

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2015 EDITION
ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION





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Foreword

In September 2015, world leaders will meet to adopt a universal and transformative agenda for sustainable development, with a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) at its core. The scientific community has provided valuable guidance in the formulation of the SDGs, and it will need to remain closely engaged as the world moves towards implementing the new agenda and reviewing our progress. The current report should help ensure that our efforts are underpinned by the latest and best scientific evidence and advice.

The GSDR is the only comprehensive, global report on sustainable development. It brings together a broad range of existing scientific assessments and reviews global progress and future sustainable development pathways in an integrated way, taking into account the perspectives of scientific communities across the globe.

Extensive inputs have been sought for the 2015 report from the UN system, scientists, government officials and stakeholders. More than 500 independent scientists and experts from many UN entities and affiliated organizations located in all regions of the globe have contributed to the report.

A crowdsourcing exercise carried out in the six UN languages invited scientists and researchers around the world to submit science briefs that highlight research findings or solutions relating to sustainable development, for the attention of policy-makers. Some 187 science briefs were submitted and, following a public review, a number have been featured in the report.

The report endeavours to present a range of scientific perspectives and to be policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive. It offers suggestions on how to strengthen scientists' engagement with policy makers at national and international levels, in the latter case notably through the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The report examines the SDGs as an interlinked system, analyzing how the goals are interrelated through their targets, and how progress towards one goal may depend on and contribute to progress towards others. Such an integrated assessment of the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda will be a standard feature of future GSDRs.

2015 is a historic year. We are set to adopt an ambitious agenda that will move us towards a sustainable future for people and planet. But adopting the agenda is only the first step. Making it a reality will require work and dedication from all of us. The scientific community has a crucial role to play by sharing its advice and evidence in a compelling manner with policy-makers and conducting a dialogue with them, and the Global Sustainable Development Report serves as a tool to facilitate this exchange. Let us use it on our path towards the future we want.



WU Hongbo

USG for Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations

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