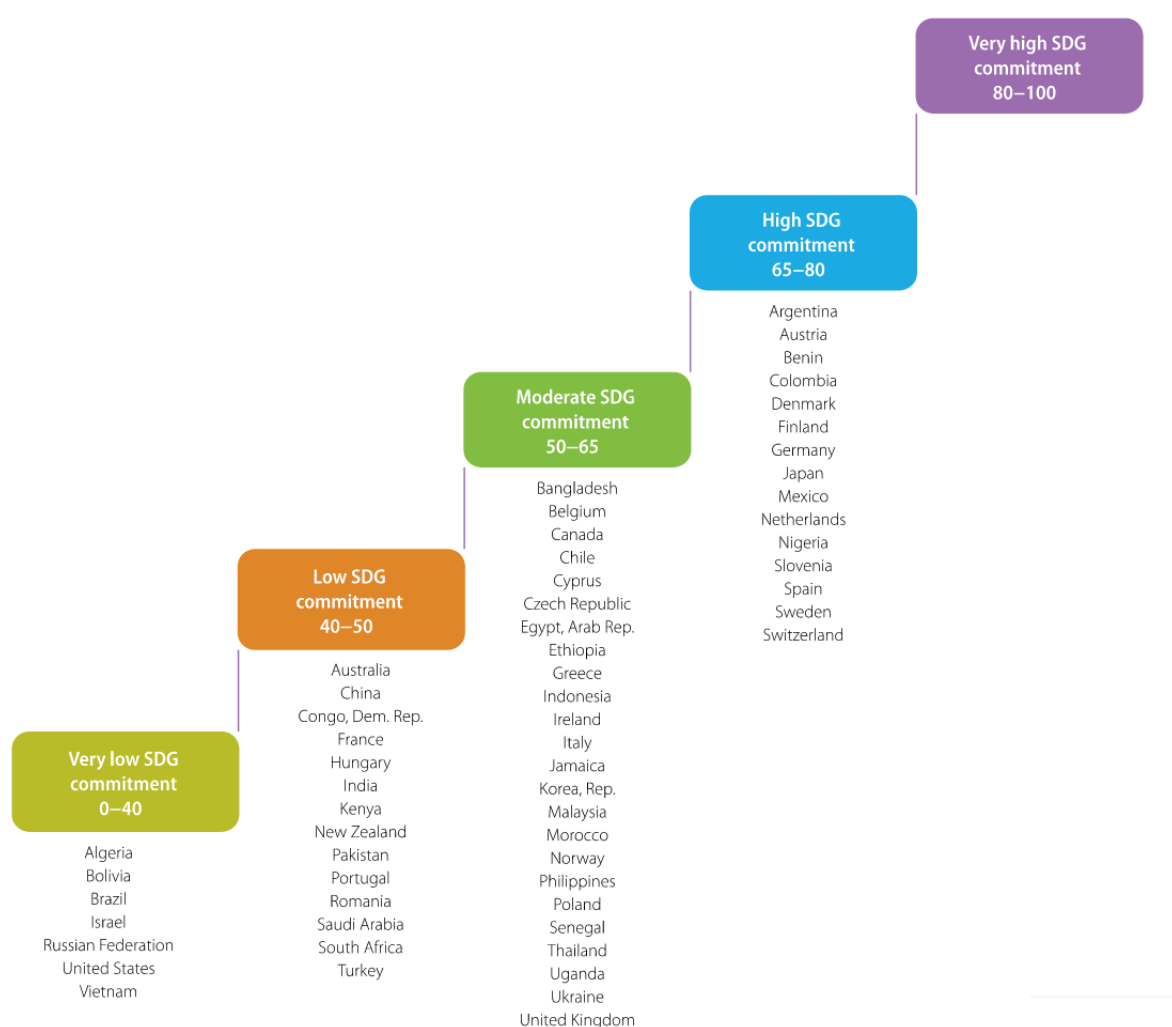# Governments' Commitments and Efforts for the SDGs scores (pilot version)

METHODOLOGY NOTE

Building on the SDSN survey of government efforts for the SDGs as well as the Six Transformations scorecards, this year we present pilot scores rating the commitments and efforts that governments have made towards achieving the SDGs. These scores range from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment) and cover all 60 countries in the 2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey presented in section 3.1 of the Sustainable Development Report 2022, including all G20 countries and most OECD countries.

Figure 1: Governments' Commitments and Efforts for the SDGs scores (pilot version)

Very high SDG commitment 80–100

High SDG commitment 65–80
Argentina
Austria
Benin
Colombia
Denmark
Finland
Germany
Japan
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

Moderate SDG commitment 50–65
Bangladesh
Belgium
Canada
Chile
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Egypt, Arab Rep.
Ethiopia
Greece
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Korea, Rep.
Malaysia
Morocco
Norway
Philippines
Poland
Senegal
Thailand
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Low SDG commitment 40–50
Australia
China
Congo, Dem. Rep.
France
Hungary
India
Kenya
New Zealand
Pakistan
Portugal
Romania
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
Turkey

Very low SDG commitment 0–40
Algeria
Bolivia
Brazil
Israel
Russian Federation
United States
Vietnam

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2022, Figure 3.6

Pillars and Indicators

The scores are based on 18 indicators on policy efforts and commitments, grouped into four pillars. The indicators cover metrics from the 2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey as well as data on Transformation 1 (Education, Gender and Inequality), Transformation 2 (Health, Well-Being, and Demography), and Transformation 3 (Energy Decarbonization and Sustainable Industry). As discussed in section 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Report, gaps in policy data or an absence of international targets currently make it difficult to assess countries' efforts on Transformation 4 (Sustainable Food, Land, Water, and Oceans), Transformation 5 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and Transformation 6 (Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development).

Table 1: Indicators included in the Governments' Commitments and Efforts for the SDGs scores (pilot version)

Name	Source
Number of VNRs submitted	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Statement in support of SDGs made by head of state in the past year	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Existence of SDG strategy (overarching or at sectoral level)	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Integration of SDGs into most recent government budget	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Existence of national indicator set to track progress on SDGs	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Existence of a government lead unit responsible for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Integration of SDGs into national COVID-19 recovery plan	2022 SDG Policy Coordination Survey
Years of free (or compulsory) education in the law	UNESCO
Commitment to Reducing Inequalities: Tax Progressivity & Protection of Labor Right	Oxfam & DEI
Gender Equality in the Law	World Bank
Expenditure on research and development	UNESCO
UHC index of service coverage	WHO
Catastrophic out-of-pocket health spending: Pop. spending 10%+ of household income on health	WHO
Global Health Security Index: Pandemic Preparedness	NTI & Johns Hopkins
UN Climate Ambition Alliance Signatory	UN
Policy- or NDC-based commitment to reach net-zero emissions	Net Zero Tracker
1.5°C Paris-agreement-compatible climate action	Climate Action Tracker
Unconditional fossil fuel subsidies	Energy Policy Tracker

Pillar 1: SDG Policy Coordination

The first pillar is *SDG Policy Coordination* and contains seven indicators. Each indicator was assigned a score from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment) as shown in the following table. Since indicators mostly were dummy variables rather than numerical, we assigned a specific score to each value. Indicators were given equal weight, with the exception of the number of VNRs that a country has submitted due to its nature as the official SDG monitoring process and lead indicator of governments' efforts and commitments.

Table 2: Indicators under Pillar 1 (SDG Policy Coordination)

Name	Weight	Score
Number of VNRs submitted	**50.00%**	
0		0.00
1		33.33
2		66.66
3		100.00
Statement in support of SDGs made by head of state in the past year	**8.33%**	
no		0.00
yes		100.00
Existence of SDG strategy (overarching or at sectoral level)	**8.33%**	
no		0.00
yes		100.00
Integration of SDGs into most recent government budget	**8.33%**	
no		0.00
yes		100.00
Existence of national indicator set to track progress on SDGs	**8.33%**	
no		0.00
no, but there is an online reporting platform		
yes		100.00
Existence of a government lead unit responsible for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs	**8.33%**	
no		0.00
yes		100.00
Integration of SDGs into national COVID-19 recovery plan	**8.33%**	
a COVID-19 recovery plan does not exist		no score
a plan exists, but the SDGs are not mentioned		0.00
a plan exists and the SDGs are mentioned only in the general narrative		50.0
a plan exists and the SDGs are mentioned as a central pillar		100.00

Pillar 2: Transformation 1

The second pillar is Transformation 1: Education, Gender and Inequality. It includes four indicators with equal weight. Each indicator was assigned a score from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment), by normalizing the indicator value based on a given upper bound and lower bound. The following formula was used:

$$Score = \frac{Value - Lower\ Bound}{Upper\ Bound - Lower\ Bound}\ x\ 100$$

For the first indicator under Transformation 1, we used either the number of years of free education in the law or the number of years of compulsory education in the law, depending on where the country performed better. We did this due to some gaps in the data as well as due to the fact that some countries do perform notably differently between these two metrics.

Table 3: Indicators under Pillar 2 (Transformation 1)

Pillar	Upper Bound	Lower Bound	Weight
Years of free (or compulsory) education in the law	12	6	25.00%
Commitment to Reducing Inequalities: Tax Progressivity & Protection of Labor Right	1	0.35	25.00%
Gender Equality in the Law	100	0.3	25.00%
Expenditure on research and development	4	1	25.00%

Pillar 3: Transformation 2

The third pillar is Transformation 2: Health, Well-being and Demography. It includes three indicators with equal weight. Each indicator was assigned a score from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment), by normalizing the indicator value based on a given upper bound and lower bound. The following formula was used:

$$Score = \frac{Value - Lower\ Bound}{Upper\ Bound - Lower\ Bound}\ x\ 100$$

Table 4: Indicators under Pillar 3 (Transformation 2)

Pillar	Upper Bound	Lower Bound	Weight
UHC index of service coverage	100	38.2	33.33%
Catastrophic out-of-pocket health spending: Pop. spending 10%+ of household income on health	0	10	33.33%
Global Health Security Index: Pandemic Preparedness	100	90	33.33%

Pillar 4: Transformation 3

The fourth pillar is Transformation 3: Transformation 3: Energy Decarbonization and Sustainable Industry. It includes four indicators with equal weight. Each indicator was assigned a score from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment). Three indicators are not numeric in nature and were scored as indicated in the following table. The fourth indicator is numeric and was normalized based on a given upper bound and lower bound. The following formula was used for normalization:

$$Score = \frac{Value - Lower\ Bound}{Upper\ Bound - Lower\ Bound}\ x\ 100$$

Table 5: Indicators under Pillar 4 (Transformation 3)

Pillar	Upper Bound	Lower Bound	Weight	Score
UN Climate Ambition Alliance Signatory			**25.00%**	
no				0.00
yes				100.00
Policy- or NDC-based commitment to reach net-zero emissions			**25.00%**	
no				0.00
yes, but after 2050				50.00
yes, by 2050				100.00
1.5°C Paris-agreement-compatible climate action			**25.00%**	
critically insufficient				0
highly insufficient				15
insufficient				30
almost sufficient				80
Unconditional fossil fuel subsidies	**0**	**100**	**25.00%**	

Aggregation

Pillar Scores

Each pillar is assigned a score from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment) based on its indicators. The pillar score is a weighted average of the scores of the indicators under the pillar. The weights for each indicator are shown in the tables above.

$$Pillar\ Score = \sum_{i=1}^{n} Indicator\ Score_i \times Indicator\ Weight_i$$

Overall Score

The overall pilot score ranges from 0 (very low SDG commitment) to 100 (very high SDG commitment). It is calculated as the weighted average across the four pillars, using the weights indicated below. The pillar on SDG Policy Coordination was assigned a greater weight than the other pillars due to its direct link to the SDGs and its ability to more directly reflect governments' commitments and efforts for the SDGs.

$$Overall\ Score = \sum_{i=1}^{4} Pillar\ Score_i \times Pillar\ Weight_i$$

Table 6: Weights assigned to each pillar

Number	Pillar	Weight
1	SDG Policy Coordination	50.00%
2	Statement in support of SDGs made by head of state in the past year	16.66%
3	Existence of SDG strategy (overarching or at sectoral level)	16.66%
4	Integration of SDGs into most recent government budget	16.66%

Limitations

As discussed in detail in the Sustainable Development Report, the policy data currently available is subject to several caveats and limitations, especially with regards to Transformations 4, 5, and 6. Therefore, this year's scores of government efforts and commitments should be considered as a pilot and interpreted with caution. We welcome critical comments and feedback that may help to strengthen future iterations of this work.