More than 8 million people surveyed worldwide responded to this question. Their answers helped the 193 Member States of the United Nations at the annual UN General Assembly in September 2015 to adopt an ambitious new sustainable development agenda, which presents a vision of a better world by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focuses on human progress. It directs development towards the eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality and reduction of inequalities, towards health system improvement, biodiversity, quality of life under water and on land, sustainable urbanization, consumption and production, towards countering climate change, as well as strengthening partnerships and institutions that are needed for exercising human rights, peace and justice.

The Sustainable Development Goals build upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which helped the humanity from 2000 to 2015 to halve extreme poverty, boost education rates, reduce maternal and child mortality as well as mortality from HIV/AIDS and malaria, but also to improve the status of women. Although great progress has undoubtedly been made, a better world for EVERYONE is still beyond reach.

That is why the new development agenda is more ambitious. It concerns EVERYONE, without exception. It deals with issues that we all face, without exception.

To achieve the 17 sustainable development goals, collaboration is needed among the governments, civil society, private sector and individuals – just like you.
Around 936 million people still live in extreme poverty.

This figure includes all people who live on less than $1.25 a day. Currently, this is a way of life for around one in five people in the world. By comparison, the number of people living in extreme poverty is roughly equivalent to the population of Europe.

The overwhelming majority of people living in extreme poverty belong to two regions: Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions (according to national definitions) reduced by half.

Ensured that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

The resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations has been built, and their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters has been reduced.

Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, particularly the most vulnerable.

Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Globally, over 795 million people are undernourished, meaning that one in nine people go to sleep hungry.

The vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9% of the population is undernourished.

Asia is the continent with the most hungry people.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest prevalence of hunger – approximately one in four people is undernourished.

Poor nutrition causes 45% of deaths in children under five (3.1 million children each year).

66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

Hunger eradicated and access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food to all people ensured, in particular for the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

All forms of malnutrition ended and the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age achieved.

The agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers doubled.

Sustainable food production systems ensured.

Equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable ensured.

HOW?

Increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks.

Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets.

Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives.

Facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves.
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- More than six million children still die before their fifth birthday each year.
- Despite determined global progress, an increasing proportion of child deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Four out of every five deaths of children under age five occur in these regions.
- The proportion of mothers that do not survive childbirth compared to those who do—in developing regions is still 14 times higher than in the developed regions.
- Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care they need.
- There were 250,000 new HIV infections among adolescents in 2013, two thirds of which were among adolescent girls.

HOW?

- Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries.
- Provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.
- Increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries.
- Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.
- Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

GLOBAL MILESTONES

- Global maternal mortality ratio reduced to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- Infant and children under five years mortality eradicated, in cases that could be prevented.
- Epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases ended.
- Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases reduced by one third.
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services ensured.
- Universal health coverage achieved.
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

» Some 57 million children remain out of school
» More than half of the world’s out-of-school children live in sub-Saharan Africa
» An estimated 50 percent of the world’s out-of-school children of primary school age live in conflict-affected areas

Ensured that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education
Ensured that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-school education
Ensured equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
Ensured equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable
Ensured that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive
Provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
Strengthen international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

HOW?

The supply of qualified teachers increased

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

HOW?

- In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school.
- Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.
- In only 46 countries, women hold more than 30 per cent of seats in national parliament.

- All forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere ended.
- All forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres eliminated, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- All harmful practices eliminated, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership Ensured at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights ensured.

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

» 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines

» Each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrhoeal diseases

» Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise, due to the effects of climate change

» By 2050 at least one in four people are likely to be affected by recurring water shortages

» Hydropower is the most important and widely-used renewable source of energy and as of 2011, represented 16 per cent of total electricity production worldwide

HOW?

» Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

» Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes

» Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water achieved for all

Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene achieved for all

Open defecation ended

Water quality significantly improved by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials

The proportion of untreated wastewater halved and recycling and safe reuse globally substantially increased

HOW?

» Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

» Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes

» Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management
One in five people still lacks access to modern electricity.

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people with access to electricity increased by 1.7 billion.

As the world’s population continues to rise, still more people will need cheap energy to light their homes and streets, use phones and computers and do their everyday business.

Energy production is the dominant contributor to climate change, causing around 60% of total global greenhouse gas emissions.

Reducing the carbon intensity of energy is a key objective in long-term climate goals.

The global rate of improvement in energy efficiency doubled.

Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services ensured.

The share of renewable energy in the global energy mix substantially increased.

Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology.

Promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states.

HOW?

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

WORLD NOW

WORLD 2030
Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

- Over 200 million people were unemployed in 2015, including 75 million youth under the age of 25.
- More than 470 million jobs are needed globally for new entrants to the labour market between 2016 and 2030.
- Nearly 2.2 billion people live below the $2 poverty line.

In the least developed countries at least 7% GDP growth per annum sustained
- Higher levels of economic productivity achieved
- Full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value achieved
- The proportion of youth not in employment, education or training substantially reduced

Eradicate poverty through stable and well-paid jobs.
- Encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
- Improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production
- Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization
About 2.6 billion people in the developing world are facing difficulties in accessing electricity full time.

Some 2.5 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation.

An estimated 1-1.5 billion people do not have access to reliable phone services.

For many African countries, particularly the lower-income countries, the existing constraints regarding infrastructure affect firm productivity by around 40 per cent.

Manufacturing is an important employer accounting for around 16% of the world’s workforce.

HOW?

Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries.

WORLD NOW

Access to information and communications technology significantly increased.

Universal and affordable access to the Internet provided in least developed countries.

Quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure developed, including regional and trans-border infrastructure.

Industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product significantly raised, in line with national circumstances, and its share in least developed countries doubled.

Access to financial service of small-scale industrial and other enterprises increased, in particular in developing countries.

Infrastructure upgraded and industries retrofitted in order to make them sustainable.

The number of research and development workers increased per 1 million people.
Reduce inequality within and among countries

- Eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices
- Promoting appropriate legislation, policies and activities.
- Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries

HOW?

- On average - and taking into account population size - income inequality increased by 11 per cent in developing countries between 1990 and 2010
- Evidence from developing countries shows that children in the poorest 20% of the populations are still up to three times more likely to die before their fifth birthday than children in the richest quintiles
- Persons with disabilities are up to five times more likely than average to incur catastrophic health expenditures
- Women in rural areas are still up to three times more likely to die while giving birth than women living in urban centers

The social, economic and political inclusion of all empowered and promoted, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Equal opportunity ensured and inequalities of outcome reduced

Policies adopted, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and greater equality progressively achieved

The regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions improved, and implementation of such regulations strengthened

Enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions ensured

Orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people facilitated

WORLD NOW

WORLD 2030
Half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities

828 million people live in slums and the number keeps rising

The world’s cities occupy just 3% of the Earth’s land, but account for 60-80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions

But the high density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation while reducing resource and energy consumption

Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health

Almost 60% of the world’s population will live in urban areas

Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services ensured for all

Access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems provided for all

Inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries enhanced

The number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters significantly reduced and direct economic losses relative to global GDP caused by disasters substantially decreased

Environmental impact of cities significantly reduced

Universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces provided

A comprehensive risk management of natural disasters achieved at all levels

HOW?

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage

Improve road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Pay special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Each year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted
- If people worldwide switched to energy efficient lightbulbs, the world would save $120 billion annually
- Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles
- More than 1 billion people still do not have access to fresh water
- Households consume 29 per cent of global energy and consequently contribute to 21 per cent of resultant CO2 emissions

HOW?

- Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- Develop and implementing tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- Restructure taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts
- Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production implemented, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

- The sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources achieved
- Global food waste halved, both per capita and at the retail and consumer levels, food losses along production and supply chains reduced, including post-harvest losses
- The environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle achieved in accordance with agreed international frameworks
- The release of chemicals into the water, air and soil significantly reduced in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- Waste generation substantially reduced
- Ensured that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- Inefficient fossil fuel subsidies reduced to a reasonable level
In last 26 years global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) have increased by almost 50%

The greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving climate change and continue to rise; they are now at their highest levels in history

Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and sea level has risen

From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm

The world's average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century and is likely to surpass 3 degrees Celsius this century; the poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most

Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters strengthened in all countries

Climate change measures integrated into national policies, strategies and planning

Education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning improved

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries

Integrate climate change measures into national and local policies

Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

HOW?

- Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- Take actions to rebuild damaged marine and coastal ecosystems
- Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing
- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS

WORLD NOW

- Oceans cover three quarters of the Earth’s surface, contain 97 per cent of the Earth’s water, and represent 99 per cent of the living space on the planet by volume
- Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods
- Marine fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people
- Subsidies for fishing are contributing to the rapid depletion of many fish species and are preventing efforts to save and restore global fisheries and related jobs
- The amount of waste that people have put into the oceans is huge - 13,000 pieces of plastic litter on every square kilometer of ocean

WORLD 2030

- Marine pollution of all kinds prevented and significantly reduced
- Certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing prohibited
- Subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing eliminated
- Economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries increased from the sustainable use of marine resources
Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

HOW?

- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats
- Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management
More than 10 million people are stateless

Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some $1.26 trillion for developing countries per year

The rate of children leaving primary school in conflict-affected countries reached 50 per cent in 2011, which accounts for 28.5 million children

The institutions most affected by corruption are the judiciary and police

All forms of violence and related death rates everywhere significantly reduced

Abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children ended

Legal identity for all provided, including birth registration

Illicit financial and arms flows significantly reduced, the recovery and return of stolen assets strengthened and all forms of organized crime combated

Corruption and bribery in all their forms substantially reduced

Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making ensured at all levels

Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

» Official development assistance stood at $135.2 billion in 2014, the highest level ever recorded

» Around 79% of imports from developing countries enter developed countries duty-free

» The debt burden on developing countries remains stable at about 3% of export revenue

» The number of Internet users in Africa almost doubled in the past four years

» Some 30% of the world’s youth are digital natives, active online for at least five years

» More than four billion people do not use the Internet, and 90% of them are from the developing world

Partnerships between more areas improved and established:

» Finance:
  Additional financial resources for developing countries mobilized from multiple sources; investment in the least developed countries improved

» Technology:
  Mechanisms for capacity building established in the least developed countries in the fields of science, technology and innovation

» Capacity building:
  Multilateral partnerships that mobilize and promote knowledge, expertise, technology and funding strengthened

» Data, monitoring and accountability:
  The availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts significantly increased

» Trade:
  The exports of developing countries significantly increased and share of global exports in the least developed countries doubled

» Systemic issues:
  Policy coherence for sustainable development enhanced

HOW?

» Help developing countries to reach long-term debt sustainability through:
  1. Coordinated policies aimed at preserving the way of debt financing;
  2. Writing off the debts;
  3. Restructuring debts appropriately;

» Promote coordination within existing mechanisms, especially at the level of the United Nations

» Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization

» Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships

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  Policy coherence for sustainable development enhanced
This is an ambitious plan, but not impossible. On the contrary. Besides operational activities that need to be undertaken, both at the level of local communities and at that of the states, governments and civil society, individuals are essential to a better world we all strive for, along with the way they treat other people and the environment they live in.

If you want to become involved in the implementation of Global Sustainable Development Goals, please spread the word and tell your friends and family about it.

www.un.org/me/agenda2030

Because a better world concerns all of us.