

## The SDGs in time of crisis: A sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 as an opportunity to realize the SDGs

The message of the scientific and technological community is very loud and clear: the current context, devastating as it has been for so many, also provides a window of opportunity – a leverage point – from which to transform our world to prosperity and equity as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It might also be humanity's last chance for climate action and for restoring and protecting our nature, which are key for achieving the SDGs.

COVID-19 must not become the excuse for insufficient efforts towards the SDGs, hence recovery plans must be aligned with the principles of the SDGs in order to be truly transformative. The trillions of dollars in stimulus packages announced by governments worldwide represent a unique opportunity to take decisive steps towards sustainability. Investments must be channeled towards new sustainable growth opportunities and decent jobs while decisively bending the global curves of greenhouse gas emissions, halting the destruction of the natural ecosystems, and achieving the SDGs at the scale and speed necessary.

Recovery packages must support and invest in integrated and consistent approaches to deal with the challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and achieving a sustainable, equitable and resilient future. Applying multidisciplinary systemic thinking and focusing on the interlinkages in the preparation of recovery responses and measures is necessary to balance the potential short-term divergences between economic, social and environmental priorities during the transition towards more sustainable futures. This would facilitate positive and synergistic impacts, while avoiding unintended negative impacts.

There is an urgent need to address existing scientific evidence and move from plans to action. The scientific community stands ready, to work together with policy, civil society and other stakeholders togenerate responses, solutions and understand how our societies can overcome ongoing social and environmental crises while putting the world on a new development pathway that will lead to more just, sustainable and resilient societies. The situation is urgent. We have no time to waste.

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## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

The Scientific and Technological Community Major Group is coconvened by the International Science Council and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations

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