


Opportunities and challenges in using evidence-based trade policy for the achievement of sustainable development goals

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Overview of SDGs and (I)POA goals with focus on trade as means of implementation

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Outline – we shall discuss the following issues:

- SDGs
- CSNs programmes of actions
- What is shared? - Mapping done and presented in ESCAP (2016) report on CSNs
- Priorities, sequencing and obstacles for implementation
- Trade
- Data: Where do we stand now?
- Q&A





The 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- It is a global agenda adopted by world leaders
- Consists of 17 goals and 169 associated targets.
- The focus is to cover 5 P's through one set of goals:
PEOPLE, PROSPERITY, PARTNERSHIP, PEACE AND PLANET
- Despite universality, it recognizes that **countries with special needs** (CSNs) deserve special attention



There are 17 goals:





In addition to the SDGs, there are programmes of action for each of the CSN groups

Least developed countries

Istanbul Programme of Action

Builds human and productive capacities, enabling graduation from the LDC category

Landlocked developing countries

Vienna Programme of Action

Targets expansion of trade and enhancement of competitiveness

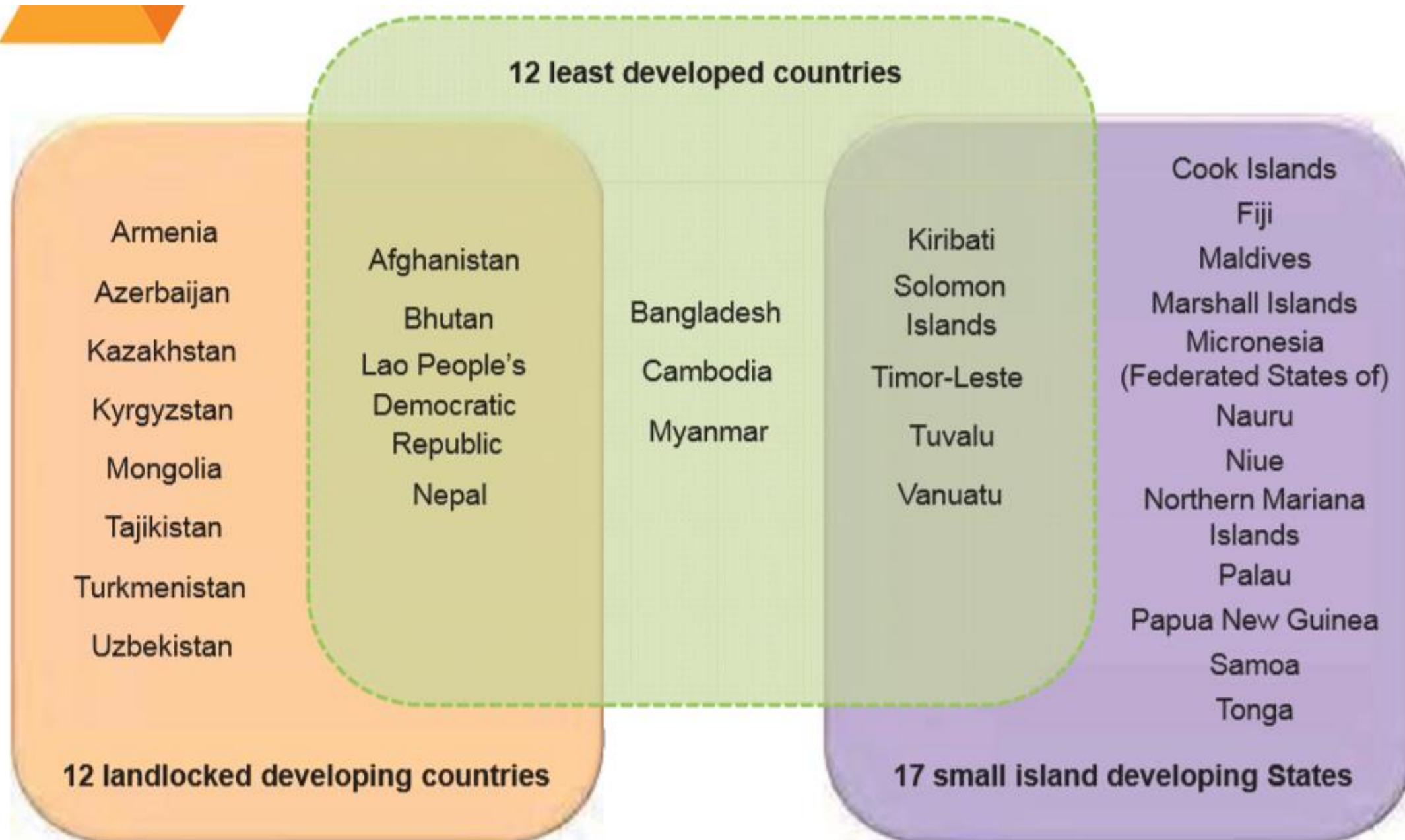
Small island developing states

SAMOA Pathway

Overcomes vulnerabilities and the compound effects of climate change



Countries with special needs in Asia and the Pacific





From the global programmes of action to the 2030 Agenda

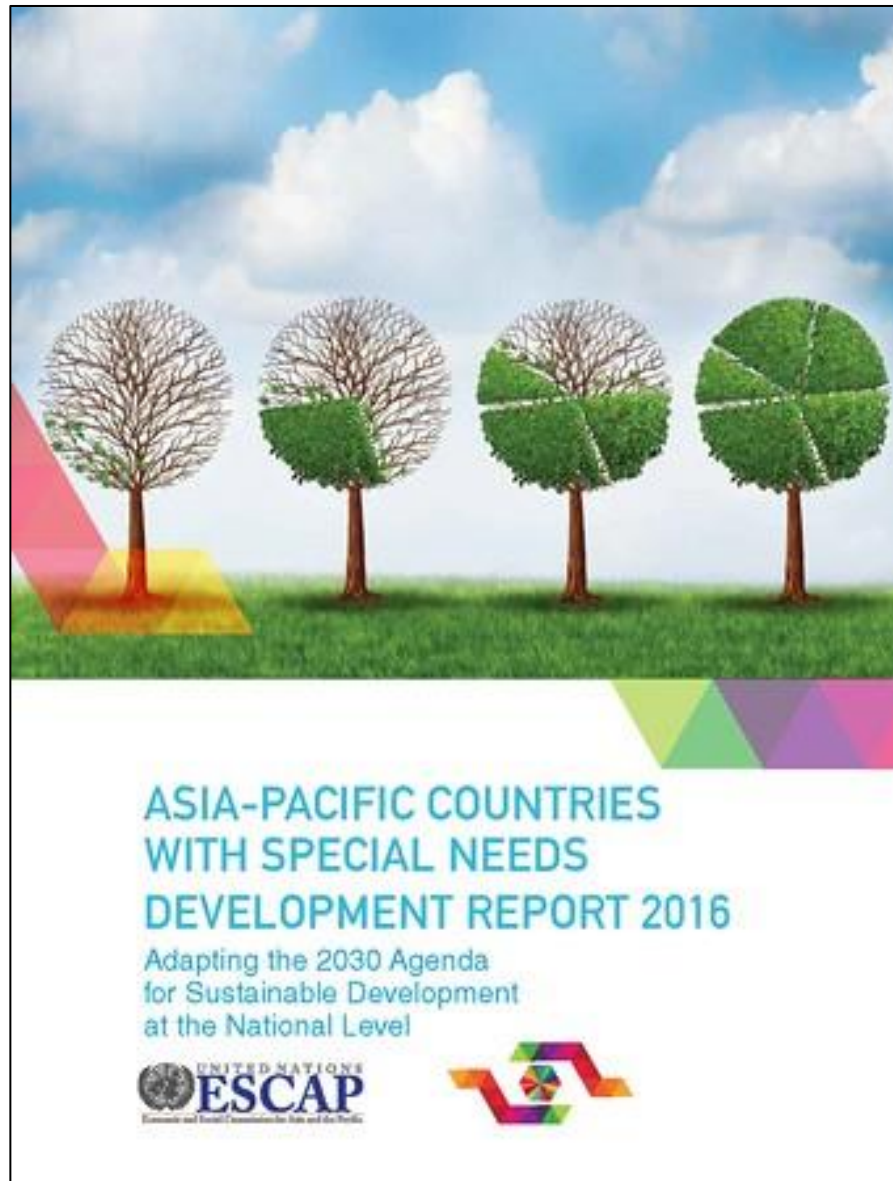
The 2030 Agenda not only supports the implementation of the programmes of action but also states that they are an integral part of it.¹

¹. 2030 Agenda, Paragraph 64.





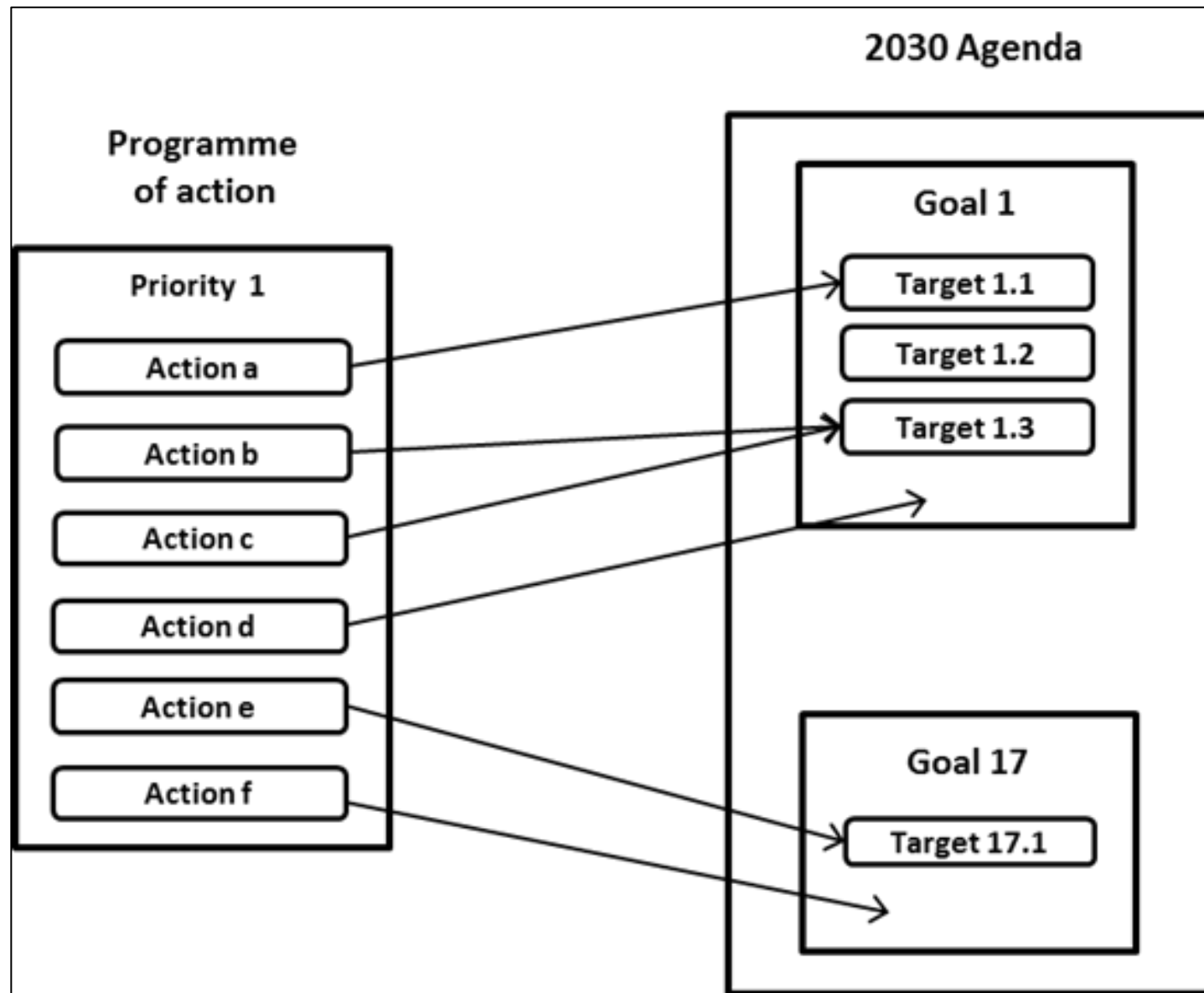
Shared areas or actions between global and other programmes



- Guides countries on the prioritization and sequencing of the attainment of the SDGs in the most effective manner
- Identification of synergies, trade-offs, and bottlenecks in attaining different goals
- Takes stock of the progress of CSN towards their respective global programmes of action
- Analyses the relationship between the programmes of action and the 2030 Agenda



Mapping the POAs onto the 2030 Agenda



Each action of a POA is matched to a single target of the 2030 Agenda based on:

- Similarity in wording
- Similarity in meaning
- Similarity of objective

When none of these criteria are met, the action is considered as “not matching at the target level”, in which case it is matched to the Goal.





Distribution of actions by pillar of sustainable development

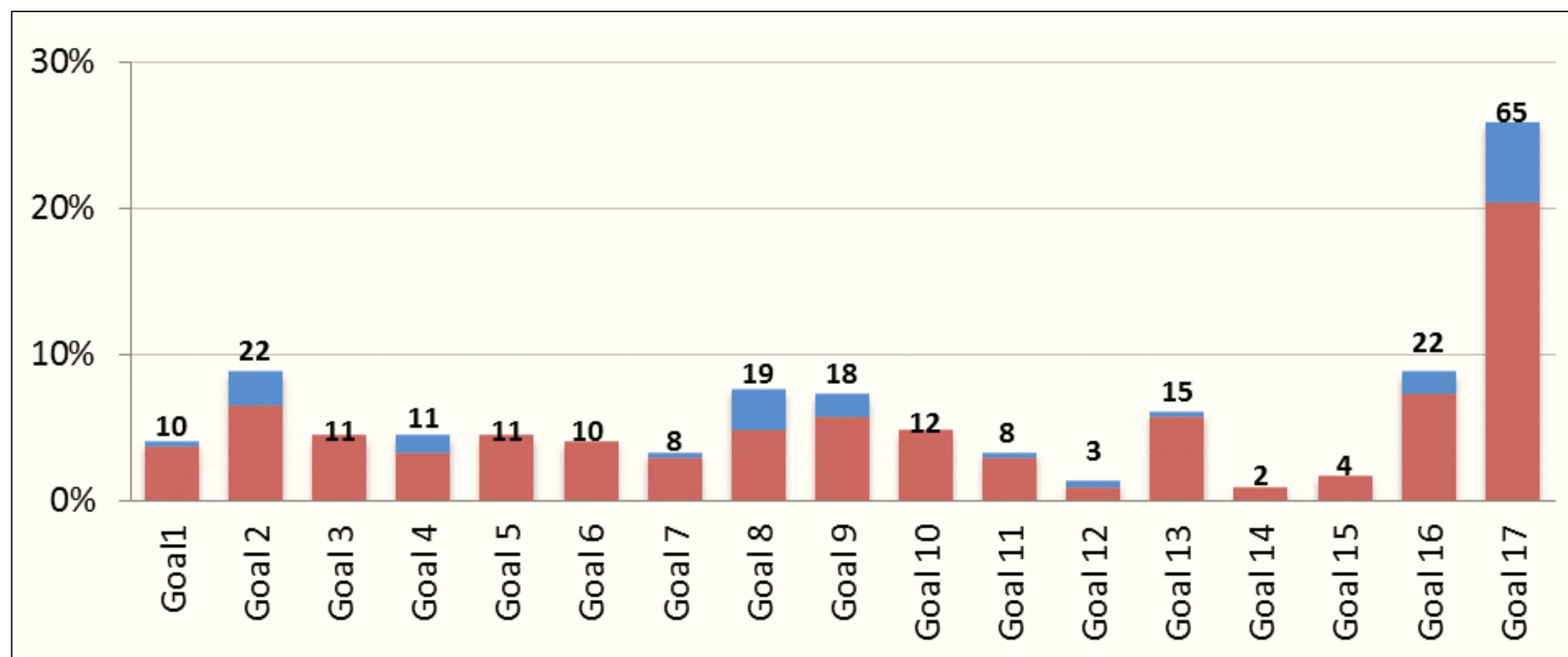
	Social pillar (Goals 1-6)	Economic pillar (Goals 7-10)	Environmental pillar (Goals 11-15)	Governance and means of implementation (Goals 16-17)	Total
Istanbul Programme of Action	75	57	32	87	251
	(30%)	(23%)	(13%)	(34%)	(100%)
Vienna Programme of Action	0	57	0	31	88
	(0%)	(65%)	(0%)	(35%)	(100%)
Samoa Pathway	35	22	49	27	133
	(26%)	(17%)	(37%)	(20%)	(100%)





Distribution of actions by pillar of sustainable development (cont'd)

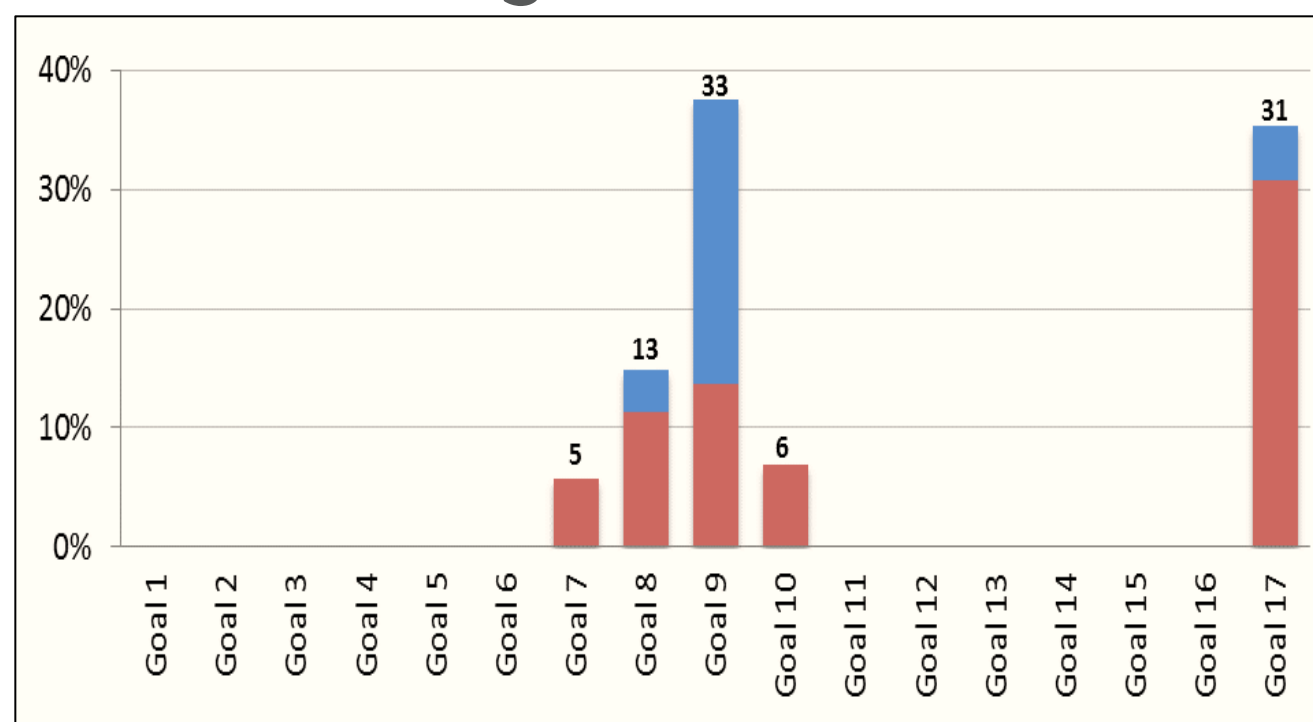
Istanbul Programme of Action



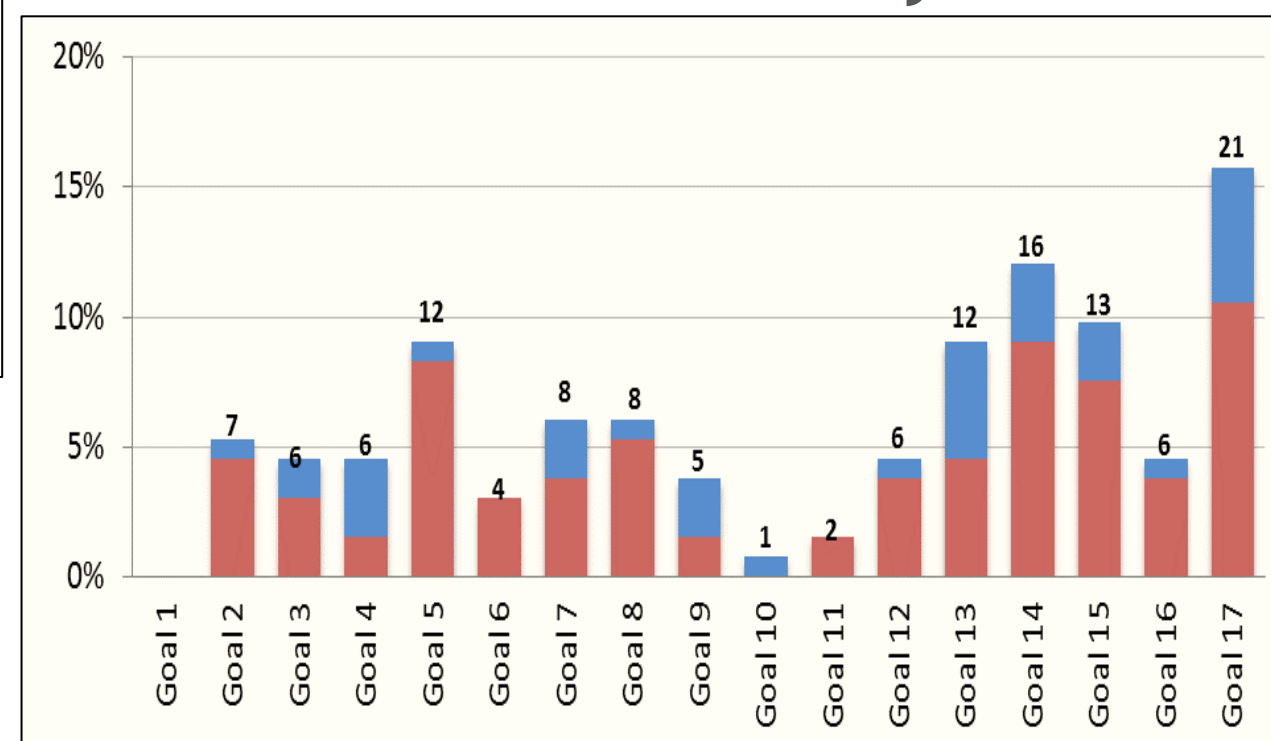


Distribution of actions by pillar of sustainable development (cont'd)

Vienna Programme of Action



SAMOA Pathway





Survey: Prioritization of SDGs

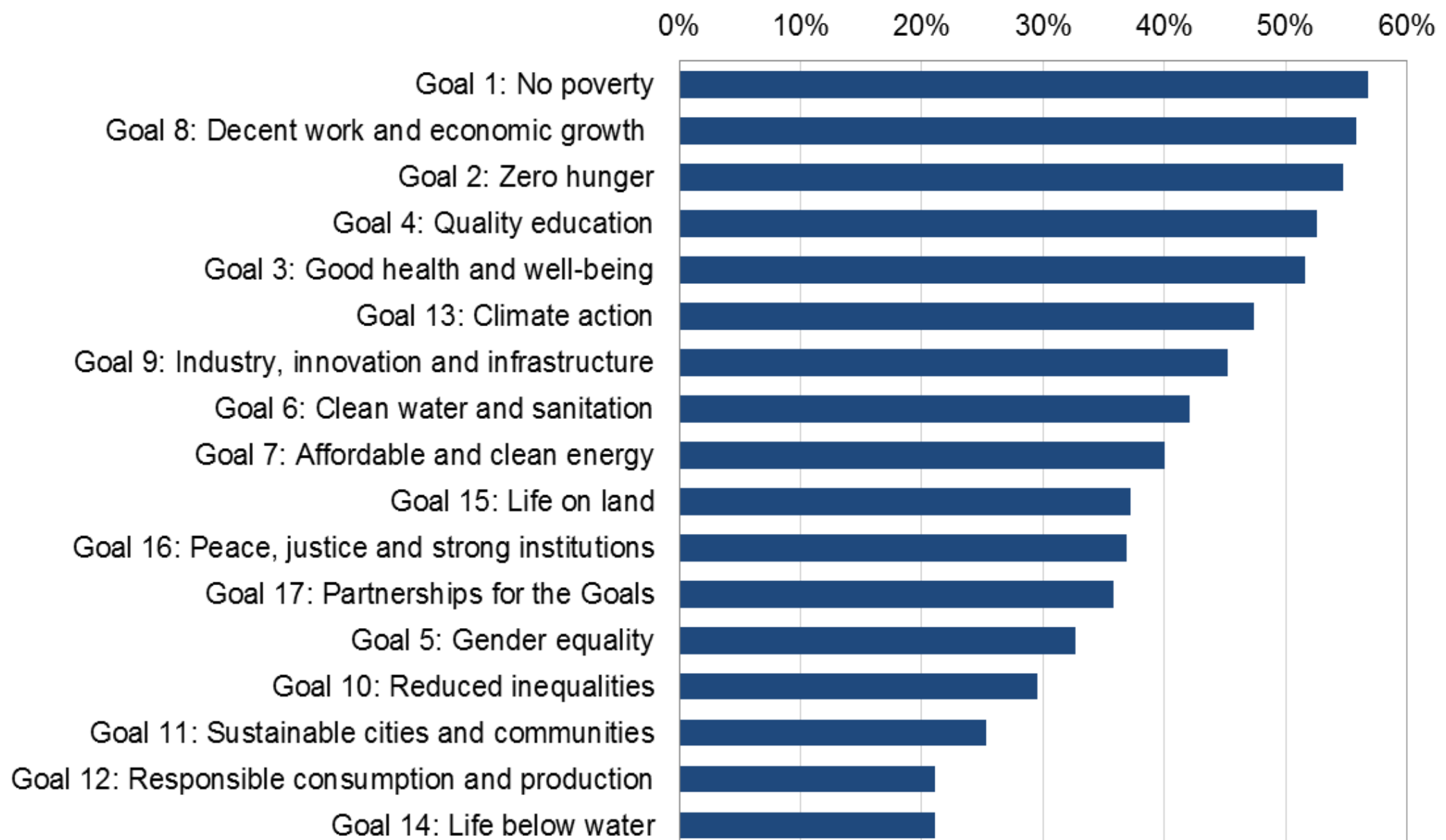
Goal priority scores by country group and pillar of sustainable development, on a scale of 1 (“very low”) to 4 (“very high”):

	Social pillar (Goals 1-6)	Economic pillar (Goals 7-10)	Environmental pillar (Goals 11-15)	Governance (Goals 16-17)
Asia-Pacific CSN	3.28	3.18	2.91	3.10
Least developed countries	3.38	3.15	2.90	3.15
Landlocked developing countries	2.98	3.28	2.87	3.06
Small island developing States	2.90	3.23	3.00	2.87
Non-CSN developing Asia	3.30	3.20	3.07	3.12



Prioritization of SDGs (cont'd)

Percentage of survey respondents assigning “very high” priority to each goal in countries with special needs:





Sequencing of the SDGs

- The experts consulted perceived all pillars as “high” priority.
- From a practical point of view, it is not possible to pursue all the Sustainable Development Goals simultaneously, even if all have high priority.
- To further refine our understanding of how countries expect to adapt the 2030 Agenda to their national contexts, the survey asked experts to select up to five Goals that they thought their countries should focus on during the initial period of implementation (between 2016 and 2020).



Sequencing of SDGs:

Initial goal priorities by country

		Sustainable Development Goal																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Least developed countries</i>	Bangladesh																	
	Cambodia																	
	Myanmar	1																
	Afghanistan	1																
	Bhutan		1						1									
	Lao People's Democratic Republic		1															
	Nepal		1															
	Kiribati																	
	Timor-Leste				1													
	Tuvalu																	
	Vanuatu			1														
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>	Azerbaijan									1								
	Kazakhstan																	
	Kyrgyzstan								1									
	Mongolia								1									
	Tajikistan																	
	Uzbekistan																	
<i>Small island developing States</i>	Cook Islands																1	
	Fiji													1				
	Maldives																	
	Micronesia(Federated States of)							1	1	1								
	Nauru																	
	New Caledonia																	
	Papua New Guinea			1	1													
	Samoa																	





Sequencing of SDGs (cont'd)

Initial goal priorities by country group and pillar of sustainable development (%):

	Social pillar (Goals 1-6)	Economic pillar (Goals 7-10)	Environmental pillar (Goals 11-15)	Governance and means of implementation (Goals 16-17)
Asia-Pacific CSN	41	35	17	16
Least developed countries	58	20	16	5
Landlocked developing countries	31	67	13	8
Small island developing States	32	32	32	32





Implementation challenges

Main challenges by country group: simple averages of scores on a scale of 1 (“not challenging”) to 4 (“very challenging”):

	Integration into national plans	Integration into annual budgets	Coordination across government agencies	Coordination across levels of Government	Technical and administrative capacities	Data and statistics
Asia-Pacific CSN	2.56	3.12	3.19	3.18	3.32	3.37
Least developed countries	2.58	3.20	3.32	3.30	3.37	3.46
Landlocked developing countries	2.11	3.11	2.78	2.89	3.11	2.56
Small island developing States	2.73	2.73	2.87	2.79	3.20	3.47
Non-CSN developing Asia	2.63	3.19	3.37	3.36	2.97	2.90



Global systemic issues

Perceptions of global systemic issues by country group (%): percentages of survey respondents who stated that the respective issues were “very important” for their countries

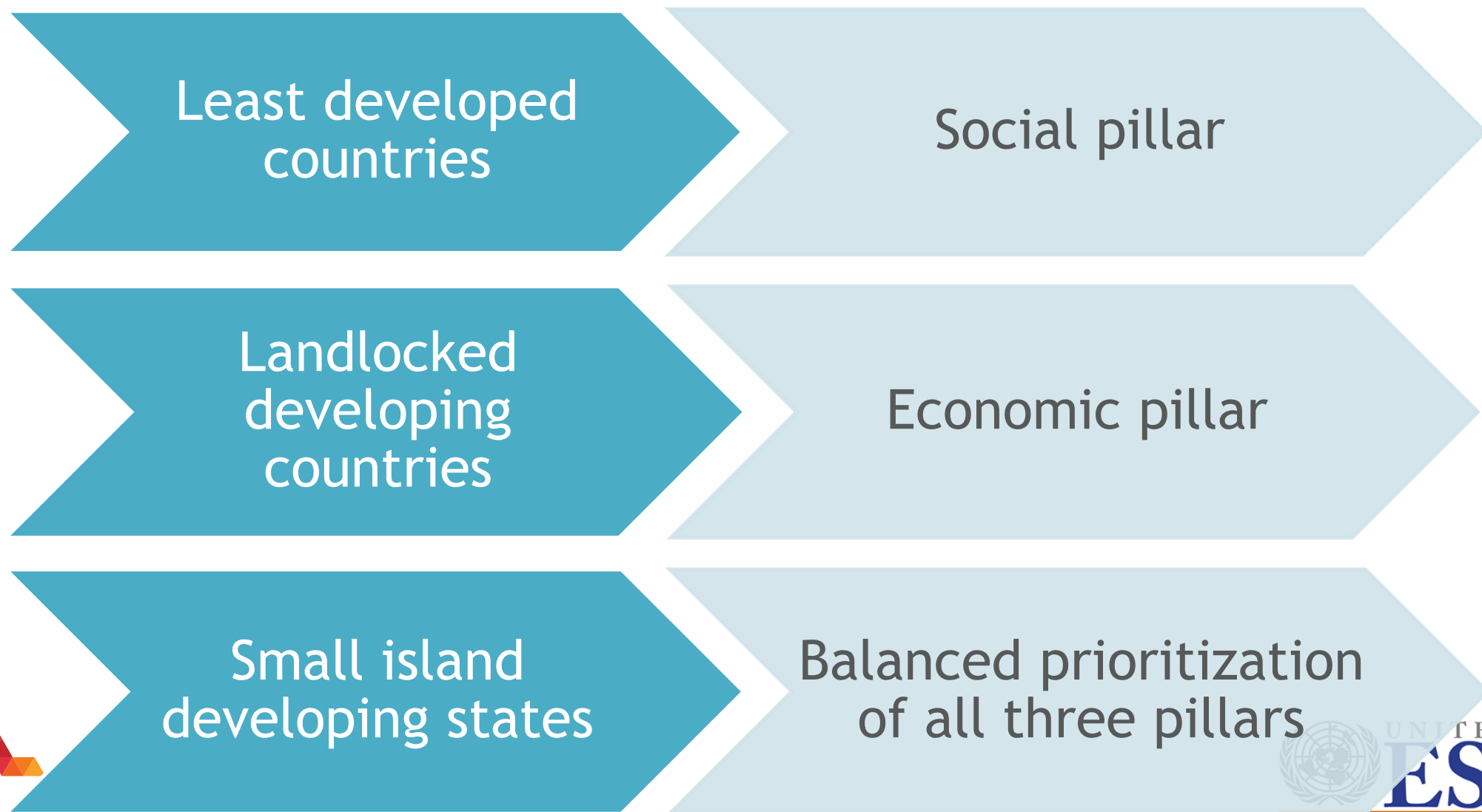
	Asia-Pacific CSN				Non-CSN developing Asia
	Total	Least developed countries	Landlocked developing countries	Small island developing states	
Global economic growth	54	48	78	67	54
Multilateral trade negotiations	49	54	33	40	44
Global financial stability	49	46	56	60	53
Transfer of technology and intellectual property rights	51	54	25	53	50
Climate negotiations	48	48	13	67	40
Stability of global commodity prices (of food, fuel, minerals, etc.)	63	57	89	73	62





Summary of the results

The mapping exercise reveals a great overlap between the actions of each programme of action and the targets of the 2030 Agenda.





Trade is featured as means of implementation

- In addition to a stand-alone goal (17) on the **means of implementation** for the new agenda, specific means are tailored to each of the sustainable development goals.
- Emphasis through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development.
- 12 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals contain targets that either explicitly mention trade and investment or are closely linked to it.
- In terms of the number of targets within the SDGs, 35 out of 169 targets either explicitly mention trade and investment or are closely linked to it.
- At present we try to keep the list narrow!



Directly and indirectly trade-related SDGs



Goal	Goals and Targets	Indicators
SDG 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	
(AAAA 83)	2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round	2.b.1 Producer Support Estimate
		2.b.2 Agricultural export subsidies
SDG 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	
(AAAA 86)	3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all	3.b.1 Proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis
		3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to the medical research and basic health sectors
SDG 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	
(AAAA 90)	8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries	8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements
SDG 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	
(AAAA 84)	10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements	10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries/developing countries with zero-tariff
SDG 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	
(AAAA 83)	14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
SDG 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	
(AAAA 79, 80, 83)	17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda	17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average
(AAAA 82)	17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.	17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports
(AAAA 85)	17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are	17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States



Each target has one or two indicators for monitoring

- Not only for review/ monitoring towards meeting the target, but also to provide feedback/input to policymakers
- The process of setting the indicator framework not finalized as the IAEG-SDGs was authorized to continue working
 - They might focus on the pre-selected 229 indicators; but there is a provision “for refinement”; perhaps addition or substitution?
 - For example, what is the value of this information “double the share in world export” if one does not know much on the “quality” of exports?





What should trade-related indicators be about?

- Trade is NOT the goal in and of itself
 - thus any measure of flows etc. should be just a supplementary indicator (also because governments could not be held accountable for increasing trade; it is FIRMS that largely do trade)
- Policymakers need to be able to differentiate between net benefits (costs) caused by various measure and net benefits caused by actions undertaken by governments
- Measurable trade-related indicator correlated with the realization of desirable trade objectives aligned with sustainable development





Data available now

Please see the handout





Thank you

Q&A

Keep up to date and visit our webpage:
www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment
artnet.unescap.org



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LDCs in Asia and the Pacific (as of March 2015)

Country	GNI per capita	Human assets index	Economic vulnerability index	Have the criteria been met?
Afghanistan	\$672	43	35	-
Bangladesh	\$926	64	25	-
Bhutan	\$2277	68	40	Yes
Cambodia	\$852	67	38	-
Kiribati	\$2489	86	72	Yes
Lao PDR	\$1232	61	36	-
Myanmar	\$1063	73	34	-
Nepal	\$659	69	27	Yes
Solomon Islands	\$1402	72	51	Yes
Timor-Leste	\$3767	57	55	Yes
Tuvalu	\$5788	89	54	Yes
Vanuatu	\$2997	81	48	Yes
Graduation thresholds	≥ \$1242	≥ 66	≤ 32	

