

**MATCHING ACTION TO AMBITION
FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE**

At the SDG Summit in September 2023, heads of State and government gathered to take stock of progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

United Nations mobilize action and investment around the six transitions that were identified as critical pathways toward the SDGs at the SDG Summit.³

**A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN KEY POLICY
AREAS CAN DRIVE DURABLE CHANGE.**

In the **acceleration (or breakdown) phase**, governments will recommit to and strengthen the regulations, policies and targets initiated in the emergence phase, with investment in research and further innovation. Private sector actors will need to adjust their business models, hab-

that no one is left behind, governments should continue investing in social protection, reskilling, and sustainable livelihoods. Long-term investments include, for instance, job training and safety net support for people employed in fossil fuel industries, unsustainable agriculture, or illicit activities like drug and wildlife trafficking.

It is perhaps easiest to recognize the S-curve shape of a transformation after the fact, when society has already passed through all three phases. An example of a completed transformation following this pattern is the rise of global infant vaccination coverage, driven by major investments by governments, international organizations, and other partners (see Figure 2 below).

Similarly monumental interventions and investments will be required in a wide range of sectors to achieve such success across the SDGs. A selection of the policy interventions that could be considered during the three phases of transformation, with adjustments to fit different contexts, are included in Table 2.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE REQUIRES NEW CAPACITIES IN ALL COUNTRIES

Systems thinking and advancing deep transformations requires new capacities for all – for governments across the

agriculture, health, water, environment, land use, labor and social sectors of a government. It will also need to engage local, state or provincial, and national governments. Officials will need training on working collaboratively, both horizontally across ministries and vertically among different levels of government. They will need to work in nimble and resilient institutions to drive change.

Beyond governments, people will need new skills, spaces, and opportunities to transform society through their businesses, and through individual and community behavior, and knowledge production. Business leaders will need to learn how to manage transitions to truly sustainable production practices, supply chains, and business models. Civil society actors will need skills to engage effectively in change processes. New spaces and platforms, accessible to all including women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities, are needed to ensure that the benefits of the digital economy are shared by all.