

THE 2030 AGENDA

FOR AN ACCURATE AND WIDE SPREADING SUSTAINABILITY

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1. Introduction

- ◆ Sustainability is a ubiquitous landmark in contemporaneity, and its definition is as diverse as ambiguous
- ◆ Three decades later, rather than disagreeing on unreached global principles, the lack of consensus on how to act, and how to measure progress made, seems to be a critical failure.
- ◆ To overcome the “wishful thinking” in which sustainable development has become (Guerra and Schmidt, 2016), the deployment of framing and measurement tools is crucial, and “Sustainable Development Goals” (henceforth SD and SDGs), are well positioned for it.

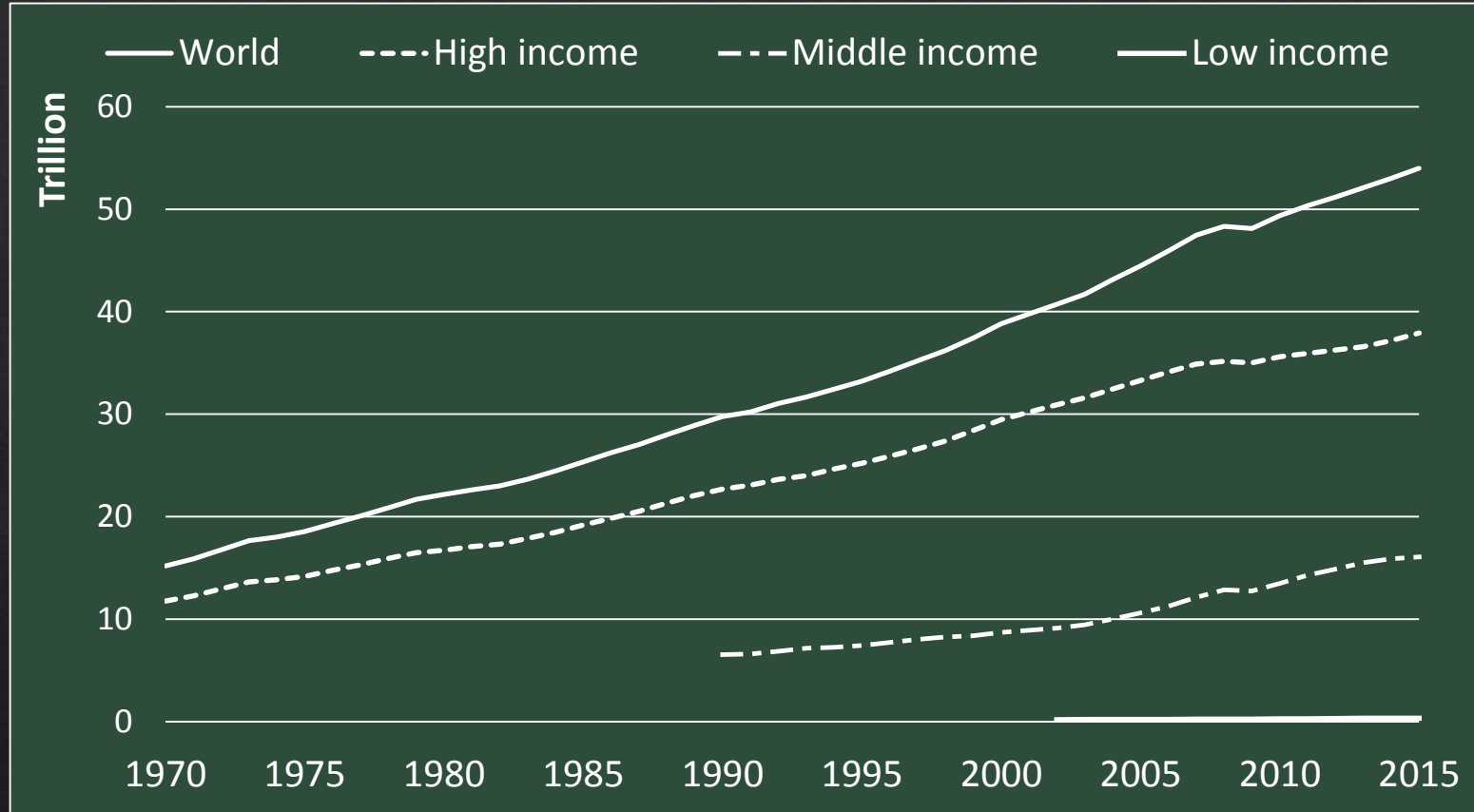
2. A holistic view for a better future

- ◆ Sustainability is interdisciplinary regarded as a social norm or a purpose fully committed and conditioned to the preservation of environment, with the objective to extend its benefits to present and future generations
- ◆ It is commonly accepted that sustainability would hardly happen in a world where wider questions of social needs and welfare are ignored or not integrally related to ecosystemic limits (Agyeman et al., 2002).
- ◆ Social inequalities and their environmental rebound can occur between and within generations
- ◆ It is this inclusive and comprehensive foundation that gradually garnered support.
- ◆ Despite some doubtless successful outcomes from, for example, the Millennium Development Goals, humanity is still despoiling the present at significant cost to the future (e.g., Rockstrom and Klum, 2015).

3. Background

- ◆ Environmental problems and their rebounds to human-life are at the root's idea of SD and emerged with the industrial revolution.
- ◆ The primordial attempt to measure the exponential impacts of human civilisation on a finite planet is “The Limits to Growth” (Meadows *et al.*, 1972).
- ◆ The book was not unanimity. Some authors criticised the assumption of replay by the world of the US pattern of consumption (*e.g.*, Furtado, 1974).

World Household Final Expenditure (in constant 2010 US\$)



Source: World Bank National Accounts Data retrieved at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator>

4. Current Framework

The first three have a common perspective: a minimum dignifying material basis for the vulnerable population in a healthy environment.

They include variables driven by production and consumption considering natural resources degradation

The second group refers to what is usually known as “governance factors”: strong institutions and social capital, and the resulting capacity to co-operate on a win-win basis.

The five ‘P’ areas of action on seventeen SDGs



Source: Drawn up from UN General Assembly, 2015

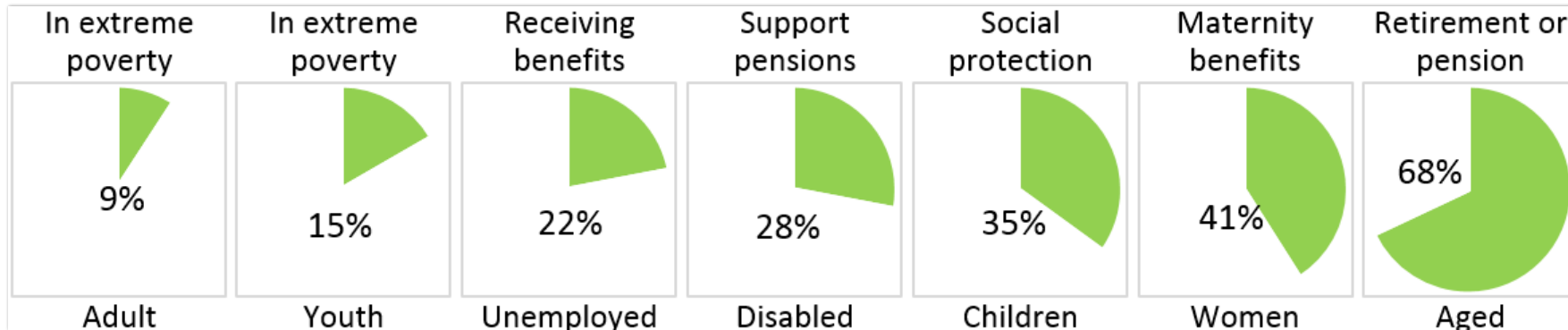
Goals, targets and indicators

Full discriminated SDGs	Nr. of Targets	Nr. of indicators
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	7	14
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	8	13
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	13	27
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	10	11
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	9	14
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	8	11
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	5	6
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	13	17
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9	12
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	10	11
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	10	15
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	10	13
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	5	8
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	10	10
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt biodiversity loss	12	14
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	14	23
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	19	25
Totals	172	244

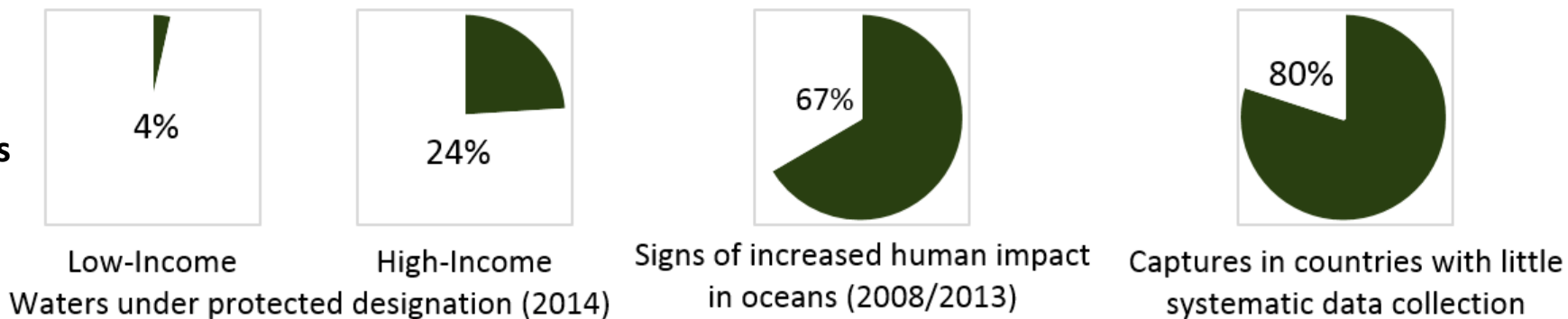
5. The first available data

People, planet, Prosperity

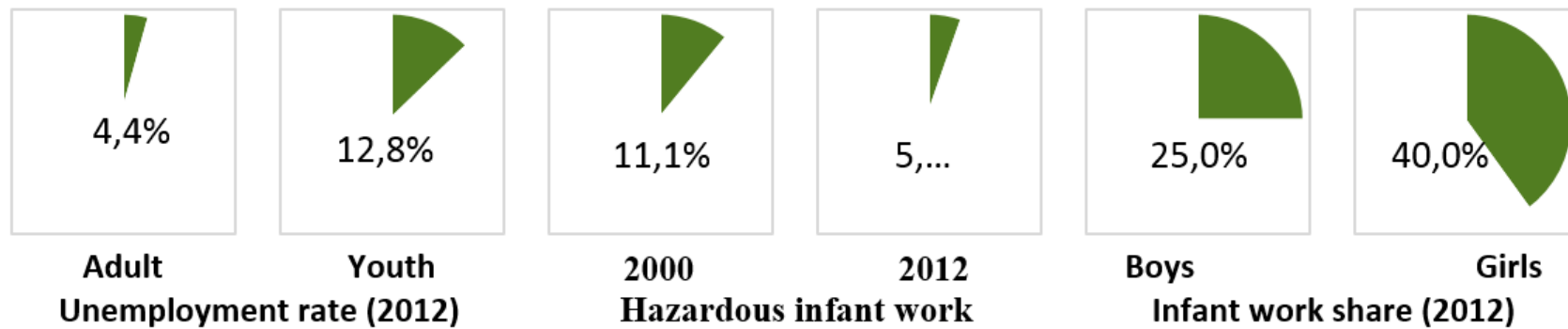
PEOPLE poverty in all its forms (2013)



PLANET Unsustainable Fishing practices

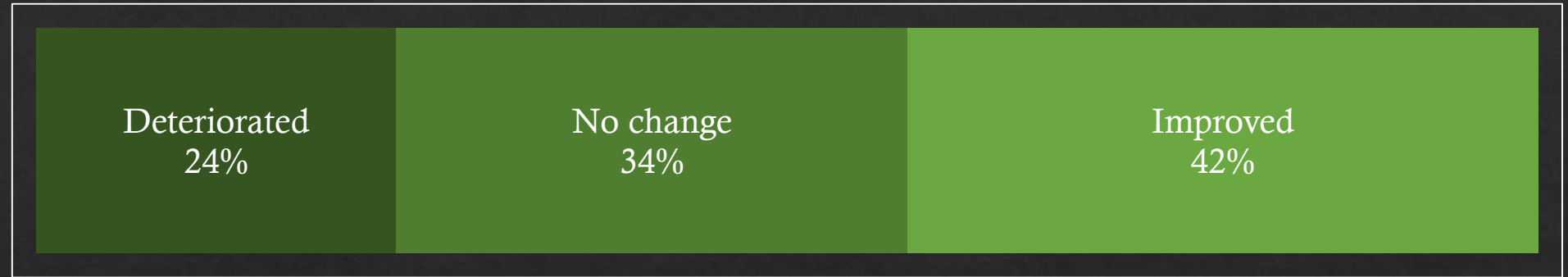


PROSPERITY Unemployment, Infant Work

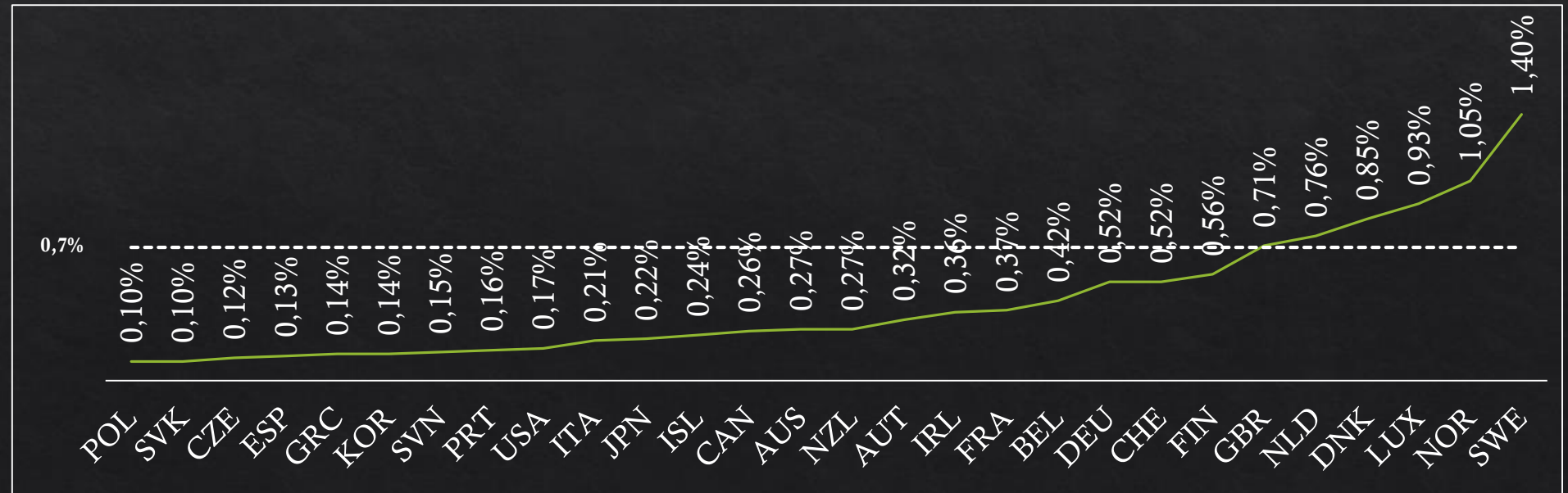


5. The first available data (Peace and Partnership)

**World Budget
Reliability
(2005-2016)**



**OECD Official
Development
Assistance
(ODA) in 2015**



6. Final Remarks

- ◆ At least since “The Limits to Growth”, many proposals to measure and to evaluate SD had arisen.
- ◆ Although not always consensual in methods and selected indicators, they invariably resulted in similar trends: the slippage of the principles of sustainability.
- ◆ The core endeavour of 2030 Agenda is thus to overcome this persistent inertia that has condemned SD to “wishful thinking”.

- ◆ SDGs counting with a broader model of information – a complexified framework of indicators.
- ◆ They may provide a more appropriated assessment of the human experience on earth, enclosing environmental degradation, and climate change, as well as the quality of life and a set of agreed contemporary societal values of justice.
- ◆ Although looking for a monolithic and comparable model of a future database, SDGs indicators were scientifically and openly built to be refined in negotiations to follow, to allow a progressive improvement and reliability of framework.
- ◆ Without neglecting environmental quality that we all depend on, the broader scope of SDGs moves forwards irreversibly to the well-being of present and future generations, in every corner of the socioeconomic status and of the planet.