

With less than seven years left to the 2030 deadline, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been limited. But, at the SDG Summit in September 2023, Member States of the United Nations committed to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For



United Nations Economic and Social Council reflect these and related considerations and can serve as a guide for their application and SDG action.

LOOKING AHEAD

When people feel that governmental systems are working for them, the gap between them and government is narrow. Crises can weaken this perception. Renewed social contracts built on trust are crucial if societies are to meet today's compounding challenges, better respond to future crises,

and achieve the SDGs. Governments cannot strengthen their relationships with other actors alone, but they can lay the groundwork by creating an enabling environment for strengthened relationships and strive to earn and retain public trust. They can take broad steps to renew social contracts by promoting inclusion and civic engagement as well as developing effective communication strategies and mechanisms for disseminating accurate information to the public. They can also demonstrate trust in other actors, including those in civil society. The examples provided above highlight some areas of opportunity, with solutions that Governments can consider adapting to suit their specific contexts.