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Sustainable Development Goals:
Making It Happen

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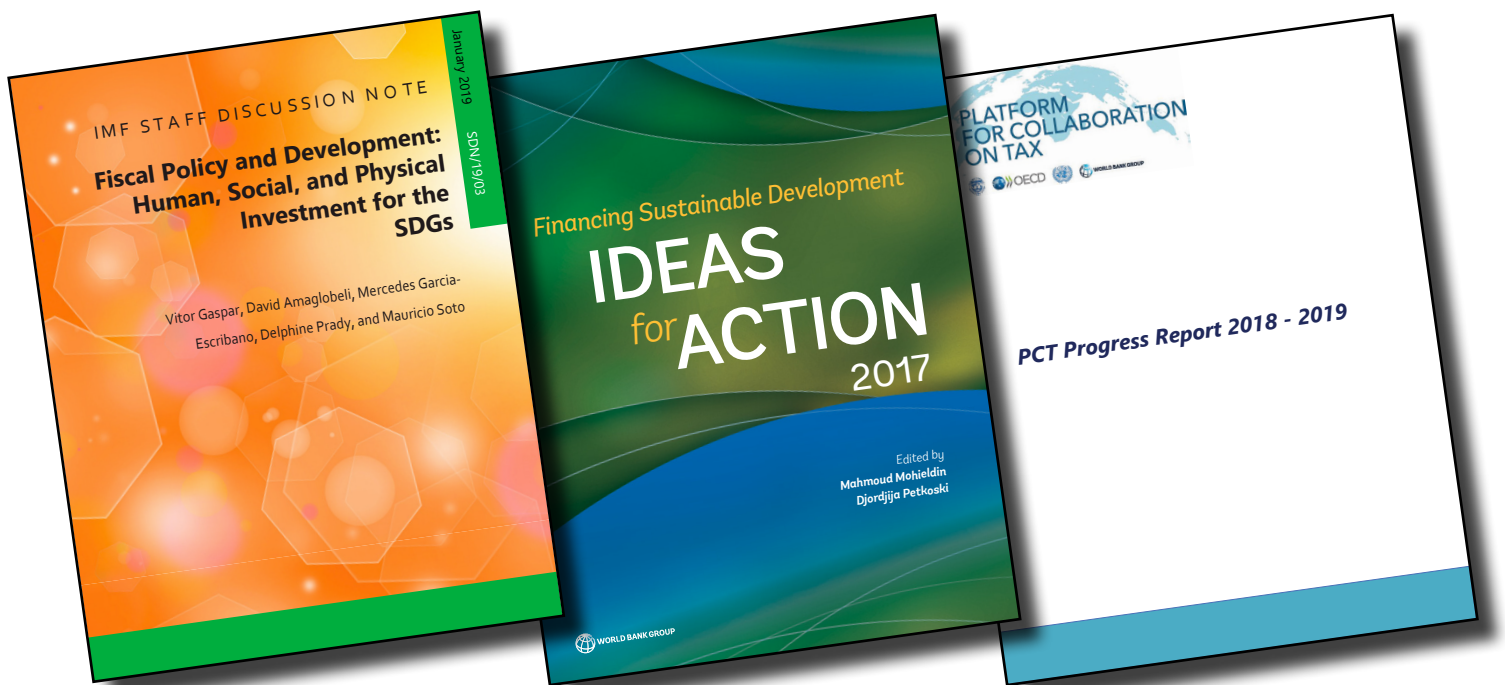
THURSDAY, October 17, 2019

1:00-2:00pm, Meeting Hall A&B (HQ1-3-430 A&B)

Sustainable Development Goals: Making It Happen

Sponsored by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, African Department, and Strategy, Policy, and Review Department

In 2015 countries adopted a comprehensive agenda—the Sustainable Development Goals. How to go from goals to reality by 2030? Hear the voices of countries, international organizations, private sector, and civil society on how to make the SDGs happen.



Gaspar, Vitor, David Amaglobeli, Mercedes Garcia-Escribano, Delphine Prady, and Mauricio Soto. 2019.

[“Fiscal Policy and Development: Human, Social, and Physical Investment for the SDGs.” Staff Discussion Notes 19/03, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

This paper estimates the additional spending required to reach the SDGs in five key sectors (education, health, water & sanitation, roads, electricity) for 49 low-income developing countries (LIDCs) and 72 emerging markets (EMs). The paper estimates that a typical LIDC needs to increase spending in 2030 by about 15 percentage points of GDP. A more modest increase of about 4 percentage points of GDP is found to be needed in the typical EM. Spending needs vary across countries within income groups. Within LIDCs, for instance, Benin and Rwanda will require additional spending of about 20 percentage points of GDP in 2030, while Vietnam has additional spending needs similar to other EMs. Most EMs should be able, with some effort, to finance the additional public spending needed by raising tax revenues by a combination of tax policy and administration efforts. Most LIDCs, however, in addition to further mobilization of tax revenues, would require additional financing, including from multilateral, bilateral official sources and philanthropists. But achieving the SDGs is not only about resources—meeting the SDGs will require more revenue, more spending, and more efficient spending to reduce waste.

International Monetary Fund. 2015.

[“Financing for Development: Enhancing the Financial Safety Net for Developing Countries.” Policy Paper, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

Access to IMF financial resources provides a financial safety net to help countries manage adverse shocks, acting as a potential supplement to foreign reserves when there is a balance of payments need. Such support is especially important to developing countries with limited capacity to borrow in domestic or foreign markets. This paper proposes a set of measures that would expand access to IMF resources for developing countries, as one of the initiatives the IMF is undertaking as part of the wider effort of the international community to support countries in pursuing the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

International Monetary Fund. 2015.

[“The Role of the IMF in Supporting the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.” Policy Paper, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

This paper elaborates on the IMF’s role in implementing its post-2015 initiatives through its policy diagnostics and advice, capacity building efforts, and lending operations. In engaging with member countries at the national level, the IMF provides policy advice to strengthen macroeconomic policies, technical assistance to build state capacity in government agencies (for example, revenue collection, public finance and investment management, and effective spending), and resources to boost economic resilience against adverse shocks. Globally, promoting global economic and financial stability, a precondition for sustainable development, is a key IMF mandate. The IMF has also started deepening its focus on aspects of economic, social, and gender inclusion, and environmental protection, which are core SDG objectives and vital for balanced and sustained growth.

International Monetary Fund. 2018.

[“ASEAN Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of the IMF.” Policy Paper, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.](#)

This paper evaluates ASEAN progress towards sustainable development, discusses potential spending needs, and identifies the vehicles through which the IMF supports this development agenda. Pursuing sustainable development entails sizeable spending needs. ASEAN countries have made significant progress in improving incomes and economic opportunities, including for women, and reducing poverty since 2000, but challenges remain. While development needs vary across countries, estimates suggest large spending needs for most ASEAN countries—estimates for Indonesia and Vietnam, the two cases studies considered in the paper, are discussed. Meeting the SDGs will require efforts on multiple fronts, including improvements in spending efficiency, tax capacity, and support from the private sector. For developing ASEAN countries, concessional financing from development partners will be required. The IMF has increased its engagement with ASEAN countries as they pursue their SDGs to support their policy efforts through its policy diagnostics, advice, and capacity development.

International Monetary Fund. August 2018.**[Realizing Indonesia's Economic Potential.](#)
Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund.**

This book provides analytical work on Indonesian macroeconomic and financial issues, with an overarching theme on building institutions and policies for prosperity and inclusive growth. The book covers diverse sectors of the economy as well as Indonesia's place in the global economy. The book has two chapters in public finance related to the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS) approach to tax system reform to support the financing of development agendas. Chapter 5 on "Supporting Inclusive Growth" develops in detail the first MTRS component on setting revenue needs to finance medium-term expenditure priorities, such as those related to the SDGs. Chapter 6 on "Implementing an MTRS" develops in detail the other MTRS components, particularly the tax system reform plan—including its tax policy, administration, and legal framework elements.

International Monetary Fund. 2019.**["Review of Implementation of IMF Commitments in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."](#)
Policy Paper, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.**

The paper reviews the implementation of the initiatives the IMF committed to in 2015 to support developing countries in pursuing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, including (i) strengthening national tax systems; (ii) tackling large infrastructure gaps; (iii) promoting economic inclusion; (iv) the development of domestic financial markets; (v) intensifying engagement in fragile and conflict-affected states; (vi) improving economic statistics; (vii) expanding the financial safety net for developing countries; and (viii) addressing macroeconomic aspects of climate change. The implementation record to date shows that there has been a large scaling up of IMF support for the 2030 development agenda. The IMF has also engaged in other initiatives of direct relevance for supporting the 2030 development agenda, including adopting a framework to assess corruption vulnerabilities and developing a broad framework for assessing the spending levels needed to reach key SDGs. The paper draws lessons learned from the implementation of the various initiative to inform future IMF engagements.

Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT). 2019.**["PCT Progress Report 2018 – 2019."](#)
Working Paper 137574, World Bank Group, Washington, DC.**

The report provides an update of the work of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT)—IMF, OECD, UN, and WBG—during 2018-19, informing on the PCT's main workstreams, including co-ordination of capacity development (CD) activities; analytical work; and outreach and engagement. On the CD activities, an update is provided on the PCT partners' CD support to the adoption of the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS) approach to tax system reform, recommended by the PCT in its June 2016 report to G20 on ["Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity"](#). The PCT previously reported on its progress in June 2017 in the [July 2017 PCT report](#), where the MTRS concept was further developed (see annex 2).

Schmidt-Traub, Guido, Christian Kroll, Katerina Teksoz, David Durand-Delacre, and Jeffrey D. Sachs. 2017.**["National baselines for the Sustainable Development Goals assessed in the SDG Index and Dashboards."](#)
Nature Geoscience 10: 547–555.**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) map out a broad spectrum of economic, social and environmental objectives to be achieved by 2030. Reaching these goals will require deep transformations in every country, as well as major efforts in monitoring and measuring progress. This paper introduces the SDG Index and Dashboards as analytical tools for assessing countries' baselines for the SDGs that can be applied by researchers in the cross-disciplinary analyses required for implementation. The Index and Dashboards synthesize available country-level data for all 17 goals, and for each country estimate the size of the gap towards achieving the SDGs. They will be updated annually. All 149 countries for which sufficient data is available face significant challenges in achieving the goals, and many countries' development strategies are imbalanced across the economic, social and environmental priorities. The paper illustrates the analytical value of the index by examining its relationship with other widely used development indices and by showing how it accounts for cross-national differences in subjective well-being.

United Nations, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development. 2019.

[Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2019. New York: United Nations.](#)

The report warns that mobilizing sufficient financing remains a major challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite signs of progress, investments that are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remain underfunded and parts of the multilateral system are under strain. The report presents four building blocks (assessment and diagnostics; financing strategy; mechanisms for monitoring, review and accountability; and governance and coordination frameworks) to operationalize implementation of the Addis Agenda at the country level through integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs). The report recognizes that financing policies do not work in isolation. Integrated financing frameworks should not only respond to financing challenges, but also to the realities of a changing global landscape. In addition, the report discusses progress in the seven action areas of the Addis Agenda (domestic public resources; private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; and science, technology and innovation) and data and monitoring.

World Bank. 2017.

[Financing Sustainable Development: Ideas for Action 2017. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.](#)

This publication presents the results of the 2017 Ideas for Action (I4A) initiative, a youth competition on financing for development that is jointly organized by the World Bank Group and the Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. This is the third year of the competition, and the 2017 winners were selected from among 743 proposals from 118 countries. Youth have the most at stake in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The world's youth will implement this global agenda, contributing their unique solutions and shaping their future and ours.

World Bank. 2018.

[Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2018: World Development Indicators. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.](#)

The Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2018 is a visual guide to the trends, challenges and measurement issues related to each of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Atlas features maps and data visualizations, primarily drawn from World Development Indicators (WDI) - the World Bank's compilation of internationally comparable statistics about global development and the quality of people's lives. Given the breadth and scope of the SDGs, the editors have been selective, emphasizing issues considered important by experts in the World Bank's Global Practices and Cross-Cutting Solution Areas. Nevertheless, the Atlas aims to reflect the breadth of the Goals themselves and presents national and regional trends and snapshots of progress towards the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals related to: poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, water, energy, jobs, infrastructure, inequalities, cities, consumption, climate, oceans, the environment, peace, institutions, and partnerships.

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