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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17: PARTNERSHIPS





# INTRODUCTION

The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation. Official Development Assistance remained steady but below target, at US\$147 billion in 2017. While humanitarian crises brought on by conflict and natural disasters continue to demand more financial resources and aid. Many countries also require Official Development Assistance to encourage growth and trade.

The world is more interconnected than ever. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed, is vital for sustainable growth and development.

The goals aim to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation by supporting national plans to achieve the targets. Promoting international trade, and helping developing countries increase their exports is all part of achieving a universal rules-based and equitable trading system that is fair and open and benefits all.

# TARGET

Goal 17 stresses on the need to improve the data and statistical systems to generate better data for sustainable development.

The National Indicator Framework is a big step in compiling a considerable set of data points – with 100 indicators, which will be used at the national level to monitor the progress towards sustainable development.

NITI Aayog and MoSPI are working closely with the States/ UTs in developing their own State and District Indicator Frameworks to spur district-wise competition and accelerate the progress in SDG localisation. State Dashboards also are being developed and used at the national and State/ UT levels.

Furthermore, in engagements with the civil society, the need of citizen-generated data is being pursued. Efforts are underway to explore the possibilities of using them in monitoring the progress towards SDGs.



# PORTANCE

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These 17 ambitious goals and the complex challenges they seek to address fit neither neatly into demarcated sectors, nor national borders.

Climate change is global, and businesses are just as important to fighting it as governments. Innovation can't happen without universities and scientists, and certainly not without exchange of knowledge across continents. Gender equality is as much about communities as it is about legal instruments.

If our epidemics are global, their solutions are too. Inclusive partnerships built upon a shared vision and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.



# THE INDIAN

NITI Aayog strives to realise such partnerships. Through its close collaboration with the State/ UT governments and creating platforms where the States/ UTs come together to discuss SDGs, NITI Aayog develops strong inter-government partnerships.

These promote knowledge exchange and facilitate the sharing of good practices. The consultations with the society organised by NITI Aayog are avenues where the voices of the vulnerable are echoed, and plans are drawn to address them. NITI Aayog's engagements with the private sector and industry bodies help propagate messages of sustainable and responsible business practices.

The UN system in India has been a close partner of the governments and civil society since the inception of SDG adoption, implementation, and monitoring in the country.



The idea behind these efforts is to cultivate and disseminate the principles of leaving no one behind and shared responsibilities to ensure a sustainable future.

Apart from the initiatives driven by NITI Aayog, there are numerous ways in which the country is making progress towards the targets set under SDG 17. A decent rate of economic growth and tax collection are essential for generating resources for sustainable development.

Every year between 2015-16 and 2018-19, the Indian economy has grown at rates between 6.8 per cent and 7.3 per cent. Gross tax revenue as a proportion of GDP has grown at rates between 10.6 per cent and 12.1 per cent during the same period. These figures indicate the growth in financial capabilities to fund sustainable development initiatives.



## THE CHALLENGE

This is the challenge that brings our efforts on all the other 16 goals together. An ambitious and interconnected global development agenda requires a new global partnership, this includes financing development, connecting people through information technology networks, international trade flows, and strengthening data collection and analysis.

Even as the world comes together to unite for global development, in 2018, official development assistance stood at USD 153 billion, a small decrease of 0.6% from 2016 in real terms – only five OECD-DAC countries met the UN target of providing official development assistance to the tune of 0.7% of their gross national income in 2018.

People around the world come closer together through physical and digital networks – well over half of the world's population (more than 4 billion user) is now online, with the latest data showing that nearly a quarter of a billion new users came online for the first time in 2017.



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While much progress has been achieved, challenges remain.

The rate of economic growth must be maintained, in a weak global economic climate, to carry forward further the country's ambitious sustainable development agenda.

Technology should reach the furthest behind for ensuring that no one is left behind in claiming the fruits of development.

The frequency of data collection must improve, at the same time collecting data in a broader set of indicators which is absolutely essential for a more comprehensive SDG monitoring.

Innovative tools to assess the gap in financial resources required to meet the targets on time and instruments to fill the gap must be derived

# CONCLUSION

In the area of international cooperation, India has played a leading role. The country is a staunch supporter of South-South Cooperation. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund, set up in 2017, is aimed at assisting, especially the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States in their sustainable development initiatives.

Access to technology is a crucial component under Goal 17. One of the indicators of technology access is the number of internet subscribers. India currently has over 500 million internet subscribers, including over 100 million users in the rural areas, and has registered growth since 2015. This has enabled expanding access of the population to an array of digital public, financial, and commercial services.

Hence, there is a lot of potential for India to achieve this goal and utilize its opportunities to its maximum efficiency. With the current entrepreneurs taking up major business ideas and promotions, India can not only definitely bring a change in its performance.



## WAY FORWARD

Localization of SDGs is at the core of India's SDG implementation and monitoring strategy. In the federal governance structure, the States play a pivotal role in designing, executing, and monitoring development policies and interventions.

Therefore, States and UTs are the key drivers of the SDGs, while NITI Aayog and the central ministries collaborate with them in this endeavor.

It is of paramount importance that the wide range of initiatives to implement and localize the SDGs being taken by the State governments and UTs, finds a mention below:-



**Awareness development on **SDGs****

**Preparing Vision Documents and action plans to guide their efforts on the **SDGs****

**Aligning local development plans with **SDGs****

**Identifying the State-specific indicators for monitoring of the **SDGs****

**Preparing capacity building resources and tools**

**Aligning the State budgets with the **SDGs****

**Building partnerships**

Following these points India can work towards a better tomorrow. NITI Aayog and all of us should strive to be catalysts, enablers and facilitators to ensure that the implementation process moves on a fast track towards the full achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.