15 and 17 and is now offering research grants of up to USD 30,000 to talented young scientists over the course of 8 years to raise the awareness of the importance of green chemistry in meeting societal needs.
- ⌚ [Universidad Tecnologica del Poniente in Mexico](#) is coordinating voluntary workshops for training and certifying high school students to facilitate students' transition to the world of work and entrepreneurship, aiming to benefit 10,680 students in Guatemala, Panamá, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Bolivia, Chile, and Mexico by 2022.
- ⌚ [Water and Climate Coalition](#) a multi-stakeholder initiative under the SDG 6 Accelerator framework participated by over 100+ countries in the coalition, is aiming to have the mechanism for integrated water and climate stock-take running by 2025 and to launch the global water monitoring system operational by 2030.
- ⌚ With its tailor-made programmes, [AlterContacts Academy for Sustainable Development](#) is equipping educational institutions worldwide to enable 3,000 students to enter the labour markets by 2024 and thus facilitate the social integration.
- ⌚ [TeleCare](#), operated by African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) in Uganda, provides a creative, accessible platform whose goals are rehabilitating the victims of war, gender-based violence and mental illness and connecting vulnerable groups with available social protection floor and access to justice.
- ⌚ [Global Goals Jam](#) of Germany is holding a series of "designathons" in over 90 cities around the world, in which participants can co-create solutions with governmental, community and industry actors for local challenges related to SDGs using design-thinking and with the aim of raising the awareness of SDGs.