

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM



2026 ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATING THE 2030 AGENDA

KEY MESSAGE

Participants agreed that sustainable development requires integrated action across sectors, stronger institutions, and increased international cooperation to respond effectively to today's interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges.



The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was convened from **7 July to 15 July 2026** at the **UN headquarters in New York**. The forum was held under the theme: "Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all."

The forum conducted in-depth reviews of five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): **SDG 6**. Ensure availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all; **SDG 7**. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern clean energy for all; **SDG 9**. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation; **SDG 11**. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and **SDG 17**. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The **2026 HLPF** brought together governments, UN agencies, civil society, academia, youth, and the private sector to accelerate progress toward the SDGs. The Forum emphasised that, with only a few years remaining until 2030, countries must move beyond commitments and focus on faster implementation, stronger partnerships, and **evidence-based policies**.



Major Highlights from the High-Level Political Forum 2026

Water Security (SDG 6):

Delegates called for greater investment in safe water, sanitation, and sustainable water management to strengthen climate resilience and protect freshwater ecosystems.

Clean Energy (SDG 7):

Countries reaffirmed commitments to expanding renewable energy and improving energy access. Discussions also highlighted the need for responsible governance of critical minerals to support a just and sustainable energy transition.

Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9):

Participants emphasized that digital innovation, sustainable industrialization, and resilient infrastructure are essential for economic growth, job creation, and resilience to future crises.

Sustainable Cities (SDG 11):

The Forum called for more inclusive, safe, and climate-resilient cities through affordable housing, sustainable transport, disaster risk reduction, and urban planning that leaves no one behind.

Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17):

Delegates stressed that achieving the SDGs requires stronger international cooperation, increased financing, technology transfer, capacity-building, and effective partnerships among governments, civil society, the private sector, and local communities.

HLPF 2026 Parallel Event
Communities of Hope:
Advancing Human Dignity and Development for Sustainable Futures

Join us to explore how grassroots communities and faith leaders are turning the SDGs into lived realities—building more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable societies rooted in ethical, cultural, and spiritual values.

Featured Speakers and Panelists

- Rev. Msgr. Marco Formica, Coordinator, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
- Rev. Dr. Liberato "Leo" Bausila, The United Methodist Church
- Joan Talasan, Medical Mission Sisters Associate
- Yolanda Jimenez, Collaborator of The Society of the Sacred Heart
- Sr. Siméone Pierre-Gilles, School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Nicole Quintero, Youth collaborator with The Society of the Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart Collaborators contributed to this discussion through the side event, Communities of Hope.



Yolanda Jimenez and Nicole Quintero participated in the HLPF 2026 parallel event as panelists, highlighting the Society of the Sacred Heart's role in advancing sustainable development.

Agrifood systems in the current global context: opportunities, risks and solutions



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Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Looking Ahead

Thirty-six countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), showcasing progress, innovations, and lessons learned in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Among them were Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, and Uruguay, where the Society of the Sacred Heart has a presence. While many countries highlighted successful national initiatives, they also acknowledged the need for continued international cooperation, investment, and shared learning.



Challenges and Resilience

Delegates noted that progress on the Sustainable Development Goals remains off track due to multiple global crises, including climate change, armed conflicts, economic pressures, and setbacks in human rights and multilateral cooperation. Despite these challenges, countries have strengthened resilience by improving health systems, expanding local vaccine production, enhancing education, strengthening food systems, and adopting more integrated approaches to development.



Looking Ahead- CLOSING

Participants emphasized that the remaining years to 2030 require accelerated action through increased investment, science-based policymaking, climate resilience, inclusive governance, and stronger global partnerships. HLPF 2026 reaffirmed that achieving the SDGs is a shared global responsibility and that collaboration, innovation, and solidarity will be essential in building a more just, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

