Sustainable Development Roadmap from the 75th United Nations General Assembly

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The Al-Attiyah Foundation

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INTRODUCTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP FROM THE 75TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Roadmap is the blueprint for fighting poverty and hunger, confronting the climate crisis, achieving gender equality, and much more, within the next ten years, the Decade of Action. How realistic is this roadmap, and what areas still require work to be done?

During a period of uncertainty, could the roadmap show the way forward to a sustainable future post-coronavirus?

Sustainability Report

This research paper is part of a 12-month series published by The Al-Attiyah Foundation every year. Each in-depth research paper focuses on a prevalent sustainable development topic that is of interest to The Foundation's members and partners. The 12 technical papers are distributed to members, partners, and universities, as well as made available online to all Foundation members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In 2020, the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic deepened existing inequalities in access to a sustainable future, causing loss to lives, businesses, and the global economy.
- Carbon emissions, which fell by a remarkable 8% from 2019 levels in 2020, are now quickly returning to pre-crisis levels, and risk undoing all the efforts made on combating climate change.
- The adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) coincided with the landmark Paris Agreement. However, interaction between both processes has been limited to date, which could impede effective implementation of both.
- The pandemic can spur partnerships on the SDGs in new ways, with one of the most promising avenues for partnerships being the private sector.
- Existing SDG measurement metrics do not fully target businesses, and the critical role they can play in the realisation of SDG targets. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Compact for Responsive and Responsible Leadership is one of the few tools that measures the private sector's contributions to the goals.
- The social enterprise sector can encourage financial innovation for the goals by bridging the gap between national level and private interests.

THE JOURNEY FROM THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

"*By defining our goal(s) more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we help all people to see it, to draw hope from it, and to move irresistibly toward it.*"-John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States.

The seeds of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were first sown in September 2000, when leaders of 189 countries gathered at the United Nations headquarters and signed the historic Millennium Declaration, committing to achieve a set of eight measurable goals, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by a target date of 2015. The MDGs were revolutionary in providing a common language to reach global agreement, including targets such as halving extreme poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality, and reducing child mortality. Substantial progress was made regarding some of the MDGs, such as, the full realisation of Goal 1 on halving the extreme poverty rate by 2015. However, achievements on other goals have been uneven, and when the MDGs expired in 2015, the focus had shifted towards building a sustainable world where environmental sustainability, energy access, social inclusion, and economic development, targets that were missing or lacking in emphasis from the original MDGs, were at the forefront of the global agenda.

The Rio+20 Conference (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 galvanised a process to develop a new set of SDGs that would carry on the momentum generated by the MDGs and fit into the new paradigm of the global sustainable development framework. Development of the new goals included active engagement by civil society organisations, citizens, scientists, academics, and the private sector from around the world. In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 17 SDGs. The SDGs set the ground for a sustainable global development agenda spanning from 2015 to 2030 (see Table 1).

Table 1 The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[i]

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
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
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Each goal includes a subset of targets, making 169 targets in total, with many featuring cross-sectoral themes.

THE PANDEMIC HAS UNDERSCORED THE URGENCY OF THE SDGs AS A PATHWAY TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD

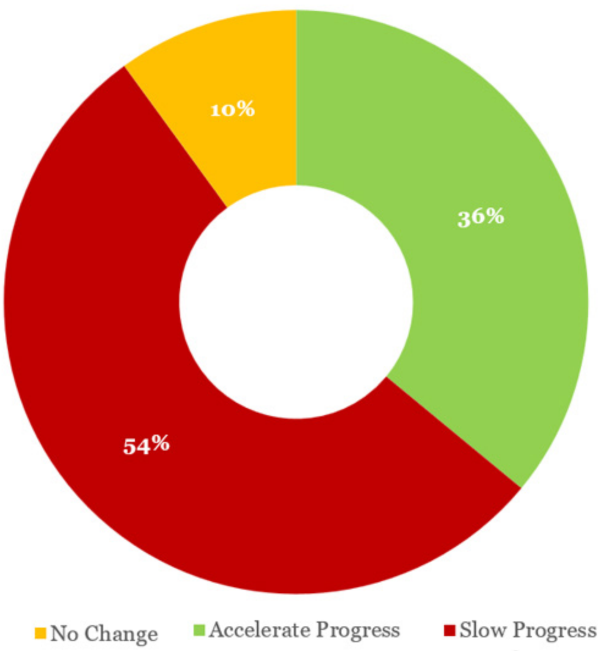
In 2020, the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic has deepened existing inequalities in access to a sustainable future, causing loss to lives, businesses, and the global economy. The UNDP estimates global human development index – a combination of education, health, and living standards – could fall for the first time since 1990, due to the pandemic's triple hit to health, education, and income[ii]. The global food security system is under immense pressure to address pandemic-exacerbated challenges of rising poverty levels and chronic hunger. Disparity in access to healthcare is now more pronounced, as wealthy countries race to inoculate their populations against the coronavirus, at the expense of poorer countries, by hoarding vaccines and limiting access to intellectual property.

Of equal worrying concern is the impact on climate change efforts. Carbon dioxide emissions, which fell by a remarkable 5.8% from 2019 levels in 2020[iii], are now quickly returning to pre-pandemic levels. The International Energy Agency (IEA) now estimates that coal use will rise 4.5% in 2021 (albeit remaining below 2019 levels), oil demand will grow 6.2% though being 3% below 2019, and gas consumption will rise 3.2%, exceeding 2019's amount by 1%. Overall, this would leave CO_2 emissions 1.2% below 2019 but 4.8% above 2020[iv]. The 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 75) held in September 2020 under the theme, "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action", further underscored the importance of Goal 17 of the SDGs. Several world leaders outlined their ambitious roadmap to address the challenges related to the SDGs within the next decade, the Decade of Action, to ensure an equitable future for all.

The UNDP describes the realisation of a post-pandemic future and the SDGs as a "double helix", both intertwined and unable to be tackled by a piecemeal approach that characterised the former MDGs. In a 2021 worldwide survey of 500 experienced sustainability professionals, conducted by GlobeScan and the SustainAbility Institute, an overwhelming majority believed that the pandemic will slow society's progress toward achievement of the SDGs in the Decade of Action (see Figure 1). In 2019, the Social Progress Index estimated that the actual target date for achieving the SDGs had been pushed back to 2073[v] at the current pace of progress. The pandemic is likely to set progress back further, unless immediate action is taken.

The massive post-pandemic stimulus and economic restructuring plans being put forward by the US, EU and others have a strong pro-climate element. They also represent a major expansion in the role and economic activism of the state. If this rethinking of the proper size and tasks of government continues, it will have an important impact on the SDGs, but may not be targeted coherently at achieving them. In particular, trade restrictions and goals of greater self-sufficiency and 're-shoring' may conflict with global of poverty alleviation and the reduction of between-country inequality.

Figure 1 Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on SDGs (% of experts surveyed)[vi]



Collective actions arising around the world to respond to the pandemic are a key starting point. Responses like the World Economic Forum's Great Reset Initiative[vii], a commitment jointly and urgently to rebuild the foundations of the world's economic and social system for a more fair, sustainable, and resilient future, have received backing from international organisations, such as the IMF and the UN, and private corporations like Microsoft and Mastercard.

Such collective actions can enable countries, in the pursuit of their ambitious sustainable development roadmap, to collaborate more effectively with key stakeholders, re-evaluate national level social and economic systems, as well as address the public and private challenges connected to the coronavirus pandemic.

PROGRESS SO FAR ON THE SDGS HAS BEEN PATCHY

Five years since the SDGs were agreed to by UN member states, many of the goals are still not on track to be achieved. Targets where achievement has lagged the most include Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 14 (Life below Water), and Goal 15 (Life on Land), while high-profile goals like Goal 13 (Climate Action) have failed to make adequate progress relative to their urgency.

Other goals are now seeing increased levels of perceived urgency post-2020, as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. These include Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

However, it should be noted that the goals are wide ranging, interconnected, with overlapping themes, which makes measuring their developmental and sustainable impacts, as well as, the quantification of their status of implementation, sometimes very challenging. Managing these complexities, while making rapid progress on all the goals, remains a big task at both the global and national level.

The UNGA's call to action on the 2030 Agenda involves engagement with stakeholders from within and outside the multilateral process to co-create partnerships and pathways to an equitable future, including a collective agreement on the appropriate prioritisation of the goals.

THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY IN IMPLEMENTING SDGS AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The year of the adoption of the SDGs coincided with the landmark Paris Agreement. Both represent universally approved policy visions that signal a paradigm shift in global development – from a top-down approach of fixed, international mandates, to a bottom-up, national-driven implementation process.

However, interaction between both processes – the Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – has been limited to date, which could impede effective implementation of both.

The "hybrid multilateralism" architecture on which both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda rest is characterised by different institutional, policy and administrative processes, different actors, and different datasets to translate global commitments of both into national frameworks, institutions, and actions. This leads to institutional fragmentation in their governance by imposing an extra obstacle to a coherent implementation process.

Since 2015, both the Paris Agreement and the SDGs have made progress in parallel, but with limited communication on the interfaces between them[viii]. Policy agendas of governments for both are set separately and distinctly, raising issues relating to the implementation of their ambitious targets.

For example, the US's re-entry to the Paris Agreement under President Biden's administration returns positive momentum to the climate change process, but the country's climate action plan is not coherently aligned

Table 2 Linkages between Paris Agreement Sectors and the UN SDGs[ix]

Sector	Most Linkages With:								
Energy Supply			SDG 8 Work & Economic Growth	SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure		SDG 11			
Agriculture	SDG 2 Zero Hunger	SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation							SDG 15 Life on Land
Forestry	SDG 2		SDG 8			SDG 11		SDG 14 Life below Water	SDG 15
Transport			SDG 8	SDG 9		SDG 11			
Buildings			SDG 8	SDG 9		SDG 11			
Waste			SDG 8		SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities	SDG 11			
Industry			SDG 8	SDG 9			SDG 12 Responsible Consumption & Production		
Ranking of Linkages	MOST								LEAST

with its national sustainable development strategies (or NSDSs). A large number of the US's planned climate activities support some of the SDGs, such as, SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), but not some. For example, SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 16 (Peace and Justice), and SDG 1 (No Poverty), did not receive adequate mention in the climate change activities announced at the Biden's recent Leaders summit on climate change.

Similarly in India, a deeper understanding of the points of intersection between the country's climate and development agendas is lacking, which is reflected in the limited financing India has received till date due to national mitigation actions under the NDCs not aligning with national development targets. In the Middle East, countries like Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, and Oman, for example, could benefit from understanding where climate mitigation actions can reinforce the achievement of national SDGs. These can also increase countries' confidence and political buy-in to put forward more ambitious NDCs, a process required every five years under the Paris Agreement.

A good example of the disconnect that exist in the global approaches to the two agreements can be seen in the often tenuous or shaky relationship between the US and China. While joint collaboration between the countries on climate change mitigation continues to receive strong support, growing trade tensions between them, which could pose a major challenge to an international cooperation on the SDGs, continue unabated.

Broadly speaking, the Paris Agreement covers the mitigation of harmful effects of climate change across 8 sectors (Table 2). These are energy supply, agriculture, forestry, transport, buildings, waste, and industry. Through proper policy, a number of positive links could be developed between the SDGs and emission reductions in almost all the sectors.

Global leaders in climate change mitigation policies can pool their existing monitoring data on the NDCs with the SDG Index to develop a sustainable solutions model that can successfully drive development pathways towards carbon neutrality, climate resilience, and sustainable development. This calls for broad collaboration between stakeholders to address policy interactions between climate change and sustainable development actions, and ensure a mutually supportive SDG and NDC implementation.

THE PANDEMIC CAN SPUR PARTNERSHIPS ON THE SDGS IN NEW WAYS

The multifaceted impacts of the pandemic – higher unemployment rates, long-term illness, travel disruption, poverty, and hunger – have not only shown the urgency of achieving the SDGs, they have also highlighted the need for policymakers and decision-makers to work together in shared partnership and collaborations with different arms of government, and leaders in private sector and civil society. Horizontal collaboration across the stakeholder landscape can help countries build back better, and rescue and protect most impacted communities with stimulus packages, fiscal policies, and new social safety net protection programmes that place sustainability at the centre of those efforts.

One of the most promising avenues for partnerships is with the private sector. The framework of both the 2030 Agenda and the

Table 3 Existing tools for assessing the achievement of the SDGs[x]

Tool	Description
SDG Impact Assessment Tool	Developed by the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development, managed by SDSN Northern Europe. The tool stimulates a qualitative and re-effective approach to identify SDG impacts of researchers, companies, agencies, and other civil organisations. However, it does not fully measure SDG impacts in quantitative terms.
UNDP Climate Action Impact Tool	Developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to track progress on the NDCs under the Paris Agreement. The NDCs are though to contribute to the mitigation of climate change, ultimately leading to sustainable development and therefore the SDGs, but the tool remains vaguely defined and seems to track only “significant, direct impacts” of NDC actions.
SDG Compass	Developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the UN Global Compact and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to provide guidance for companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to the realisation of the SDGs. Based on an inventory of existing business indicators which may or may not incorporate newer emerging sustainability themes.
Toolbox for Learning for Sustainable Development	Developed by the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm for integration of sustainable development into the fields of academia, education, and teaching. Does not cater to other sectors of the stakeholder landscape.
Localising the SDGs Toolbox	Developed by the UNDP, UN-Habitat & Global Task Force to provide “practical methods” to achieve the SDGs at a local level. Unclear whether this features a measurement metric or simply offers a library of existing indicators for users to map out their progress.

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SDG Toolkit	Developed by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and co-funded by the European Union, this toolkit aims to engage European NGOs at the national and European level on achieving the SDGs.
BCtA Impact Lab	The Business Call to Action (BCtA) Impact Lab is a platform for inclusive businesses to measure and manage their SDGs. It covers the full impact measurement cycle to support companies in understanding, demonstrating, enhancing and communicating their impact.
Compact for	Developed by the World Economic Forum

Paris Agreement provides the opportunity for the private sector to look at shared goals with policymakers and national leaders. Unlike the previous MDGs and the Kyoto Protocol, that largely excluded businesses and had more of a top-down, paternalistic approach, the SDGs and Paris Agreement provide for active engagement and participation of the private sector. Through active participation of the private sector, the existing tools (Table 3) for assessing the achievement of SDGs, could be refined into fact-based performance measurement metrics, based on the experiences of businesses in the implementation of specific sub targets of the SDGs.

As currently defined, the existing tools do not fully target businesses and private sector enterprises, and the critical role they can play in the realisation of SDG targets. The WEF's Compact for Responsive and Responsible Leadership is one of the few tools that measures the private sector's contributions to the goals. It proposes a common, core set of metrics and recommended disclosures that International Business Council (IBC) members could use to align their mainstream SDGs reporting. This the WEF belief could reduce fragmentation and encourage faster progress towards systemic solutions. However, only 140 CEOs of private businesses so far have signed to the tool, most of whom are situated in high-income countries. Developing countries are hampered in the effective use of the tool because of lack of reliable data to design and implement appropriate policies and track progress. For example, of the 155 states in which the World Bank monitors poverty, half do not report poverty data[xi] .

Aligning national policy with the SDGs requires a long-term engagement with the private sector to allocate required capital and attract investment in a way that also supports the NDCs. Potential collaboration, particularly in the oil and gas sector, could feature the redesign of traditional business models of state oil and gas companies to be more sustainable with regards to local content. The processes of local fabrication, engineering, and R&D into new energy systems like carbon capture and storage (CCS), hydrogen, ammonia, biofuels, solar and wind, could help reduce costs, increase operational efficiency, and encourage investment with a long-term horizon.

FINANCING SDGS AND THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR

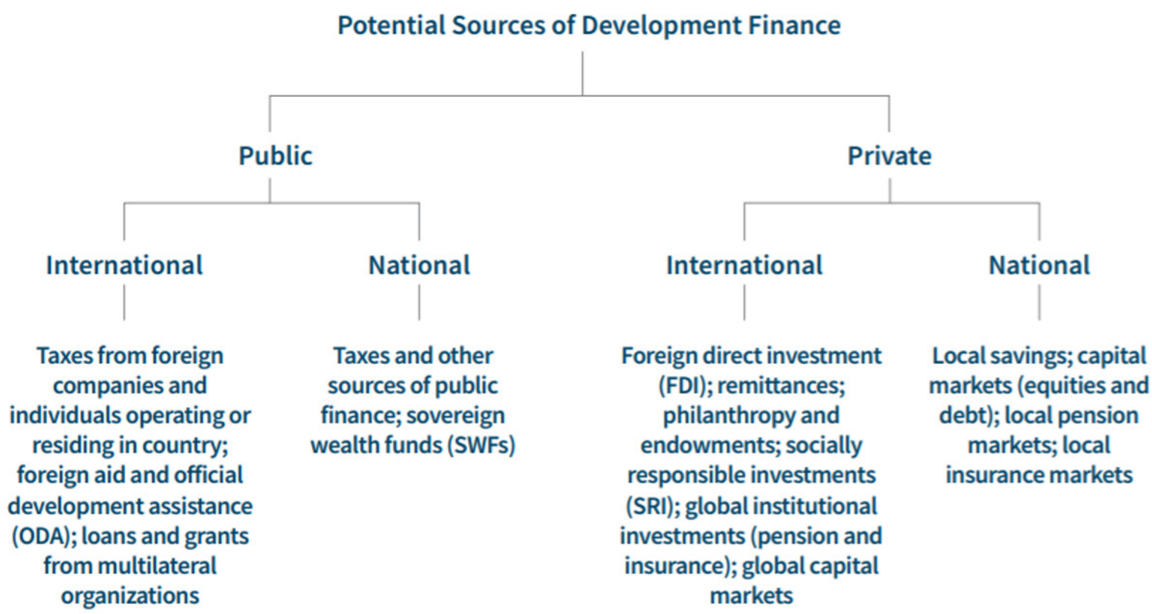
As already discussed above, bridging the gap between national level and private interests is necessary to achieve the sustainable development goals. This is where the social enterprise sector can make an impact. Social entrepreneurs can serve as a crucial safety net for systemic weaknesses, inequalities, and market failures that are usually more apparent. As first responders, social entrepreneurs can adapt quickly to a changing socio-economic environment, and share knowledge and assets with government leaders and businesses to help them acclimatise quickly.

Social entrepreneurs are often the voice of marginalised communities most impacted by social, economic, and political change, and can therefore put appropriate pressure to bear on governments to enact policies and launch national-scale initiatives with multilateral partners and donors. In addtion, they can impact corporations and investors to funnel resources and finances in innovative ways to address a variety of challenges.

Even before the current pandemic, the financing gap to achieve the SDGs by 2030 was estimated to be about US$ 2.5 T per year[xii] . The bulk of this financing was expected to come from emerging economies, with some capacity to increase revenue and savings, through concerted domestic resource mobilisation (DRM) efforts. One such method is increasing tax revenue to increase the amount of funding available for social services, but this takes time and political will, as well as, active consultation with stakeholders. Civil society organisations that are actively engaged in social enterprises, have significant positive role to play in stakeholder consultation. The private sector is seen as a critical contributor to plug the financing gap, through sources like foreign direct investment (FDI), remittances, local savings, pensions, investments in equity or debt securities of privately held companies, and other sources see Figure 2.

In 2019, global FDI was US$ 1.4 T, an increase of 12% from 2018[xiv]. However, due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, FDI flows fell by

Figure 2 Potential sources of development finance to meet the SDGs[xiii]



50% in H1 2020, compared to H2 2019, the lowest half-year level since 2013[xv]. Based on its track record, the involvement of the private sector is crucial for meeting the 2030 Agenda. The World Bank estimated that global GDP was US$ 85 T in 2018, and global financial assets were ~US$ 295 T in 2015, demonstrating that financing for the SDGs is available. However, for these resources to be channelled towards sustainable development, innovative ways, supported by the social enterprise sector, are required to meet the SDGs.

Some companies have already demonstrated partnerships with the social enterprise sector by signing agreements, to support the implementation of the SDGs, as integral part of their corporate social responsibility strategies (CSRs). The 'Business Avengers', a group of seventeen companies (Mars, PepsiCo, RB, Avant, SAP, Diageo, Salesforce, Google.org, ARM, Unilever, NTT, CommVault, Nike, Coca-Cola Company, Mastercard, Microsoft, and Salesforce.org) have committed to play a leading role in achieving the SDGs, with full recognition of the reputational benefits of supporting socio-economic goals.

New, innovative sources of capital for SDGs could come from the capital markets through financial guarantees to reduce investors' exposure to risks and to attract private capital. A survey by the OECD revealed that guarantees was the most effective tool for mobilising private capital (mobilising over US$ 62 B, out of the total of US$ 152 B mobilised in during 2012-2017[xvi]). A guarantee is a legally binding agreement under which the guarantor agrees to pay part or all the amount due on a loan, or another financial instrument, in the event of a non-payment[xvii].

For example, WaterEquity's WaterCredit Investment Fund 3 (WCIF3) set aside

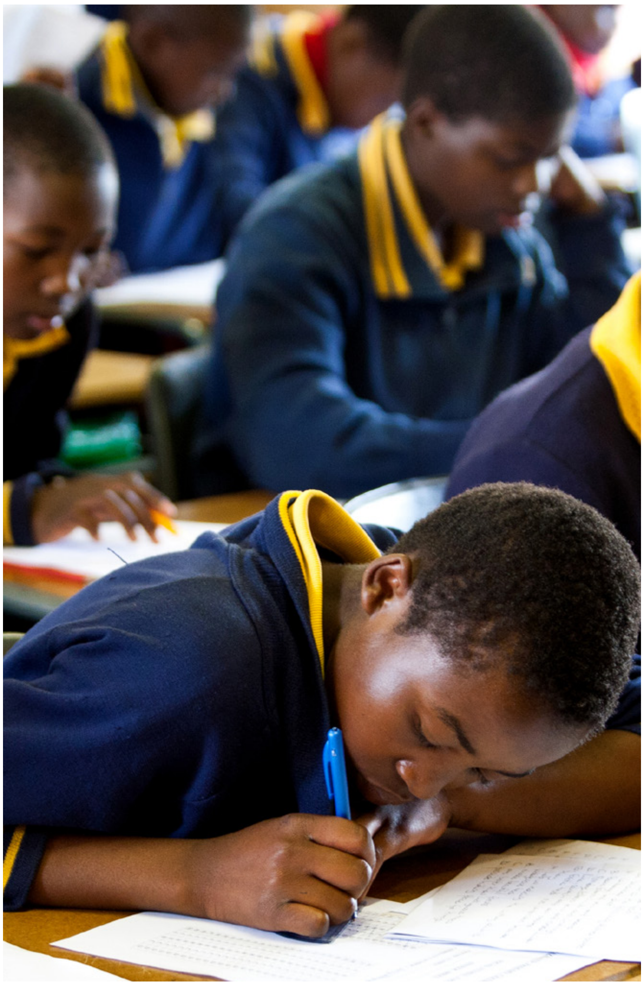
US$ 5M in first-loss guarantees in the unlikely scenario that the fund suffered a loss[xviii]. The fund aims to finance progress towards SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation) by investing in microfinance institutions in Asia that provide loans to families for clean drinking water in their homes.

Another potential source of capital to support countries with high debt burdens in their SDGs could be ultra-long term (50-year or more) fixed-rate financing. A fixed interest rate loan is a loan in which the interest rate charged on the loan will remain fixed for the entire duration of the loan , no matter how market interest rates fluctuate. This will allow the borrower, in this case a high debt burdened country, to accurately predict its future payments. Examples of this are green bonds, that can spur environmental and social sustainability. The International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFm), for example, issues bonds on international capital markets to pay for immunisation of children (as part of SDG 3: Good Health & Well-being), repayable by future aid[xix].

Diaspora financing, which are funds raised from international diasporas for development projects in their countries of origin, is another innovative way of providing financing for SDGs.

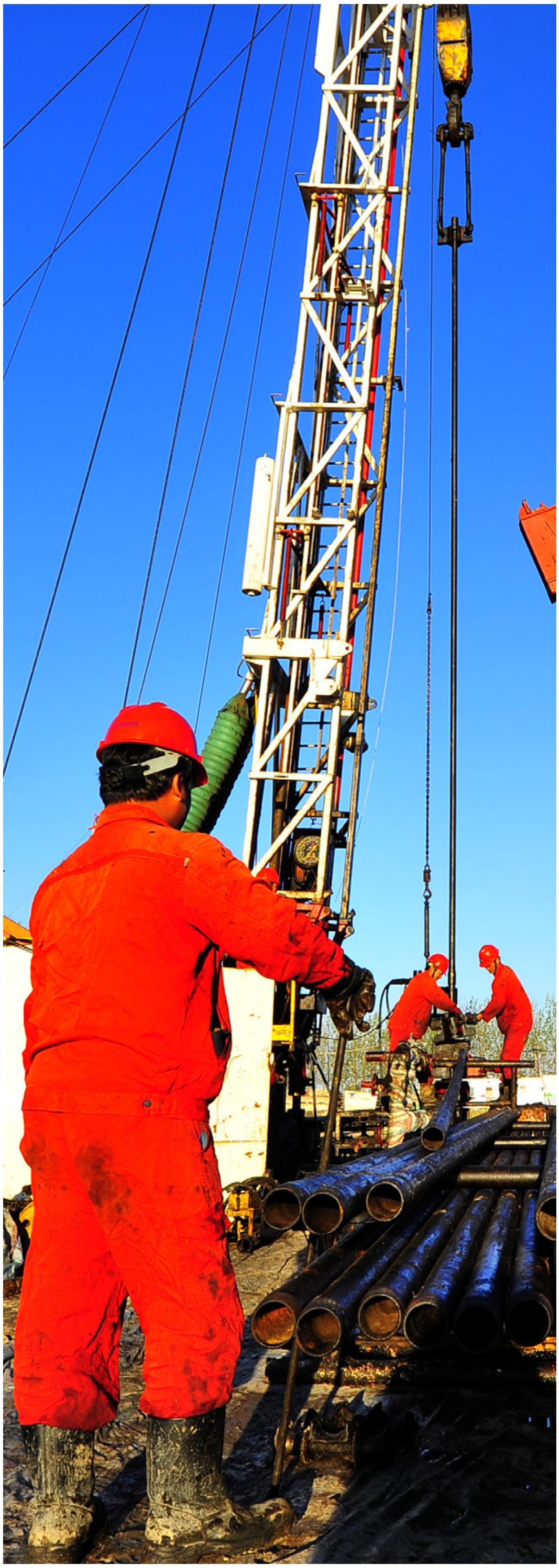
Debt swaps can also help states finance sustainable development, especially for ecological SDG goals, such as SDG 13: Climate Change. In December 2019, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) launched an initiative to help Middle Eastern states finance sustainable development and climate action through the Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Mechanism. The mechanism gives debtors, creditors and donors the opportunity to achieve climate-sensitive national development objectives in line with their national sustainable development strategies (NSDSs), by fostering partnerships between countries and their creditors to use debt servicing payments, particularly in countries where continuous borrowing has become a less viable option[xx].

Another tool for mobilising additional financing for the SDGs is blended finance. Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) use blended finance to reduce the risk for private investors.
For example, the US Development Finance Corporation (DFC) provides first-loss guarantees on projects to encourage participation from private investors. Similarly, the World Bank has a "cascade framework", which aims to maximise financing for sustainable development by encouraging reforms, followed by subsidies, and then public investments[xxi].



IMPLICATIONS FOR LEADING OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS

The oil and gas sector has the potential to contribute to all 17 SDGs under the 2030 Agenda. This can be done either by enhancing its positive contributions, or mitigating or avoiding negative impacts of the energy industry. The sector can foster economic and social development by providing access to affordable energy (Goal 7), opportunities for decent employment (Goal 8), business and skills development, increased fiscal revenues, and improved infrastructure (Goal 9) and communities (Goal 11). It can also play a pivotal role in the realisation of all the ecological goals of the SDGs, namely climate change (Goal 13), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), life below water (Goal 14), and life on land (Goal 15). And, it can contribute to the SDGs by mitigating its historical contributions to climate change and environmental degradation, population displacement, economic and social inequality, armed conflicts, gender-based violence, tax evasion and corruption, increased risk of certain health problems, and the violation of human rights, wherever and whenever they occur.



Significant opportunities exist for oil and gas companies to integrate the SDGs into their core business activities. Companies can operationalise the SDGs by incorporating them into corporate systems, policies, standards and processes, which can bring about greater efficiencies, cost savings, and competitiveness. Incorporation can also enhance the oil and gas industry's social licence to operate.

National oil companies are often among the best-run entities in developing countries, with a strong base of skills, assets and finance. However, governments in many of these countries need to develop or strengthen their policies and strategies for harnessing the resources generated through these national companies for the effective implementation of SDG initiatives.

IMPLICATIONS FOR LEADING OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS

Table 4 Mapping the O&G Industry to the SDGs [xxii]

SDG Goal	Integrate into Core Business	Collaborate & Leverage
1 NO POVERTY	• Increase access to energy • Contribute to financial sustainability • Address climate change • Invest in local development	• Community development agreements • Reduce gender inequality
2 ZERO HUNGER	• Align co-located agricultural and O&G development activities • Shared-use infrastructure to enhance agricultural productive capacity	• Increase efficiency in O&G-based agricultural products
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	• Reduce occupational risks • Design benefits programmes • Improve road safety • Improve operations' safety • Prevent and mitigate the health impacts of air emissions and effluent discharges	• Strengthen public health system's response to potential health risks and epidemics
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	• Establish company strategy for local content • Invest in workforce education, training, and technical programmes • Invest in education and training in responsible energy use and new technologies	• Support in-country education and skills development efforts
5 GENDER EQUALITY	• Develop gender-sensitive local content policies • Support full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making • Increase employment opportunities for women and female representation in management	• Address negative social impacts including all forms of violence • Enhance the use of STEM education to empower women in the O&G industry
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	• Understand water scarcity risk management • Substantially increase water use efficiency • Manage produced water and wastewater	• Improve understanding of the water-energy nexus • Participatory approach to water management • Shared-use water infrastructure
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	• Improve access to energy services through shared infrastructure • Grow the share of natural gas in the energy mix • Increase the share of alternative energies and technologies in the global energy mix • Improve energy efficiency in operation and production	• An integrated, multi-stakeholder approach to energy poverty
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	• Conduct skills assessment and communicate reasonable expectations • Foster full and productive local employment and workforce development • Encourage local procurement and supplier development	• Support economic diversification to achieve higher levels of economic productivity • Multi-stakeholder dialogue to promote development-orientated policies
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	• Upgrade infrastructure and technology to make them sustainable • Evaluate potential opportunities for shared use infrastructure	• Enhance technological capabilities and knowledge transfer • Expand off-grid energy access
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	• Ensure full and transparent tax payments • Assess inequality impacts in project planning • Set expectations and communicate with local communities • Mitigate the impacts of climate change Provide access to energy	• Enhance revenue management and improve local governance
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	• Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage • Address risks related to operations in urban environments • Support inclusive and sustainable urbanisation in communities near operations	• Coordinate planning for urban and regional development
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	• Integrate product stewardship approach • Introduce environmentally-sound and efficient chemical and waste management • Improve supply chain sustainability	• Coordinate approaches to sustainability

13 CLIMATE ACTION	• Plan strategically for a net-zero emissions future • Self-assess carbon resiliency • Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change impacts • Mitigate emissions within oil and gas operations	• Partner in research and development and education outreach • Support effective policy measures • Help consumers lower their emissions
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	• Incorporate environmental assessments into management plans • Minimise and address the rate of ocean acidification • Accident prevention, preparedness and response	• Transfer and share marine technology • Coordinate biodiversity research
15 LIFE ON LAND	• Effective biodiversity and ecosystem management • Implement the mitigation hierarchy • Minimise impacts through new technologies • Biodiversity offsets	• Multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing • A landscape-wide conservation approach
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	• Integrate human rights perspective in impact assessments • Community engagement and consent Integrate anti-corruption systems	• Improve institutions through NOCs • Increase effective, accountable and transparent institutions
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	• Build government capacity • Develop and disseminate sustainable energy technologies	• Participate in dialogue • Strengthen coordination between initiatives • Incorporate SDGs into policies • Apply the SDG indicators

Several oil and gas giants are already implementing measures to align the SDGs with their core business, along the mapping shown in Table 4. Just to mention two examples in Africa: Eni is promoting the Green River Project (GRP) in Nigeria that has as its objective “to transfer technology through vocational guidance and training in order to increase food availability, multiply employment and earning opportunities, and facilitate access to social services”, contributing to Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Meanwhile, Total offers solar-powered energy solutions for rural areas with limited or no access to conventional energy grids in Tanzania and Kenya, supporting SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy).

The time is ripe for the sector to embark on unique opportunities presented by the 2030 Agenda to foster economic and social development designed for a sustainable and prosperous future. Slow action, or lack of, will leave the industry at the mercy of investors, regulatory bodies, exporters, and powerful interest groups, who will continue to exert massive pressure on the sector to transform.

CONCLUSIONS

- The UNGA's roadmap for renewed action on the SDGs should be synergised with ongoing global efforts to mitigate the severe economic effects and social fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Meeting the targets of the SDGs requires a renewed focus and effective use of innovative financing avenues from both public and private channels.
- In the backdrop of lack of resources and increasing rate of unemployment, most countries in the global south, face particular challenges in the implementation of SDGs. Mature world markets can assist emerging markets by offshoring their SDG-aligned businesses in these geographies to generate employment and reduce inequalities.
- Oil and gas companies need to extend their current engagements on the SDGs beyond corporate philanthropic approaches, by ensuring that SDGs are fully aligned and integrated into their core business strategies, operations, and practices.

APPENDIX

i. United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Fund
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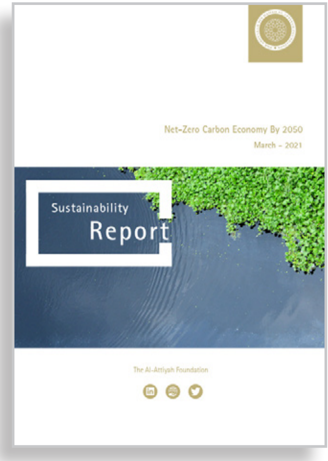

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A growing number of countries are committing to ambitious target of net-zero emissions by 2050, as a show of commitment to implement the Paris Agreement. Sectoral net zero roadmaps are also beginning to emerge.

(QRCO.DE)

February – 2021

Greening The LNG Industry

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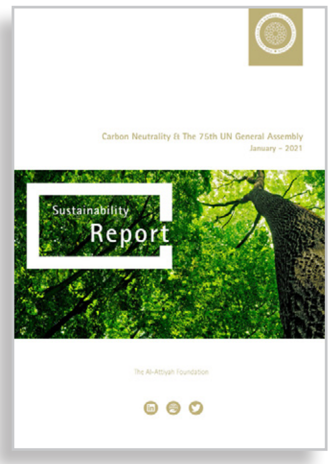

January – 2021

Carbon Neutrality & The 75th UN General Assembly

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Our partners collaborate with The Al-Attiyah Foundation on various projects and research within the themes of energy and sustainable development.

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