Beyond-2030 Agenda Framework: foundations, scenarios and enabling alliances

Dr. Axel Berger

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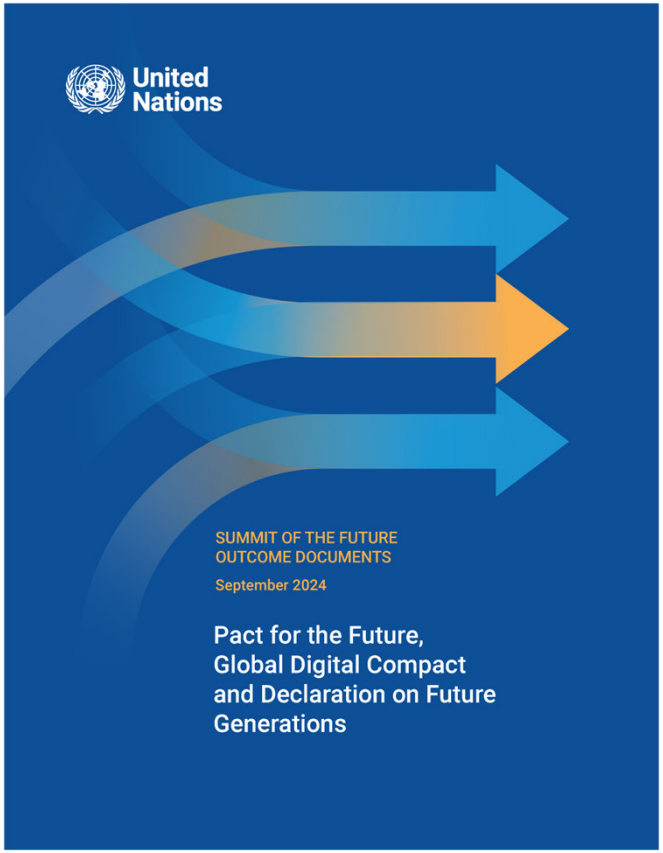
IDOS | German Institute of Development and Sustainability

Pact of the Future

“Action 12: We will plan for the future and strengthen our collective efforts to turbocharge the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 and beyond.”

“Invite the high-level political forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to consider in September 2027 how we will advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond, as a priority and at the centre of our work.”



UN, 2024

Today's Challenging Global Context (vs. 2015)?

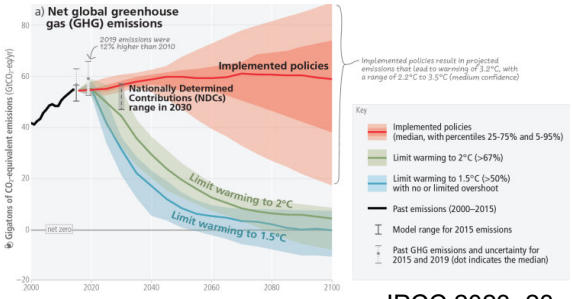
	2015	Current Context
Geopolitics	US und EU supportive roles; rising democratisation	US withdrawal from 2030 Agenda; multipolarity; US-China conflict
Crises	Post-financial crisis; regional conflicts, climate urgency	COVID-19 aftermath; widespread conflicts; acute tripple crisis
Institutions	More of less stable global governance institutions; successful G20 cooperation	Legitimacy of „Western" global governance institutions questioned; attractiveness of BRICSplus; paralysis of G7 and G20
Alliances	Multilateral moments (Paris Agreement, SDGs); stable blocs and clear(er) negotiation lines	Issue-based multi-alignment; competing agendas; my-nation-first trend
Technology	Socia media risis; techno optimism	AI; deepfakes; misinformation threats

Today's Challenging Global Context (vs. 2015)?

Implication for Beyond-2030 Negotiations

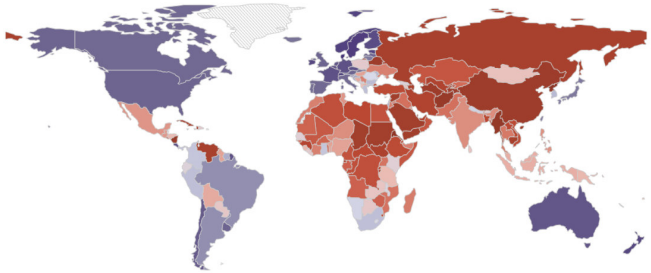
- The world now faces **more urgent, widespread, and politically divisive conditions** than in 2015.
- Negotiations will occur in a **low-trust, multipolar, crisis-heavy environment** with greater ideological divergence.
- **Inclusive, trust-building and depolarising process design is even more critical** than in 2015.

Climate Change



IPCC 2023: 23.

Social Polarisation / Autocratisation



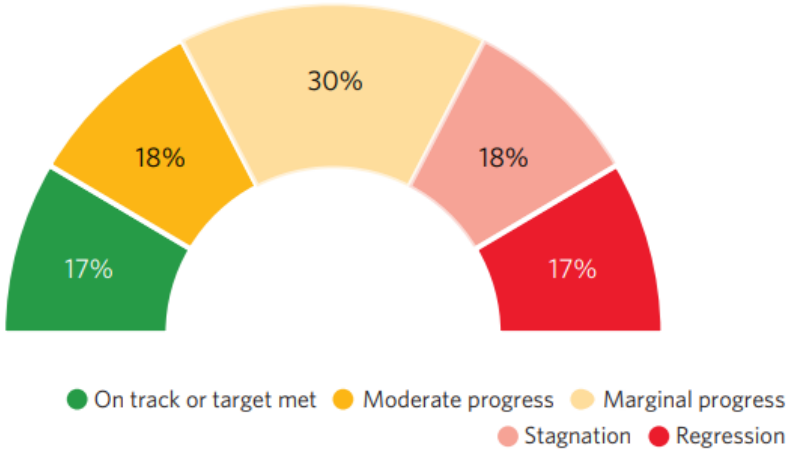
V-Dem 2024: 9; Nowack / Leininger, 2021, *Democratization*.

Confrontational Global Governance

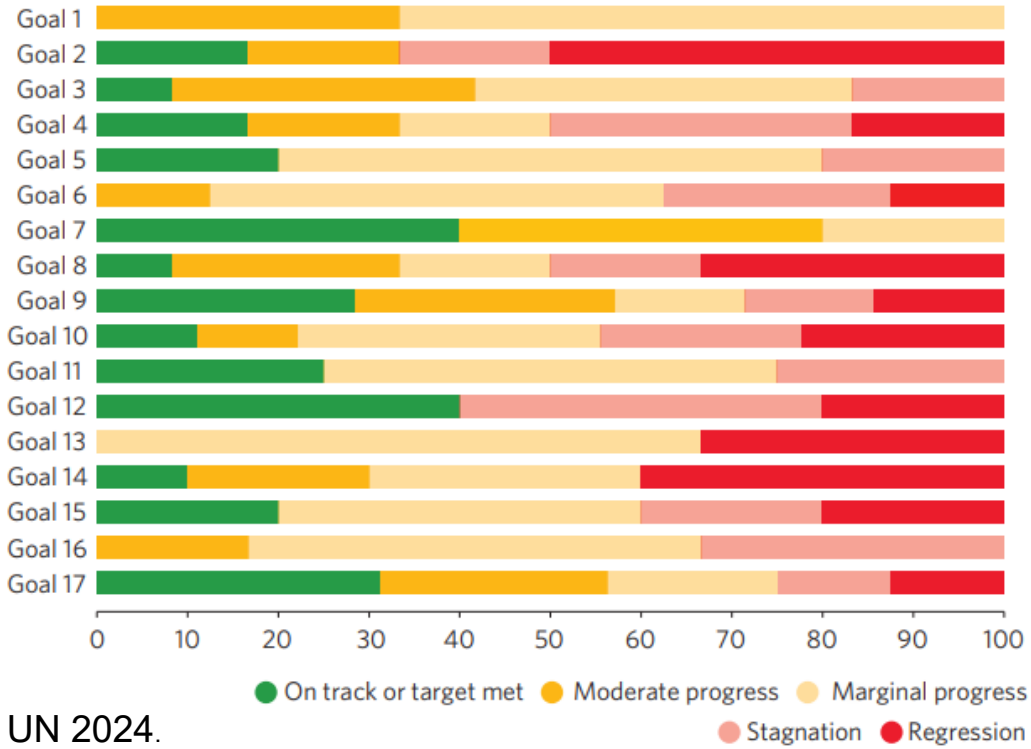
Statista, Jan.01.2024.

Five years to go – still, largely off track

Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2024 global aggregate data



Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, by Goal (percentage)



UN 2024.

A Southern Agenda?!

G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration (2024)

1 [...] We gather in the birthplace of the Sustainable Development Agenda to reaffirm our commitment […]
3. […] The G20 is well suited to address those challenges through much needed international cooperation and political drive. […]

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (2023)

5. As Leaders of G20, the premier global forum for international economic cooperation, we resolve to act in concrete ways through partnerships. We commit to:
[…]
b. Accelerate the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Or (still) a global agenda?

Voting behaviour on Pact for the Future, 2024

A „peoples agenda“? A matter of perception

- A survey by GlobeScan (2023) found that **global awareness of the SDGs is rising:** Around **50% of people globally** say they have heard *at least some* about the SDGs, up from 38% in 2017.
- **Strong geographic divide:** awareness is significantly higher in the Global South than in many High-Income Countries.
- Ipsos “People & Climate Change 2025” report (2025) shows that **people overestimate progress on SDGs:** 27% of people think *half or more* of the SDGs are on track.

Scenarios for a follow-up agenda

	Low (perceived) effectiveness	Moderate (perceived) effectiveness
High polarisation	***Dead End*** The SDGs no longer receive support because key actors perceive them as unnecessary and ineffective. Funding and prioritization disappear.	***Club Agenda(s)*** Formation of an SDG alliance of like-minded states that continue to implement and advance the SDGs. It is also possible that a (implicit) counter-agenda emerges from global 'my country first' actors.
Moderate polarisation	***Pick and Choose*** Focus on a few, barely interconnected goals that are prioritised and implemented by some states; ideally, support increases through the ability to choose.	***Sustainable Futures*** The broad set of goals remains in place; goals, indicators, monitoring, and implementation systems are reviewed, and new (sub-)targets may be added, particularly on digitalization and human rights. Improved alignment with other multilateral processes (Rio Conventions) is pursued.

Source: Conception by Julia Leininger, IDOS

The way forward

- **Chances for a successful re-negotiation or continuation of the SDGs depend on the (perceived) effectiveness of SDG implementation** — focusing on synergetic goals, providing adequate funding, reforming global governance frameworks, ensuring policy coherence, engaging the private sector, addressing spillover effects, invest in public awareness, etc.
- **Build and deepen alliances to enable a progressive "Club Agenda" among like-minded nations and stakeholders**, and multilateralise the agenda later if conditions are more favorable.
- **Learn from the post-2015 process:** design the beyond-2030 negotiations to be inclusive, transparent, science-based, and collaborative, with streamlined processes.

Thank you!

IDOS‘ 60th Anniversary, Bonn, 2024.

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