

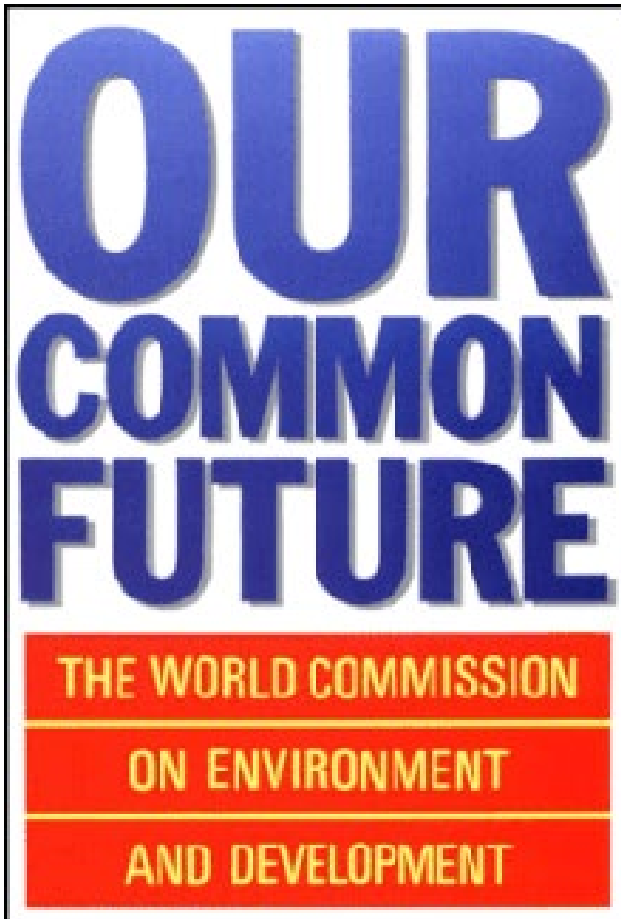


Standards and Sustainability: Shaping the Future

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United Nations Development Programme

Definitions...





Sustainability:

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Norwegian fishing



Sustainability in many dimensions



Standards

standard

noun

UK  /ˈstæn.dəd/ US  /ˈstæn.də-d/

standard noun (QUALITY)

Add to word list 

B2 [C or U]

a level of quality:

- **of a standard** *This essay is not of an acceptable standard - do it again.*
- **below standard** *This piece of work is below standard.*
- **(not) up to standard** *I'm afraid this meal is not up to standard.*
- *We have very high safety standards in this laboratory.*
- *Not everyone judges success by the same standards - some people think happiness is more important than money.*
- *Her technique became a standard against which all future methods were compared.*

C2 [C usually plural]

a moral rule that should be obeyed:

- **standards (of behaviour)** *Most people agree that there are standards (of behaviour) that need to be upheld.*



Is it a Standards Soup?



Sustainability standards and frameworks – different strokes for different folks



Sustainability in relation to
(financial returns) - (Social & Environmental)

Principles of practice

Management/decision-making standards & frameworks

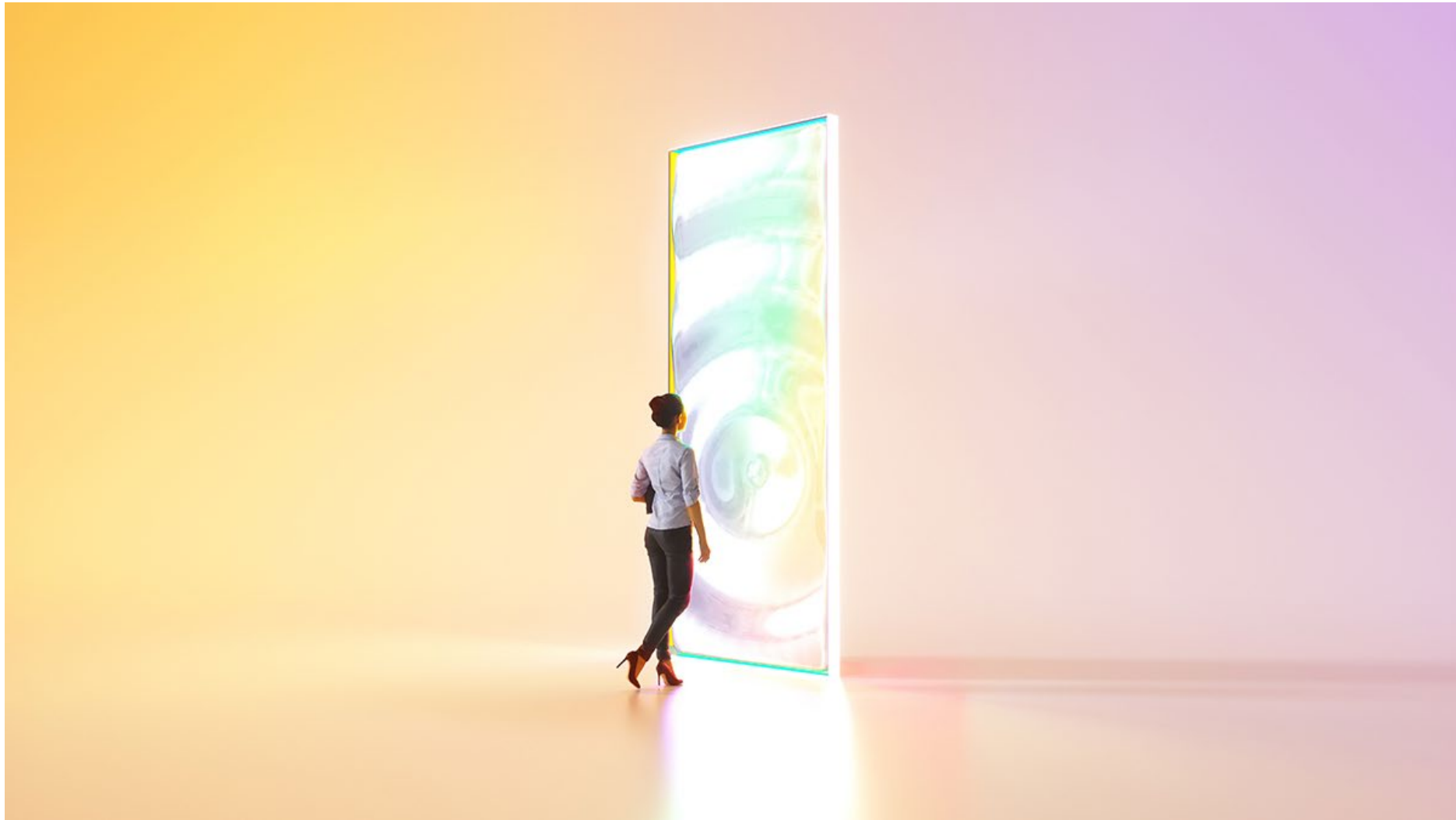
Metrics & taxonomies

Reporting

Benchmarking data, index & rating providers



Shaping the future



Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals



HOME > **THE 17 GOALS** > TAKE ACTION > NEWS > RESOURCES > PARTNERS >  

THE 17 GOALS



We all know that we face big challenges in today's world: poverty, hunger, inequality and climate change are just some of the issues we need to address urgently.

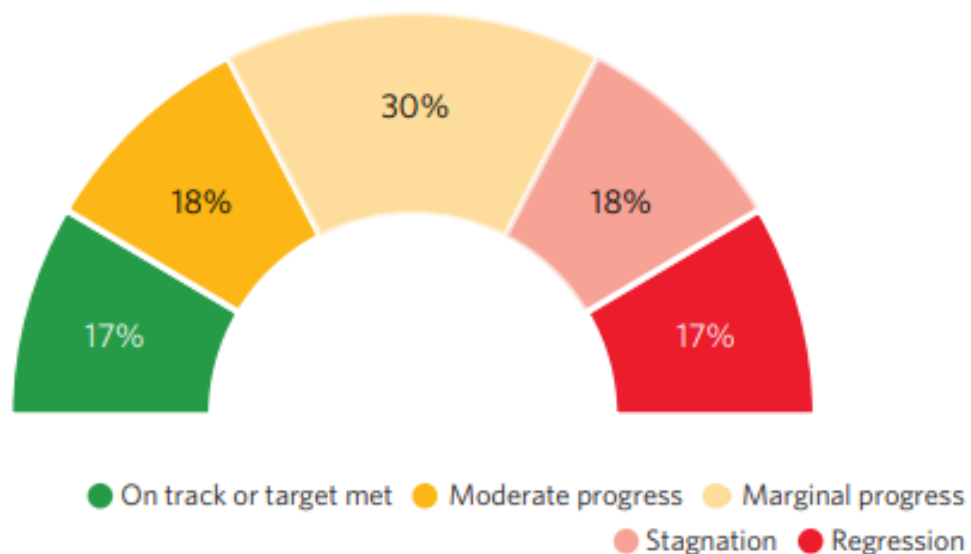
Big challenges need bold action to overcome them, and that is where the Global Goals come in. They are a plan agreed to by all world leaders to build a greener, fairer, better world by 2030, and we all have a role in achieving them. Get to know each of the Goals and the targets attached to them here.



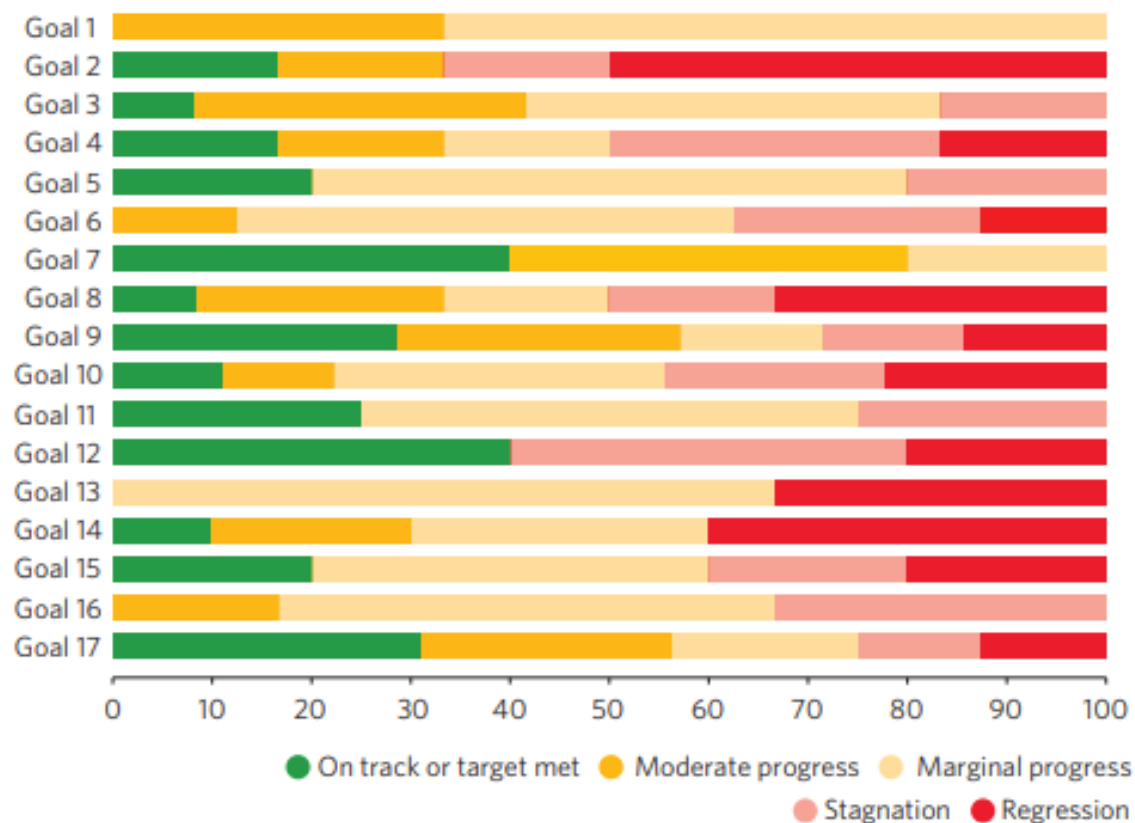
Shaping the Future: the Practice of Sustainability

As of 2024, we are not on track

Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2024 global aggregate data



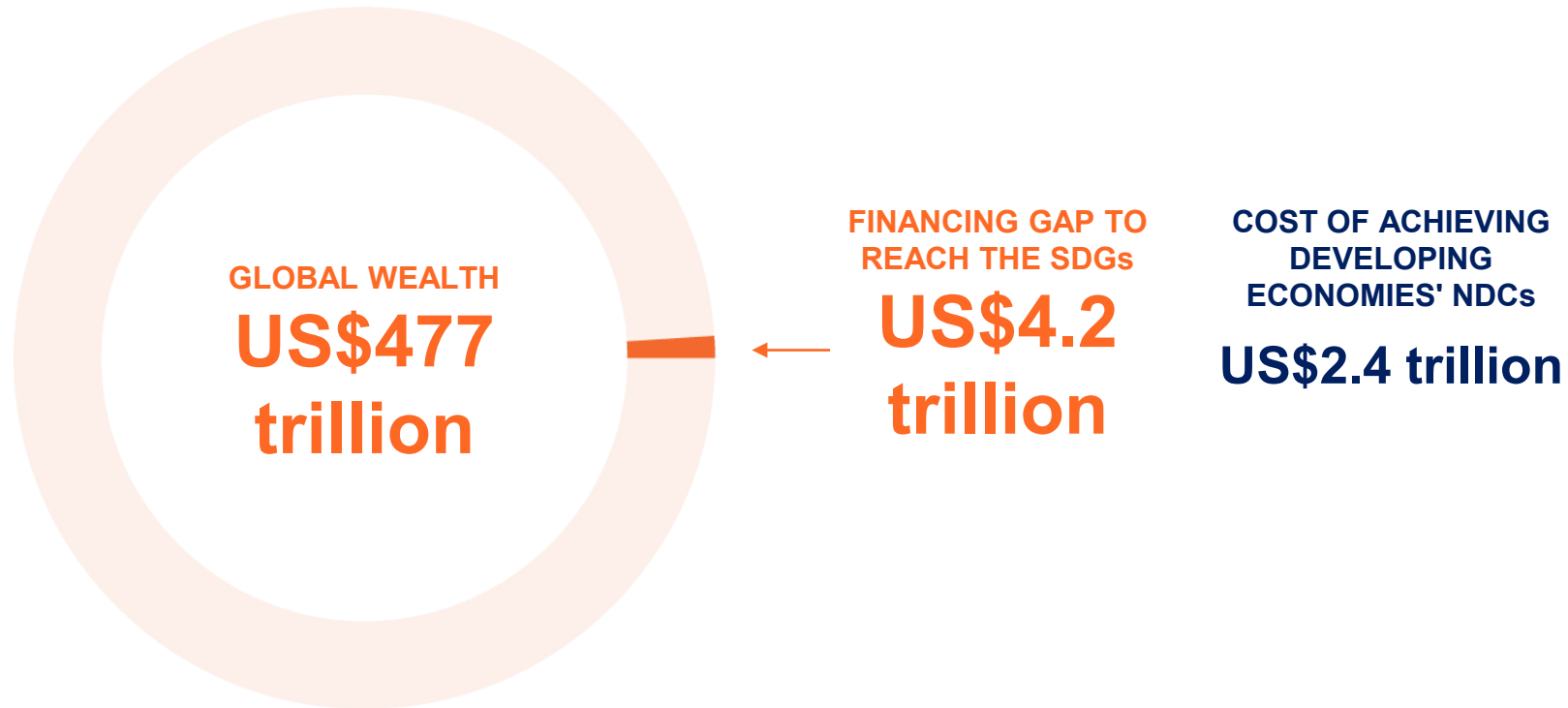
Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, by Goal (percentage)



What can we do about it?

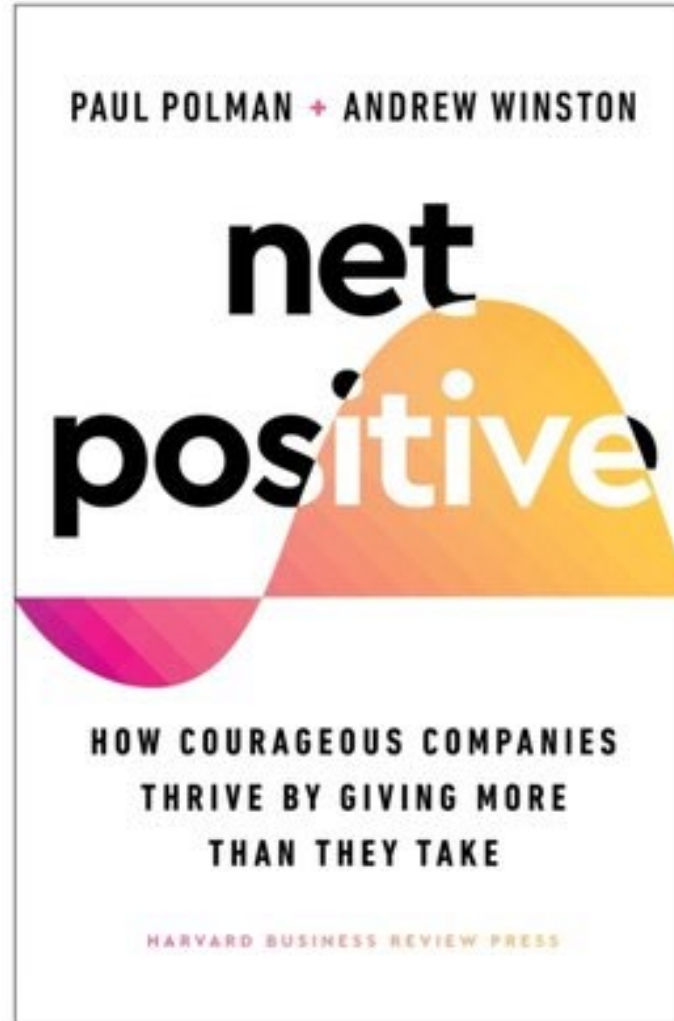


The opportunity



Total global wealth is estimated at **US\$477 trillion** – **less than 1%** of that amount each year would address the **US\$4.2 trillion financing gap to reach the SDGs**.

Doing good is often good business



The business case for sustainability and the SDGs



- Fostering **innovation**
- Driving **competitive advantage** through **stakeholder engagement**
- Improving **risk management**
- Improving **financial performance**
- Building **customer loyalty**
- Attracting and engaging **employees**

Sustainability is becoming a **major business disruptor** and **competitive differentiator** – creating both **risks and opportunities**.



Source: The Comprehensive Business Case for Sustainability, Harvard Business Review (2016)

And yet: a disconnect

Growth in net zero/SDG commitments, sustainable finance, ESG and impact



Progress towards sustainability and the SDGs



How do you know if something is really sustainable?





Can Standards Help?

UNDP's Ambition



UNDP works to promote...

A **sustainable finance architecture** designed so that every financial decision is informed by a calculation of risk and return that includes impact on the SDGs.



Management Standards & Reporting Standards

How you do business and invest

- Mindsets
- How you make decisions
- Strategy
- Operations

What you report on

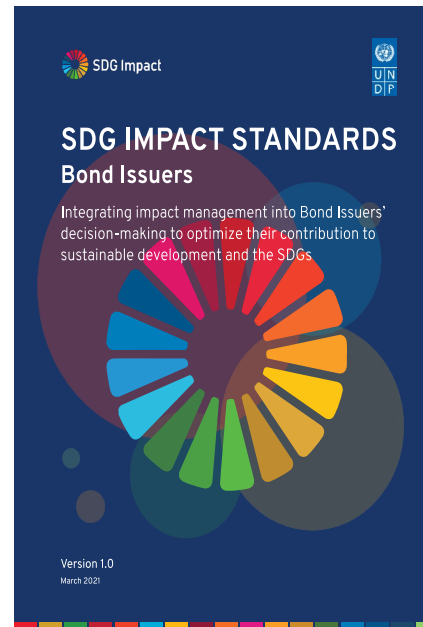
- Metrics
- Disclosures

Both are important

Practice and performance



SDG Impact Standards help organizations integrate impact management within business practices and investment decisions



Developed as a public good, the SDG Impact Standards provides a unified management approach to the advancement of sustainability and the SDGs amongst businesses, investors and policy makers.

ISO-UNDP Guidelines to empower businesses to accelerate SDG achievement



Setting **ambitious impact objectives and targets**, aligned with the relevant SDG targets and indicators where practicable, to optimize impacts on interested parties and contributions to the SDGs;



Engaging with relevant interested parties to identify and prioritize actual and expected impacts, whether beneficial or adverse;



Collecting data on actual and expected impacts;



Generating options that support innovation, and **making informed choices** between those options;



Understanding and managing trade-offs to increase impact at a rate commensurate with planetary needs, and to achieve the SDGs and meet the needs and expectations of those experiencing impacts.

Resources Available

SDG Impact Standards for different asset classes, guidance notes and resources & glossary and FAQs



Self- Assessment Tool to help benchmark organizational practices against the SDG Impact Standards

Category	Item	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Governance	1. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	2. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	3. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	4. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
Environmental	5. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	6. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	7. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	8. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
Social	9. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	10. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	11. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			
	12. The organization has a clear policy on sustainability reporting.			

Assurance framework and assurer training and accreditation



Online free Coursera IMM training course through CASE at Duke University



<http://immforsdgs.com>

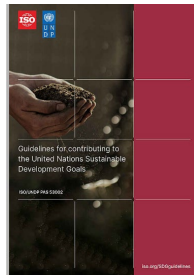
Impact management for MBA students: Case study to be published



Introductions, Masterclasses, Train the Trainer Course, & Trainings for Enterprises, PE, Bonds issuers, government



ISO and UNDP guidelines on integrating SDGs into business.
<https://www.iso.org/standard/87945.html>



Online tool for IMM
impactlab.businesscalltoaction.org



Impact Case studies across sectors and countries

www.businesscalltoaction.org/impact-case-studies



Thank you!





www.sdgprivatefinance.undp.org