

Transformation from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey and the World

Türkiye ve Dünyada Binyıl Kalkınma Hedeflerinden Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Amaçlarına Dönüşüm

Başvuru Tarihi: / Received: 27.09.2020

Kabul Tarihi / Accepted: 08.06.2021

Araştırma / Research

Rıfat ALTAN¹

Abstract

The main aim of this article is to analyze the transformation from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Turkey and the world to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, it is first examined the emergence processes of the sustainable development concept, MDGs and SDGs. Then, after evaluating the global progress on the SDGs, the development level of each SDG in Turkey is analyzed in a comparative perspective. Using reports of the UN, Bertelsmann Stiftung & SDSN, and Turkey, this study reveals that, although progress has been made in some areas of the SDGs, many challenges remain both in Turkey and the world.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, SDGs, MDGs, Turkey, Poverty.

Öz

Bu makalenin temel amacı, Türkiye'de ve dünyada Binyıl Kalkınma Hedefleri'nden (BKH) Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Amaçları'na (SKA) dönüşüm sürecini ve gelinen gelişim düzeyini analiz etmektir. Bu amaçla çalışma, öncelikle, sürdürülebilir kalkınma kavramı, BKH ve SKA'nın ortaya çıkış süreçlerini incelemektedir. Akabinde, SKA konusundaki küresel ilerlemeyi değerlendirdikten sonra, Türkiye'deki SKA'nın gelişim düzeyi karşılaştırmalı bir bakış açısıyla analiz etmektedir. Çalışmada, BM, Bertelsmann Stiftung & SDSN ve Türkiye'nin ilgili raporlarından yararlanılarak, Türkiye'de ve dünyada 2030 amaçlarına ulaşma yolunda bazı alanlarda ilerleme kaydedilmiş olmasına rağmen, halen birçok zorlu sorunun üstesinden gelinemediği, ayrıca, gerekli sosyal ve ekonomik dönüşümü gerçekleştirecek çok daha hızlı ve iddialı bir çabaya ihtiyaç duyulduğu sonucuna varılmaktadır.

¹ İçişleri Bakanlığı, rifaltan76@gmail.com | ORCID: 0000-0001-8268-7464

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, SKA, BKH, Türkiye, Yoksulluk.

Introduction

The concept of sustainable development was accepted by the world community at the UN Environment and Development Conference in 1992. Sustainable development, which sets the common denominator as 'sustainability' in the economic and social development goals of the countries, aims to increase social solidarity, economic efficiency, and environmental responsibility. This understanding, which concerns all world states without making a distinction between the rich and the poor, is requested to be applied in the programs and projects of international financial institutions.

The necessity and importance of sustainable development were emphasized at all United Nations conferences and other summits, starting from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to the 2015 New York Sustainable Development Summit. The Millennium Declaration in 2000 determined the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which represent the global development targets, including sustainable development, envisaged to be implemented by the end of 2015. With significant improvements experienced in the 8 goals, the aim was, despite some shortcomings, globally achieved to a large extent. However, due to the need for a new global commitment to be built on these goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed on at the United Nations (UN) Summit in 2015. 17 SDGs are the new world agenda for all people everywhere to be fulfilled by 2030 with a common effort and cooperation by all countries. They aim at finding solutions to the root causes of a range of global challenges, including poverty, inequality, and climate change.

As has been the case for most of the countries, MDGs and SDGs have been important reference sources for Turkey's development planning. Turkey has made significant efforts to align its national development priorities with these goals with the aim of achieving them. Recent researches and reports have shown that while significant progress has been made in some areas, important difficulties continue in Turkey, though not to the same extent. The situation in the world in this respect is not very different from that of Turkey. Even many high-income countries fail to reach the SDGs. Especially in the environmental dimension, the situation is deteriorating at an alarming rate and inequalities continue to host important challenges. Furthermore, as all of these goals as well as challenges and their solutions are interrelated, the importance of global cooperation and multilateral action has become more prominent.

In this article, the transformation from the MDGs to the SDGs will be examined. In the first part, to establish a basis for a conceptual transformation of development, the Millennium Development Goals, the concept of Sustainable Development, and Sustainable Development Goals are introduced. The achievements of MDGs both in Turkey and in the world are shortly examined. In the second section of this study, global progress in the SDGs and the development level of the SDGs in Turkey are analyzed. Particularly, Turkey's progress in each SDG is analyzed in the light of Turkey's national assessment reports in this respect as well as Turkey's SDGs profile prepared by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN. This article also aims to contribute to the increase in awareness about SDGs, especially in Turkey, and to further draw attention to the specified areas of priority that require urgent actions and faster progress for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The leading sources used in the preparation of this article are United Nations' reports on MDGs and SDGs, HLPF Summit Declaration, Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN's 2019 report on SDGs, Turkey's 2. Voluntary National Review Report on SDGs, Turkish Presidency's SDGs assessment report, SPO's MDGs report on Turkey, Ministry of Development's report on the implementation of SDGs in Turkey, some internet articles and web pages of the 'high-level political forum on sustainable development', UNDP and other relevant institutions. While 2015 data are taken into account to measure the success levels of the MDGs in Turkey, for the SDGs the data in 2017, on which the relevant reports are based, are analyzed.

The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent the global development targets envisaged to be implemented by the end of 2015 with the Millennium Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly at the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000. It consists of 8 main topics that were universally agreed upon and measurable. Halving the number of people with income below \$1 a day, reducing the child mortality by two thirds and maternal deaths by three quarters by 2015, and reducing the proportion of population deprived of clean drinking water and primary health services by half can be given as examples to the specified numerical criteria of the MDGs.

The eight MDGs are determined by the UN as follows;

1. To eliminate extreme poverty and hunger,
2. To reach universal primary education,
3. To support gender equality and empower women,
4. To reduce child mortality,
5. To improve maternal health,
6. To fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases,
7. To ensure environmental sustainability, and
8. To develop a global partnership for development.

(United Nations Development Program [UNDP], 2015, pp. 4-7).

The Millennium Development Goals, which raised significant international awareness and encouraged efforts towards them, were tried to be kept alive and supported by high-level events held in the period 2000-2015. These events include the 2005 World Summit, the 2008 High-Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 UN Millennium Development Goals Summit. While 16 billion dollars were committed within the scope of the High-Level Event in 2008, over 40 billion dollars was committed at the 2010 Summit, where a global action plan for achieving the goals by 2015, was also accepted.

According to the UN's report (2015) assessing MDGs realization levels, the global effort towards achieving these targets set in 2000 yielded remarkable efficiency and became the driving force of progress in these areas. The report claims that "with targeted interventions, sound strategies, adequate resources, and political will, even the poorest countries can make dramatic and unprecedented progress". It also accepts unequal achievements and insufficient improvements in various areas. Therefore, significant improvements were experienced in the 8 targets and despite some shortcomings,

the aim was achieved to a large extent. To give some examples of improvements in targets since 1990, more than 1 billion people recovered from extreme poverty, child mortality rates and the number of children dropping out of school decreased by more than half, the rate of participation in primary education on the global scale increased to 91%, significant progress in gender equality among students enrolled in school took place, the number of people accessing improved healthcare and drinking water increased by 2 billion, the maternal mortality rate declined by 45% globally, the female employment participation rate increased to 41% and their representation rate in national parliaments increased to 90%, HIV/AIDS transmission decreased by 40% since 2000, the number of children vaccinated against measles increased from 73% to 84%, over 6.2 million malaria deaths were prevented and nearly 37 million lives were saved from tuberculosis.

However, the report also emphasized the fact that work had not been completed for millions of people around the world, as still 1.2 billion people were living in extreme poverty, and underlined the need for a new global commitment to be built on these targets. Despite the improvements, gender inequality was continuing. It fell behind the MDG in terms of reducing adolescent birth rates, child and maternal mortality rates, and providing environmental sustainability. Especially in the environmental dimension, the situation was deteriorating. Global greenhouse gas emissions continued to increase and global carbon dioxide emissions had increased by 50% since 1990.

Regarding the reasons for the partial failure of the MDGs, McCloskey (2015, p. 186), for example, sees the absence of a critical consciousness considering the structural causes of poverty and the inability to relate the dominant neoliberal economic approach to persistent levels of poverty and climate change as important reasons for the failure of the MDGs to achieve all targets.

Millennium Development Goals in Turkey

As is known, with the global MDGs established in 2000, the world states were committed to doing the necessary work in line with these goals and contributing to their own development processes and global development by 2015. In this context, in order to achieve the MDGs, the Republic of Turkey had made efforts to align its national development priorities with those goals and to meet the requirements of the joint commitments laid down. As a result of policies implemented, considerable progress was achieved in all of these goals, though not to the same extent.

In this context, the first MDGs Report on Turkey, prepared in 2005 by the State Planning Organization (SPO) with the UN's technical support, contributed significantly to the integration of Turkey's development policy into these goals and guided the preparation of the 9th Development Plan covering the 2007-2013 period to consider the aim of reaching the MDGs. These goals have also been taken into account while preparing subsequent development plans and related national policy documents.

The second MDGs Report on Turkey (SPO, 2010) identified considerable progress in line with the targets in question, especially in reducing poverty and in the areas of maternal and child health, as well as indicators that still needed to be improved, such as some of the structural inequalities depending especially on the gender and geography.

As the MDGs were to be achieved by 2015, the Ministry of Development prepared a report in 2016 to evaluate the achievement levels of MDGs in Turkey. According to the report, progress had been

achieved through effective policies in all indicators of the MDGs, particularly in social development. Turkey had achieved considerable success in lowering poverty, ensuring universal primary education, decreasing the rates of infant and maternal mortality, and achieving sustainability in environmental issues.

Accordingly, the population ratio, which lived below \$ 1.25 per day was reduced from 0.2% in 2002 to zero in 2006. Similarly, the rate of food poverty decreased from 1.35% in 2002 to 0.48% in 2009. Moreover, Turkey achieved the MDG in the mother and infant health areas through sharply lowering, by 2015, the mortality rates of infants, children under five, and maternal. The number of HIV-infected cases diagnosed also decreased significantly.

Based on the information in the report, when the change in the period of 2000-2015 is examined, it is seen that the enrollment rate in primary education reached almost 100% and the difference between the enrollment rates of girls and boys almost closed. In addition, the proportion of children participating in secondary education rose from 74.4% to 95.4%, the proportion of women working in non-agricultural sectors increased from 17.7% to 26.6%, though women's participation in the workforce was still relatively low, and health system utilization rate increased from 75% to 91%, the rate of municipal population benefiting from the utilization of drinking water and water resources increased from 95% to 97%.

In the report, the increase in Turkey's official development assistance to developing countries was mentioned as another area in which the country had made remarkable progress. It was emphasized that within the scope of MDGs, the amount of Turkey's development assistance, which was \$ 85 million in 2002, increased to \$ 3.6 billion in 2014, and as one of the largest donors in the field of humanitarian assistance, Turkey's figure of humanitarian aid for 2014 reached 1.8 billion USD.

The report also shows some achievements in the environmental dimension. For example, despite an increase in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, environmental sustainability had been ensured. Forestland ratio increased from 26.6% in 1999 to 27.7% in 2012 (The Ministry of Development's Report, 2016).

When the performance of Turkey is evaluated in terms of MDGs covering the period 2000-2015, it is seen that an average success has been achieved. In an analysis conducted by Halişçelik (2016), which determines the success levels of countries in achieving the MDGs by comparing the base year (1990) and target year (2015) values, Turkey was among the countries which were 'partially successful', ranking 88th with a success value of 79.50.

The Concept of Sustainable Development

In the literature, 'sustainable development' is defined as meeting the needs of today's generations without sacrificing the needs of the next generations (Altan, 2008, p. 19). In other words, sustainable development is a development model that entails using natural resources without depleting them and in harmony with nature, allowing development to continue in the future, ensuring the needs of not only today's generations but also future generations and involving social, ecological, economic, spatial and cultural dimensions as a whole. The basis of the sustainable development approach is intra-generational solidarity pointing to the space dimension and inter-generational solidarity and equity indicating the

time dimension (Mengi & Algan, 2003, p. 3). The overall goal of sustainable development is the long-term stability of the economy and environment, which can only be achieved by integrating environmental, social and economic concerns into decision-making processes (Emas, 2015, p. 2).

The sustainable development approach, which sets the common denominator as ‘sustainability’ in the economic and social development goals of the countries, is requested to be applied in the programs and projects of international financial institutions. This understanding, which concerns all world states without making a distinction between the rich and the poor, aims to increase social solidarity, economic efficiency and environmental responsibility.

The foundations of the sustainable development concept were laid at the Human Environment Conference, in Stockholm in June 1972. The Stockholm Declaration emphasized the carrying capacity of the environment, the observance of inter-generational fairness in resource use, and the coexistence of social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development. Subsequently, the sustainable development concept which was highlighted in the report titled ‘Our Common Future’ published by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 (the famous ‘Brundtland Report’ called with the name of the President of the Commission) and in the Agenda 21, was accepted by the world community at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 3-14 June 1992.

In the same year, the Sustainable Development Commission was established for making effective monitoring of UNCED, supervising and reporting the fulfillment of local, regional, national, and international agreements. After the 2002 Johannesburg World Sustainable Development Summit (WSSD), this commission was also charged with the task of following the WSSD Implementation Plan and assisting countries in this regard.

Agenda 21, which was one of the five main documents adopted at the UNCED Conference in 1992 and soon became one of the UN's most recognized documents, is an action plan for the execution of sustainable development. It is a comprehensive action plan envisaged by UN System organizations, governments, and important groups in every field to be carried out locally, nationally, and globally in all areas where human beings affect the environment. It aims to improve living standards, better protect and manage ecosystems and meet the basic needs of humanity. Agenda 21 sets specific goals for the world community to integrate environmental concerns with economic and social development efforts (Altan, 2008, p. 20).

The Millennium Declaration, signed by 191 countries in September 2000, called for support for the sustainable development principles adopted at the UNCED. The MDGs also included environmental sustainability and reasonable use of natural resources. As one of the eight goals, sustainable development was envisaged to be achieved by means of integrating strategically sustainable development into national policies and programs and stopping the degradation of natural resources.

Agenda 21 and commitment to the Rio principles were once again confirmed at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 (UN Agenda 21). At the WSSD Summit, world leaders agreed that reasonable and fair management of natural resources and ecosystem services was critical in reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs. At the UN Sustainable Development Conference (Rio + 20 Summit) in 2012, a final document was accepted, named ‘The Future We Want’, which is an internationally recognized road map for development. The necessity and

importance of sustainable development were emphasized at all UN conferences and other summits, starting from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to the 2015 New York Sustainable Development Summit.

Sustainable Development Goals

In the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in New York on 27 September 2015, ‘Agenda 2030: UN Sustainable Development Goals’ was adopted, containing 17 goals and 169 related targets. SDGs are a continuation of the MDGs, but a much more comprehensive and expanded action plan. It addresses some of the key shortcomings of the MDGs and contains a broader and more transformative agenda that better reflects the complex challenges of the 21st century and the need for structural reforms in the global economy (Fukuda-Parr, 2016). In other words, It aims to put the world in a more sustainable orbit by creating a global development framework that also includes political and environmental challenges facing the world.

As an inclusive agenda that descends into the root causes of poverty, SDGs have started to be implemented in all countries and to guide policies and funds since 2016. In addition to environmental issues such as sustainable cities, climate change, fighting against drought, conservation of biodiversity, protection and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, ocean, sea, and marine resources, which have particularly been added to the agenda, SDGs encompasses a wide range of areas to be worked out by 2030, such as ending all types of poverty and hunger everywhere, gender equality, access to water and sanitary conditions, sustainable and inclusive economic development and industrialization, sustainable consumption and production, support for peaceful and inclusive societies, inequalities, energy, health, education, and global partnership.

All of these goals are interconnected and success in one will positively affect the others. For example, while progress in the area of climate change affects the management of our natural resources, eliminating gender inequality or improving general health helps to reduce poverty. Similarly, building peaceful and inclusive societies contributes to increased equality and economic prosperity (UNDP, 2019). Indeed, the UN's 2019 SDGs Report confirms that global problems and solutions are related and progress can be accelerated by using these links.

Progress in the Sustainable Development Goals

Global Outlook

The UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the establishment of which was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the Rio+20, is the main UN platform on sustainable development. The Forum which replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development and held its first meeting on 24 September 2013 has a central role in following up and reviewing the 2030 Agenda (UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development [UN HLPF], n.d., para. 1).

Within this context, to monitor and review in detail the improvements have taken place in the implementation, the UN Summit on the SDGs was held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2019 for the first time since the inception of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. In the SDGs Summit, Heads of State and

Government adopted the Political Declaration that called for gearing up for a decade of action to ensure the SDGs by 2030. To this end, more than 100 acceleration actions were announced (UN HLPF, 2019, para. 3).

In the Political Declaration world leaders have confirmed the need to do more and faster. For this purpose, they have committed to the main topics on leaving no one behind, placing a special emphasis on the most vulnerable in their policies, reducing disaster risk, increasing financial efficiency, developing national practices, empowering institutions, supporting local activities, developing international cooperation, using science and technology with more emphasis on digital transformation and improving statistical capacities.

The UN Secretary-General publishes annually a report regarding the progress made on SDGs. The UN's 2019 Report on SDGs reviews progress made during the four-year period of the SDGs. The report, using the latest data available, determines the global development of all the SDGs with a detailed analysis of their selected indicators. It underlines issues and determines areas where the need for collective action is urgent to reach the SDGs by 2030.

According to the report, even though progress has been made in some areas over the past four years since 2015, many challenging issues have not been overcome. Areas, where progress has been made, are highlighted. Accordingly, extreme poverty has declined considerably. While the proportion of people who live below the extreme poverty level was 36% worldwide in 1990, this rate dropped to 8.6% in 2018. The mortality rate of children under 5 years fell by 49% during the 2000-2017 period. Millions of lives have been saved thanks to immunizations. Electricity is now accessible to most of the world's population. Important actions have been taken by countries to protect the planet. As a result, for example, the rate of marine protected areas has increased two times since 2010 and progress has been made in illegal fishing, which is now addressed concertedly (UN Report, 2019, pp. 22-53).

However, it is stated that the global intervention in such areas is not strong enough and this causes more problems for the most vulnerable social sectors and countries. In addition, there are many areas in which collective intervention is urgently needed. Such areas include, but are not limited to, climate change, the deterioration of the natural environment, the rise in sea levels; the continuous rise of carbon dioxide concentration, and the increase in acidification rate of the oceans by 26% above the pre-industrial period. If the current carbon dioxide emission continues in the same manner, it is estimated that this rate will increase from 100% to 150% by 2100. More than half of the world's population lacks basic health, education, and social welfare services. Discrimination against women keeps its importance throughout the world. Increasing needs, bloody conflicts, and natural disasters are slowing the pace of fighting poverty. Global hunger, which has been decreasing for a long time, is on the rise. The problematic situation in poverty is also emphasized by Battersby (2016) who argues that the food target suggested under the SDGs defects in its approach to ensuring food security by neglecting the urbanization of food insecurity in Africa and nutrition transition.

Another issue that needs to be addressed urgently is, according to the UN's Report (2019, pp. 22-24; 42-43), the increasing inequalities. These are prevalent both within and among countries. The poorest countries and the most vulnerable groups suffer most from poverty, hunger, and diseases. Three-quarters of children with developmental disorders due to malnutrition live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Extreme poverty is three times more in rural than in urban areas. About 79% of the world's poor live in rural areas. Only a quarter of severely disabled people can get a pension. The report warns that climate change and increasing inequalities within and between countries undermine the steps taken under the

Sustainable Development Agenda, and endanger the gains that have improved people's lives over decades.

It is also underlined, in the report, that as these challenges and commitments are interrelated, they require integrated solutions. Since the solutions to the global issues are also interdependent, the importance of international cooperation and multilateral action is stressed to overcome the gigantic problems. Moreover, the report makes it clear that in order to achieve 2030 goals, the necessary social and economic transformation is needed to be materialized by ‘a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response’.

Another report that has recently evaluated the global progress and country profiles on the SDGs is the Sustainable Development Report jointly prepared by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in June 2019. This report compares countries' performance ranking and their policies and actions towards achieving targets in terms of the 17 SDGs². According to the SDGs 2019 Index given in the Report, rating out of 100 indicator points, the most successful countries for implementing sustainable development goals are Scandinavian countries Denmark (85.2), Sweden (85.0) and Finland (82.8) respectively. However, the report reveals that no country in the world is on the way of achieving all 17 SDGs. Even the top performer countries have difficulties in fulfilling one or more SDGs. The goals in which they face challenges most are SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 14 (life under water) and SDG 15 (life on land). Looking at trends, it is stated that, even many rich countries do not make sufficient advance. They are stagnating, for example, in inequalities in areas of income, education and health services. Therefore, it emphasizes that in order to realize the 2030 Agenda, deeper global transformations are vital.

When the countries' performances are compared in the SDSN's report, based on the SDG Index and SDG Dashboards, it is seen that even if some countries do well in terms of health, education and income, they perform worse on environmental issues, good governance, inequality etc. Therefore, the SDG Index and the SDG Dashboards introduced in the report suggest that despite a significant correlation between the SDG Index and the UN Human Development Index (HDI), which is mainly based on health, education and income, focusing on human development alone will lead to negligence of critical development objectives enshrined in the SDGs (SDSN, 2019, pp.19-22).

Development Level of the SDGs in Turkey

Since the UN human development reports are based on the data from 2 years ago, the level of development in Turkey in the area of SDGs, indicated in the UN's 2019 human development report, is based on 2017 data in Turkey. In parallel to this, Turkey's 2. Voluntary National Review (2. VNR, 2019) provides a general assessment of Turkey's progress in SDGs and the integration of the Global Goals into the national agenda as of 2017. Based on the information given in the report, Turkey's progress in each SDG can be shortly described as follows:

² SDSN explains its aim as to increase the global awareness and successful implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals, to help countries determine their implementation priorities in the SDG targets expected to be achieved by 2030.

Goal 1: Ending poverty. According to TurkStat data specified in the report, the ratio of individuals living less than \$ 1.25 a day to the population as of 2015 is negligible, with a rate of 0.06% (6 per ten thousand). Therefore, Turkey has reached the targets of eradicating extreme poverty (for \$ 1.25). The proportion of the population living less than \$ 4.3 a day (another limit for absolute poverty) has decreased from 2.6% in 2013 to 1.58% by 2017. The proportion of people living in less than 60% of the average income (relative poverty) decreased from 23.4% in 2007 to 20.1% in 2017 (2. VNR, 2019, p.52). Decreasing the poverty level is very important as it also constitutes a clear obstacle to achieving other targets, such as universal primary education and reduction of infant and maternal mortality (Akyıldız, 2010).

Goal 2: Zero hunger. Turkey has performed better in most targets of this goal than the world average. For example, the rate of babies fed only with breast milk in the first six months is 41.6%, above the world average of 37% (2. VNR, 2019, p.56). However, although Turkey is one of the countries that made progress in reducing hunger for the 2000-2016 period, more progress is needed in areas such as relative poverty and meeting basic nutritional requirements.

Goal 3: Health. SDG 3 is one of the goals in which Turkey performs best. For example, as of 2017, Goal 3 is achieved in terms of neonatal mortality, infant mortality, and maternal mortality rates. The share of NCDs (non-communicable diseases) in the total disease burden in Turkey increased from 69.7% in 2002 to 82% in 2017. The number of beds per 10,000 people increased from 26.6 in 2015 to 27.9 in 2017. While the ratio of qualified beds in total beds was 59.7% in 2015, this rate increased to 67.2% in 2017. Moreover, the levels of developed countries have been approached in terms of the number of health personnel per capita. However, as of 2017, there are 3,481 people per family doctor (2. VNR, 2019, pp.60-61). This ratio, which shows an unbalanced distribution among provinces, needs improvement.

According to the SDG Assessment Report issued by the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey in 2019, although Turkey is considerably ahead of the global average in many targets of this goal, including maternal and infant mortality and the fight against infectious diseases, additional measures need to be taken to combat non-communicable diseases and preventive health services and to solve the health problems of the growing elderly population. In addition, there are still some areas, like vaccination campaigns, in which the desired results have not been achieved.

Goal 4: Education. The average duration of education rose to 7.6 years and the expectation to stay in education increased to 17.7 years. The net schooling rate in primary education rose from 91% in the 2002-2003 period to 96.1% in the 2017-2018 academic year. As for secondary education, the net enrollment rate increased from 39.2% for girls and 48.5% for boys in 2000-2001 to 83.4% and 83.8% by 2017-2018, respectively. In higher education, the net enrollment rate in formal education for 18-22 ages increased to 45.6% as of the 2017-2018 academic year. The net schooling rate in preschool education, which was 11.7% for ages of 4-5 in the 2002-2003 academic year, reached 50.4% in the 2017-2018 period. The transition from dual education to single education has contributed to the improvement of education. While the rate of primary school students studying in single education in the period of 2013-2014 was 43% and the ratio of secondary school students was 49%; in the 2017-2018 period, these rates increased to 58.7 and 66%, respectively. The number of students per classroom in primary and secondary education went down from the thirties in 2002-2003 to the twenties in the 2017-2018 academic years. The share of the private sector in the supply of educational services in the 2017-2018 academic year was 8.3% on a student basis, with an increase of 13% compared to the previous period (2. VNR, 2019, pp.65-66).

Despite significant progress achieved in most of the SDG 4 targets, the need to increase the quality of education and adapt it to the needs of the labor market continues. As of 2017, 14.6% of men and 34% of women aged between 15-24 were out of both education and employment (2. VNR, 2019, p.68). In addition, it is observed that a stable education policy has not yet been achieved in Turkey. To emphasize the frequent changes in the education system, Teksöz (2014, p.93) compares the current state of sustainable development in education in Turkey to a 'puzzle' whose picture is unknown.

Goal 5: Ensuring gender equality and empowering women. After the 2018 general elections, the female representation rate in Parliament was 17.45%. The employment rate of women in Turkey as of February 2019 for the 15+ age group is 28.3%, and the participation rate in the labor force is 34%, which varies with education level. Higher education graduates are the highest labor force participation rate with 73%. The ratio of female managers increased from 12.2% in 2012 to 16.7% in 2019 but is still less than ¼ of men. The share of formal marriages of girls aged 15-17 years in total marriages decreased from 7.2% in 2008 to 3.8% in 2018 (2. VNR, 2019, pp. 70,72).

Despite these developments, problems in practice need to be resolved. Preventing violence against women and strengthening all policies to prevent gender inequalities in the areas of political representation, economic efficiency, labor force participation, harmonization between work and private life, vocational-technical education, and technology use keep their importance.

Goal 6: Water and sanitation. In Turkey, an important increase was recorded during the 2002-2018 period in terms of the population rate using reliably managed drinking water, wastewater, and sewerage services as well as the ratio of the population served by wastewater treatment plants.

Goal 7: Energy. Turkey has made important headway in access to energy. Almost all the people have had access to electricity since 2010. The share of renewable energy sources reached 29.7%. Particularly, this share in electricity generation increased to 32.5% in 2018, reaching the nationally determined target of 30%. In the 2000-2017 period, the annual average of the primary energy intensity index and the final energy density index decreased by 1.3% and 1.4%, respectively (2. VNR, 2019, pp. 78,80).

Goal 8: Economic growth. Based on the data given in Turkey's 2. VNR, during the 2000-2018 period, the economy, led by the private sector, grew by an average of 4.9% annually. In the 2010-2018 period following the global crisis, GDP growth reached an average level of 6.33%. The per capita income, which was around \$ 3,084 in 2001, reached \$ 9,632 in 2018. Based on data on world development indicators, with fixed prices adjusted for purchasing power parity, while GDP per capita increased by an average of 2.25% in the global economy in the period 2000-2017, this growth rate was realized as 3.01% in Turkey. As for Turkey's manufacturing industry, while it ranked 20th in the world and 10th in Europe in 2002, it ranked 16th in the world and 6th in Europe in 2017. Similarly, the share of Turkey's tourism revenues in the world tourism income increased from 1.3% in 2000 to 2,56% in 2017 (2. VNR, 2019, pp. 84-85).

As of 2018, the youth unemployment rate was 25.3% for women and 17.6% for men. In the same year, the unemployment rate for women aged 15-64 was 14.2%, which was 9.7% for men. The informal employment rate, which was 53.3% in 2000, was 33.4% at the end of 2018. Outside agriculture, the rate of informality among wage workers decreased from 17.5% in 2014 to 16.4% in 2017. In 2018, only 16.1% of illiterate women joined the workforce. The rate of uneducated and unemployed people in Turkey dropped from 40% in 2003 to 24.5% in 2018. Despite the increase in population in the 6-17 age group in Turkey, the number of working children in this age group has decreased significantly. The

employment rate for children in the 6-17 age group decreased from 15.2% in 1994 to 5.9% in 2012 (2. VNR, 2019, p. 87).

However, the expected decrease in the unemployment rate did not materialize due to the insufficient improvement in employment rates which lagged behind the rise in labor force participation. Furthermore, there is still a need for progress on the regional and sectoral distribution of employment and women's participation in employment (Turkish Presidency, 2019, p. 128).

Goal 9: Infrastructure, industrialization. With its liberalization, the share of the air transport sector increased from 1% to 9.6% in the same period. The share of the railroad fell from 2.2% to 1% and seaway transports increased from a negligible level to 0.6%. The share of industrial value-added in GDP decreased slightly from 21.6% in 2000 to 20.6% in 2017, but its share in employment increased from 18% to 19.1% in the period 2000-2017. With the density of mobile subscribers reaching 99.8%, access to technology has increased; the proportion of the population accessing fixed broadband internet has reached 16%, and the proportion of the population accessing mobile broadband internet has reached 75.3% in 2018 (2. VNR, 2019, pp. 92-94).

However, the decline in the ratio of industrial production in GDP and the lack of sufficient structural transformation towards high-tech sectors are the main shortcomings in this goal (Turkish Presidency, 2019, p. 146).

Goal 10: Inequality. As an income distribution indicator, the Gini coefficient, which was 0.43 in 2006, declined to 0.41 in 2017. As is known, as the Gini coefficient approaches from 0 to 1, inequality in income distribution increases. In 2016, the Gini coefficient was realized as 0.32 in OECD countries. Whereas the richest 20% group was taking from annual usable income approximately 9.6 times more than the poorest 20% group did in 2006, this proportion dropped to 7.7 times in 2016. While the difference between the highest and the lowest Level 2 regions in terms of per capita income was 4.7 times in 2004, it decreased to 4.3 in 2017 (2. VNR, 2019, p. 96).

The main needs that stand out for this goal are to reduce inequalities, improve income distribution and increase equal opportunities on the basis of regional, sectoral and fragile groups.

In addition, according to the findings given in the UN HDR (2019, p. 308), for the period 2010 to 2017, while the poorest 40% of the population in Turkey had only 15.6% of the total revenue; the richest 10% of the population had 32.1% of the total revenue; the richest 1% has 23.4% share of the total income, showing the existence of a serious inequality problem in income distribution in Turkey.

Goal 11: Cities. As pointed out in Turkey's 2. VNR report, despite significant progress achieved under this goal during the period 2000-2016, such as the significant increase in the number of air quality monitoring stations, in the municipal population that received wastewater treatment plant service, and in the standard of green area per person, the need to increase the access of low-income people to housing, to integrate the climate change factor into the disaster management process and to provide infrastructure development for smart cities keeps its importance.

Goal 12: Sustainable consumption and production. Although in Turkey there exist legal and institutional arrangements and practices as well as policies for the realization of conscious production and consumption; the need for an effective and sustainable approach of managing and using natural

resources and chemicals, clean production/eco-efficiency practices, and addressing a more holistic approach to R&D activities continues.

Goal 13: Climate change. In the area of climate action, Turkey has taken some steps, including integration of the climate change-related measures into its national policies, strategies, and plans, which have reached a certain level of maturity. The CO₂ equivalent emission per person, which was 3.8 tons in 1990, increased to 6.6 in 2017. However, despite signing the Paris Climate Agreement in 2016, Turkey has not yet joined it (2. VNR, 2019, p. 111).

Goal 14: Oceans. Turkey has covered a considerable distance in reducing marine pollution and improving marine and coastal ecosystems. There are areas of development for the sustainable use and management of water resources. The main needs within this goal are to increase the efficiency of management of marine and coastal protected areas, to protect and develop fish stocks, to develop offshore fisheries in remote seas, and to promote good agricultural practices (Turkish Presidency, 2019, p. 220-221).

Goal 15: Biodiversity, forests, desertification. Between 2000 and 2016, Turkey initiated important efforts to combat desertification, protect biodiversity, and balance land destruction and carried out an ambitious reforestation program. Consequently, forest areas increased and the ratio of terrestrial and marine protected areas (land and sea) to the country area reached 8.92% by 2018 (2. VNR, 2019, p. 118).

The main needs that stand out within the scope of this goal are the effects to use and protection of natural resources such as soil, plants, forests, sea, freshwater, prevention of poaching, and conservation of biodiversity and gene resources.

Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions. Although Turkey has made significant progress under the influence of the EU integration process in the 2000s in this area, from 2012 onwards, particularly in recent years, there have been significant problems that have been worsening. As will be indicated below, this worsening tendency has also been determined by Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN Report (2019) which shows that SDG16 is decreasing in Turkey. Moreover, Amnesty International Report (2020/2021, p. 363) has most recently indicated that ‘the judiciary disregarded fair trial guarantees and due process and continued to apply broadly defined anti-terrorism laws to punish acts protected under international human rights law’.

The main needs related to this goal are the establishment of an independent justice system, the elimination of problems in practice, the acceleration of access to justice, greater focus on crime prevention, the solution of financial crime issues through the provision of more advanced mechanisms and coordination, and the production of sub-data in SDG 16 indicators.

Goal 17: Partnerships. Turkey has increased the official development assistance (ODA) volume and its share in the GDP since 2011 and has become one of the rising donor countries. The amount of ODA increased nearly 9 times between 2010-2018, increasing from \$ 967 million to \$ 8,6 billion. Turkey's ODA/GNP ratio has increased from 0.32 level in 2010 to 1.10 in 2018, achieving a level well above the SDG target of 0,7% (Turkey's 2.VNR, 2019, p. 127).

However, Turkish relevant documents do not define any SDGs priorities for the implementation process. Moreover, individual SDGs are not a matter of policy consistency. No reference is made in

these documents to the adoption of cross-sectoral or multi-sectoral approaches to the implementation of the SDGs. Instead, a strictly procedural approach is followed. The SDGs are interpreted in the same ways as previous attempts to achieve sustainable development, which means that the policy approaches in the past are repeated to achieve the SDGs (Tosun and Leininger, 2017, p. 8).

Turkey's country profile is also evaluated by the Sustainable Development Report jointly prepared by Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN (2019). The SDG dashboards in the report highlight areas where Turkey performs good or bad in respect to the 17 SDGs, as it does for other countries. According to the calculation in the report, Turkey ranks 79 with a score of 68.5 among 162 countries. With this score, Turkey is located below the OECD Countries' average score of 77.7. Turkey does not perform well in comparison with the OECD countries. For instance, Turkey is the only OECD country where SDG16 is decreasing and SDG7 is stagnating. Similarly, it is one of the two countries in which SDG2 and SDG11 are stagnating.

Table 1. Turkey's Sustainable Development Goals Profile

SDGs	Score	Red	Orang	No data
SDG1–End Poverty	99.5		X	
SDG2–Zero Hunger	55.8	X		
SDG3-Good Health and Well-Being	83.6		X	
SDG4-Quality Education	93.7	X		
SDG5-Gender Equality	45.3	X		
SDG6–Clean Water and Sanitation	82.1		X	X
SDG7-Affordable and Clean Energy	89.2		X	
SDG8-Decent Work and Econ. Growth	73.8		X	
SDG9–Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	46.5	X		
SDG10–Reduced Inequalities	41.2	X		
SDG11-Sustainable Cities and Communities	70.4		X	
SDG12-Responsible Consumption and Production	73.8		X	X
SDG13-Climate Action	89.9	X		
SDG14- Life Below Water	27.4	X		
SDG15-Life on Land	53.3	X		
SDG16-Peace, Justice and Strong Instit.	68.1	X		

SDG17-Partnerships for the Goals	70.8	X	X
----------------------------------	------	---	---

Colours	Meaning	Total No. of SDGs	Arrow	Meaning	Total No. of SDGs
Red:	Major challenges remain	9	↓	Decreasing	2
Orange:	Significant challenges remain	8	→	Stagnating	7
Yellow:	Challenges remain	0	↗	Moderately Increasing	4
Green:	SDG achievement	0	↑	On track	1
				Data not available	3

Source: Prepared using the figures in the Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN's 2019 Report.

Based on the data given in the table above, Turkey's profile in terms of each SDGs as of 2017 can be assessed as follows;

The colors (green, yellow, orange, and red) indicate a country's distance from achieving a particular goal. As can be seen from the table above, 9 out of 17 goals fall under the red color, which means 'major challenges remain', and 8 of them fall under the orange color, which means 'significant challenges remain'. Yellow and green colors are not included in the table since there isn't any match with these colors. The absence of these two colors, which means 'slight difficulties remain' and 'SDG achievement' respectively, shows that Turkey is far from achieving 17 SDGs.

For the SDG1-end poverty, Turkey has a high score of 99.5, a moderately increasing trend and, however, still, significant challenges remain. SDG2–Zero hunger is a goal where major challenges remain. Turkey's score on this goal is 55.8 and the trend is stagnating. As for the third goal, SDG3–Good health and well-being, the score is 83.6 and the color is orange which means that significant challenges remain. The Arrow shows a moderately increasing trend in this goal. Turkey's performance in other goals can be similarly assessed from the table in this way.

Conclusion

The MDGs and the SDGs have been the driving force of global progress in a wide range of fields since the turn of the century. The global effort towards achieving MDGs yielded remarkable efficiency and despite some shortcomings, the aim was achieved by 2015 to a large extent. However, with the UN's 2015 report assessing MDGs realization levels, it was admitted by the world community that, despite significant improvements experienced in the 8 goals, work had not been completed for millions of people around the world and the need for a new global commitment to be built on these goals was underlined. Subsequently, in the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, SDGs were adopted, containing 17 goals and 169 related targets. SDGs have been built on the MDGs, with a much more comprehensive and expanded vision and action plan.

Since its inception in 2015, the 2030 Agenda, has mobilized all countries and affected national policies. However, despite the global effort in this respect, the UN's 2019 Report on SDGs has made it clear that even though progress has been made in some areas over the past four years since 2015, the global intervention in such areas is not strong enough and many challenging issues have not been overcome. Areas in which progress has been made include fighting poverty, decreasing child mortality, spreading the vaccine, and increasing the number of people accessing electricity. On the other hand, climate change and increasing inequalities are emphasized as the two main areas that need to be addressed urgently.

As has recently been revealed by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN report in 2019, no country has reached the position of achieving all SDGs. Even the top performer countries have major difficulties in making progress on at least one SDG. Just as established in the UN Report, environmental issues and inequalities are also determined in this report as the two areas in which significant challenges remain in all countries, regardless of their development levels. To make it worse, the trends are not promising even in many high-income countries.

Seeing this fact, world leaders, by adopting the Political Declaration in 2019, within the context of the UN HLPF, have acknowledged the need for a more efficient decade of action to ensure the global agenda by 2030 and have confirmed the need to do more and faster.

When the situation in Turkey is analyzed, it is seen that most of the MDGs, as well as the SDGs, are directly or indirectly covered in the current policy documents in Turkey. MDGs seem to have continued to be an important reference source for Turkey's development planning. Evaluating Turkey's realization level of the MDGs and SDGs based on the data available mostly up until 2017, it is seen that significant progress has been made particularly in the areas of poverty reduction, removal of inequalities, fulfillment of effective social policies, availability of basic services, especially health, education, energy and drinking water for everyone, as well as a realization of the country's commitment to the official development assistance and humanitarian aid.

However, as the two recent national reports of Turkey, report of the 2. VNR and that of the Presidency, have admitted, despite Turkey's significant efforts and progress to achieve the SDGs, the need for progress in almost all goals remains. The inclusion of these goals and targets in the implementation process in line with Turkey's priorities, the development of appropriate monitoring and evaluation method, and the improvement of the institutional framework in this direction are important needs. Furthermore, the main shortcomings in the realization of the SDGs in Turkey include reducing inequalities based on gender and regions, preventing violence against women, improving income distribution and increasing equal opportunities on the basis of regional, sectoral, and fragile groups, improving the quality of education, increasing employment, particularly women's participation in employment, increasing the share of industrial production in GDP, providing structural transformation towards high-tech sectors, increasing the access of low-income people to housing, integrating the climate change factor into the disaster management process, achieving managing and using natural resources in a sustainable approach, management of chemicals, clean production/eco-efficiency practices, addressing a more holistic approach to R&D activities, promoting good agricultural practices, conserving biodiversity, and more importantly, establishing an independent and effective justice system.

As has also been established by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN report, Turkey's country profile is far from reaching most of the SDGs by 2030. Turkey has a score well below the OECD average and

does not perform well in comparison with the OECD countries. It is the only OECD country where the trend is decreasing in SDG16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions). Either ‘major challenges’ or ‘significant challenges’ remain in all 17 SDGs. The trend in SDGs is not promising as well. Except for 5 goals, trends in goals are either decreasing or stagnating. Therefore, it can be concluded that despite some progress, Turkey remains far from achieving 17 SDGs. Lastly, it should be underlined that more up-to-date data are needed in order to better identify the development trend of Turkey in the field of SDGs in recent years.

References

- Akyıldız, F. (2010). *Sustainable Development and the MDGs in Turkey 5 Prior to 2015*. Uşak University, Uşak. Retrieved May 09, 2021, from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332864151_Sustainable_Development_and_the_MDGs_in_Turkey_5_Prior_to_2015
- Altan, R. (2008). *United Nations development activities and their reflections on Turkey* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Ankara University, Ankara.
- Amnesty International (2021). *The 2020/2021 Annual Report on the situation of human rights in the world*. Retrieved May 10, 2021, from https://www.amnesty.ch/de/ueber-amnesty/publikationen/amnesty-report/jahre/2020/202021-air-english_2021-04-07_final.pdf
- Battersby, J. (2016). *MDGs to SDGs – new goals, same gaps: the continued absence of urban food security in the post-2015 global development agenda*. Retrieved May 01, 2021, from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19376812.2016.1208769>
- Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2019). *Sustainable development report*. Retrieved March 20, 2020, from <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/sustainable-development-report-2019/>
- Emas, R. (2015). *Brief for GSDR 2015, The Concept of Sustainable Development: Definition and Defining Principles*. Florida International University, Florida. Retrieved June 02, 2021, from https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5839GSDR%202015_SD_concept_definiton_rev.pdf
- Fukuda-Parr, S. (2016). *From the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: shifts in purpose, concept, and politics of global goal setting for development*. Retrieved May 05, 2021, from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13552074.2016.1145895?src=recsys>
- Halışçelik, E. (2016). *Millennium Development Goals and Poor-Focused Growth*. Sosyal Politikalar Platformu, 16/P-5. Retrieved May 11, 2021, from http://spm.etu.edu.tr/tr/publish/2016_06_03-Ergul-Haliscelik.pdf

- McCloskey, S. (2015). *From MDGS to SDGS: We Need a Critical Awakening to Succeed*. Policy & Practice: A Development Education Review. Retrieved on May 12, 2021, from [https://www.developmenteducationreview.com/sites/default/files/Issue%2020A4%20\(1\).pdf#page=189](https://www.developmenteducationreview.com/sites/default/files/Issue%2020A4%20(1).pdf#page=189)
- Mengi, A. and Algan, N. (2003). *Regional sustainable development in the age of globalization and decentralization, the case of EU and Turkey*. Ankara: Political Publishing House.
- Ministry of Development (2016). *Report on Turkey's initial steps towards the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. Retrieved January 27, 2020, from http://www.surdurulebilirlikalkinma.gov.tr/wpcontent/uploads/2016/07/2030_Raporu.pdf
- State Planning Organization (2005). *Millennium Development Goals Report on Turkey*. Retrieved January 25, 2020, from http://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Binyil_Kalkinma_Hedefleri_Raporu_Turkiye_2005.pdf
- State Planning Organization (2010). *Millennium Development Goals Report on Turkey*. Retrieved January 26, 2020, from http://www.surdurulebilirlikalkinma.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/UNDP-TR-TR-2010-MDG-Report_TR.pdf
- Teksöz, G. (2014). *Geçmişten ders almak: Sürdürülebilir kalkınma için eğitim [Learning from the past: Education for sustainable development]*. Boğaziçi University Journal of Education, Vol. 31(2). Retrieved May 08, 2021, from <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/324820>
- Tosun, J. and Leininger, J. (2017). *Governing the Interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals: Approaches to Attain Policy Integration*. Global Challenges, 1. pp. 1-12. doi: 1700036. Retrieved June 06, 2021, from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1002/gch2.201700036>
- Turkey SDGs 2. Voluntary national review report 'strong foundations for common goals'* (2019). Presented at the UN high-level political forum on sustainable development, New York. Retrieved March 11, 2020, from http://www.surdurulebilirlikalkinma.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Surdurulebilir_Kalkinma-Amaclari-Turkiye-2.-Ulusal-Gozden-Gecirme-Raporu-Ortak-Hedefler-icin-Saglam-Temeller_interaktif.pdf
- Turkish Presidency (2019). *Sürdürülebilir kalkınma amaçları değerlendirme raporu [Sustainable Development Goals Assessment Report]*. Retrieved March 25, 2020, from http://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Surdurulebilir-Kalkinma-Amaclari-Degerlendirme-Raporu_13_12_2019-WEB.pdf
- United Nations (n.d.). *Agenda 21*. Retrieved June 02, 2021, from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21>
- United Nations (2015). *The Millennium Development Goals Report*. Retrieved 08 February, 2020, from https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20Summary%20web_english.pdf

United Nations (2019). *Human Development Report*. Retrieved March 07, 2020, from <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf>

United Nations (2019). *The Sustainable Development Goals Report*. Retrieved March 15, 2020, from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

United Nations Development Program (2015). *The Millennium Development Goals Report*. Retrieved January 10, 2020, from https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/UNDP_MDG_Report_2015.pdf

United Nations Development Program (2019). *Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved January 30, 2020, from <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/tr/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html>

United Nations (n.d.). *High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development* Retrieved February 20, 2020, from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

United Nations High-level Political Forum SDGs Summit (2019). *Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, New York, (September). Retrieved March 05, 2020, from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit>