



GO4SDGs CLOSING MEETING

Key Outcomes, Lessons Learned and Next Steps

23 June 2025, 15:00-17:00 CET

Background:

The Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs), launched by UNEP in July 2019 with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), successfully concluded in December 2024. The initiative achieved significant results that contributed to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GO4SDGs bridged global partnerships with regional needs, connecting the dots, maximizing collective impact and fostering cooperation among stakeholders by employing peer-to-peer capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy tools to accelerate the transition to low-carbon and circular economies and societies.

In this work GO4SDGs empowered key stakeholders, including policymakers, private sector, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), youth and others, to take action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with focus on SDG8, SDG12, SDG4, SDG13, and SDG17. It catalysed action by "connecting the dots" across high-impact sectors such as food systems, sustainable tourism, textiles, and circularity, while promoting green jobs and sustainable lifestyles.

Through these efforts, GO4SDGs contributed to key UNEA resolutions (including UNEA5.11 on SCP, and UNEA6.8 on sustainable lifestyles). GO4SDGs also played a central role for the organization of Stockholm+50 and brought the voice of youth to various COPs on Climate Change and to the Summit of the Future.

Objectives:

- Celebrate the collective achievements accomplished through the execution of the GO4SDGs initiatives.
- Share lessons learned and outline next steps of the GO4SDGs legacy initiatives, which will be carried over by the 10YFP and key implementing partners.
- Launch GO4SDGs Final Report.
- Share key findings of the external terminal review.



Time	AGENDA
(10 min)	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Verónica Tomei, Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety", BMUKN – Elisa Tonda, Chief, UNEP Resources and Markets Branch, UNEP
(10 min)	GO4SDGs – a Journey of Scaling up Regional Implementation - Key Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adriana Zacarias Farah, Global Coordinator, Finance and Economic Transformations Subprogramme, former GO4SDGs Global Coordinator, UNEP
(40 min)	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scaling up Finance and Economic Transformations through SMES, Circularity and Green Jobs</p> <p>Moderator: Tomas Declercq, former GO4SDGs Regional Coordinator for Latina America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Green Jobs for Youth Pact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothea Schmidt-Klau, Chief of the Employment, Labour Markets and Youth (EMPLAB) Branch of the Employment Policy Department, ILO • Sellah Bogonko, HSC, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Jacobs Ladder Africa <p>Advancing Finance for Circular Economy at Regional Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beatriz Martins Carneiro, LAC Regional Subprogramme Coordinator Finance and Economic Transformations, <i>LAC Circular Economy Coalition</i> • Mabel González Pacheco, LAC Regional Lead, UNEP FI <p>SMEs and Finance for Innovation and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannes MacNulty, Industry and Value Chains Lead, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership • Titus Karanja, Chief Executive Officer, Fintech Frontiers Limited



Time	AGENDA
	Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What results, successes, challenges, and best practices can you share from your sectoral initiative? • What are the lessons learned from GO4SDGs initiatives? • What are the next steps to scale up this work?
(40 min)	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2 Advancing SDGs in High Impact Sectors</p> <p>Moderator: Madina Ibrasheva, former GO4SDGs Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia</p> <p>Sustainable Tourism, Regional Harmonized Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Odek, Chairman, East Africa Tourism Platform (tbc) • Yuliia Gracheva, ESG Central Asia Expert, Director of the Ecolabelling Program "Vitality Leaf" <p>Recipe of Change – Food Waste Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugh Jones, Food Waste Prevention, WRAP • Niki Walsh, Senior Director, F&B Marketing and PR Europe, Middle East & Africa, Hilton <p>Empowering Youth for Sustainable Lifestyles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lewis Akenji, Executive Director of Hot or Cool • Ms. Sandhya Balasubrahmanyam, Learning Portfolio Manager, UNSSC <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the lessons learned and key findings? – Discuss opportunities and challenges in leveraging GO4SDGs legacy initiatives?
(15 min)	<p>GO4SDGs legacy initiative and continuity with the 10YFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jorge Laguna Celis, Head of 10YFP Secretariat <p style="text-align: center;">Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adriana Zacarias Farah, UNEP • Verónica Tomei, BMUKN, Germany