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UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

The United Nations, as a governing body, created the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This paper outlines the 17 goals laid out by this agenda, which focus on “end[ing] poverty, protect[ing] the planet, and improv[ing] the lives of everyone, everywhere.”¹ Achieving these goals includes assuring “gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” and acknowledging “human rights of all.”² This agenda will be implemented by 2030 through global partnership, international public finance, individual countries' budgets, and the UN system. This report will discuss the goals and the U.S. international and national efforts to achieve them. We acknowledge that the focus of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is on developed countries providing aid such as reparations for losses and damages to developing countries.

The United Nations

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is led by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), which is based within the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was signed by all member states of the United Nations (UN) at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September of 2015, officially coming into force on January 1, 2016. Each year following its implementation, the UN Secretary General provides a general updated progress report, along with a more extensive Global Sustainable Development Report written every four years. Currently, there are extensive reports for 2019 and 2023.³ Member states may also provide their own voluntary national review to show where progress has been made.⁴

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not legally binding; they rely on agreements from all UN Member States to create their own framework for implementation.⁵ As a member

¹ United Nations, “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development,” accessed October 19, 2023, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals#>.

² United Nations, “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development.”

³ United Nations, “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development.”

⁴ UN Human Rights Office, “Voluntary National Reviews | OHCHR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” [https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs/voluntary-national-reviews#:~:text=Voluntary%20National%20Review%20\(VNR\)%20is,to%20leave%20no%20one%20behind](https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs/voluntary-national-reviews#:~:text=Voluntary%20National%20Review%20(VNR)%20is,to%20leave%20no%20one%20behind)

⁵ United Nations, “United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 19, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda->

state of the UN, the United States participates in the UN's General Assembly. All resolutions and decisions made by the general assembly are recommendations that rely on each member state to implement independently.⁶

Goals

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere⁷

The UN 2030 Sustainable Agenda aims to cut poverty in half for all people according to individual countries' definitions of poverty. There will be nationally implemented "social protection systems and measures for all."⁸ This includes poverty floors and protection for the poor and disadvantaged. The agenda aims to give equal access to economic resources to all and protect the poor from facing the disproportionate effects of climate-related events. Lastly, it will mobilize and reallocate resources from developed countries to developing countries. To achieve these poverty-eradicating goals, countries will need to develop policies that support this accelerated timeline.⁹

Extreme poverty is defined as "people living on less than \$2.15 a day" at 2017 purchasing power parity.¹⁰ The United States helps alleviate individuals and communities living in extreme poverty across the world. The United States pledged \$2.76 billion in 2022 to help the world's most vulnerable populations escape poverty.¹¹ This will help 47 countries get more U.S. aid. The U.S. also has a Feed the Future initiative, which operates in 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.¹² This initiative aims to rid developing countries of aid dependence by promoting agricultural growth, sustainable food systems, and families' health. It provides these countries with innovative agricultural information to promote growth at home. The result of this agricultural growth is \$17.9 billion in generated revenue from the agriculture sector in these developing countries. The Feed the Future initiative has brought 23.4 million individuals above the poverty line since the start of its work.¹³

retired/#:~:text=On%201%20January%202016%2C%20the,Summit%20%E2%80%94%20officially%20came%20into%20force.

⁶ Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, "The GA Handbook, A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly," 2017, https://research.un.org/ld.php?content_id=36397685

⁷ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," Assessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁸ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," Assessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁹ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda."

¹⁰ United Nations, "Goal 1: Ending Poverty in all Forms Everywhere," Assessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

¹¹ U.S. Agency for International Development, "The United States Announces New Commitments to Respond to the Global Food Security Crisis," accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-28-2022-united-states-announces-new-commitments-respond-global-food-security-crisis>

¹² Feed the Future, "Our Impact," accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.feedthefuture.gov>

¹³ Feed the Future, "Our Impact."

As of 2022, the poverty rate in the United States is 11.5% “with 37.9 million people in poverty.”¹⁴ The United States has programs to eliminate poverty in its boundaries.¹⁵ One of these programs is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.¹⁶ It provides families in the U.S. greater financial support through their own state government. This includes funds for food, housing, home energy, childcare, and job training. There are benefit locators on the United States government website that can get you access to assistance in these areas:

1. Agricultural and environmental sustainability
2. American Indian and Alaska Native
3. Disaster relief
4. Family and children services
5. Education and training
6. Employment and career development
7. Financial assistance
8. Food and nutrition
9. Grants
10. Healthcare and medical assistance
11. Housing and Public Utilities
12. Immigration and refugee assistance
13. Loans
14. Military
15. Social security and retirement
16. Life events¹⁷

These efforts are in line with goal number one set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*¹⁸

The UN 2030 Sustainable Agenda aims to ensure access to “safe, nutritious, and sufficient”¹⁹ food all year for everyone. This includes the elimination of malnutrition, namely access to adequate nutritional needs for women throughout the developmental stages. For economic prosperity, this agenda will double the agricultural earnings of small-scale producers, implement “resilient agricultural practices,”²⁰ and preserve the “diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and

¹⁴ United States Census Bureau, “Poverty in the United States: 2022,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.html>

¹⁵ United States Census Bureau, “Poverty in the United States: 2022.”

¹⁶ United States Government, “Welfare Benefits or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/welfare-benefits>

¹⁷ Benefits Gov, “Browse by Category,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.benefits.gov/categories>

¹⁸ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹⁹ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.”

²⁰ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.”

farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species”²¹ through modern and traditional knowledge. This agenda will increase investment in agriculture, correct trade disparities in agricultural markets, and limit food prices’ rapid exacerbation.²²

The United States helps alleviate food insecurity, alleviate hunger, promote nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture globally. The Feed the Future initiative also helps promote nutrition in countries where the malnutrition rate is high.²³ This focuses on improving health systems so people can have equitable access to safe and affordable food. Feed the Future has helped prevent 3.4 million children²⁴ from stunted growths because of malnutrition. It has also helped 5.2 million families²⁵ not go hungry since the start of its work.²⁶

The United States helps alleviate food insecurity, hunger, promote nutrition, and sustainable agriculture at home as well. The U.S. provides emergency food assistance for people who urgently need help.²⁷ Americans can call a hotline through the U.S. Drug Administration or find a local food pantry through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development agency.²⁸ Americans can apply for food stamps for long-term access to food through a resource called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).²⁹ Additionally, there are food programs for children at school, including free and reduced-price meals provided through programs such as the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Special Milk Program.³⁰ These programs help provide greater access to nutritious food during school and summer break to children in low-income families. For senior citizens, there are two larger programs that can help alleviate financial burdens. One is the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, which provides coupons for fresh vegetables, fruits, and herbs.³¹ The other is the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which delivers a monthly healthy food box that can be picked up at local agencies.³² There are eligibility requirements for those two as well. Lastly, if you are a registered member of a Native American tribe, you may be eligible for monthly healthy food packages.³³

²¹ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.”

²² USA Gov, “How to get emergency food now,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/emergency-food-assistance>

²³ Feed the Future, “Our Mission,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.feedthefuture.gov>

²⁴ Feed the Future, “Our Impact,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.feedthefuture.gov>

²⁵ Feed the Future, “Our Impact.”

²⁶ Feed the Future, “Our Mission,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.feedthefuture.gov>

²⁷ U.S. Government, “How to get emergency food now,” accessed October 23, 2023,

<https://www.usa.gov/emergency-food-assistance>

²⁸ U.S. Government, “How to apply for food stamps (SNAP Benefits) and check your balance,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/food-assistance>

²⁹ U.S. Government, “Get food assistance with the WIC program,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/food-assistance>

³⁰ U.S. Government, “School meals and food programs for children,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/school-meals>

³¹ U.S. Government, “Food assistance programs for older adults,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/senior-food-programs>

³² U.S. Government, “Food assistance programs for older adults.”

³³ U.S. Government, “Food assistance for Native Americans,” accessed December 18, 2023, <https://www.usa.gov/native-american-food-programs>

These efforts are in line with goal number two set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages³⁴

The UN 2030 Sustainable Agenda aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio and end premature deaths of newborns and children. Regarding global diseases, this agenda envisions the end of the global epidemic of communicable diseases and reducing premature death from non-communicable diseases. This agenda also hopes to bolster the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, limit health concerns from hazardous contamination, and achieve universal health coverage. Lastly, the agenda sets out the goal for management of global health risks and preventions including increased vaccination coverage, increased tobacco control, and training for developed countries healthcare systems.³⁵

The United States is committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people of all ages across the globe. The U.S. provides aid and resources for countries experiencing health crises. These programs include the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has provided funding for a cure for AIDS and resources to combat this epidemic.³⁶ Additionally, the U.S. Agency for International Development has provided 15 years of support for neglected tropical diseases, which include “several parasitic viral, bacterial, fungal, and non-communicable diseases that cause substantial illness for more than one billion people globally.”³⁷ This problem has attacked full communities, which inhibits economic prosperity and the ability of children to thrive. Lastly, the U.S. has a Global Health Security Strategy, which helps countries assess, attack, and prevent disease outbreaks across the world.³⁸

The United States is committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all within its territories. Healthy People 2030 is the fifth edition of the Healthy People initiative, which started in 1980.³⁹ This initiative aims to improve the most critical public health priorities and challenges within the 659 core objectives⁴⁰ set out in this plan. These objectives are categorized into health conditions, health behaviors, populations, settings and systems, and social determinants of health.

³⁴ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

³⁵ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.”

³⁶ HIV Gov, “U.S. Government Global HIV/AIDS Activities,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/pepfar-global-aids/us-government-global-aids-activities/>

³⁷ USAID, “Neglected Tropical Diseases,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/neglected-tropical-diseases>

³⁸ The Whitehouse, “Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Expansion of Global Health Security Partnerships and Releases Annual Progress Report,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/29/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-expansion-of-global-health-security-partnerships-and-releases-annual-progress-report/>

³⁹ Health.gov, “Healthy People 2030,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://health.gov/healthypeople>

⁴⁰ Health. Gov, “Healthy People Questions and Answers,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://health.gov/our-work/national-health-initiatives/healthy-people/healthy-people-2030/questions-answers#q1>

These efforts are in line with goal number three set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*⁴¹

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to provide every child with free primary and secondary education, including access to pre-primary education development. It seeks to have equal access to higher education (i.e., university), increase populations of skilled workers, and eliminate gender disparities in education. There is an emphasis on achieving knowledge to participate in society at a higher level, requiring global citizenship, effective learners and teachers, and available scholarships to disadvantaged students.⁴²

The United States is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all globally. The U.S. released the U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education for fiscal years 2019-2023. This strategy funds international education so individuals can have equal opportunity to become productive members of society.⁴³ It provided more than 24 million children and youth in over 50 countries with access to education.⁴⁴ The U.S. also showed its recognition of the need for international cooperation to further education interests through a joint statement with the department of education titled “A Renewed U.S. Commitment to International Education.”⁴⁵

The United States is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all at home. The 2022, the U.S. Department of Education Equity Plan was focused on building education back better than 2020, as COVID-19 has hindered education efforts nationally.⁴⁶ This included the focus of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This act invested \$122 billion in schools to help them “reopen, remain open, and address the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students.”⁴⁷ Lastly, the American Rescue Plan funded \$3 million⁴⁸ into support for children with disabilities that suffered more because of the pandemic, specifically because of the impact on in-person learning.⁴⁹

⁴¹ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁴² United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.”

⁴³ USAID, “U.S. Government Education Strategy,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/us-government-education-strategy>

⁴⁴ USAID, “Education,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/education>

⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, “A Renewed U.S. Commitment to International Education,” accessed October 23, 2023, https://educationusa.state.gov/sites/default/files/intl_ed_joint_statement.pdf

⁴⁶ United States Department of Education, “2022 Agency Equity Plan related to Executive Order 13985,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/equity/2022-equity-plan.pdf>

⁴⁷ United States Department of Education, “2022 Agency Equity Plan related to Executive Order 13985.”

⁴⁸ United States Department of Education, “2022 Agency Equity Plan related to Executive Order 13985.”

⁴⁹ United States Department of Education, “2022 Agency Equity Plan related to Executive Order 13985.”

These efforts are in line with goal number four set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*⁵⁰

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to end all discrimination and violence against women. This includes eliminating exploitation, guaranteeing autonomy, and recognizing the importance of domestic work. Women should have the tools necessary to participate at the highest levels of society, understand reproductive health, and have equal rights to economic resources. This agenda wants to provide women with equality and empowerment.⁵¹

The United States aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls internationally. The U.S. passed a law, The Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018, ensuring that international development is gender-sensitive.⁵² The U.S. also has the National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, which aims to “improve economic security, prevent and respond to gender-based violence, increase access to healthcare, and advance democracy.”⁵³ The U.S. also enacted the United States Strategy on Global Women’s Economic security,⁵⁴ which aims to achieve equality of opportunity in economic growth and global prosperity.⁵⁵

The United States aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls within its own territory. The National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality⁵⁶ is a bilateral strategy that is also in effect within the U.S. The Healthy People 2030 agenda also aims to address women’s specific needs, such as pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause⁵⁷ to achieve health care equity for all. The U.S. also has an Office on Women’s Health⁵⁸ through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

These efforts are in line with goal number five set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

⁵⁰ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023,

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁵¹ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.”

⁵² The White House, “National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality,” accessed October 23, 2023,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/National-Strategy-on-Gender-Equity-and-Equality.pdf>

⁵³ The White House, “Fact Sheet: National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality,” accessed October 23, 2023,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/22/fact-sheet-national-strategy-on-gender-equity-and-equality/>

⁵⁴ The White House, “Fact Sheet: National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality.”

⁵⁵ The White House, “Fact Sheet: National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality.”

⁵⁶ The White House, “National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality,” accessed October 23, 2023,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/National-Strategy-on-Gender-Equity-and-Equality.pdf>

⁵⁷ Health. Gov, “Women,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/women>

⁵⁸ Health. Gov, “Women.”

*Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*⁵⁹

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to achieve universally safe drinking water, regardless of geographic location. This includes the need to reduce water pollution, increase water efficiency, protect waterways, expand international cooperation, especially for international water, and bolster local communities' resources to protect their water. Lastly, sanitation will be equitable globally, especially for women.

The United States aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all internationally. The U.S. Agency for International Development has helped 64.9 million people get access to reliable drinking water sources since 2008, 50.8 million people get access to reliable sanitation resources since 2008 and has generated \$456 million in more funding for water and sanitation since 2008 through the 2022 U.S. Global Water Strategy. The U.S. Agency for International Development also pledged a \$1.2 billion investment for international water security and sanitation in 2022.⁶⁰

The United States aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all nationally. The Biden-Harris administration is building climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure,⁶¹ in efforts to replace lead pipes and deliver safe drinking water to families and children, and investing billions of dollars through the Infrastructure Law, all increasing access to safe sanitation and clean water.⁶² Additionally, Justice40 is a federal initiative that directs 40% of federal investments, including clean water, to disadvantaged communities facing the disproportionate effects of pollution.⁶³

These efforts are in line with goal number six set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all*⁶⁴

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to ensure universal access to all energy services. The agenda suggests increasing the amount of renewable energy in the world and

⁵⁹ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," accessed October 23, 2023.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁶⁰ United States Mission to the United Nations, "Fact Sheet: United States Announces \$49 Billion in Commitments to Global Water Security and Sanitation," accessed October 23, 2023, <https://usun.usmission.gov/fact-sheet-united-states-announces-49-billion-in-commitments-to-global-water-security-and-sanitation/>

⁶¹ United States Mission to the United Nations, "Fact Sheet: United States Announces \$49 Billion in Commitments to Global Water Security and Sanitation."

⁶² United States Mission to the United Nations, "Fact Sheet: United States Announces \$49 Billion in Commitments to Global Water Security and Sanitation."

⁶³ United States Mission to the United Nations, "Fact Sheet: United States Announces \$49 Billion in Commitments to Global Water Security and Sanitation."

⁶⁴ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," accessed October 23, 2023,

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

improving the rate of energy efficiency by double its current potential.⁶⁵ These actions will decrease the amount of CO₂ entering the atmosphere, which is a stressed result the UN agenda. This goal focuses on world cooperation to make access to clean energy possible. It can be achieved through research, technology, and willing governmental bodies. The main change the agenda emphasizes is a reduction in non-renewable energies with more access to energy for developing countries.⁶⁶

The U.S. aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. They have achieved access to energy, clean fuels, and clean cooking technology for the majority of their population.⁶⁷ The U.S. has also seen a slight decrease in CO₂ “emissions from fuel combustion per total electricity output.”⁶⁸ As of 2022, the U.S. still primarily uses natural gas and petroleum for energy and fuel usage; however, renewable energy use has increased, reaching its highest consumption and production in 2022 at 13% of the U.S. total energy production.⁶⁹

The U.S. aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. They have many commitments in line with this goal, for example, the Development Finance Corporation investments in renewable energy projects, USAID’s Climate Strategy and Net Zero World. Various agencies such as The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Energy and the Department of state make efforts towards this goal.⁷⁰ More recently the USAID has worked to help produce about 60 new renewable energy projects that will help reduce CO₂ emissions in Kazakhstan by about 11 million tons.⁷¹

These efforts are in line with goal number seven set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

⁶⁵ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015, accessed December 29, 2023, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

⁶⁶ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.

⁶⁷ The World Bank, “Access to electricity (% of population) – United States,” accessed October 20, 2023, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?locations=US>; World Health Organization, “Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies for cooking (%)” accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/gho-phe-primary-reliance-on-clean-fuels-and-technologies-proportion>.

⁶⁸ Energy Information Administration, “Electricity,” accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.eia.gov/international/data/world/electricity/electricity-generation>.

⁶⁹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, “U.S. Energy Facts Explained,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/>

⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State, “Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,” 2022, accessed December 29, 2023, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/US-Contributions-to-17-Sustainable-Development-Goals-by-2030-2022-Report.pdf>.

⁷¹ U.S. Agency For International Development, “Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for International Development,” accessed October 19, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/sdgs/sdg7>

*Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all*⁷²

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims for higher levels of economic productivity through viable separate economic growth from environmental harm. To achieve this, the UN sets out to make working conditions, payments, and treatments equal. They also hope to eliminate forced labor and human trafficking of any kind, protect the rights of all workers, and implement policies that promote sustainable tourism. They want to increase access to insurance, banking, and financial services by strengthening domestic financial institutions.

The U.S. promotes sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. The country has seen an increase in median earnings of women and disabled people who are employed full-time. The levels of youth unemployment have fluctuated but in total not really changed.⁷³ The country has seen an increase in households that have been able to open.⁷⁴ In all the country has seen an increase in GDP per capita since 2015.⁷⁵

The United States Agency of International Development supports economic growth through assistance projects, trade policies, and direct engagement. The agency helped provide tens of thousands of families in Peru with job opportunities in the beginning of the 21st century. USAID also developed a capacity building policy that helps support the integration of entrepreneurs in developing countries.⁷⁶

These efforts are in line with goal number eight set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*⁷⁷

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to achieve sustainable and dependable development of infrastructure by 2030. This infrastructure must support economic development and human well-being. The goal emphasizes an increase in access to smaller industries and

⁷² United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁷³ U.S. Government, “U.S. Indicators for The Sustainable Development Goals,” accessed October 19, 2023. <https://sdg.data.gov/decent-jobs-and-economic-growth/>

⁷⁴ The World Bank, “Account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population ages 15+) – United States,” <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FX.OWN.TOTL.ZS?locations=US>.

⁷⁵ The World Bank, “GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$) – United States,” accessed October 20, 2023. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?locations=US>

⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State, “Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.”

⁷⁷ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

enterprises, which could be applicable to Vermont. The UN hopes to upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries through better resource efficiency and more use of clean and environmentally friendly technologies and processes. The agenda recognizes that to achieve this, states need to support and enhance scientific research that deals with upgrading clean technology capabilities. The remaining targets under this goal only pertain to developing countries and enhancing their technological capabilities. While this does not directly affect the United States, as a member of the UN, if they wish to follow the agenda, the U.S. may allocate resources to these developing countries to help them reach these targets.⁷⁸

This goal emphasizes that for countries to achieve sustainable industrialization and innovation, the state needs to prioritize access to technology and the internet. In the United States, as of 2021, 92% of the population has access to the internet, 100% of the population has a mobile-cellular network, and as of 2019, 87% of households have access to the internet at home.⁷⁹ In regard to actual success of sustainable innovation and progress, the US has seen a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions since 2000.⁸⁰

The USAID's Development Innovation Ventures program helps complete the target of research and development in this area by using grant money to test ideas.⁸¹ So, although the U.S. does not meet every target, they are fulfilling some of this goal.⁸² USAID created the Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network Initiative to help advance sustainable infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific region. To help in this area, USAID has helped advance reforms to laws, regulations, and policies that emphasize and implement sustainable infrastructure projects. In 2022 the USAID laid out a 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy that outlined their goals to achieve in this sector.⁸³

These efforts are in line with goal number nine set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

⁷⁸ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

⁷⁹ International Telecommunication Union, "Digital Development Dashboard – United States," accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/Digital-Development.aspx>.

⁸⁰ U.S. Government, "U.S. Indicators for The Sustainable Development Goals," accessed October 19, 2023.
<https://sdg.data.gov/industry-innovation-and-infrastructure/>

⁸¹ U.S. Department of State, "Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."

⁸² U.S. Government, "U.S. Indicators for The Sustainable Development Goals."

⁸³ U.S. Agency For International Development, "Sustainable Development Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for International Development," accessed October 19, 2023,
<https://www.usaid.gov/sdgs/sdg9>

*Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries*⁸⁴

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to reduce inequality around the world which can be done in various ways, addressed in this goal's targets: helping grow the income of the bottom 40% of each nation's population, promoting inclusion of all identity groups around the globe in all aspects of life and reducing the inequality of outcomes. Even still these targets are broad, so the agenda lays out ways to make this possible. By eliminating or amending discriminatory laws, policies, or practices and adopting ones that enhance equality in all sectors of life. Some of these policies could pertain to migration and creating a safe environment for migrants and migration around the globe. The last few of the targets of this goal aim to help developing countries. An economically advanced country, like the United States, would be expected to provide financial help for example, foreign direct investments, to the least developed countries, to help the global north and global south become economically more equal.⁸⁵

The U.S. saw a steady increase in the GINI index, which measures inequality of wealth in a country, as of 2020, however, most likely due to the pandemic, it would then see a drastic decrease. After 2020, the index began slowly building back upward.⁸⁶ As of 2022, women still earned on average less than their male counterparts,⁸⁷ as shown by the GINI Index, and the income between classes and races has spread further as of 2022.⁸⁸

Abroad, USAID helped organize the Equality Movement in the Country of Georgia in 2018, which was aimed at countering workplace discrimination, especially against those in the LGBTQ+ community.⁸⁹ The U.S. has also worked with multilateral partnerships to increase resources toward women in the business sector.⁹⁰

These efforts are in line with goal number 10 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

⁸⁴ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁸⁵ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

⁸⁶ The World Bank, "Gini index - United States," accessed October 20, 2023. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?end=2021&locations=US&start=1990>

⁸⁷ United States Census Bureau, "Income in the United States: 2022," figure 4-5. accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-279.html>

⁸⁸ United States Census Bureau, "Income in the United States: 2022," Figure 1-2. accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-279.html>

⁸⁹ U.S. Agency For International Development, "Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for International Development," accessed October 19, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/sdgs/sdg10>

⁹⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."

*Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable*⁹¹

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to increase housing security, provide sustainable and affordable transportation systems, and improve urbanization efforts all outline ways to achieve goal number eleven. Transportation systems can be improved through an increase in public transit and improving road conditions. Urbanization efforts must keep in mind capacity building through planning and management. By strengthening development planning the UN hoped to see positive support for social, economic, and environmental links between different geographic areas. It calls for efforts to increase the protection of culture and heritage around the world. The goal also hopes to reduce the death rate of people affected by decreases in economic loss caused directly by disasters, weighted by GDP. The last few targets of this goal emphasize environmental concerns, such as paying attention to air pollution and waste management. The agenda emphasizes a need for safe public spaces for all people that are green. By 2020 they hoped to increase their outreach in states and cities implementing this goal.⁹²

The U.S. has seen a slight decrease in the amount of the population living in slums or inadequate housing.⁹³ Since 2011 the U.S. has developed risk minimization plans with the goal of decreasing deaths due to disasters. The U.S. has seen a decrease in particulate matter in cities as well. Other information on domestic alignment could not be found.⁹⁴

Abroad, USAID works to build partnerships to support locally-led development, build legal, policy, and institutional reforms, improve efficiency at affordable prices, and increase education and food security.⁹⁵ USAID has created programs such as The Green Cities Initiative, and the USAID's Urban Policy which works in line with achieving this goal. The US's Association of Southeast Asian Nations Smart Cities Partnership and collaboration with UN-Habitat are also efforts undertaken by the U.S. that relate to the eleventh goal.⁹⁶

These efforts are in line with goal number 11 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

⁹¹ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁹² United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

⁹³ UN Habitat, "Housing, slums and informal settlements." accessed October 20, 2023. <https://data.unhabitat.org/pages/housing-slums-and-informal-settlements>

⁹⁴ Sustainable Development Goals, "U.S. Indicators For The Sustainable Development Goals." accessed October 19, 2023. <https://sdg.data.gov/sustainable-cities-communities/>

⁹⁵ U.S. Agency For International Development, "Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for International Development," accessed October 19, 2023, <https://www.usaid.gov/sdgs/sdg11>

⁹⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."

*Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*⁹⁷

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to combat harmful consumption and production patterns and replace them with more sustainable ones. Using a 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, the agenda hopes to achieve multiple targets. The targets outlined in this goal intend to:⁹⁸

- Reduce global food waste, in both the consumption and production process.
- Reduce wasteful thinking by emphasizing reduction, recycling, and reuse.
- Encourage companies of any size but highly focused on large and transnational, to adopt sustainable practices.
- Promote sustainable public attainment practices that are in line with state policies and priorities.
- Create and secure education about sustainable development around the world.
- Explain away inefficient fossil-fuel substitutes that encourage wasteful consumption.
- And support developing countries so they may reach these targets.⁹⁹

The U.S. has seen a steady increase in consumption patterns over the years, moving in the opposite direction of the goal.¹⁰⁰ For example, the United States is also one of the largest e-waste producers in the world.¹⁰¹ There is no national legislation regulating e-waste in the US, however, various states have created their own legislation.¹⁰² While the U.S. e-waste issue does not meet the goal, not all the U.S.' consumption patterns fail the goal. The United States Department of Agriculture has created the Food is Never Waste Coalition to manage their waste consumption, which falls in line with the goal.¹⁰³ No other data was available on the US's progress, domestically, in line with this goal.¹⁰⁴

One way the U.S. acts internationally that is consistent with this goal, is through Feed the Future, a global hunger and food security initiative. The objective of Feed the Future is to reduce poverty

⁹⁷ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁹⁸ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

⁹⁹ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*.

¹⁰⁰ "U.S. Indicators for The Sustainable Development Goals." accessed October 19, 2023. <https://sdg.data.gov/responsible-consumption-and-production/>

¹⁰¹ Forti V., Baldé C.P., Kuehr R., Bel G., *The Global E-waste Monitor 2020: Quantities, flows and the circular economy potential*, United Nations University (UNU)/United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – co-hosted SCYCLE Programme, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) & International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), Bonn/Geneva/Rotterdam, 2020, p. 115.

¹⁰² Forti V., Baldé C.P., Kuehr R., Bel G., *The Global E-waste Monitor 2020: Quantities, flows and the circular economy potential*, p. 72.

¹⁰³ U.S. Department of State, "Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."

¹⁰⁴ U.S. Government, "U.S. Indicators for The Sustainable Development Goals."

and hunger by developing agricultural spheres in various states. The initiative highlighted it's work in Rwanda working with iron-rich beans as one success of this program.¹⁰⁵

These efforts are in line with goal number 12 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts¹⁰⁶

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to address the overarching goal of fighting climate change by building climate resilience and increasing the strength of domestic environmental policies. There is also a focus on environmental education of the public and institutions to increase mitigation and adaptation in the face of climate change. The UNSDG acknowledges that the leading body on climate change is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and therefore bases goal 13 on their work. This includes the creation of the Green Climate Fund, which aims to provide \$100 billion annually to support developing countries.¹⁰⁷

The United States has taken actions to support this goal, including Presidential Policy Directive 8, which focuses on increased security and resilience through national preparedness, which includes catastrophic natural disasters.¹⁰⁸ President Obama initiated executive orders in 2015, including Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade and the President's Climate Action Plan, which established the Resilience AmeriCorps program.

Internationally, President Obama also launched the Climate-Resilient International Development, aimed at supporting vulnerable countries in sustainable development.¹⁰⁹ President Biden also developed the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience, supporting vulnerable countries in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As of October 2023, the U.S. has

¹⁰⁵ U.S. Agency For International Development. "Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production | Basic Page | U.S. Agency for International Development." accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://www.usaid.gov/sdgs/sdg12>

¹⁰⁶ United Nations. "The Sustainable Development Agenda." accessed October 23, 2023.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹⁰⁷ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

¹⁰⁸ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Presidential Policy Directive / PPD-8: National Preparedness," accessed October 21, 2023. <https://www.dhs.gov/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness#:~:text=Presidential%20Policy%20Directive%208,-March%2030%2C%202011&text=This%20directive%20is%20aimed%20at,pandemics%2C%20and%20catastrophic%20natural%20disasters>

<https://www.dhs.gov/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness#:~:text=Presidential%20Policy%20Directive%208,-March%2030%2C%202011&text=This%20directive%20is%20aimed%20at,pandemics%2C%20and%20catastrophic%20natural%20disasters>

<https://www.dhs.gov/presidential-policy-directive-8-national-preparedness#:~:text=Presidential%20Policy%20Directive%208,-March%2030%2C%202011&text=This%20directive%20is%20aimed%20at,pandemics%2C%20and%20catastrophic%20natural%20disasters>

¹⁰⁹ The White House Office of the Press Secretary, *Executive Order 13667, Climate-Resilient International Development*, September 23, 2014. <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/23/executive-order-climate-resilient-international-development>

improved in all areas of goal 13 but the mobilization of money for the Green Climate Fund.¹¹⁰ Multi-lateral agreements, including the U.S.-EU Global Methane Pledge and the G7 Just Energy Transition Partnerships, have also aligned with goal 13.¹¹¹

These efforts are in line with goal number 13 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development*¹¹²

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans and its resources in goal 14. This will be achieved in part through improved management and protection of marine ecosystems by 2020 and the prevention and reduction of marine pollutants by 2025. They also aim to increase sustainable fishing practices, which include the regulation of fish harvesting, the end of overfishing and illegal fishing practices, and banning certain fisheries subsidies. In addition, this goal aims to increase the scientific knowledge and technology available to developing countries to improve marine conservation.¹¹³ The SDGs also acknowledge the importance of implementing the framework derived from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.¹¹⁴

The U.S. has made a slight improvement in increasing the percentage of sustainable fish stocks and has increased the percentage of marine protected areas in the U.S. to 26% of all territorial waters; however, this data has not been updated since 2017.¹¹⁵

The U.S. also created programs like USAID's Save Our Seas Initiative, Clean Cities Blue Ocean, and NOAA's Marine Debris Program, all of which support the conservation and sustainable use of international waters. Multilateral partnerships based in marine conservation include collaboration at the G7, G20, ASEAN, and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁰ U.S. Government, "Sustainable Development Goals: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://sdg.data.gov/climate-action/>.

¹¹¹ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

¹¹² United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda," accessed October 23, 2023. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹¹³ United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Agenda."

¹¹⁴ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>.

¹¹⁵ U.S. Government, "Sustainable Development Goals: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development," accessed October 21, 2023. <https://sdg.data.gov/life-below-water/>

¹¹⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Report to Congress on How the United States Is Contributing to the Achievement of the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."

These efforts are in line with goal number 14 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

*Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*¹¹⁷

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to conserve and sustainably use all terrestrial ecosystems, including freshwater, forests, mountains, wetlands, and drylands in goal 15. This goal is also referred to as the “Life on Land” goal, setting out to halt deforestation, desertification, and biodiversity loss. They also aim to end the poaching of protected species and apply improved invasive species management practices. The mobilization of finance and resources should also be utilized domestically and provided to developing countries to support sustainable management efforts.¹¹⁸

The U.S. has only reported information on one of these targets, which reports U.S. forested areas as 33.9% of U.S. total land area as of 2015. The available reporting information on U.S. forested areas has not been updated since 2015.¹¹⁹

Internationally in line with the fifteenth goal, USAID helped launch the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge in 2014 in the hope of reducing crime to wildlife and trafficking.¹²⁰ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has collaborated with the UN Environment Programme, and other multilateral agreements have been formed to combat environmental crime.¹²¹

These efforts are in line with goal number 15 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

¹¹⁷ United Nations, “The Sustainable Development Agenda.” accessed October 23, 2023.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹¹⁸ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

¹¹⁹ U.S. Government, “Sustainable Development Goals: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss,” accessed October 21, 2023. <https://sdg.data.gov/life-on-land/>

¹²⁰ United States Agency for International Development, “Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land,” accessed October 23, 2023. <https://www.usaid.gov/sdgs/sdg15>

¹²¹ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

*Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels*¹²²

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to reduce violence, homicide, organized crime and corruption. It emphasizes the importance of promoting non-discriminatory law both nationally and internationally, with a focus on justice for all and sustainable development policies. With this comes the development of effective and accountable institutions and inclusion in the decision-making process. This spans all levels of policy with emphasis on developing nations at a global governance scale. This goal also promotes public access to information and the protection of freedoms.¹²³

To reach this goal, the U.S. has provided statistical information on homicide, human trafficking, and violence rates along with the proportion of registered births and public attitudes towards safety. This information is based on reports and surveys. However, no official legislation has been documented in accordance with these goals under the U.S. SDG page.¹²⁴ The U.S. did initiate a Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable, updated in 2022, which improves access to justice for U.S. citizens in need. This supports the efforts under Goal 16 but is not mentioned on official SDG sites.¹²⁵

Multiple foreign policy programs aligning with the aims of goal 16 have been initiated internationally, including the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability, the U.S. Strategy to Counter Corruption, the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program.¹²⁶

These efforts are in line with goal number 16 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

¹²² United Nations. "The Sustainable Development Agenda." accessed October 23, 2023.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹²³ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

¹²⁴ U.S. Government, "Sustainable Development Goals: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://sdg.data.gov/peace-and-justice-strong-institutions/>

¹²⁵ White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable, "Access to Justice through Simplification," March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-03/Legal%20Aid%20Interagency%20Roundtable%202022%20Report.pdf>

¹²⁶ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

*Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*¹²⁷

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to improve sustainable development through global partnership, including “North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.”¹²⁸ This is broken into five categories: finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, and systemic issues. Financially, member states have the goal of mobilizing financial resources to support developing countries. This is done through debt relief, investment promotion, and official development assistance of at least 0.20 percent of gross national income. It emphasizes the importance of access to technology among all sectors and the promotion of environmentally sound technologies in least developed and developing countries. Trade goals promote the World Trade Organization and support the Doha Development Agenda, which improves trade between developing countries. This includes an improved multilateral trading system and an increase in market access and exports from developing countries. Goals focusing on systemic issues include: policy and institutional coherence; multi-stakeholder partnerships; and data, monitoring, and accountability.¹²⁹

The U.S. has provided reports on macroeconomic indicators, government revenue, debt securities, and information on national statistical planning and policy, however, they have not been updated since 2016.¹³⁰ Domestic updates are limited, as this goal focuses on multilateral agreements and international cooperation.

Programs through USAID provide improvement on goal 17 internationally, which include the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and support for the International Aid Transparency Initiative. The U.S. also participated in the annual UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and other UN working groups aimed at improving global partnership.¹³¹

These efforts are in line with goal number 17 set forth by the UN Sustainable Development Goals but are not achieved because of the goal. The U.S. does not specify that these actions are a direct result of the goals, only that they align with the goals.

¹²⁷ United Nations. “The Sustainable Development Agenda,” accessed October 23, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹²⁸ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

¹²⁹ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*.

¹³⁰ U.S. Government, “Sustainable Development Goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,” accessed October 21, 2023. <https://sdg.data.gov/partnerships-for-the-goals/>

¹³¹ United Nations, General Assembly, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Resolution/ Adopted by the General Assembly*, October 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

Conclusion

The 2030 UN Sustainability Agenda, predecessor to the Millennium Development Goals, is a collection of 17 goals and 169 targets, that outline what the UN agreed to be the most pressing issues in our world today and ways to address them as a global community. The UN has seen a large community of states around the world commit to these robust goals, however, they seem to be falling short of their objective of 2030. Since 2015, actions by the United States have allowed the country to fulfill some targets under these goals. However, since the United States is under no legal authority to complete the goals, the motivation behind the actions that were in line with each goal were not because of the UN Agenda. The COVID-19 global pandemic has severely hampered the ability of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to be fully implemented.¹³²

This report was completed on December 29, 2023, by Erin Ahearn, Cassie Beeler, and McKenna Halvorson, under the supervision of VLRS Director, Professor Anthony “Jack” Gierzynski and Dr. Jonathan “Doc” Bradley in response to a request from Representative Wilson.

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¹³² United Nations, “Economic and Social Council,” accessed October 23, 2023, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/29858SG_SDG_Progress_Report_2022.pdf