Sustainable development and the Agenda 2030 in emerging economies:
an introduction

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OUTLINE

- The age of sustainable development and the Agenda 2030

- How the world and emerging economies are performing?

- The post-2030 age

- Introduction to the session

THE AGE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE AGENDA 2030

The first widely recoglized definition of sustainable development was provided in **1987** in the **Bruntland Report 'Our Common Future'**, which was prepared by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development led by the former Norway Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

*"Humanity has the ability **to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**. The concept of sustainable development does imply limits - not absolute limits but limitations imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and by the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities. […] Yet in the end, sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony, but rather a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs. We do not pretend that the process is easy or straightforward. **Painful choices have to be made. Thus, in the final analysis, sustainable development must rest on political will.**"*

THE AGE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE AGENDA 2030

- ✓ Launched in 2015 and signed by UN Member States with the purpose of achieving its goals within 2030.

- ✓ 17 Goals, 69 targets, 241 indicators

- ✓ Global goals
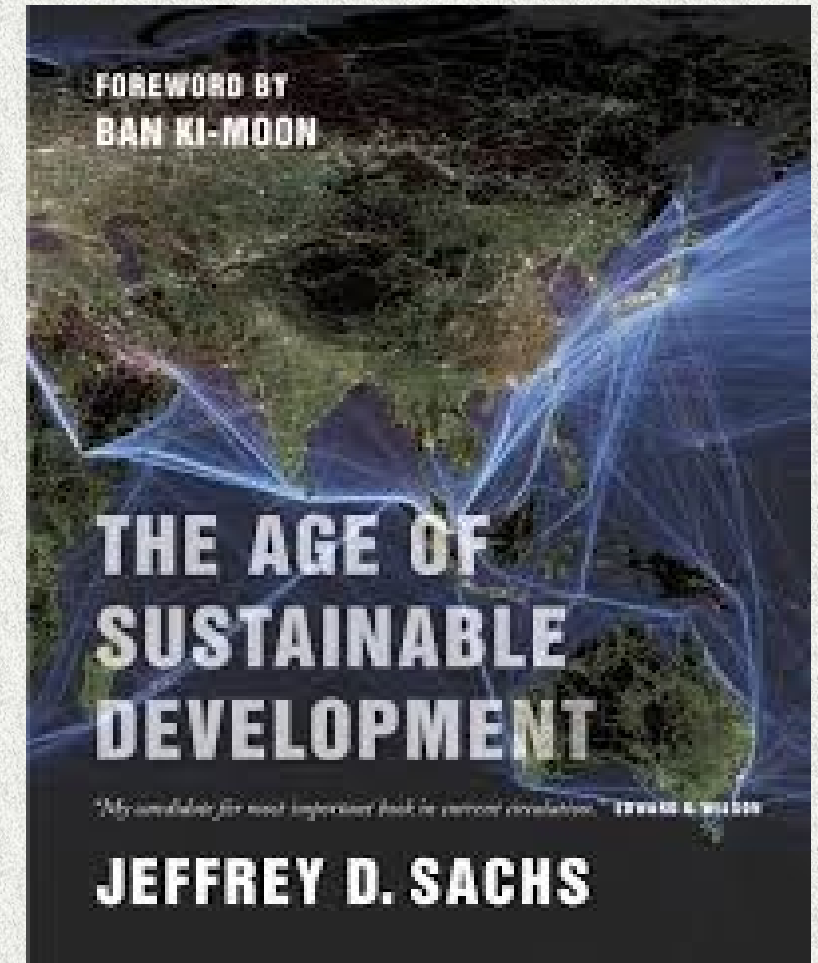
HOW THE WORLD AND EMERGING ECONOMIES ARE PERFORMING?
The SDG Index

Sustainable Development Report (Sachs, Lafortune, Fuller, 2024):
- ➢ first worldwide yearly study assessing where each country stands with regard to achieving the SDGs.

SDG Index:
- ➢ assessment of each country's overall performance giving equal weight to each Goal and based on 125 indicators.
- ➢ between 0 (the worst possible outcome) and 100 (the target).
- ➢ 167 countries are ranked by their overall score.

World SDG Dashboard 2024

Global achievements by SDG
Source: Sachs et al., 2024.

On average, only 16 percent of the SDG targets are on track to be met globally by 2030 (for ex. mobile broadband access and Internet use), with the remaining 84 percent showing limited progress or a reversal of progress.

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) is the only goal that none of the 193 UN member states has achieved or is on track to achieve, due to undernourishment, obesity, unsustainable agriculture and/or unsustainable diets (or a combination of these).
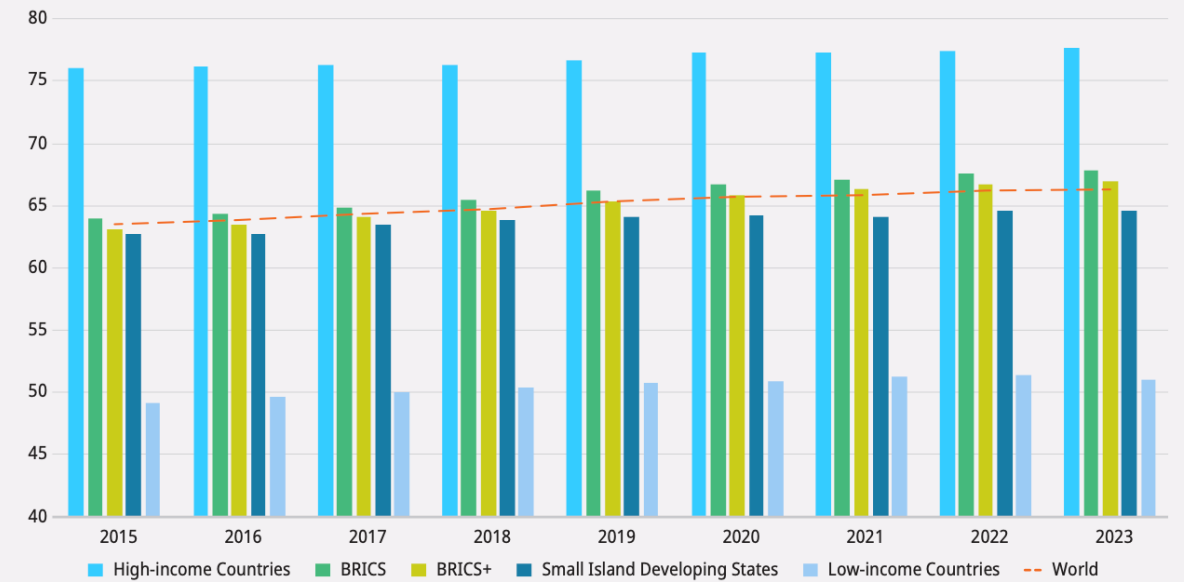
SDG Index score

Average SDG Index score by selected country groups, 2015–2023

Legend:
- East and South Asia
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- Oceania
- OECD members
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- World average

High-income Countries — BRICS — BRICS+ — Small Island Developing States — Low-income Countries — World

Note: The dots represent individual country scores. Precise values by country are available in the SDG Index database. The world and regional averages are population weighted. Countries that are OECD member states are only included in the OECD regional average, they are not included in other regional groupings. Oceania does not include Australia nor New Zealand.

➢ Global SDG progress too slow even before the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises.

➢ Based on the rate of progress since 2015, none of the 17 SDGs will be fully achieved globally by 2030.

➢ The level and pace of SDG progress varies significantly across country groups:
- HIs (and especially EU Nordic countries) continue to lead.
- BRICS countries are making significant progress: since 2015, average SDG progress in the BRICS and BRICS+ countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) has outpaced the world average.
- Since 2015, East and South Asia has emerged as the region that has made the greatest progress toward the SDG.
- Poor and vulnerable nations lag far behind and their gap with world's average has widened since 2015.

The 2024 SDG Index Ranks and Scores

Rank	Country	Score
1	Finland	86.4
2	Sweden	85.7
3	Denmark	85.0
4	Germany	83.4
5	France	82.8
6	Austria	82.5
7	Norway	82.2
8	Croatia	82.2
9	United Kingdom	82.2
10	Poland	81.7
11	Slovenia	81.3
12	Czechia	81.3
13	Latvia	81.0
14	Spain	80.7
15	Estonia	80.5
16	Portugal	80.2
17	Belgium	80.0
18	Japan	79.9
19	Iceland	79.5
20	Hungary	79.5

148	Mozambique	54.3
149	Burkina Faso	52.9
150	Congo, Rep.	52.7
151	Haiti	52.7
152	Liberia	52.5
153	Comoros	52.4
154	Papua New Guinea	52.0
155	Angola	51.9
156	Guinea-Bissau	51.9
157	Djibouti	51.7
158	Madagascar	51.2
159	Sudan	49.9
160	Niger	49.9
161	Congo, Dem. Rep.	48.7
162	Afghanistan	48.2
163	Yemen, Rep.	46.9
164	Somalia	45.4
165	Chad	45.1
166	Central African Republic	44.2
167	South Sudan	40.1

WHO'S IN THE BETWEEN?

23 ITALY
46 UNITED STATES (between Thailand and Argentina)
52 BRAZIL
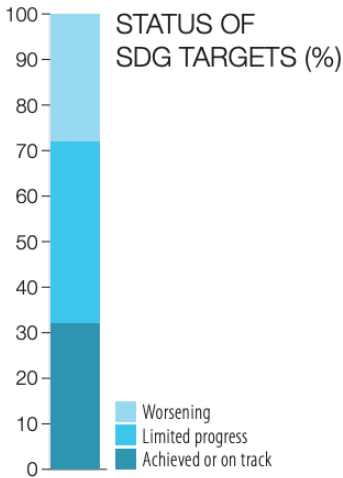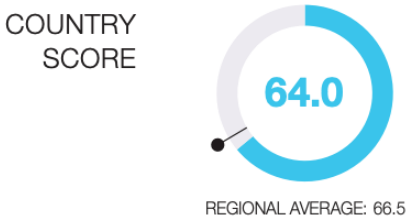56 RUSSIA
115 SOUTH AFRICA

Source: Sachs et al., 2024.

▼ OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING **68**/167

COUNTRY SCORE **70.9**

REGIONAL AVERAGE: 66.5

STATUS OF SDG TARGETS (%)

- Worsening
- Limited progress
- Achieved or on track

▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

1 NO POVERTY ⬆	2 ZERO HUNGER →	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ↗	4 QUALITY EDUCATION ●	5 GENDER EQUALITY →	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION ↗
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY ↗	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH →	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ⬆	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES ↗	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ↗	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION →
13 CLIMATE ACTION →	14 LIFE BELOW WATER →	15 LIFE ON LAND →	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS ↗	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS →	

■ Major challenges ■ Significant challenges ■ Challenges remain ■ SDG achieved ■ Information unavailable

↓ Decreasing → Stagnating ↗ Moderately improving ⬆ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ● Information unavailable

Source: Sachs et al., 2024.

▼ OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING **109**/167

COUNTRY SCORE

64.0

REGIONAL AVERAGE: 66.5

STATUS OF SDG TARGETS (%)

Worsening
Limited progress
Achieved or on track

▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

1 NO POVERTY	⬆
2 ZERO HUNGER	➡
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	↗
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	⬆
5 GENDER EQUALITY	↗
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	↗

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	↗
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	↗
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	↗
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	➡
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	⬇
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	➡

13 CLIMATE ACTION	⬇
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	↗
15 LIFE ON LAND	➡
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	➡
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	↗

🟥 Major challenges 🟧 Significant challenges 🟨 Challenges remain 🟩 SDG achieved ⬜ Information unavailable

⬇ Decreasing ➡ Stagnating ↗ Moderately improving ⬆ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ⚫ Information unavailable

Source: Sachs et al., 2024.

THE POST-2030 AGE

...searching for a (missing) <u>political will</u> from the local to the global level

Extending the Sustainable Development Goals to 2050
Nerini, Mazzucato, Rockström, …, Sachs (2024) on Nature.

«Some people have argued that the world should take stock and focus on fewer sustainability goals and targets. We disagree. Because all of these global crises are interlinked, only a holistic and global approach to solving them will work. The SDGs should remain at the centre of global policy agendas. Therefore, we call on member states of the United Nations […] to adapt and extend the SDG framework to 2050. This will entail setting interim targets for 2030 and 2040 and final targets for 2050 that align with science and maintain high, yet achievable, national and global ambitions.»

SDG 1
No poverty

Legend
Click on a country to see its performance.
● SDG achieved
● Challenges remain
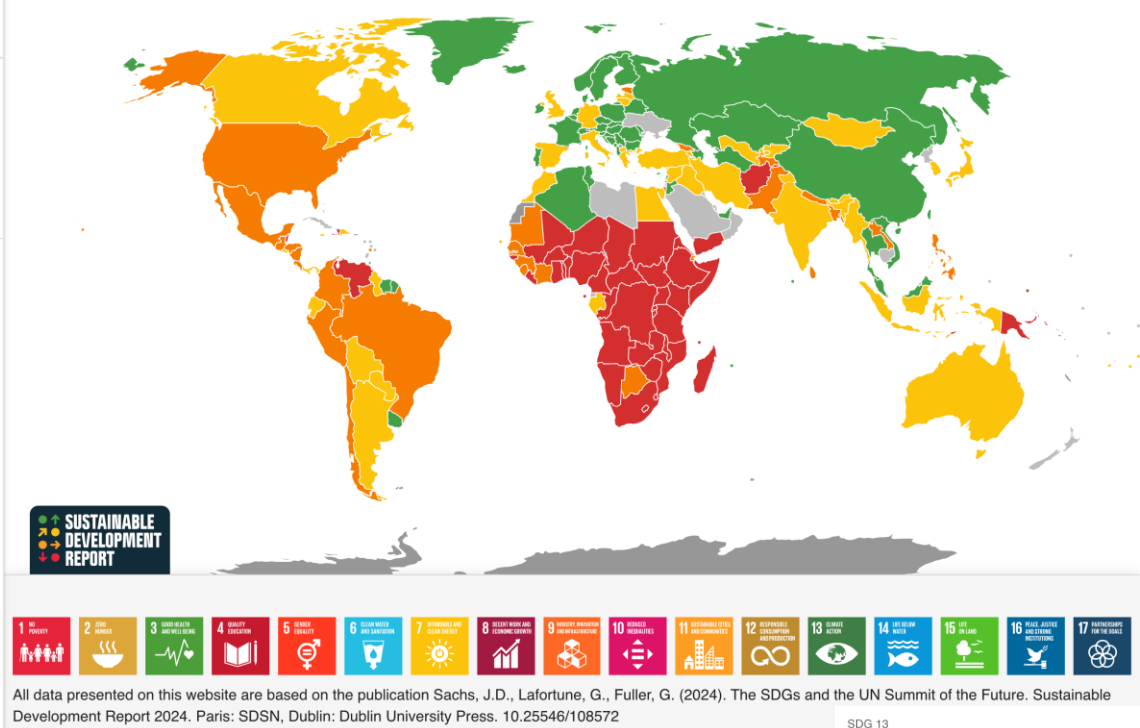● Significant challenges remain
● Major challenges remain
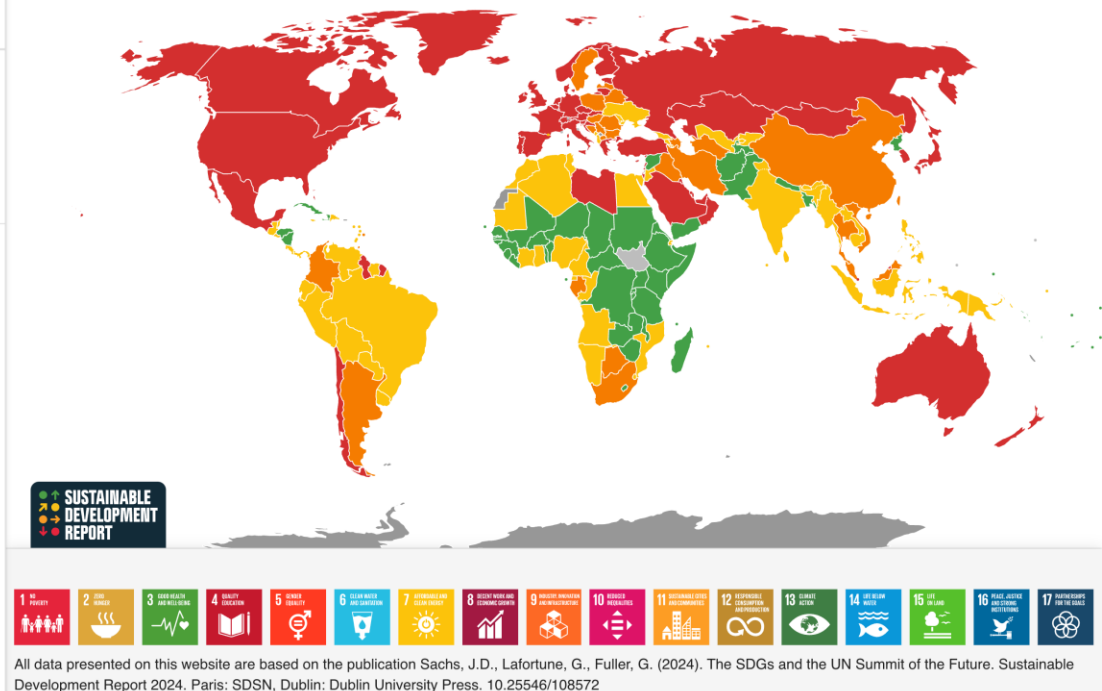● Information unavailable

Description
End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

All data presented on this website are based on the publication Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2024). The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future. Sustainable Development Report 2024. Paris: SDSN, Dublin: Dublin University Press. 10.25546/108572

1. LEVERAGING THE SYNERGIES AND SOLVING THE TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN THE SDGs AND, ESPECIALLY, THE TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (Saccone and Vallino, 2022).

SDG 13
Climate action

Legend
Click on a country to see its performance.
● SDG achieved
● Challenges remain
● Significant challenges remain
● Major challenges remain
● Information unavailable

Description
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

All data presented on this website are based on the publication Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2024). The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future. Sustainable Development Report 2024. Paris: SDSN, Dublin: Dublin University Press. 10.25546/108572

2. REDUCING INTERNATIONAL SPILLOVERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE EMBEDDED IN TRADE (Nerini et al., 2024).

SDG Index scores versus International Spillover Index scores, 2024
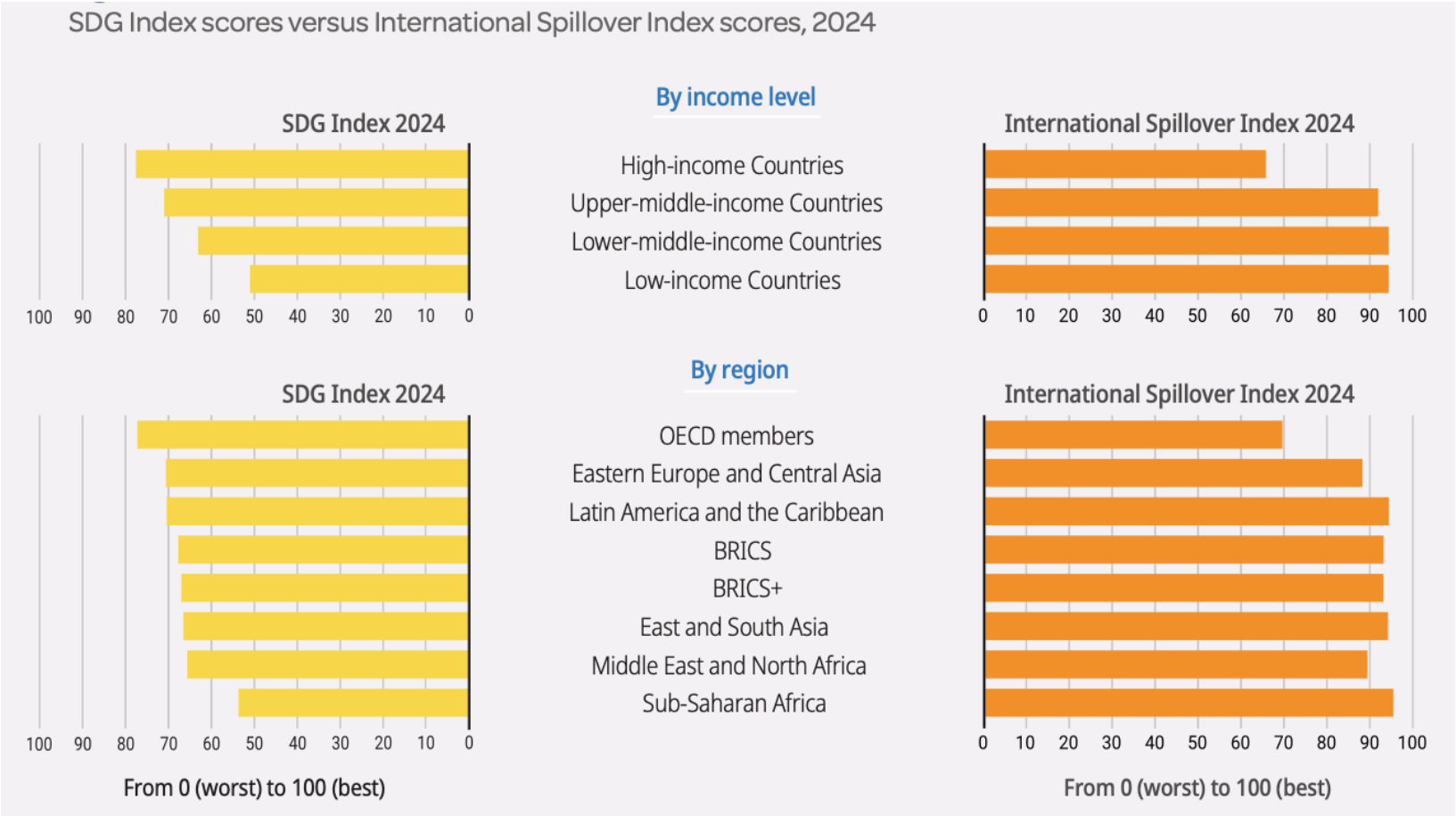
Washington	0.817	South Dakota	0.706
Vermont	0.808	Tennessee	0.703
California	0.805	Pennsylvania	0.702
Massachusetts	0.800	Montana	0.701
Maine	0.799	Kentucky	0.701
Maryland	0.796	Hainan	0.698
Minnesota	0.794	Missouri	0.697
Oregon	0.791	Hebei	0.697
New Hampshire	0.785	Shaanxi	0.695
Hawaii	0.779	Henan	0.695
Colorado	0.778	Guizhou	0.694
New York	0.778	Inner Mongolia	0.694
Wisconsin	0.775	Ohio	0.690
Connecticut	0.773	Gansu	0.688
Rhode Island	0.771	Texas	0.685
Virginia	0.758	Wyoming	0.684
New Jersey	0.756	Qinghai	0.683
Michigan	0.755	Liaoning	0.682
Guangdong	0.754	Alabama	0.681
Jiangsu	0.748	Indiana	0.679
Illinois	0.747	North Dakota	0.673
Iowa	0.741	Jilin	0.672
Hubei	0.741	Mississippi	0.663
Hunan	0.740	Shanxi	0.659
Zhejiang	0.739	Xinjiang	0.659
Florida	0.737	Oklahoma	0.659
New Mexico	0.737	Guangxi	0.657
Idaho	0.735	West Virginia	0.656
Anhui	0.735		
Georgia	0.733		
Fujian	0.731		
North Carolina	0.731		
Shanghai	0.731		
Tianjin	0.730		
Kansas	0.727		
Utah	0.724		
Chongqing	0.724		
Arizona	0.724		
South Carolina	0.721		
Beijing	0.720		
Nebraska	0.717		
Nevada	0.710		
Shandong	0.709		
Sichuan	0.708		
Delaware	0.707		
Jiangxi	0.707		

3. LOCALIZING THE SDGs (Biggeri et al., 2023).

Favoring spatial convergence within countries in terms of SDGs achievement.

This entails the implementation of public programs localized at the subnational level that prioritize especially backward states and provinces expansion of specific local capabilities, associated with the development of technological and economic opportunities, culture, and institutions for advancing sustainable development.

4. REFORMING THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

(Nerini et al., 2024; Sachs et al., 2024).

«Low-income countries (LICs) and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) urgently need to gain access to affordable long-term capital so that they can invest at scale to achieve their sustainable development objectives. Mobilizing the necessary levels of finance will require new institutions, new forms of global financing (including global taxation), and new priorities for global financing (such as investing in quality education for all)» (Sachs et al., 2024).

Global taxation on fossil-fuel emissions, air travel, shipping and international financial transactions?

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THIS SESSION TO THE DEBATE...

Keynote lecture: **Piergiuseppe Fortunato** (UNCTAD): A positive trade and environment agenda for the BRICS

Luca Andriani (Birkbeck University of London): *Social capital and CO2 emissions in emerging markets.* **ONLINE**
Samuele Milone (University of Florence): *The impact of drought on education in rural Thailand: a synergy between SDG-4, SDG-2, and SDG-13.*
Sara Balestri (University of Perugia) and Marcello Signorelli: *SDG trade-related spillover effects and EU regulation on timber: assessing imported deforestation patterns.*

...AND BEYOND (Session 3)

Keynote lecture: **Chahir Zaki** (University of Orléans and Economic Research Forum): *Global Value Chains, environment and climate change.*

Elena Vallino (University of Turin) Adelaide Baronchelli, Silvana Dalmazzone, Luca Ridolfi, Francesco Laio: *Large agri-food corporations in the global staple and cash crops markets: a quantitative analysis of rice and coffee through the virtual water perspective.*

Rossella Rubini (UNDP): The Superfood Dilemma a saving grace or a natural resource curse.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY!