
Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Series Editor

Walter Leal Filho

The problems related to the process of industrialization such as biodiversity depletion, climate change, and a worsening of health and living conditions, especially but not only in developing countries, intensify. Therefore, there is also an increasing need to search for integrated solutions to make development more sustainable. The current model of economic growth used by many countries is heavily based on the exploitation of natural resources, which is not viable. Evidence shows that a more careful, that is, a more sustainable, approach to the use of our limited resources is needed.

The United Nations has acknowledged the problem, and among other measures, it produced a set of documents at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012. In 2015, the UN General Assembly approved the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

On January 1, 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda officially came into force. These goals cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

There are to date no comprehensive publications addressing the SDGs in an integrated way. Therefore, the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is being published. It encompasses 17 volumes, each devoted to one of the 17 SDGs.

More information about this series at <https://www.springer.com/series/15893>

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Editors

Decent Work and Economic Growth

With 144 Figures and 85 Tables

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Series Preface

The United Nations General Assembly agreed and approved in September 2015 the document “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which contains a set of measures aiming to balance economic progress and protection of the environment, while at the same time remain aware of the need to address the many disparities still seen between industrialized and developing countries. The Agenda document consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. The 17 SDGs are:

SDG 1, placing an emphasis on ending all forms of extreme poverty.

SDG 2, which aims to end hunger and achieve food security with improved nutrition

SDG 3, focusing on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all

SDG 4, touches on one of the most important areas, namely inclusive and quality education

SDG 5, focusing on gender equality

SDG 6, which emphasizes the need for clean water and sanitation

SDG 7, advocates the need for affordable and clean energy

SDG 8, sustaining inclusive and sustainable economic growth with productive and decent working conditions for all

SDG 9, which intends to foster industry, innovation, and infrastructure

SDG 10, being about reducing inequalities among countries

SDG 11, an attempt to ensure that human settlements and cities are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

SDG 12, with a focus on sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13, with an emphasis on the need for climate action

SDG 14, raises the need to preserve life below water, especially rivers and oceans

SDG 15, draws attention about the need for a greater care about life on land

SDG 16, which advocates peace, justice, and strong institutions
SDG 17, a cross-SDGs effort to foster the partnership for the goals and their delivery

The SDGs and their specific objectives are very complex. The mandate of the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is, therefore, to clarify and explain a wide range of terms associated with each SDG. It does so by gathering and presenting inputs provided by experts from across all areas of knowledge and from round the world, who explain each term and their implications, drawing also from the latest literature.

With 17 volumes and involving in excess of 1,500 authors and contributors, the Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is the largest editorial project on sustainable development ever undertaken. We hope that this publication will be helpful in fostering a broader understanding of the SDGs, and that this process may inspire and support a wide range of initiatives aimed at their implementation, thus realizing the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

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Volume Preface

The promotion of an inclusive and sustainable economic growth is known to be one of the keys towards the well-being of nations and – *inter alia* – of individuals. It is also one of the many drivers in the quest towards the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. From a macro perspective, trends towards the promotion of adequate work conditions have improved considerably over the past two decades. Due to a combination of legislation, peer pressure, and for simple economic reasons, the quality of the work environment has been raised and, *inter alia*, the productivity of the labor force.

On the other hand, it is noticeable that the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath will lead to a decrease in economic growth and to higher levels of unemployment until a vaccine is found and reaches people across all continents. The fact that the global economy is expected to be growing at slower rates means that employment opportunities are likely to be reduced and unemployment and gender pay gap may be exacerbated.

Therefore, it is important that due emphasis is given towards understanding and addressing the stressors which hinder sustainable economic development and which lead to a depletion in the quality of working conditions. In addition, there is a perceived need to identify, test, and implement measures which may lead to improved working conditions and provide a working environment which is healthy and safe. In this context, it should be mentioned that preserving the natural environment is one of the keys to support long-term economic growth, as the natural environment plays an important role in supporting a wide range of economic activities, that is, not only those which depend on natural resources such as timber or fisheries, but also on the integrity of ecosystem services such as agriculture and transport in waterways.

The SDGs as a whole and SDG8 in particular provide a new opportunity and offer a new impulse towards bringing the matter of economic growth and employment higher on the international agenda. The vision of a sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all can only be realized if both public and private actors work hand in hand and if all relevant stakeholders are involved.

With this volume, we hope to be fostering a better understanding of the many factors which influence economic growth and the provision of adequate work conditions. This may, in turn, lead to a stronger driver to work towards

better and wider opportunities for gainful employment, with due considerations to vulnerable groups in the population on the one hand, and women, young people, and marginalized population groups on the other.

We also hope that the contributions in this volume will provide a timely support towards the implementation of SDG8 and foster global efforts towards providing decent working conditions, and by doing so, offer a basis for sustained economic growth.

October 2020

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About the Editors



Walter Leal Filho (B.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Phil., D.L., D.Litt., D.Ed.) is Professor and Director of the European School of Sustainability Science and Research, whose Headquarters are at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany. He also holds the Chair of Environment and Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. He is Founding Editor of the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education* and heads the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), the world's largest network of universities engaged on sustainable development research. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the World Sustainable Development series with Springer. Prof. Walter Leal serves on the editorial board of various journals. He has in excess of 400 publications to his credit, among which are groundbreaking books such as *Universities as Living Labs for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, *Social Responsibility and Sustainability*, and *Handbook of Sustainability Science and Research*. He has nearly 30 years of field experience in project management and has a particular interest in the connections between sustainability, climate change adaptation, and human behavior.



Anabela Marisa Azul is a Researcher at the Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology (CNC) and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Coimbra (III-UC, Portugal). She graduated in Biology at the UC, where she completed her Ph.D. degree in Biology,

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Luciana Brandli Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the University of Passo Fundo, Brazil, working in the Ph.D. Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Her current research interests include sustainability in higher education and green campus, management of urban infrastructure and sustainable cities, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. She supervises a number of master's and doctoral students on engineering, environment, and sustainability issues and has in excess of 300 publications, including books, book chapters, and papers in refereed journals.



Amanda Lange Salvia has a degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Passo Fundo, Brazil, and graduate studies focused on sustainable cities and universities. Her work centers on the Sustainable Development Goals, the role of universities towards sustainability, and the impacts of climate change. Amanda has experience with international studies assessing aspects related to the 2030 Agenda and sustainability in higher education. She is a reviewer for various journals and is also a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.



Tony Wall is Founder and Head of the International Centre for Thriving, a global-scale collaboration between business, arts, health, and education to deliver sustainable transformation for the common good. He is passionate about *thriving* and has published 200+ works, including articles in quartile 1 journals such as *The International Journal of Human Resource Management and Vocations and Learning* as well as global policy reports for the *European Mentoring & Coaching Council* in Brussels. Overall, his leadership and international impact in these areas have attracted numerous accolades including the prestigious Advance-HE National Teaching Fellowship and three Santander International Research Excellence Awards.

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