

Five Years In: The vision behind the SDGs and today's challenges

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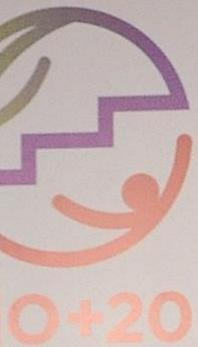
A virtual symposium hosted by
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Five Years In:
The vision behind the SDGs and
resulting challenges

- Understanding the SDGs by examining the history
- Implementation challenges
- COVID-19, economic crisis and racism: Are the SDGs the answer?



United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - 20 - 22 June 2012



The outcome of the Rio+20 Conference (2012) called for:
an open process in the General Assembly
to develop a proposal on sustainable development goals
to be universal in nature if nationally differentiated,
action oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational,
global in nature
to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable
development

Open Working Group on SDGs: March 2013-July 2014



Building off the MDGs, but creating a new vision for the future

- “How can you construct a vision of the future from previously agreed language?”
- How can you ensure no one is left behind?
- How can you ensure that this is an integrated agenda?
- How can you ensure it is a universal agenda?



Sustainable Development Summit: September 2015

1 NO POVERTY



2 NO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 RENEWABLE ENERGY



8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE AND JUSTICE



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

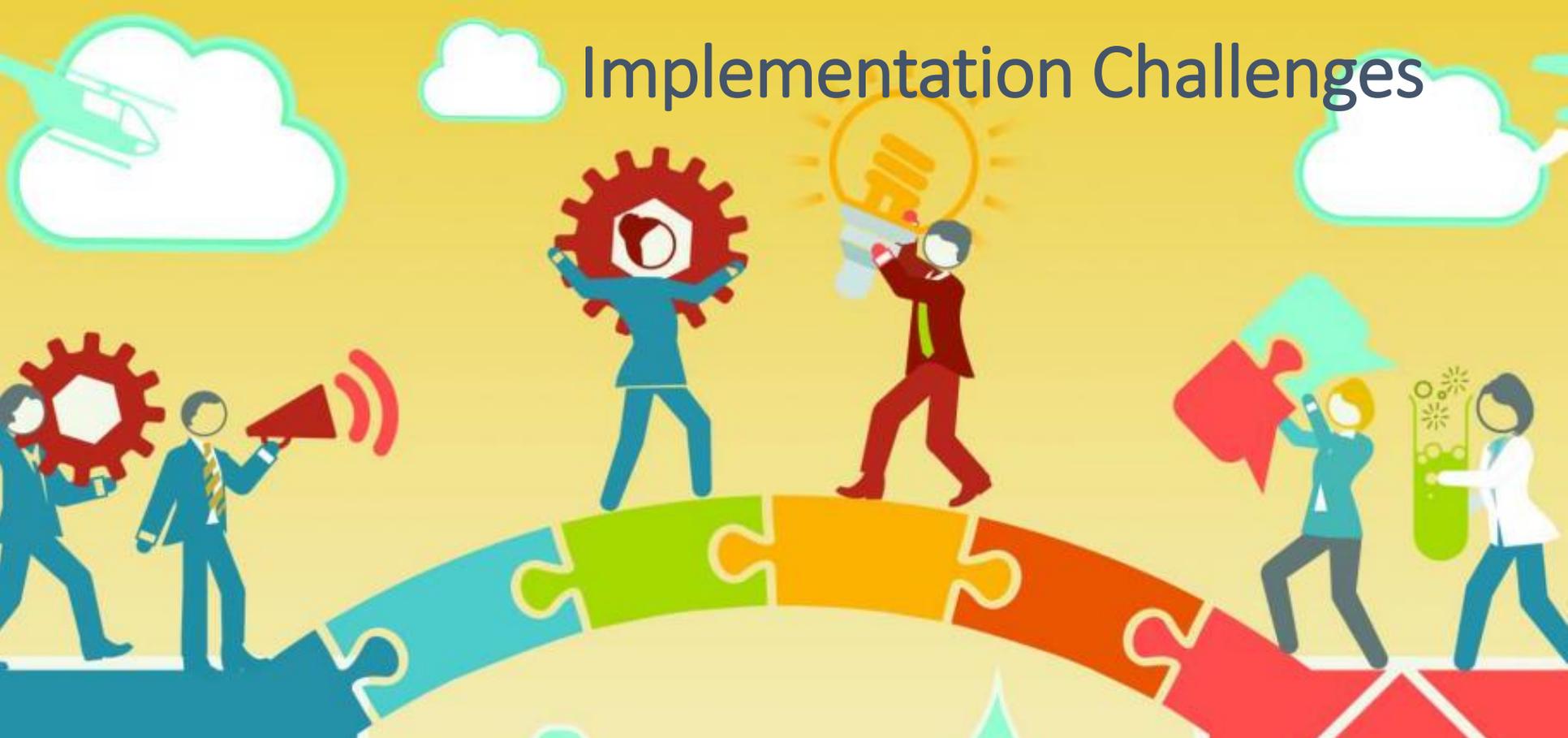




Implementation

- United Nations/International Level
- National Level
- Local Level
- Business Community
- Schools and universities
- Individuals

Implementation Challenges



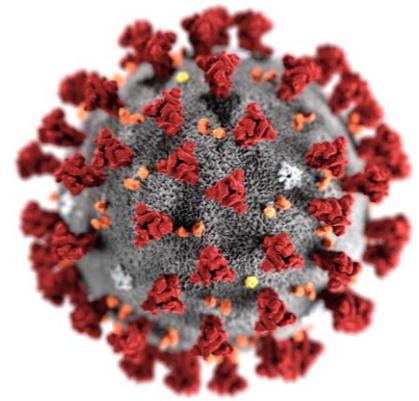
- Creating national-level implementation structures
- Providing support to local-level authorities to engage them & enable them to report at the national level
- Creating space for civil society organizations
- Working with the private sector
- Overcoming systemic barriers:
 - the availability and reliability of data;
 - weak capacity and technical know-how; inability to access available financial resources
 - lack of political will;
- Failure to understand the interlinkages among the SDGs and targets



But wait! Can the SDGs compete against the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis and systemic racism for the public's attention?



SDGs in the time of COVID-19



- The SDGs are perfectly positioned to address a global pandemic.
- The essential principles at the core of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda:
 - **Leave no one behind.** The SDGs ask policymakers and decisionmakers to focus on reaching the most vulnerable and furthest behind first.
 - **Embrace interdependence.** The SDGs ask policymakers to advance progress on social, economic, and environmental dimensions at once.
 - **Develop unusual partnerships.** The SDGs are a lingua franca that offer the basis for new partnerships with businesses, universities, civil society, and local philanthropy.
- COVID-19 has demonstrated just how much we are of one planet.
- That concept—we are all global citizens—is the bedrock of the SDGs with its aim of a more peaceful, prosperous planet to benefit people through partnership. In many countries, we are living through a collective action exercise not seen since World War II.



Black Lives Matter = the SDGs

- The SDGs are a plan to combat racism, because racism is inherent in the challenges of sustainable development:
- Poverty, hunger, health care, education, women, access to clean water and sanitation, employment, inequality, living conditions in cities, pollution, climate change, the environment, inclusive societies.
- The SDGs are the integrated agenda to address systemic racism and inequality.

Can we still have a decade for action?



Thank you!

