

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

People, Planet, Prosperity

What are the SDGs?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals that United Nations (UN) member states will use to frame their policies over the next 15 years **to promote peace, prosperity and environmental protection**. The SDGs follow—and expand on—the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments at the turn of the millennium, and are due to expire at the end of this year.

Why do we need a new set of global goals?

While the MDGs have provided a focal point for governments on which to hinge their policies and overseas aid programmes, their impact has arguably been limited in a number of areas.

According to the World Bank, **1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty and over 900 million**—particularly women and young people—**suffer from chronic hunger**. Meanwhile, global population is set to rise to 9.5 billion by 2050 raising a range of environmental and social challenges.

How are the SDGs different?

The new SDGs take **a more holistic approach towards global development** by: (i) seeking to address some of the root causes of poverty; (ii) establishing an expanded set of goals and objectives (such as on human rights, gender and climate); and (iii) defining frameworks to support effective implementation.

The UN conducted the largest consultation programme among governments, business and civil society in its history to inform what the SDGs should include. ICC played a leading role in these global consultations as the official business focal point at the UN negotiations and as Coordinator of the Global Business Alliance for Post 2015.

17 new “Global Goals”

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, will be launched by 193 Heads of State attending the UN Summit in New York from 25-27 September. The **goals range from ending extreme poverty and hunger through to tackling climate change**. Within the SDGs are 169 targets. A global measurement architecture with some 120 associated indicators—which will set out specific deliverables and measure progress—is being developed. The SDGs will enter into force on 1 January 2016 and will apply through to the end of 2030.

Funding the Goals: the trillion-dollar question

One UN study has placed **the cost of financing implementation of the goals at \$8-10 trillion**. The recent Third UN Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa agreed a comprehensive financing package to support the implementation of the SDGs.

In addition to government funding, the new agreement places a **significant focus on mobilizing private sector resources**—including through “innovative” public-private partnerships.

Increasing focus on the private sector...

Engagement of the private sector will be central to the success of the SDGs. In addition to the need to mobilize private sector capital, the new Goals place **an emphasis on promoting trade as an engine of growth and encourage companies to adopt sustainable business models**. It has been acknowledged that the private sector will have an important role to play in collecting data to measure progress against the SDG targets/indicators.

ICC's new **Business Charter for Sustainable Development was launched in New York in June** with the express aim of enabling companies to contribute to implementing the SDGs.

The launch of the Goals—Project Everyone

Around the SDG Summit a new campaign, Project Everyone, will be launched to raise awareness of the new goals. This campaign is being led by film director Richard Curtis and has already attracted support from leading businesses and well-known celebrities. ICC will be supporting this outreach to further engage the international business community.