

# **BEC Topical Digest**

# Sustainable Development Goals

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# Background

In 2000, world leaders gathered at the United Nations to shape a broad vision to fight poverty in different dimensions. This vision was translated into eight Millennium Development Goals, which range from eradicating extreme poverty and hunger to developing a global partnership for development, all by the target date of 2015.



### **Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainable development goals ("SDGs") are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and policies from 2016 to 2030. The United Nations proposed that the SDGs should be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

A set of 17 SDGs are planned to be discussed and endorsed by UN member states at a UN summit to be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York.

## What are the proposed 17 SDGs?

1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere

2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation

- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse





- 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
  - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
  - Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds
- By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems

15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services

16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

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### About Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司

Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司 ("BEC") is an independent, charitable membership organisation, established by the business sector in Hong Kong. Since its establishment in 1992, BEC has been at the forefront of promoting environmental excellence by advocating the uptake of clean technologies and practices which reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution and improve corporate environmental and social responsibility. BEC offers sustainable solutions and professional services covering advisory, research, assessment, training and award programmes for government, business and the community, thus enabling environmental protection and contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.

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