Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Adopted by: United Nations in 2015 under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Purpose: Serve as a global blueprint to achieve a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all
Total Goals: 17
Targets: 169 specific targets
Indicators: 231 unique indicators used to monitor progress

Goal Clusters (By Theme)

1. Social Foundations
SDG 1: No Poverty
SDG 2: Zero Hunger
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
SDG 4: Quality Education
SDG 5: Gender Equality

2. Infrastructure and Economic Development
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

3. Environment and Climate
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13: Climate Action
SDG 14: Life Below Water
SDG 15: Life on Land

4. Governance and Partnerships
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Key Principles
Universality: Applies to all countries, not just developing ones
Integration: Goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing
Leave no one behind: Focus on equity and reaching the most vulnerable
Accountability: Countries voluntarily report progress via VNRs (Voluntary National Reviews)

Challenges
Data Gaps: Many countries lack reliable disaggregated data
Policy Coherence: Trade-offs between goals (e.g., economic growth vs. climate action)
Private Sector Role: Critical for innovation and financing, yet accountability remains weak
Global Inequity: Progress is unequal, with developing nations facing severe resource constraints

Quantitative Aspects
SDG Index: Composite score (0-100) used to track country progress (source: SDSN)
Target 13.2 Example: Integrate climate measures into national policies, tracked via policy adoption indicators
Finance gap: Estimated global SDG funding gap: over $3.9 trillion annually (as of 2024)