

# Connecting Community Engagement to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals



## Facilitators:

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# The United Nations (UN)

- ☀ International organization of 193 sovereign states founded in June 1945 (ratified Oct. 24, 1945) to ensure that there were no more world wars
- ☀ Maintains international peace and security
- ☀ Promotes social progress, better living standards, human rights and freedoms



# UN Headquarters / Locations



**Also locations in:**

**Geneva,  
Switzerland  
(1966)**

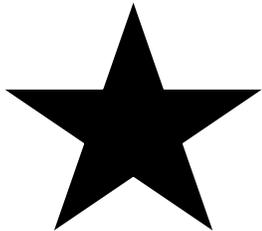
**Vienna, Austria  
(1979)**

**Nairobi,  
Kenya (1996)**

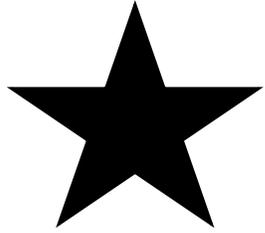
**United Nations Headquarters Complex in New York City (1948)**

# Purposes of the United Nations

1. “To **maintain international peace and security**, . . . take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace . . .”
2. To **develop friendly relations among nations** based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.
3. “To **achieve international cooperation** in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting . . . human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”
4. To **be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations** in the attainment of these common ends.



# 2000–2015: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

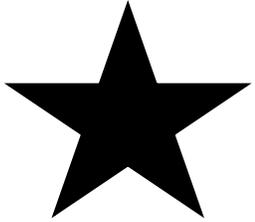


Similar to a Strategic Plan, the MDGs were implemented in 129 countries to reduce poverty, promote good governance, address crises, and preserve the environment:

1. To eradicate [extreme poverty](#) and [hunger](#)
2. To achieve [universal primary education](#)
3. To promote [gender equality](#) and empower women
4. To reduce [child mortality](#)
5. To improve [maternal health](#)
6. To combat [HIV/AIDS](#), [malaria](#), and other diseases
7. To ensure [environmental sustainability](#)
8. To develop a [global partnership](#) for development

Achievements were impressive in some areas, yet spotty in others due to a variety of reasons including lack of grassroots input (especially from the Global South) and a lack of funding.

# 2015–2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The Post-2015 development agenda and SDG process was an outcome from the Rio+20 conference (June 2012).

Many discussions, proposals, and meetings were held to develop the Post-2015 agenda:

[Meeting of High-level Political Forum](#) (July 2014)

[Report of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing](#) (2014)

[Proposed Sustainable Development Goals, formulated by the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (August 2014)

[Report of Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development](#) (November 2014)

[Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda](#) (December 2014)

“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted by all 193 nation-states (September 2015).

**“Behind the Scenes of the  
UN General Assembly”**

September 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvKpnRPosek>

## IDEA:

What if we aligned our efforts with this Global Strategic Plan (the SDGs) between now & 2030?

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals>

## **Links to More Information about the SDGs:**

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Click on each goal to find Progress/Information and Targets/Indicators.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

The annual High-level Political Forum is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of progress toward the 2030 SDGs.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdination/hesi>

The UN's Higher Education Sustainability Initiative provides an interface among HE institutions, science, and policymaking.

<https://www.worldwewant2030.org/>

Learn about and visualize the SDGs, give feedback, and share visions of success.

<http://ysa.org/briefing/youth-action-guide-on-the-sdgs/>

Blogs and examples for youth. The UN defines youth as ages 18-35.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & PACIFIC EDITION

# GETTING STARTED WITH THE SDGS IN UNIVERSITIES

A GUIDE FOR UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, AND THE ACADEMIC SECTOR



IN COLLABORATION WITH

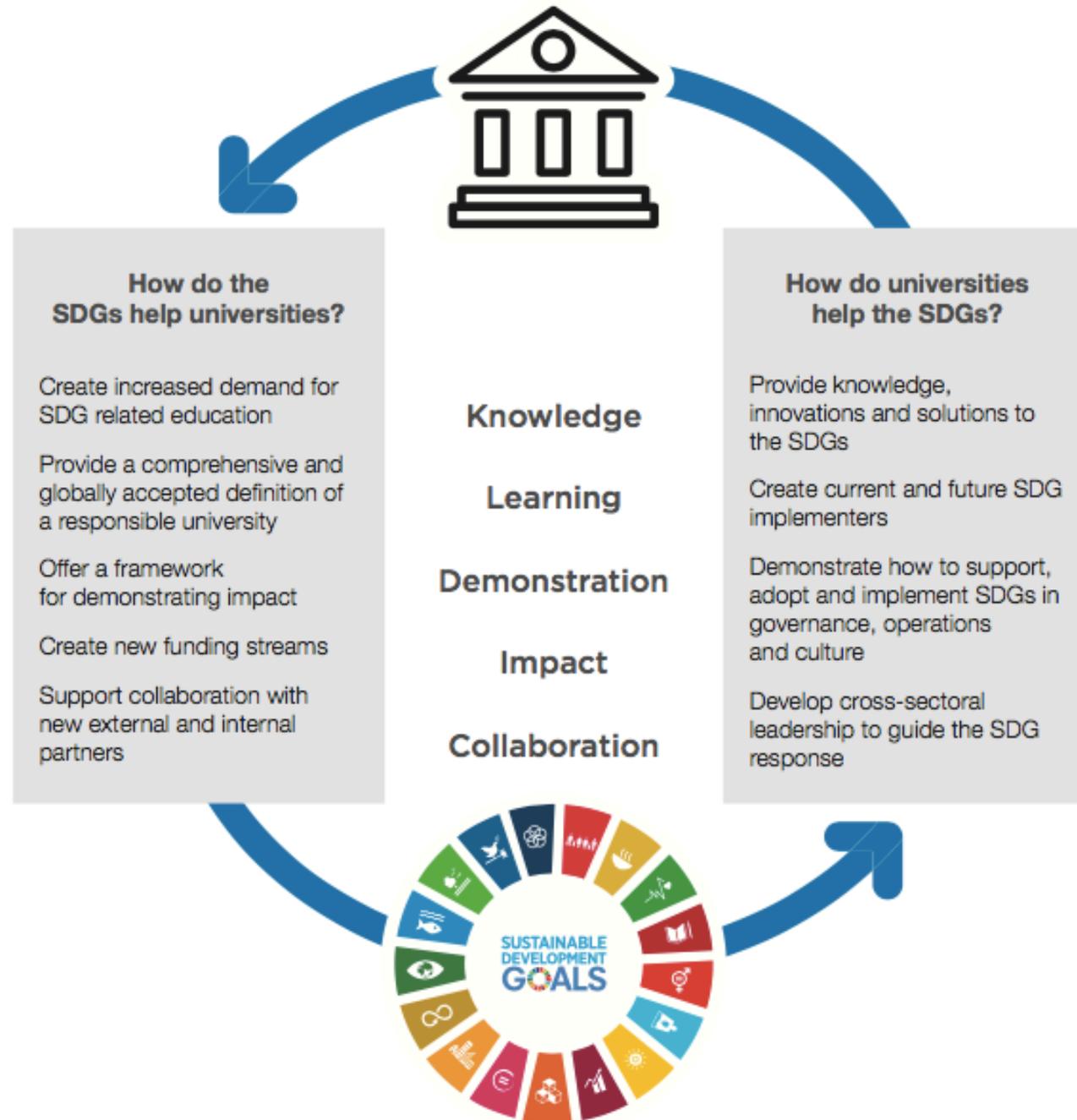


## Australia, New Zealand, & Pacific edition (2017)

## Ideas for college and university programming related to SDGs

## Ask us for a PDF

Figure 1: The case for university engagement in the SDGs



# Possible Levels of Engagement

- Projects and programs: student services, activities, educating people about the SDGs
- Classroom: community-based research, service learning, mapping your college or university's efforts
- Study-Away: colleges/universities in other countries are leading the way with SDG education, collaborate on & integrate ideas and resources
- Institutional: Higher Education Sustainability Initiative

# Discussion

- How do global perspectives connect to your campus's vision and values (global learning outcomes, strategic plan, Civic Action Plan, etc.)?
- How might you envision integrating SDGs into your programming or your classes?
- With whom will you collaborate (on and off campus)?



# Thank you!

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