

**Stakeholder Briefing on the Global Sustainable Development Report
Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office
6 November 2019**

Highlights of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019*

**Eeva Furman
Director, Environmental Policy
Centre
Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
Finland**

**Eun Mee Kim
Professor, Graduate School of
International Studies
Ewha Womans University
Republic of Korea**

***This presentation includes excerpts from Peter Messerli's presentation (2019.9)
and the GSDR 2019**

I. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Agenda 2030 *Leave No One Behind*



II. Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019

1. UN member states requested an independent and critical assessment of the implementation of the SDGs. The Global Sustainable Development Report's mandate was to focus on science-policy interface and to be based on evidence-based research, since the SDGs were negotiated through a political process without a keen base on scientific evidence.
2. UN appointed 15 scientists as the Independent Group of Sciences (IGS) for its first report, *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019* (December 31, 2016 – September 24, 2019). Presentation and report to the UN Secretary General and member states at the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019.
3. Goal: Present a blueprint for the world for 2030 and going beyond 2050. Benchmark: Brundtland Report (1987).

1. Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)

Co-Chairs



Endah
Murniningtyas
(Indonesia;
Agriculture
Economics,
Environment,
Indonesia
Development)



Peter Messerli
(Switzerland;
Geography,
Southeast Asia,
African
Ecosystem)



Wolfgang Lutz
(Austria;
Demography,
Human Capital
Population &
Environment)



Jean-Pascal
van Ypersele
(Belgium; Physics,
climate Change,
Energy & Climate,
Climate Change)



Parfait
Eloundou-Enyegue
(Cameroon;
Sociology,
Education,
Inequality)



Katherine
Richardson
(Denmark;
Biology, Bio-
Diversity, Marine
Biology)



Eeva Furman
(Finland;
Environmental Policy,
Bio-Diversity, Eco-
System)



Jean-Paul Moatti
(France; Economics,
Health Economics,
HIV/AIDS)



Ernest Foli
(Ghana; Tropical
Forest Ecology,
Biostatistics)



David Smith
(Jamaica; Disaster
Management,
Climate Change)



Muhammad Saidam
(Jordan; Climate
Change, Agriculture,
Water and Sanitation
System)



Jurgis Staniskis
(Lithuania;
Environmental
Engineering,
Environment
Economics)



Gonzalo Hernández
Licona
(Mexico; Economics,
Poverty, Economic
Development, Social
Development)



Eun Mee Kim
(Republic of Korea;
Sociology, East Asian
Economic Development,
International
Development
Cooperation)



Amanda Glassman
(US; Maternal and
Child Health, Global
Public Health, Social
Protection)

2. The Brundtland Report (*Our Common Future*), 1987



The Brundtland Commission Report/ Former Prime of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland



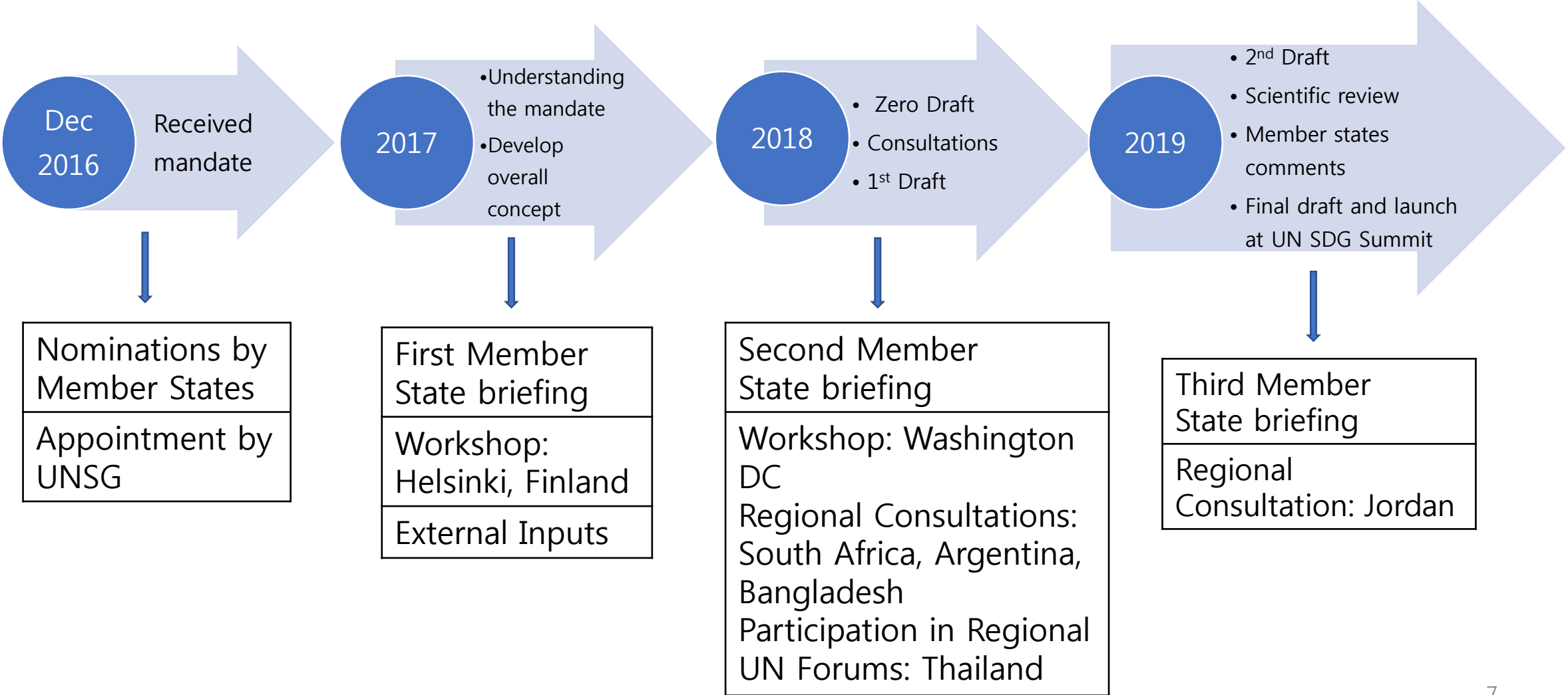
UN World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED): 1987

- Environment became a major global issue at the Stockholm Conference
- **Environment & Development as One Global Problem** → Presented as a major global political problem to be solved by all
- Poverty eradication, gender equality, redistribution of wealth in order to enhance human development are also important for the sustainability of the environment; Need to limit economic growth in order to save the environment for developed and developing countries
- Research, analysis, and recommendations for Solutions for **Sustainable Development**



3. Process of GSDR 2019

Face-to-face meetings in New York and continuous consultations facilitated by UN DESA.
Support by Task Team of six UN Agencies: UN DESA, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, and World Bank.



4. GSDR 2019





UN Secretary General and IGS: September 10, 2019



**UN Sustainable Development Summit – GSDR Fireside Chat:
September 24, 2019**



(1) A decisive decade ahead

*Sounding the alarm bell:
The need to scale-up and
accelerate implementation*

Business-as-usual approaches

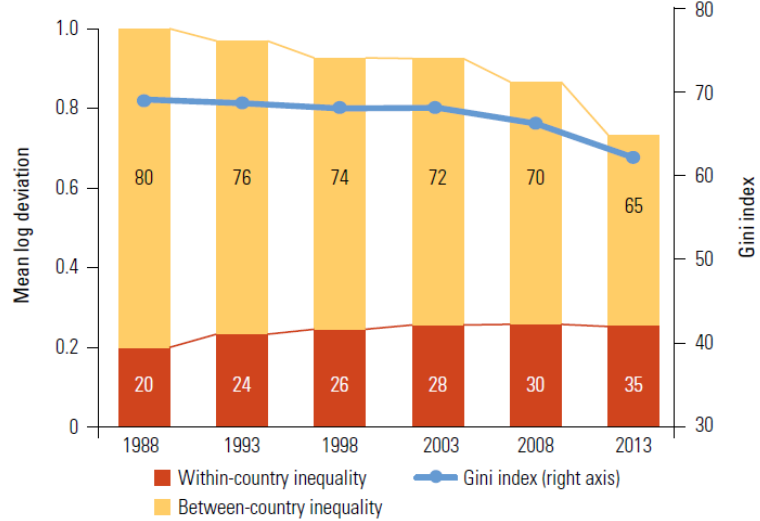
GOAL	WITHIN 5%	5–10%	>10%	NEGATIVE LONG-TERM TREND
Goal 1		1.1. Eradicating extreme poverty	1.3. Social protection for all	
Goal 2		2.1. Ending hunger (undernourishment)	2.2. Ending malnutrition (stunting) 2.5. Maintaining genetic diversity 2.a. Investment in agriculture*	2.2. Ending malnutrition (overweight)
Goal 3	3.2. Under 5 mortality 3.2. Neonatal mortality		3.1. Maternal mortality 3.4. Premature deaths from non-communicable diseases	
Goal 4	4.1 Enrolment in primary education	4.6 Literacy among youth and adults	4.2. Early childhood development 4.1 Enrolment in secondary education 4.3 Enrolment in tertiary education	
Goal 5			5.5. Women political participation	
Goal 6		6.2. Access to safe sanitation (open defecation practices)	6.1. Access to safely managed drinking water 6.2. Access to safely managed sanitation services	
Goal 7		7.1. Access to electricity	7.2. Share of renewable energy* 7.3. Energy intensity	
Goal 8			8.7. Use of child labour	
Goal 9		9.5. Enhancing scientific research (R&D expenditure)	9.5. Enhancing scientific research (number of researchers)	
Goal 10			10.c. Remittance costs	Inequality in income**
Goal 11			11.1. Urban population living in slums*	
Goal 12				12.2. Absolute material footprint, and DMC*
Goal 13				Global GHG emissions relative to Paris targets**
Goal 14				14.1. Continued deterioration of coastal waters* 14.4. Overfishing*
Goal 15				15.5. Biodiversity loss* 15.7. Wildlife poaching and trafficking*
Goal 16			16.9 universal birth registration *	

* target not specified ** based on most recently available data

Understanding the systemic challenges

Rising inequalities

FIGURE 0.10 Global Inequality, 1988–2013



World Bank, 2016

Biodiversity loss

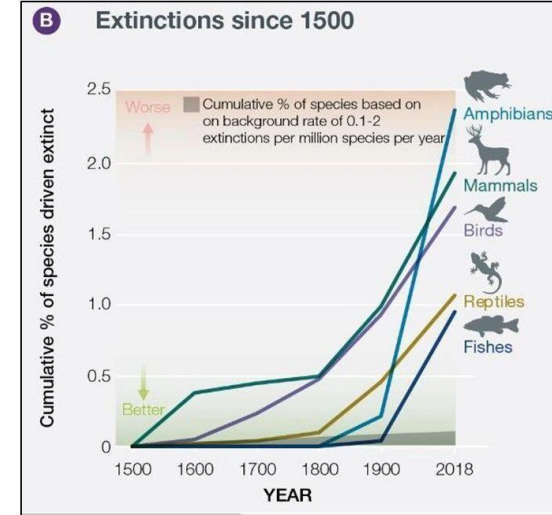
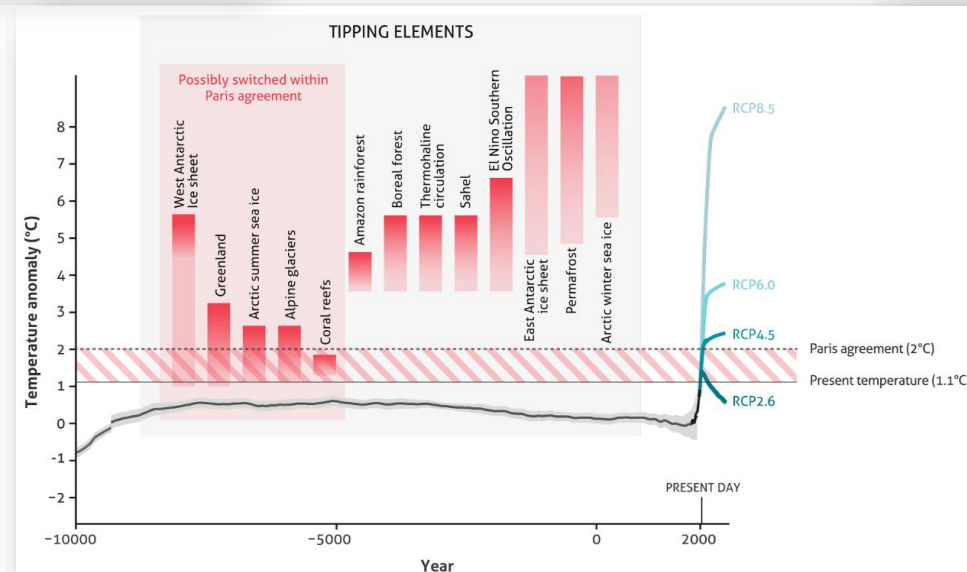


Figure 3 (B) - Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IPBES, 2019

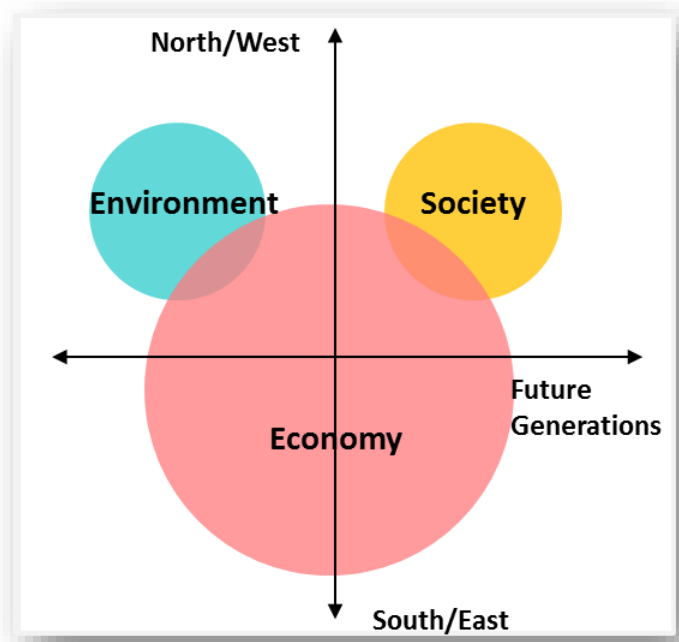
Climate change



Future Earth, 2017, based on Schellnhuber et al. 2016

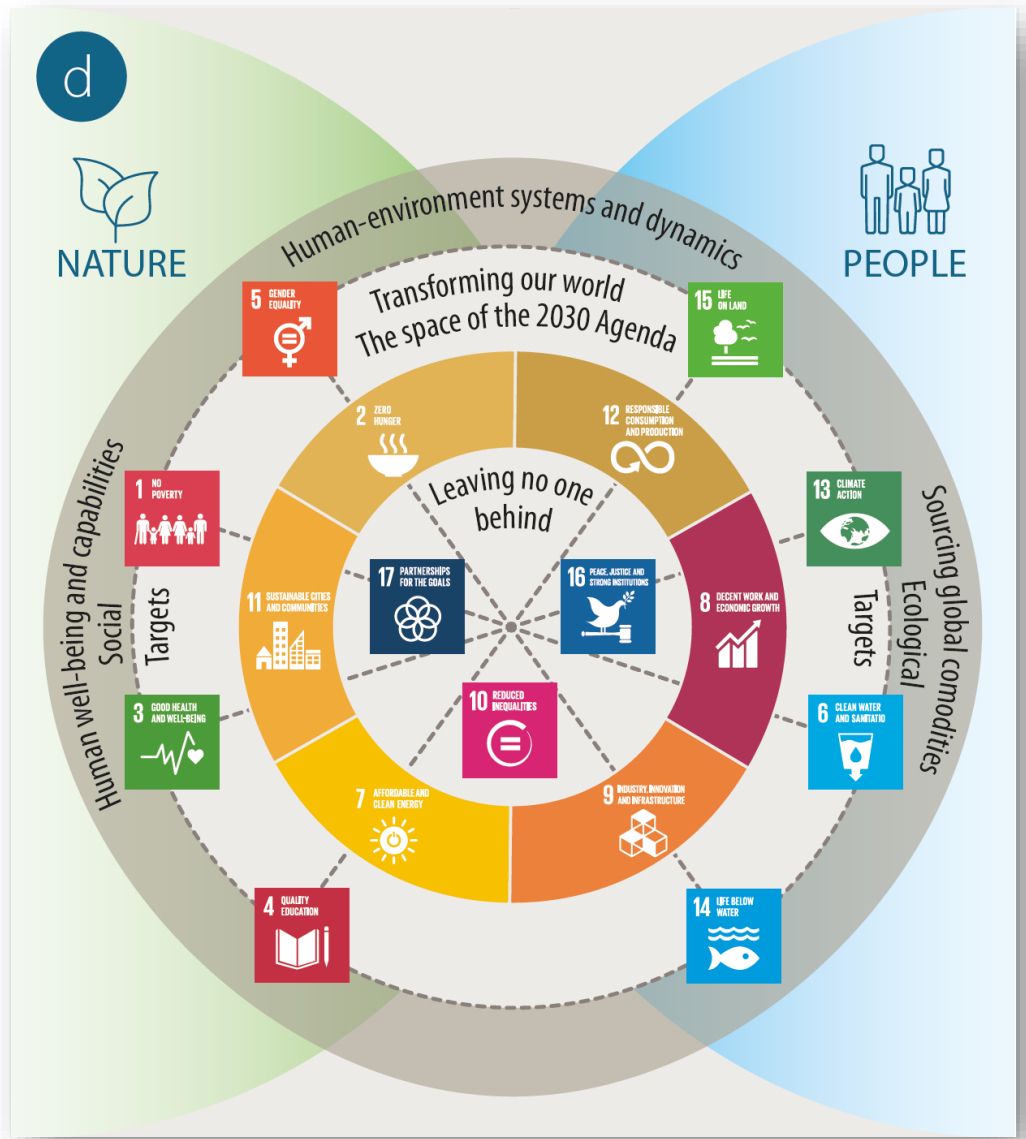


The transformative power of the 2030 Agenda



Evolution to SD:

Three pillars, compromises, emergent in space and time



Transformations to SD:

Indivisible, hard choices, intentional, time-bound



(2) Knowledge-based transformations

Insight (a): From boxes to arrows – a systems perspective

Moving forward:

- *address trade-offs*
- *harness co-benefits*
- *turn vicious- into virtuous cycles*



SDG-level interactions

SDGs Targets Interaction Details References

From SDG: To SDG:

GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific

UNEP, 2016. (p. xvii)

2.3 → 15.5
ICSU Score -1: Constraining

Asia and the Pacific

Ecosystems integrity and biodiversity are threatened throughout the region due to extensive agriculture, oil palm and rubber plantations, aquaculture and illegal wildlife trade

Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services

IPBES, 2019 (p. 8)

2.3 → 15.5
ICSU Score -2: Counteracting

Furthermore, increases in the production of some of nature's contributions are linked to declines in others [...], which also affects people differentially [...]. For example, clearing of forest for conventional agriculture has increased the provision of food and feed (NCP 12) and other materials important for people (such as natural fibres, timber and ornamental flowers: NCP 13) but has reduced contributions as diverse as pollination (NCP 2), climate regulation (NCP 4), water quality regulation (NCP 7), opportunities for learning and inspiration (NCP 15) and the maintenance of options for the future (NCP 18).

Chapter 5: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C

IPCC, 2018. (p. 501)

2.3 → 15.5
ICSU Score +1: Enabling

Land-based Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Soil Carbon Sequestration & Conservation of Biodiversity and Restoration of Land (15.1/15.5/15.9): Agricultural intensification can promote conservation of biological diversity by reducing deforestation, and by rehabilitation and restoration of biodiverse communities on previously developed farm or pasture land. However, planting monocultures on biodiversity hot spots can have adverse side-effects, reducing biodiversity. Genetically modified crops reduce demand for cultivated land. Adaptation of integrated landscape approaches can provide various ecosystem services. CSA enrich linkages across sectors including management of land and bioresources. Land sparing has the potential to be beneficial for biodiversity, including for many species of conservation concern, but benefits will depend strongly on the use of spared land. In addition, high yield farming involves trade-offs and is likely to be detrimental for wild species associated with farm land (Lamb et al., 2016).

Further material: Lybbert and Sumner, 2010; Behnassi et al., 2014; Harvey et al., 2014; IPCC, 2014; Lamb et al., 2016

Trade-offs
Co-benefits

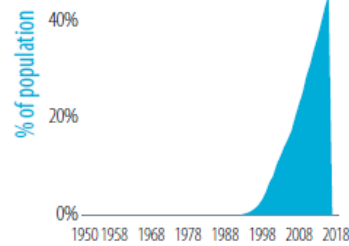


Insight (b): Levers for change in a hyper-connected world

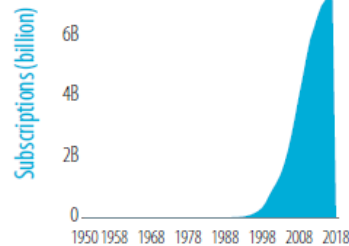


Flows of information

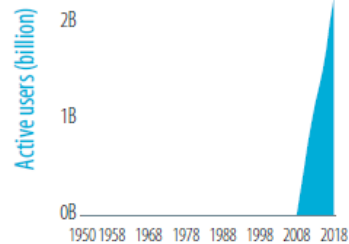
Individuals using the Internet



Mobile cellular subscriptions

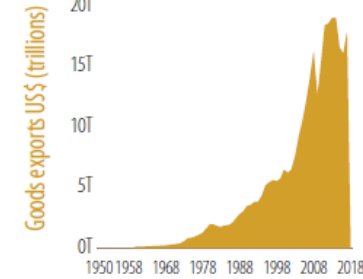


Monthly active Facebook users worldwide

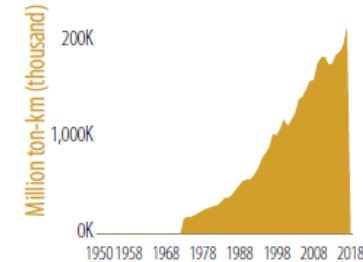


Flows of goods

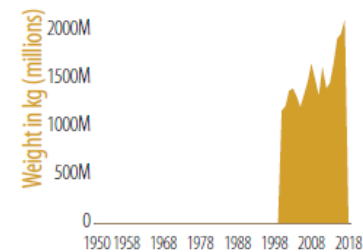
Merchandise exports



Air transport, freight

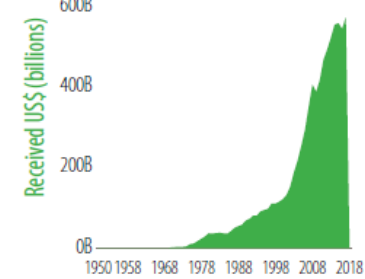


Rice imports by the EU

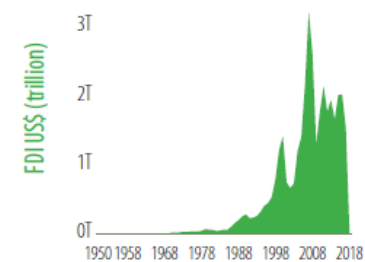


Flows of capital

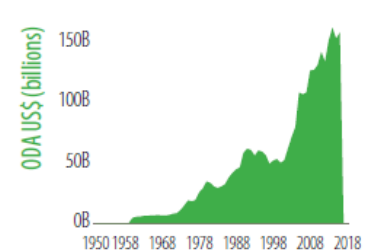
Personal remittances, received



Foreign direct investment, net outflows

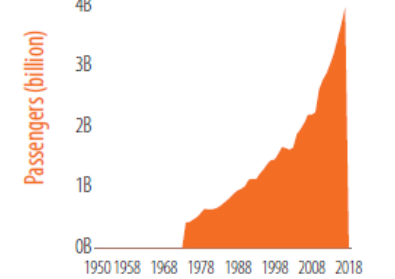


Net official development assistance received

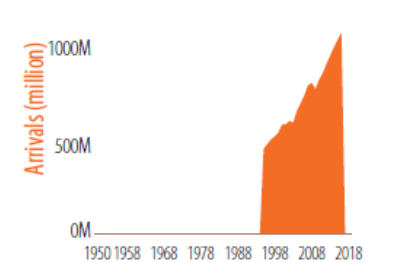


Flows of people

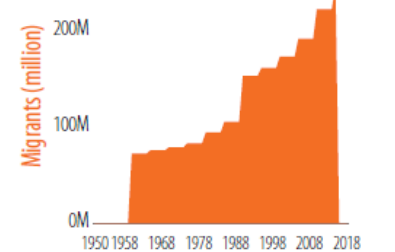
Air transport, passengers carried



International tourism, number of arrivals



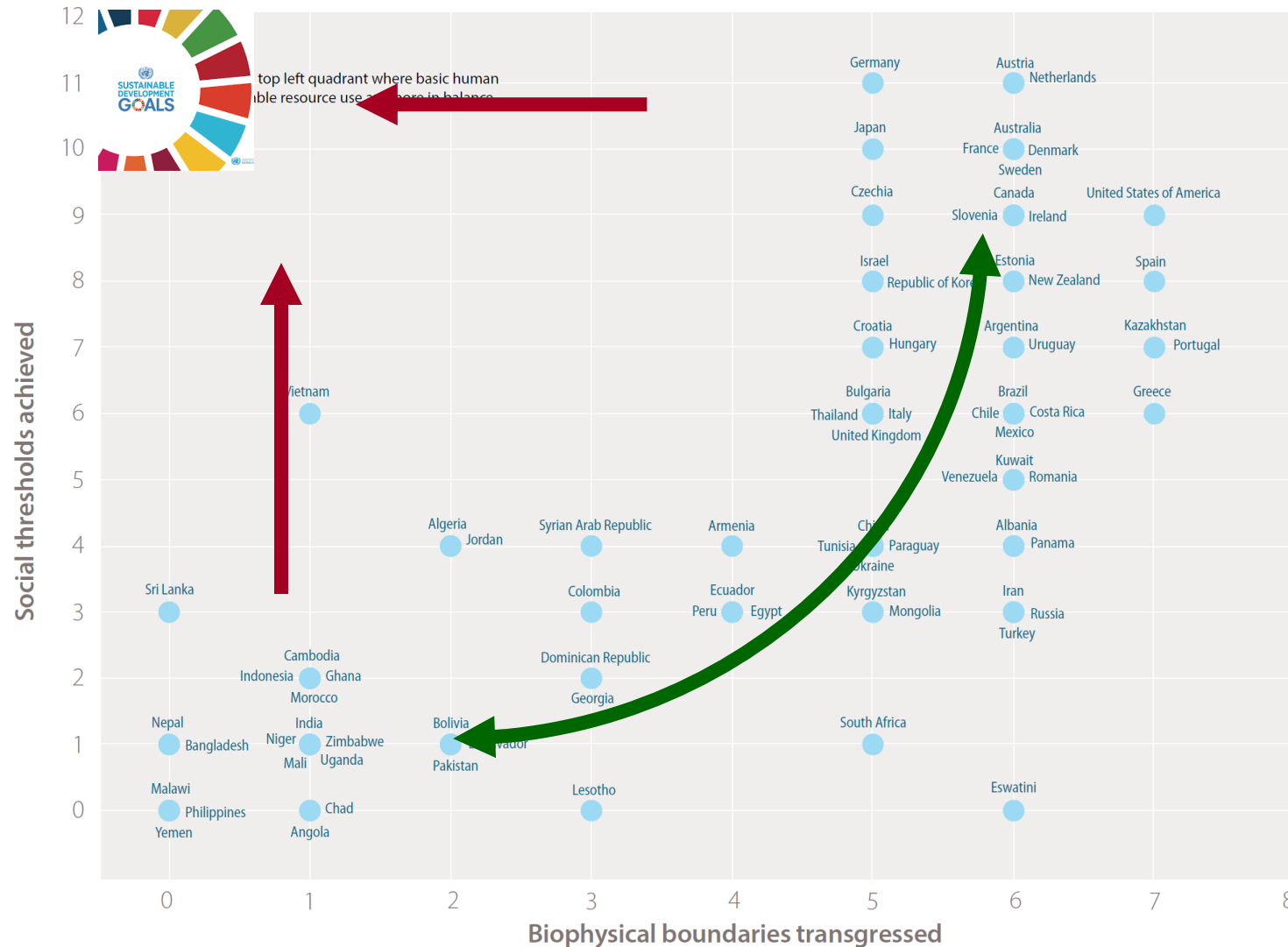
International migrant, total





Insight (c): Context and universality matter!

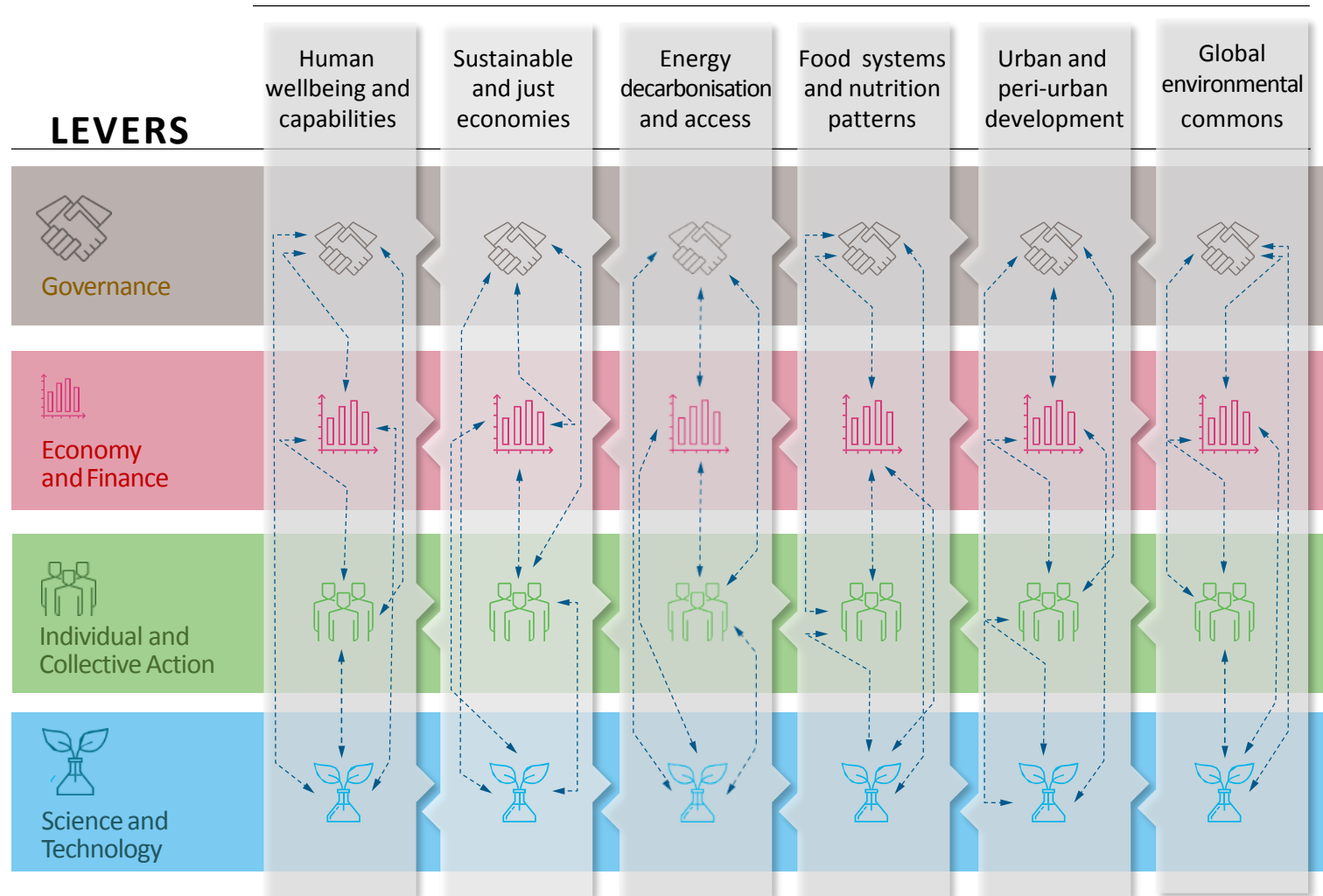
Striking the balance: no country is meeting basic human goals within biophysical boundaries





Context-specific pathways to transformation for sustainability

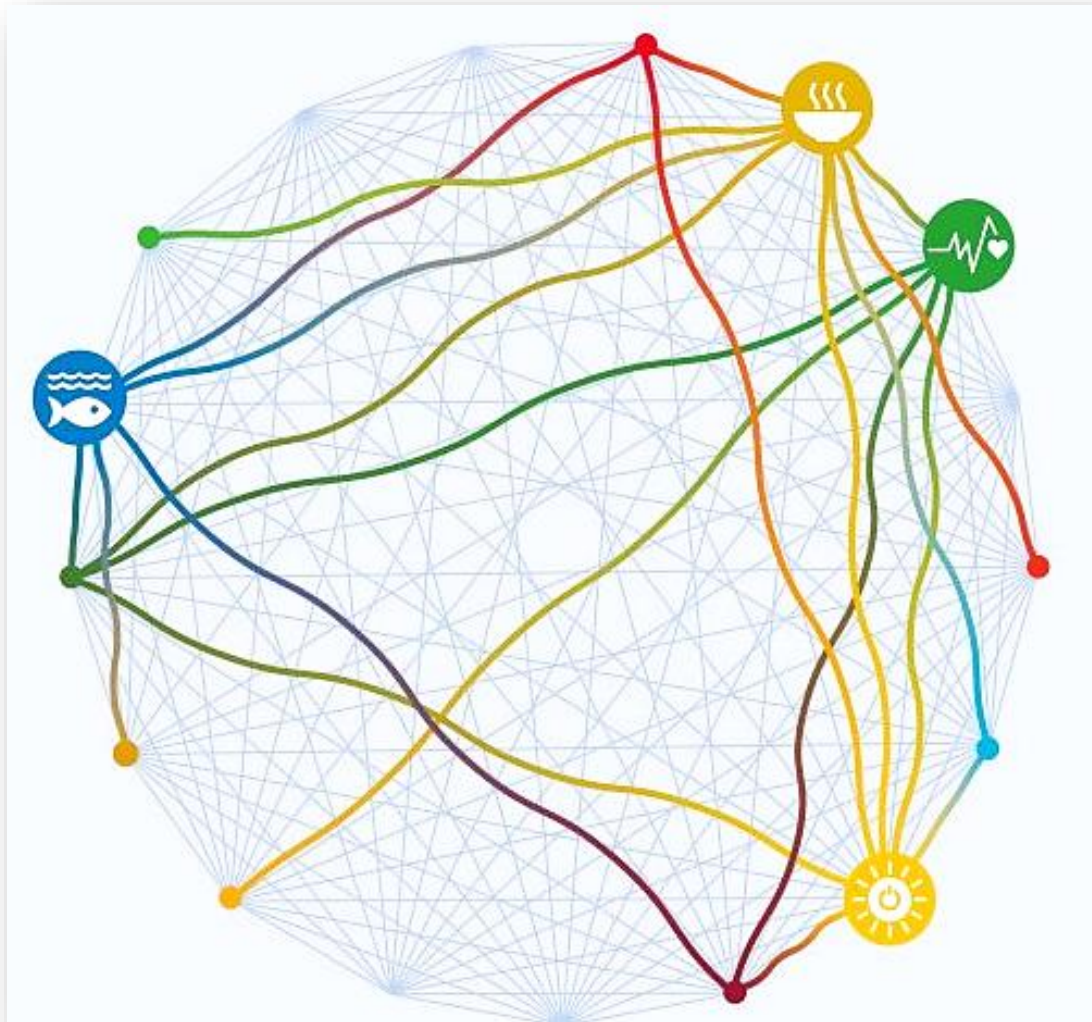
ENTRY POINTS FOR TRANSFORMATION



- Each entry point:**
- ✓ Impediments
 - ✓ Levers
 - ✓ Integrated and context-specific pathways
 - ✓ Call to Action



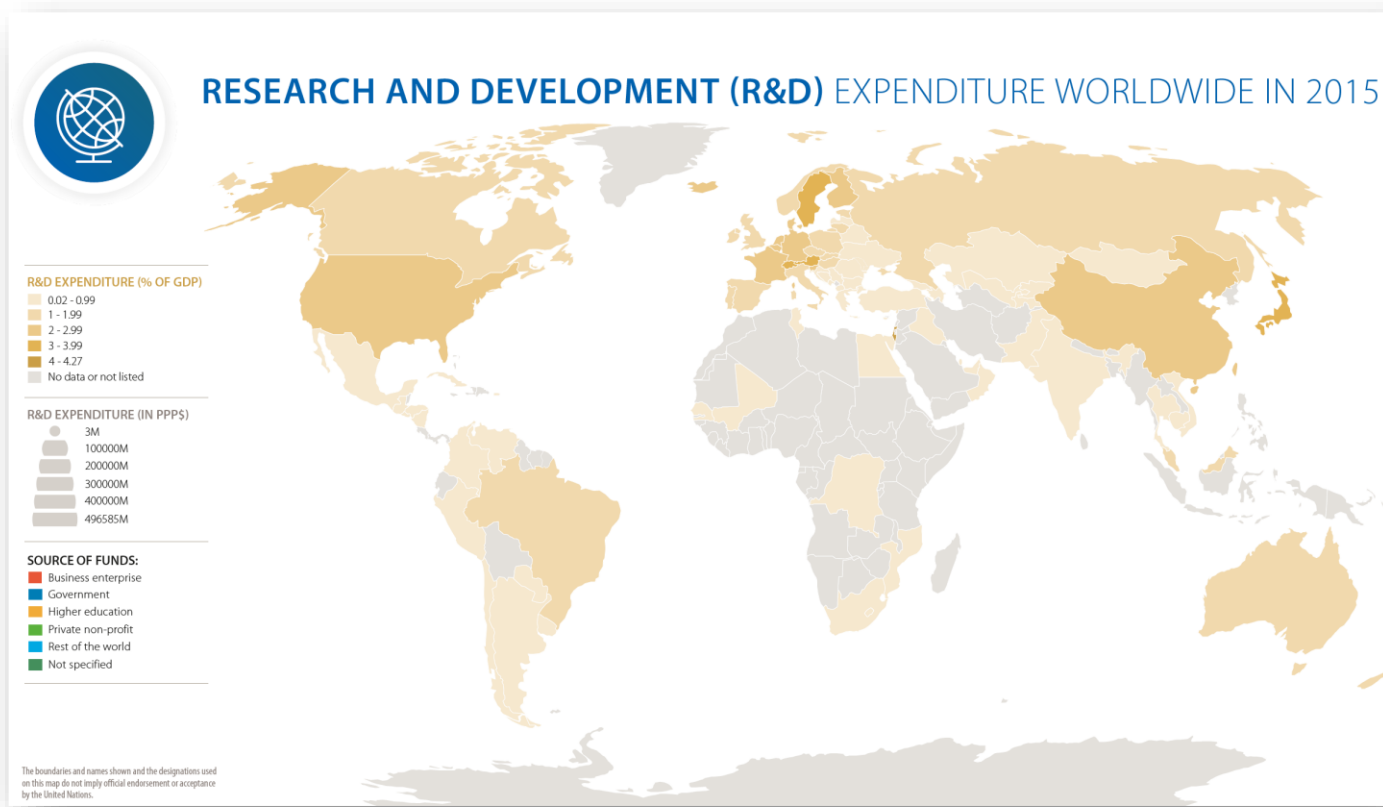
(4-1) Call to Action



1. Continued support for international scientific assessments and synthesis and their increased coherence
2. Establish open-access national and regional SDG knowledge platforms
3. Sustainable development councils and knowledge diplomacy
4. Support novel partnership of science (public-private-civil society) and building of competencies



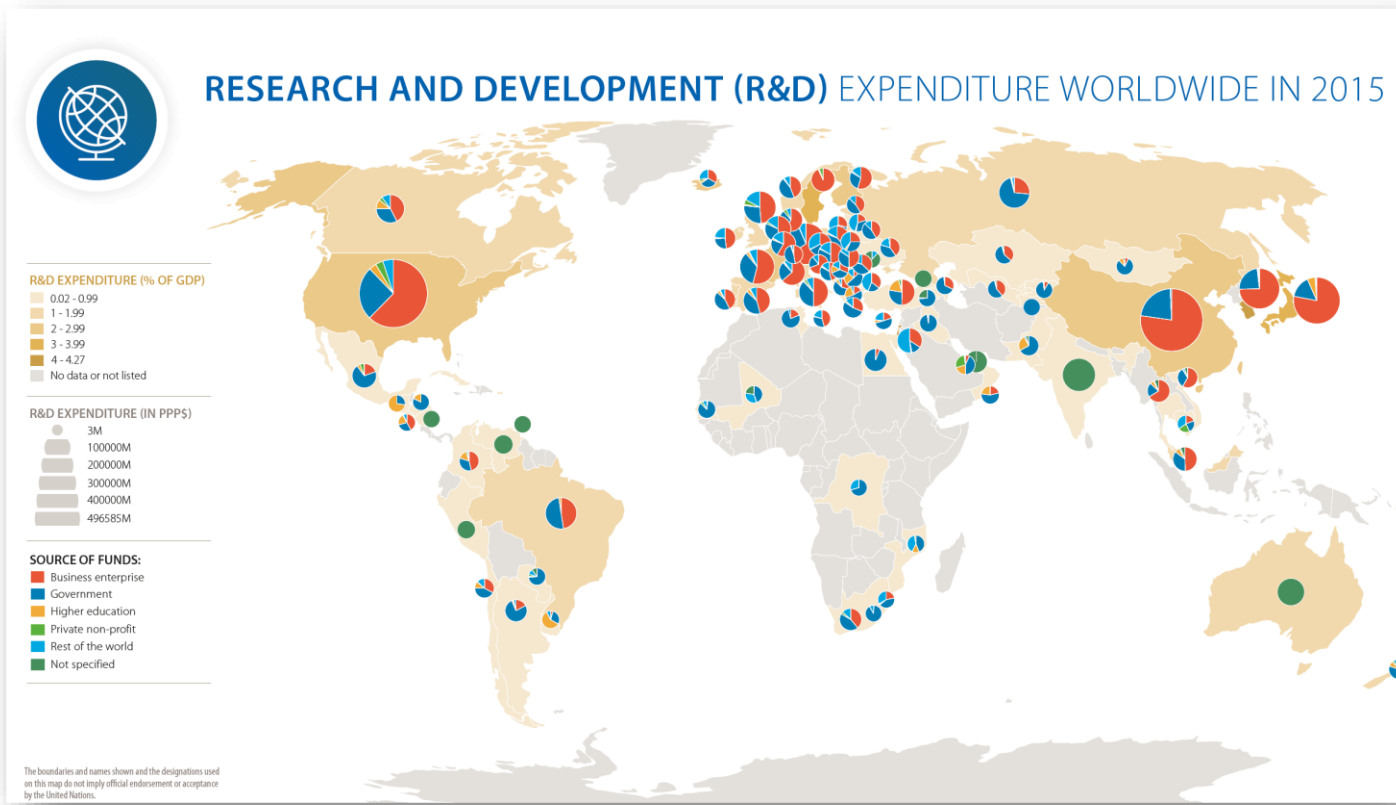
(4-2) Call to Action



1. Build open-access SDG knowledge and technology platforms to design, monitor, and evaluate transformations to SD
2. Harnessing and boosting scientific capacities through North-South and South-South transboundary research partnerships
3. Support curricula and education in sustainable development
4. Build national and regional scientific funding institutions



(4-3) Call to Action



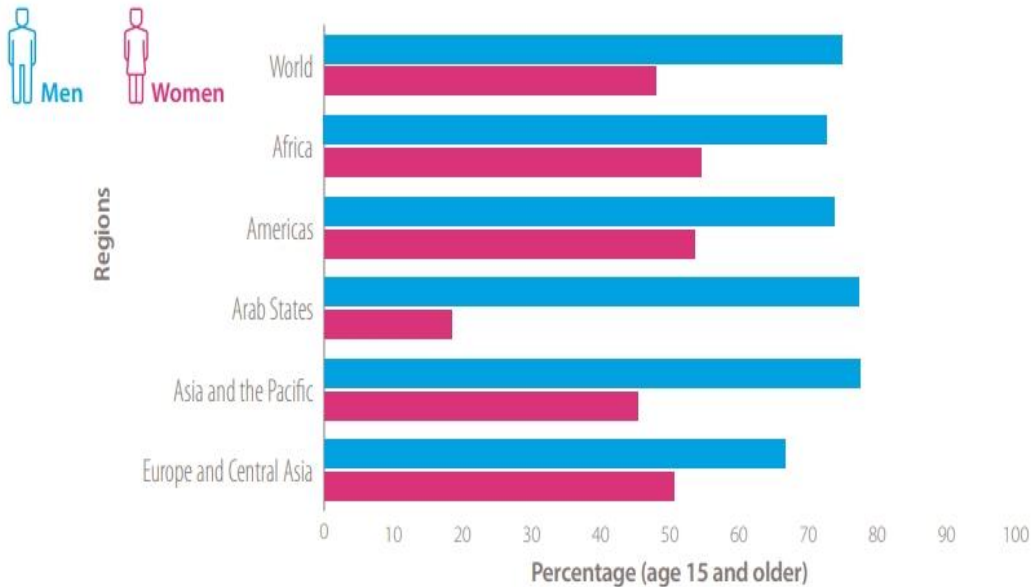
***This map is an excerpt from Peter Messerli's presentation (2019.9)**

1. Rapid increase of mission-oriented research guided by the 2030 Agenda
2. Scientific assessment of existing transformation knowledge including non-academic sources
3. Adapt funding schemes to programme structures supporting inter- and transdisciplinary research
4. Expand incentive- and evaluation schemes
5. Create experimental spaces and transformation labs for next generation science-policy interfaces

(4-4) Call to Action

Gender Inequality Remains a Big Challenge for Achieving SDGs

Figure 2-6
Labour force participation rates, 2017



Source: UN (2019), *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019*

- Gender inequality has been persistent and prevalent in both developed and developing countries.
- It is often compounded with other forms of inequality including poverty, health, education, energy, disaster risk management, and etc.; the most likely to be left behind are women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous people among others.
- Gender inequality limits the opportunities and capabilities of girls and women in the world → Exacerbates conditions of girls and women in poverty → Contributes toward intergenerational poverty and inequality

Tackle Gender Inequality throughout the Life Cycle:

1. **Eliminate deprivations and build resilience** across multiple dimensions where poverty and vulnerability are concentrated with special attention needed for most likely to be left behind -- women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and others.
2. Invest in **early childhood education** and support higher enrollment in **STEM** (Science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields with particular attention to gender inequalities.
3. Support **women's groups**, labor unions, civil society organizations and community-based organizations → boost their capabilities to contribute to the sustainability transformation for equal and just societies.

(5) Summary of Key Points of *GSDR 2019*

1) Independent and Critical Assessment of SDGs Implementation

- Meta Analysis of scientific research publications, UN Reports, Country Reports, etc.

2) Evidence-based Research for SDGs

- Reflect the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda
- Interlinkages and correlation among the 17 goals: Trade-offs and co-benefits
- Policy recommendations to be based on scientific evidence including indigenous knowledge

3) Policy Recommendations

- **A strong message to the leaders of the UN and Member States to implement SDGs**
- **Reminding that we have only 10 years left until 2030**
- **A constructive message about how we can achieve SDGs with 6 entry points for transformation and 4 levers**
- **We all must work together to achieve the SDGs, and it has to start now and here!**

Thank you very much!

