

Sustainable Development Goals

Are we getting there/somewhere?

Introductory mini-lecture

DISCOVER YOUR WORLD

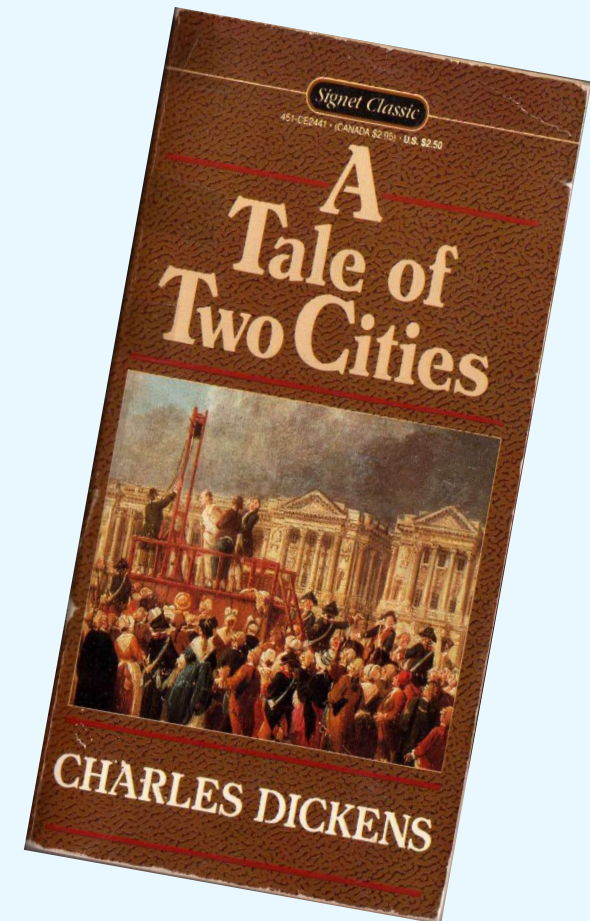
SUSTAINABILITY – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Tale of two cities

“

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity,
it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness,
it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair...*







PARIS 2015

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP21·CMP11

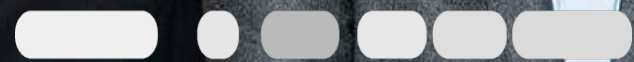




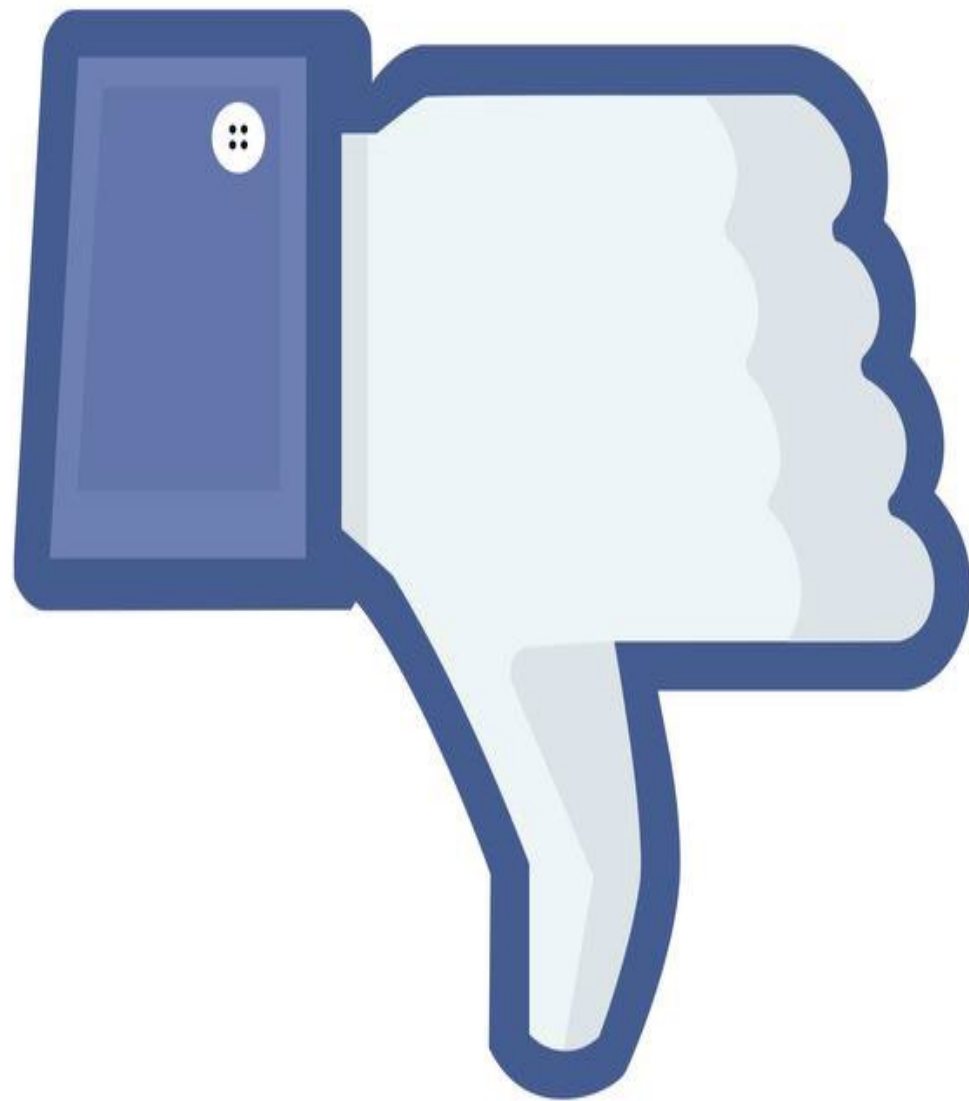


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even



KLIMAATZAAK





Analysis by Laura Paddison, CNN Senior Climate Reporter

🕒 4 minute read · Published 10:10 AM EST, Mon November 25, 2024



MORE FROM CNN



Trump bars federal scientists from working on pivotal global climate ...

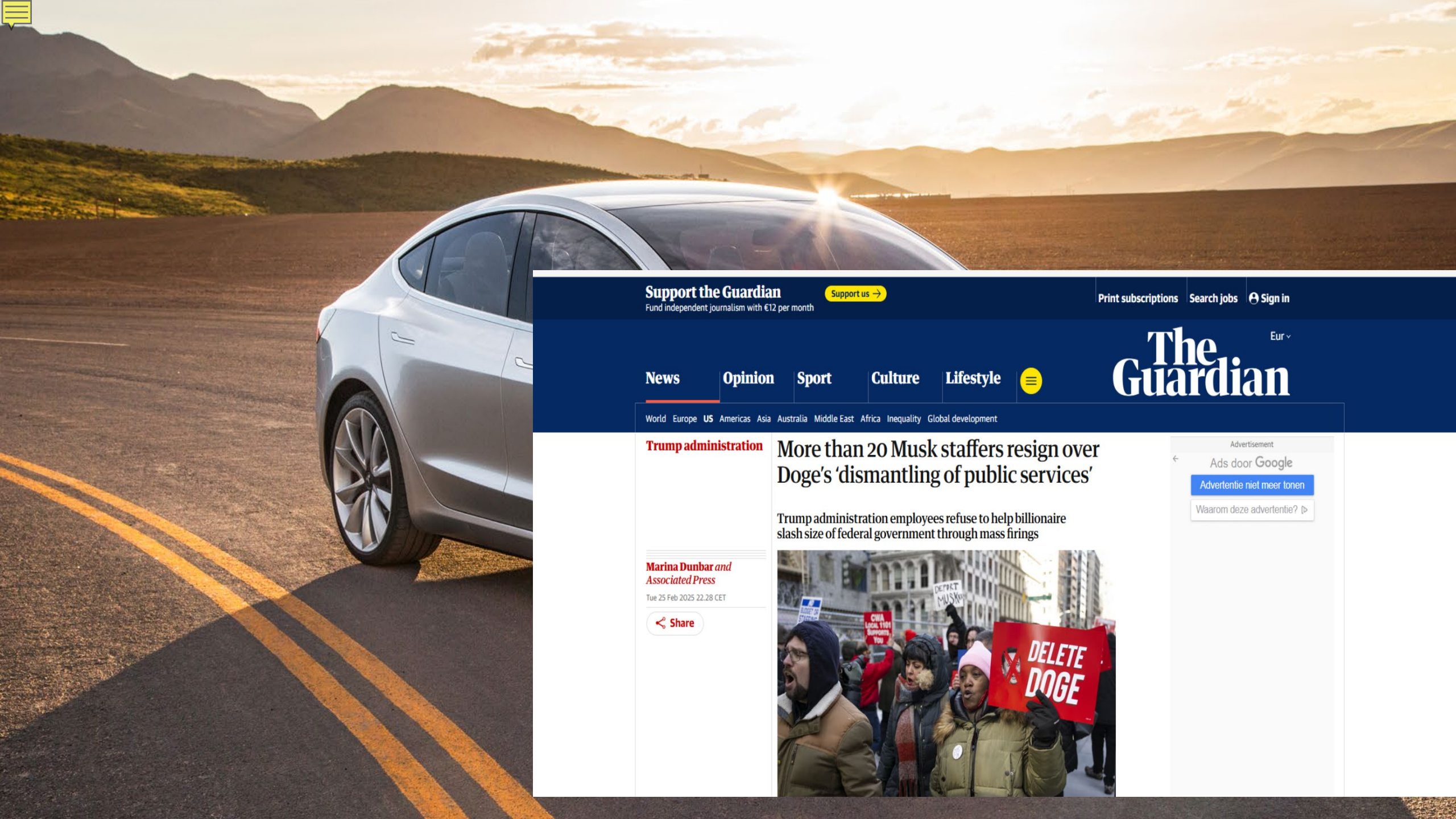


'Deadly consequences': Health agencies reel from ...



Political conference

RIS 2015
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
OP21·CMP11



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Trump administration

More than 20 Musk staffers resign over Doge's 'dismantling of public services'

Trump administration employees refuse to help billionaire slash size of federal government through mass firings

Marina Dunbar and
Associated Press

Tue 25 Feb 2025 22:28 CET

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Landmark Climate Change Case Overturned: The Hague Court of Appeals Overturns Ruling Ordering Shell to Reduce CO2 Emissions

NOVEMBER 13, 2024 | COMMENTARY

In Short

The Ruling: On November 12, 2024, The Hague Court of Appeals overturned the landmark climate change litigation case that imposed a 45% CO2 reduction obligation on Shell.

The Result: The Hague Court of Appeals established that companies have an obligation to reduce CO2 emissions and failing to take adequate reduction measures may constitute a violation of human rights and lead to liability. However, the Dutch civil courts cannot impose a specific reduction target, as long as there is no scientific consensus on the necessary reduction in a specific sector and country.

Looking Ahead: This ruling confirmed a duty of care for companies to reduce CO2 emissions. While a specific reduction target cannot be imposed by the civil courts, companies that fail to implement adequate reduction measures may be subject to scrutiny and targeted in litigation. The court of appeals' judgment may still be appealed before the Dutch Supreme Court.

On May 26, 2021, The Hague District Court issued a ruling ordering Shell Plc (formally known as Royal Dutch Shell), the parent company of the Shell Group, to reduce the Shell Group's (scope 1, 2, and 3) emissions of greenhouse gases ("GHGs") by 45% in 2030, relative to 2019. The district court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, Friends of the Earth The Netherlands ("FoE"), that—in short—Shell's duty of care required Shell to prevent climate change through its own emissions reduction, and that a failure to do so would constitute an imminent tort. This duty of care was construed based on, *inter alia*, the widespread international consensus that human rights offer protection against the impacts of dangerous climate change. In particular, the district court based this on the Paris Agreement, the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), and other guidance.

PRACTICES

[Financial Markets](#)

[Global Disputes](#)

[Government Regulation](#)

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LOCATIONS

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[London](#)

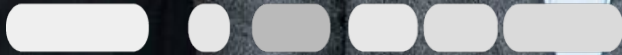
[Paris](#)

[New York](#)

WHY Jones Day?

One Firm Worldwide®

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- > Mutual Commitment of, and Seamless Collaboration by, a True Partnership
- > Formidable Legal Talent Across Specialties and Jurisdictions
- > Shared Professional Values Focused on Addressing Client Needs



KLIMAATZAAK



Tale of two c

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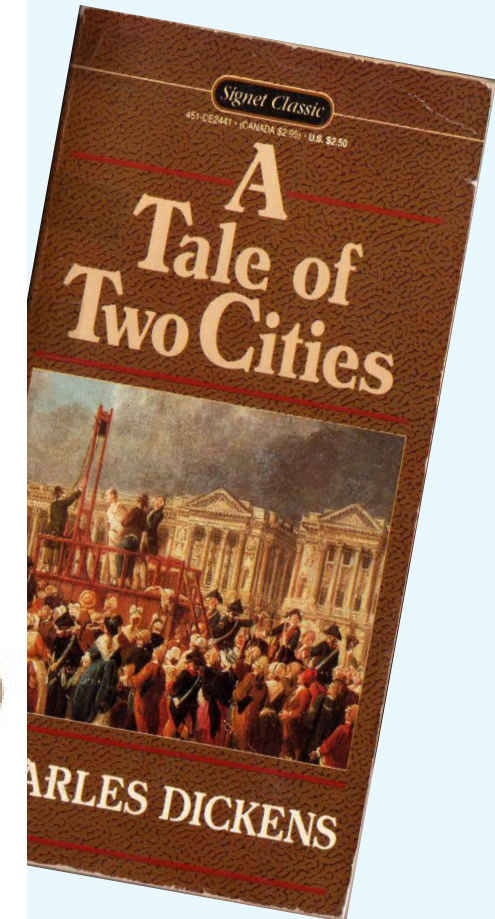
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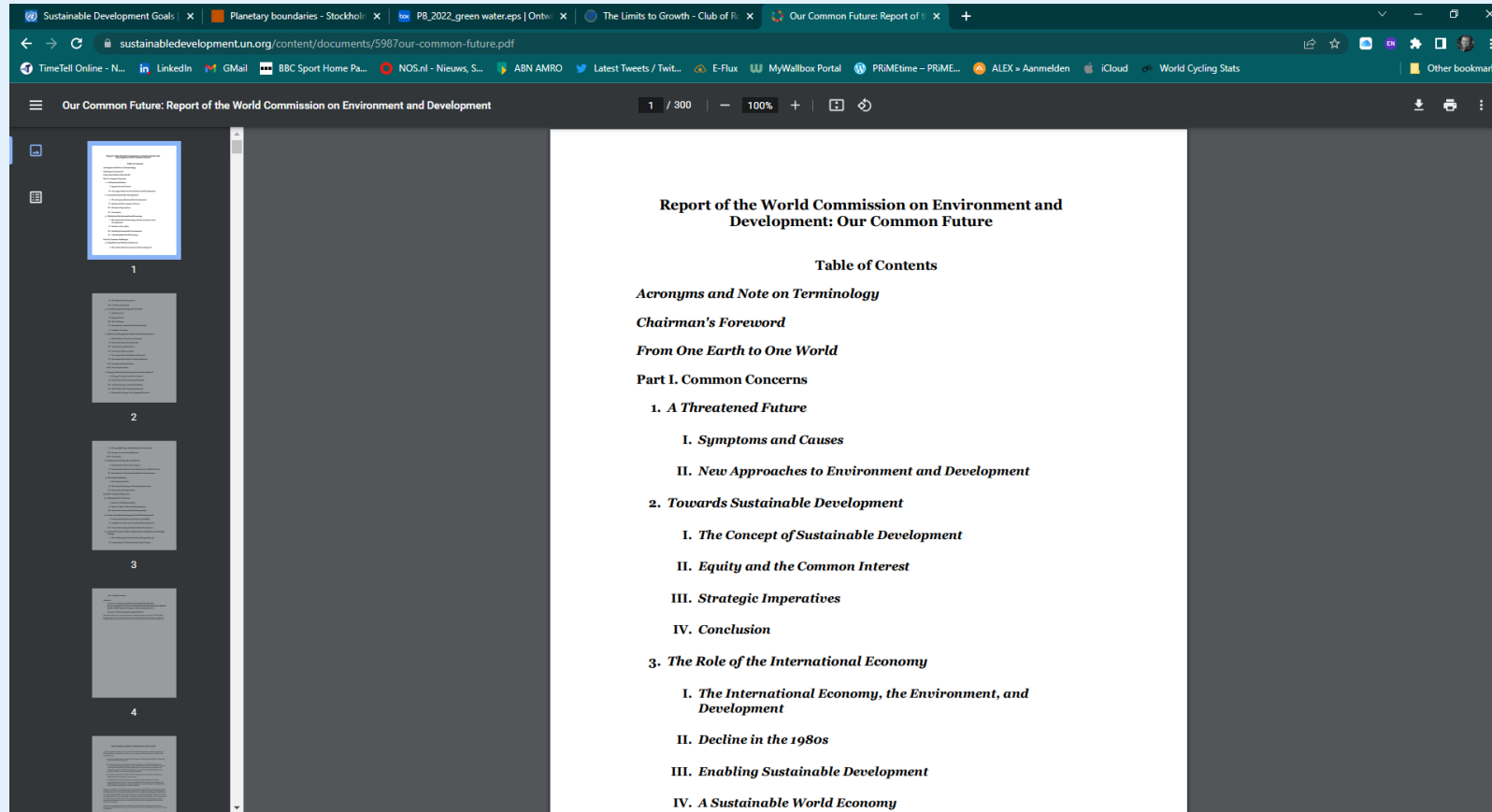
We've known this for quite some time now...

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs open. The active tab is 'The Limits to Growth - Club of Rome'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/'. The website header includes the Club of Rome logo and navigation links: 'IMPACT HUBS', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'NEWS', and 'ABOUT US'. The main content area is titled 'The Limits to Growth' and features a book cover for 'THE LIMITS TO growth' by Dennis H. Meadows, J. Randers, and William W. Behrens II. The text describes the book's publication in 1972 and its message about the earth's resources. A green button labeled 'Overview' is visible, along with social media sharing icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Below this, there is a section for 'OTHER PUBLICATIONS' featuring a book cover titled 'Growth within limits through solidarity and equity'. At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie notice and buttons for 'Cookie Settings' and 'Accept All'.

1972!!!

<https://www.clubofrome.org/publication/the-limits-to-growth/>

We've already agreed on what needs to happen...



1987!!!

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

A clear need for more specific goals and targets...



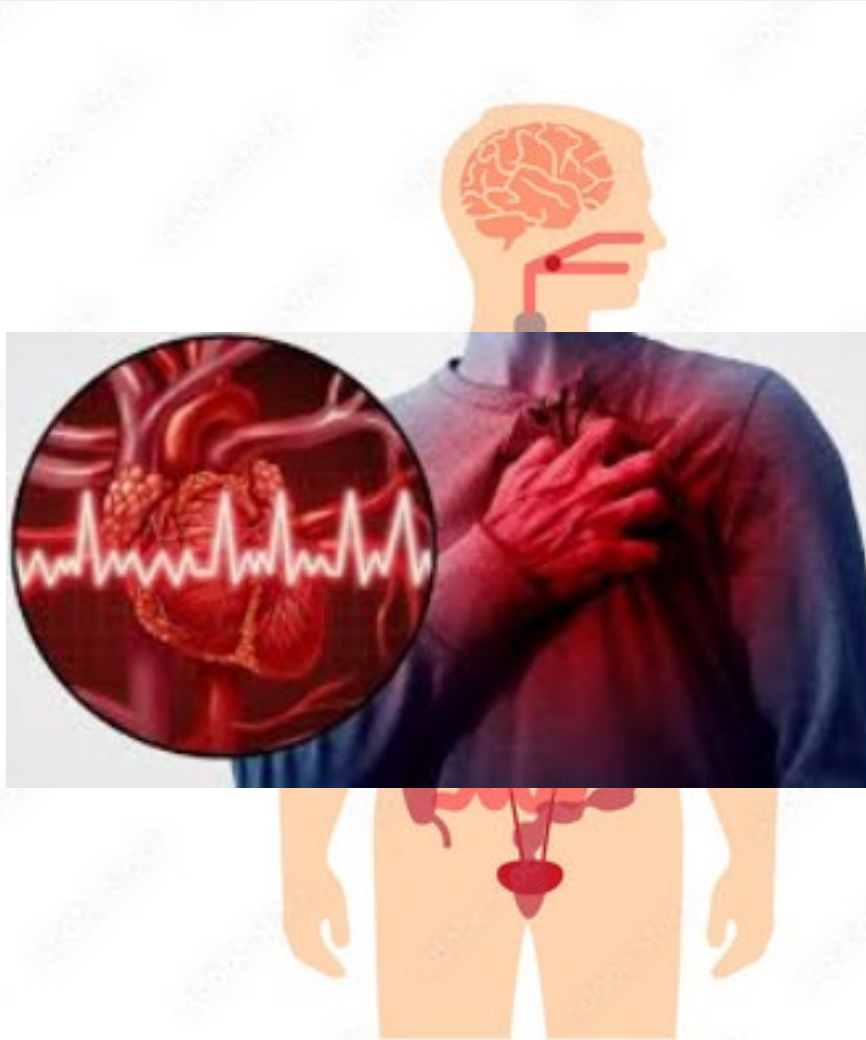
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

How to address sustainability...



- 2015;
- adopted by all UN member states;
- 17 goals, 169 targets, deadline: 2030;
- by now, the 'de facto sustainability standard for businesses and governments';
- these goals capture an encompassing spectrum of sustainability topics that are, by definition, **integrated, indivisible, and universally applicable**;
- powerful, enticing agenda, that serves as a catalyst and guiding principle.

What does “integrated, indivisible” mean?



“You don’t better the system by bettering the parts.”

‘Bettering the separate parts’ is not an ecological idea. It’s not how LIFE works.

Think of the **heart** organ.....

It’s about nurturing the relationships that form that system.

- Nora Bateson <https://batesoninstitute.org/>



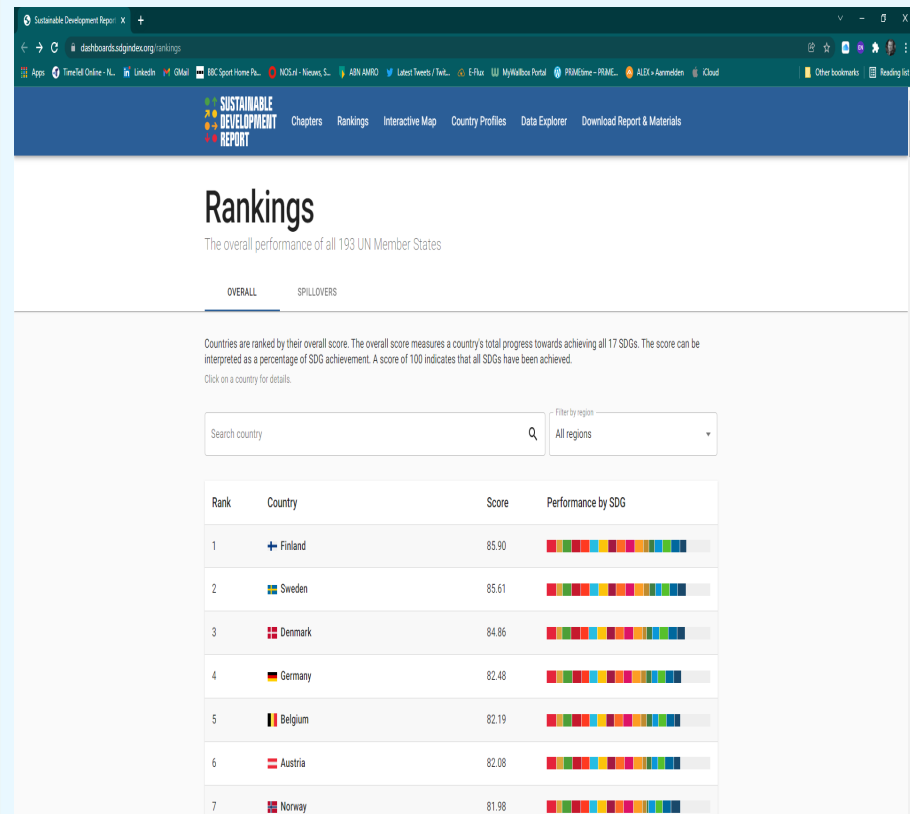
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Careful with how you address/monitor the SDGs...



- Focusing investments on empowering young women may shift away the attention from more important drivers of poverty, including debt, tax evasion, and labour exploitation...
- Similar with micro-credits and other means to fight poverty...
- Be careful that by fighting symptoms you are not overlooking the 'actual' problems, or the causes of those problems.

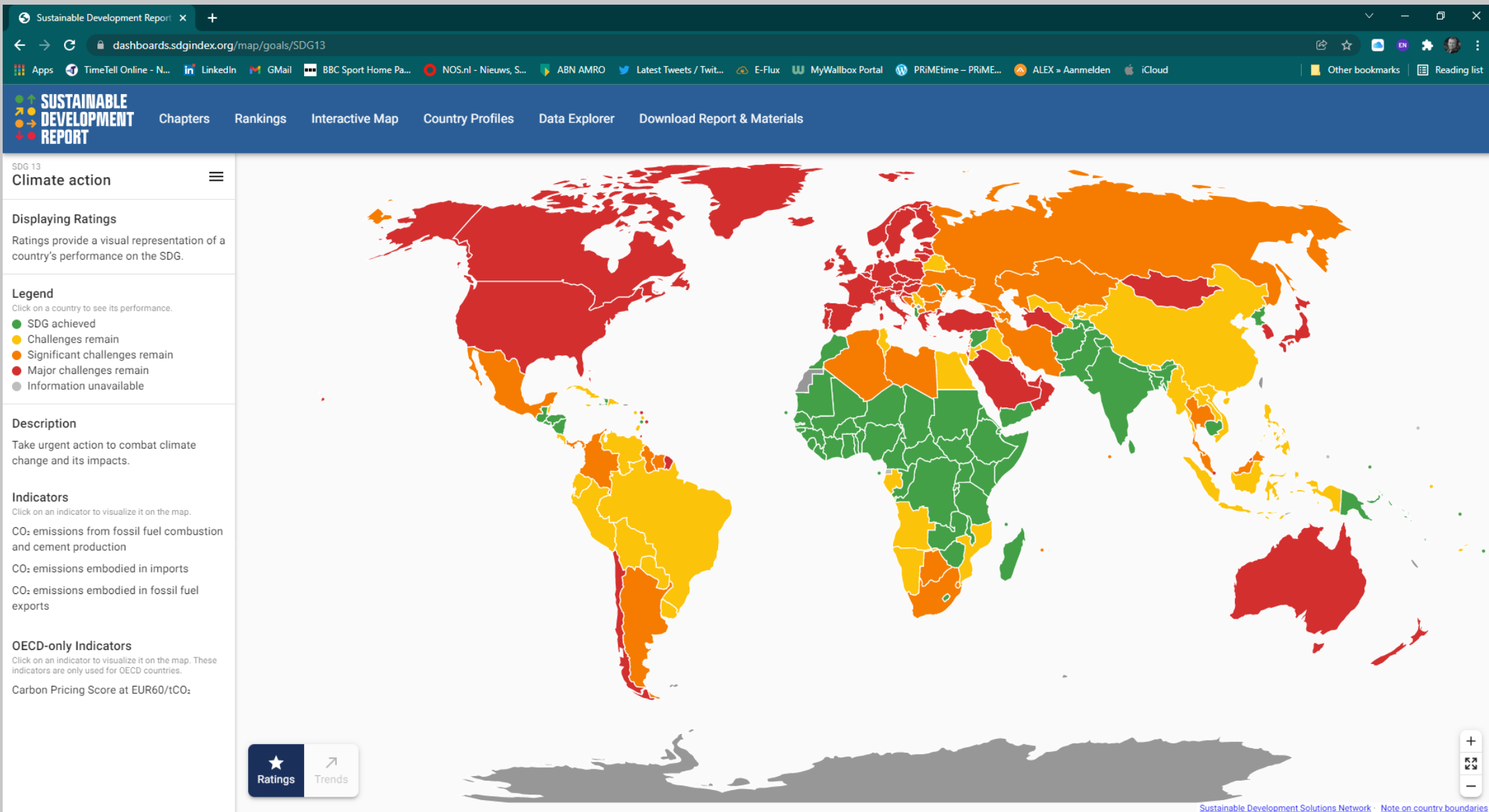


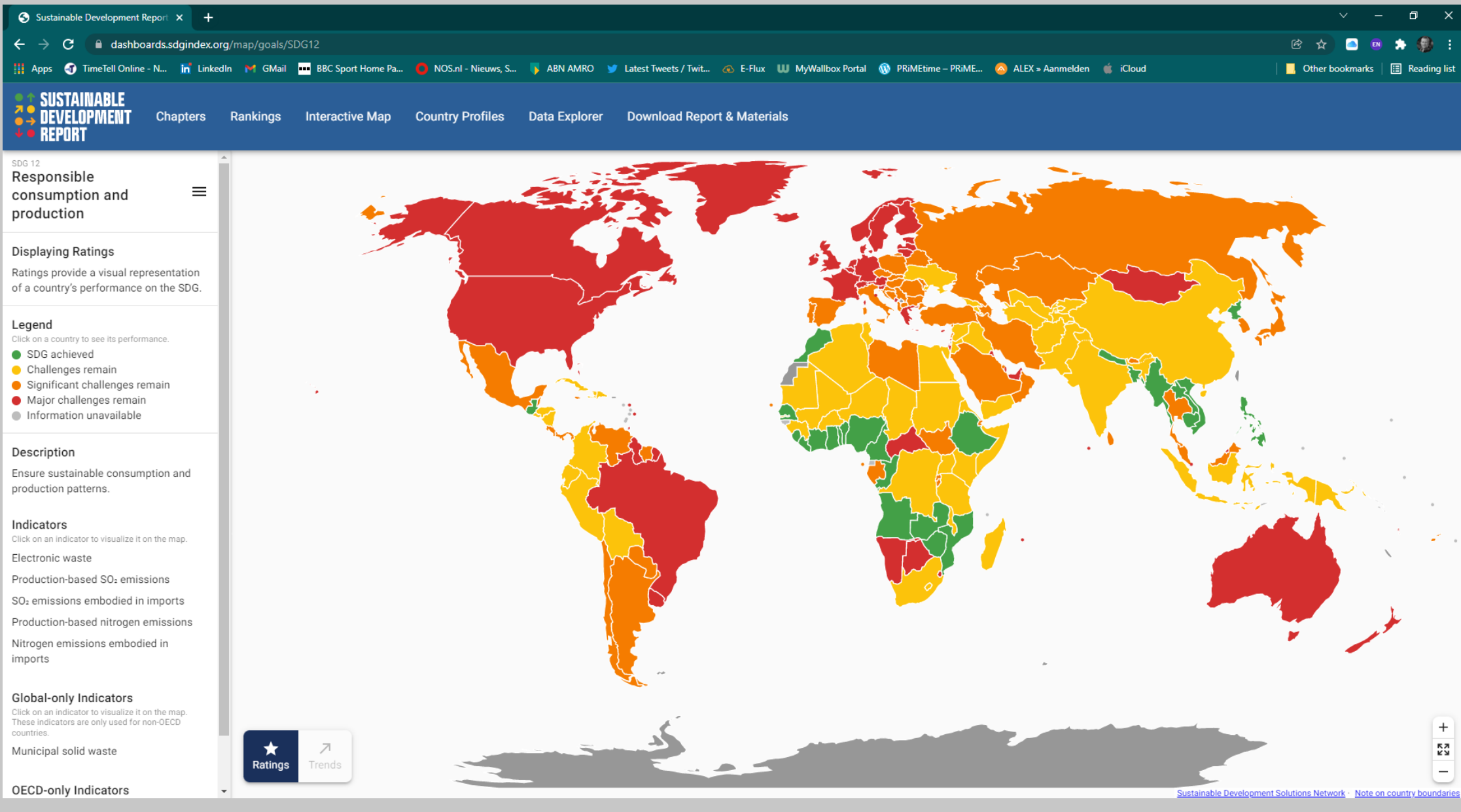
Ranking high on the SDG index strongly correlates with **high footprints**, and low ranking with low footprints.

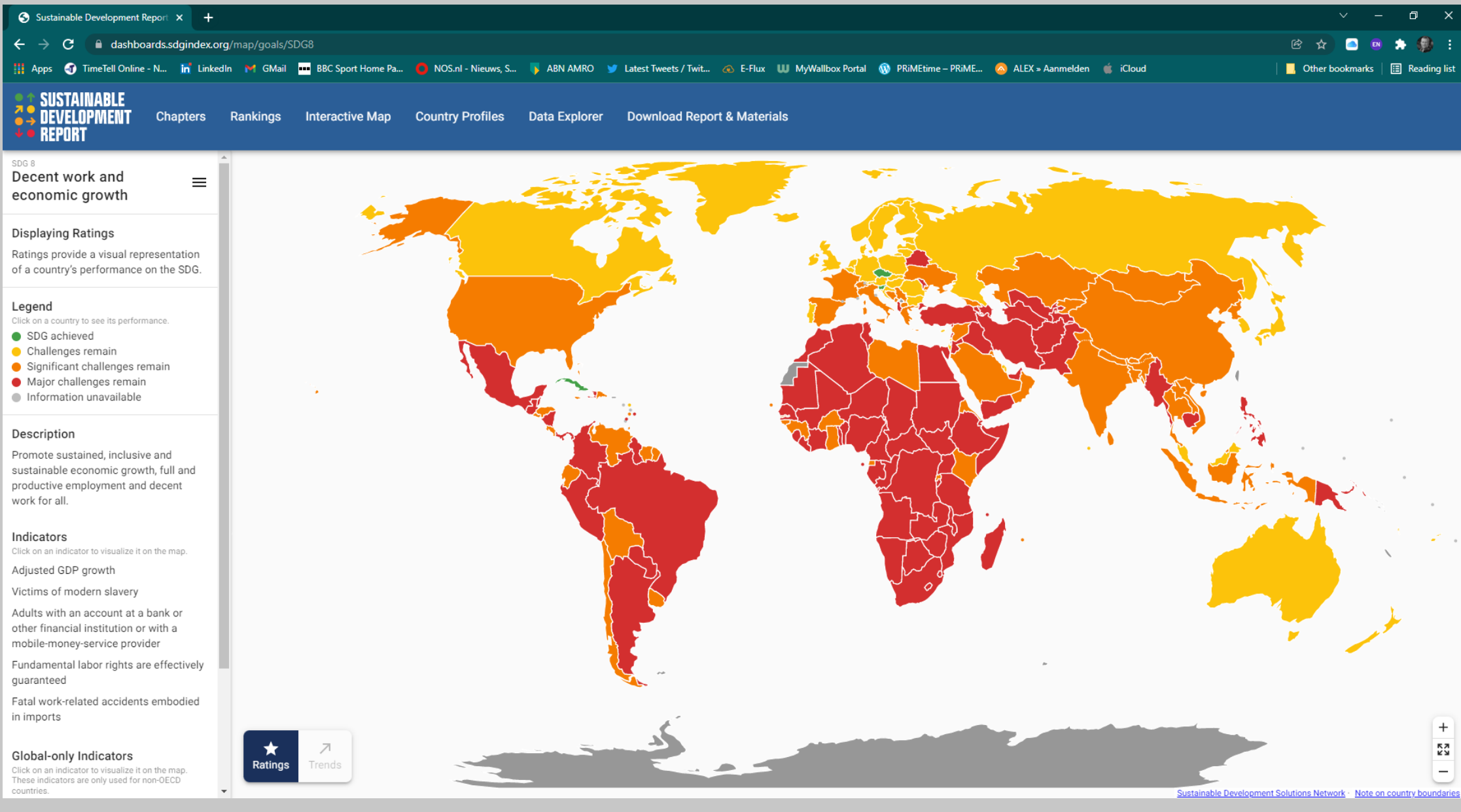
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenrg.2017.00018/full>

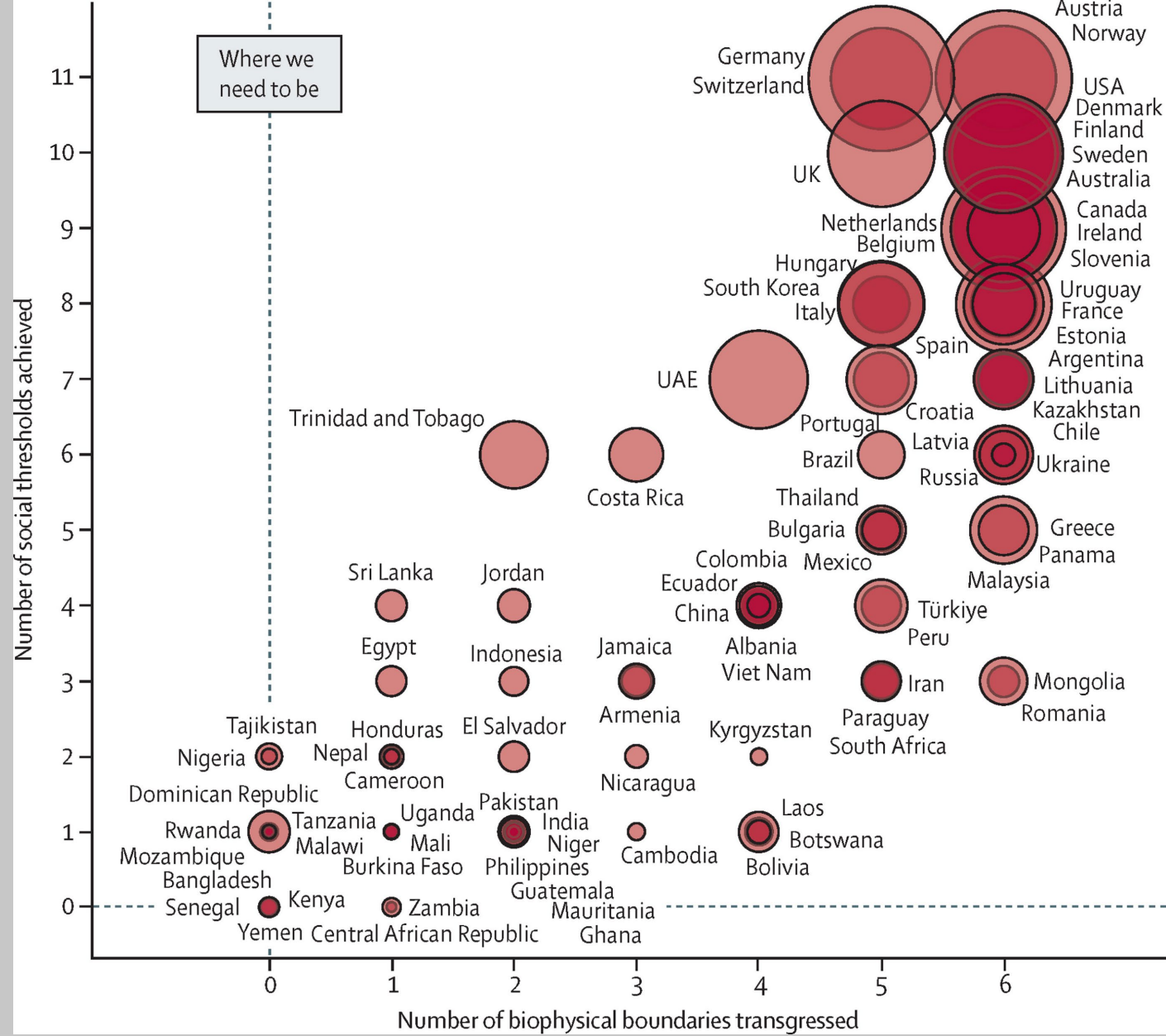


<https://dashboards.sdindex.org/map>









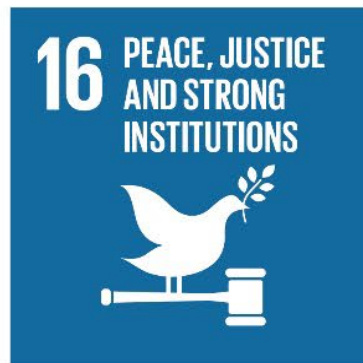
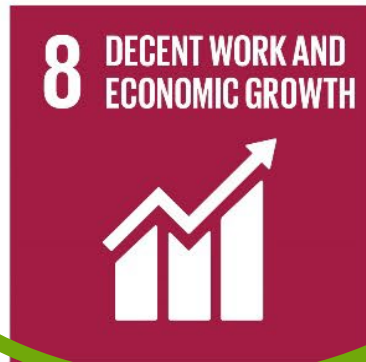


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





“breakthrough change,
disruption”

*<https://hbr.org/2018/06/25-years-ago-i-coined-the-phrase-triple-bottom-line-heres-why-im-giving-up-on-it>

PACT FOR THE FUTURE

[LINK TO THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE](#)

Your challenge in the workshop (the complicated version)

Action 53. We will develop a framework on measures of progress on sustainable development to complement and go beyond gross domestic product. 81. We recognize that sustainable development must be pursued in a balanced and integrated manner. We reaffirm the need to urgently develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond GDP. These measures should reflect progress on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation. We decide to: (a) Request the Secretary-General to establish an independent high-level expert group to develop recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complement and go beyond GDP, in close consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, taking into account the work of the Statistical Commission, building on the Global Indicators Framework for SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to present the outcome of its work during the eightieth session of the General Assembly. (b) Initiate a United Nations-led intergovernmental process following the completion of the work of the independent high-level expert group in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the UN Statistical Commission, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, in line with their respective mandates, on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, considering the recommendations of the Secretary-General's high-level expert group.



Your challenge in the workshop (the simple version)

Develop
a better way (than just GDP)
to measure and/or monitor
progress
with respect to
sustainable development.

