

Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is GO4SDGs?

Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs) was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the German Ministry for the Environment in 2019 to boost efforts and solutions for delivering on the 2030 Agenda through a just transition to inclusive green economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The core goal of the GO4SDGs initiative is to support policy champions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and youth in integrating sustainable consumption and production, and inclusive green economy (IGE) approaches in their policies and decisions to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The new initiative will act as a regional pacemaker and enabler, fostering exchange on innovative and successful practices from countries while building on existing pools of expertise around the world and further strengthening local capacities, particularly for those countries transitioning their economies to become more sustainable and inclusive.

Currently, GO4SDGs is targeting the three change-agent groups in five regions: **Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and West Asia.**

Why was GO4SDGs created?

When world leaders agreed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement in 2015, sustainability was put at the heart of future economic development. It is widely recognized that poverty eradication, social and economic development cannot be sustained with continued neglect of environment and threats like climate change, water scarcity, loss of soil fertility and biodiversity.

However, the first Global Sustainable Development Report shows that the world is not on track to meet the agreed upon SDG targets by 2030. In too many areas, business-as-usual approaches prevail and for a number of goals the situation is actually further deteriorating. While economic growth creates income in many countries for hundreds of millions of people and has helped to reduce global poverty significantly, it still leaves too many behind and exposes future generations to risks and costs of growing environmental and social externalities from overproduction and overconsumption.

Despite growing commitment by the international community to the SDGs, several major challenges are hindering the implementation. Above all, there is a key challenge in adopting policies and practices at large scale for a just transition to inclusive green economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

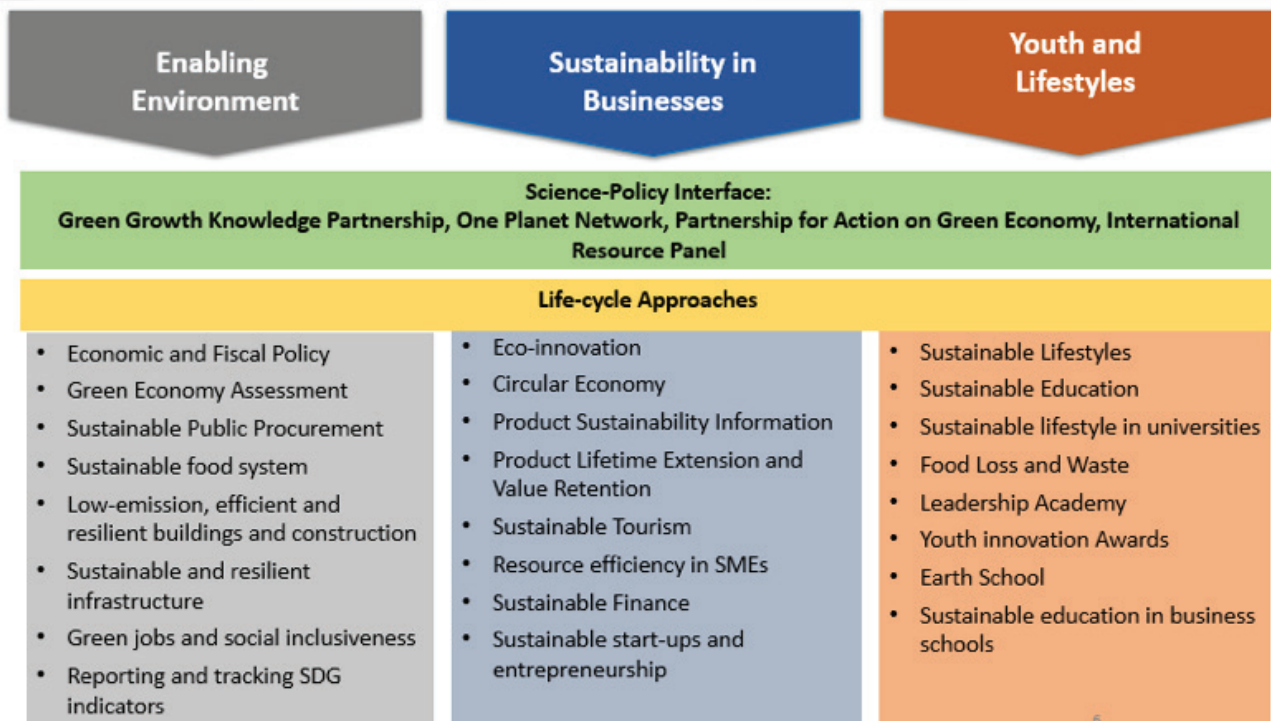
Against this background, GO4SDGs was created to address the need for increased coordination and sharing of best practices across regions and sectors. It also aims to motivate countries, businesses and civil society groups by creating peer-to-peer learning and benchmarking.

What are the focus areas of GO4SDGs?

GO4SDGs will focus on three areas for transformational change:

- Policy innovation and enabling environment for inclusive green economy and sustainable consumption and production
- SMEs and start-ups in the area of circularity and resource efficiency
- Youth engagement as demand drivers for sustainability

The initiative will respond to regional priorities, building upon existing initiatives, applying tools and identifying strategic synergies. The approach developed seeks to complement current interventions that contribute to reduce pollution, mitigate climate change and alleviate pressure on natural resources by providing technical assistance and capacity development for sustainable consumption and production and inclusive green economy approaches.



How will GO4SDGs deliver on its goal?

GO4SDGs will seek to build on UNEP's leading knowledge expertise and disseminate it through existing partnerships and programmes such as the One Planet Network, Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) and UNEP Finance Initiative.

The initiative will also develop partnerships with organizations that work directly with businesses and the private sector to accelerate action, including the World Economic Forum, SEED, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), UNDP and International Labour Organization (ILO).

Regional leads identify and coordinate key activities under GO4SDGs. Activities have been designed based on identification of regional demands and priorities, which come from regional mandates, strategies and and/or bilateral consultations with countries, regions, or official discussions at regional or international conferences.

Follow-up discussions will be held with knowledge teams at UNEP and project partners, which will lay the basis for project activities. Based on these discussions, decisions will be made on focus areas, activities and partners, in close coordination with funders and stakeholders, and under the guidance from the steering committee.

How to get involved with GO4SDGs?

- Reviewing menu of services to specify support needs
- Stay informed and find more resources through the GGKP webpage
- Take part in our social media campaigns or offline activities
- Share our news and resources in your network
- Tell us your ideas and feedback
- Become a project partner

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