

Sustainability as usual? Deliberating towards the Sustainable Development Goals

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INSTITUTE FOR
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Uneven progress on the MDGs

Goals and Targets	Africa		Asia				Oceania	Latin America and the Caribbean	Caucasus and Central Asia
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western			

GOAL 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Reduce extreme poverty by half	low poverty	very high poverty	low poverty	moderate poverty	high poverty	low poverty	—	low poverty	low poverty
Productive and decent employment	large deficit	very large deficit	moderate deficit	large deficit	large deficit	large deficit	very large deficit	moderate deficit	small deficit
Reduce hunger by half	low hunger	high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger

■ Target met or excellent progress.

■ Good progress.

■ Fair progress.

■ Poor progress or deterioration.

■ Missing or insufficient data.

Did the MDGs have an impact?

- **↑** global aid levels, allocations to poorer countries and social sectors (Kenny and Sumner 2011)
- **↑** national spending on social sectors, esp health (Lucci et al 2015; although see Seyedsayamdost 2018)
- **↓** poverty & infant mortality, **↑** primary enrolments & gender parity for countries with PRSPs vs those without (Elkins et al 2018)



MDGs vs SDGs

Criticisms of MDGs	Aspirations of SDGs
Set through 'a top-down donor-driven process [lacking] broad consultation' (Fox and Stoett 2016)	Consultative
Didn't reflect variations in national circumstances	Country-owned
Only applied to developing countries	Universal
Environmental sustainability not well integrated	Integrated



Outline of the talk

1. Sustainable development in the Anthropocene
2. Deliberating towards the SDGs
3. Implications for SDG implementation & review





1. Sustainable development in the Anthropocene

Rethinking sustainable development in the Anthropocene

Sustainable development must be:

- **Open** to ongoing contestation over means and ends in light of changing conditions, values and knowledge

AND

- **Ecologically grounded** to safeguard environmental preconditions for wellbeing



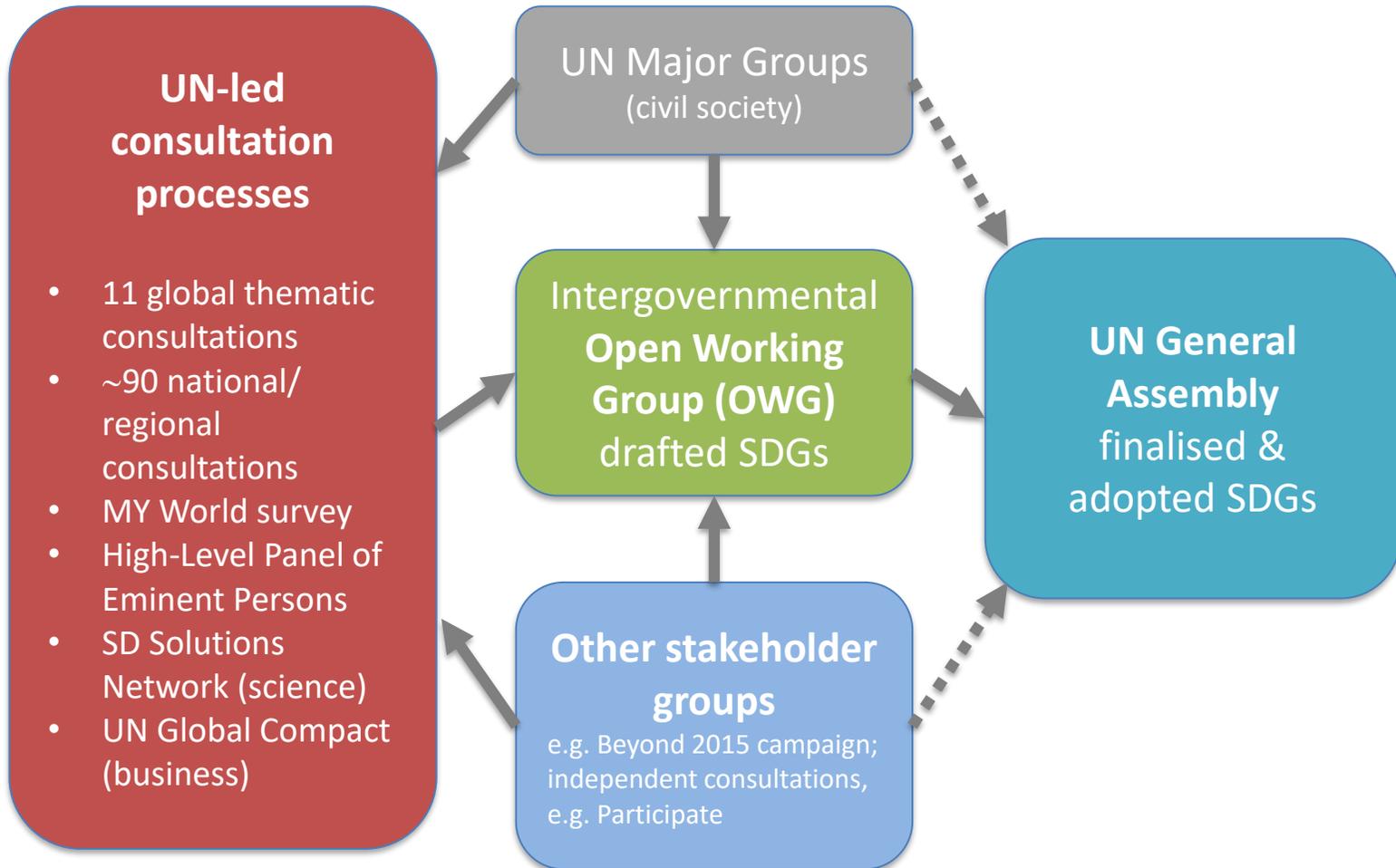
2. Deliberating on the SDGs



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SDGs process: overview



The High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda



Ground Level Panel in Uganda



'Ground Level Panellists in Uganda discuss what it means to 'put sustainable development at the core' as proposed by the High Level Panel': Participate (2013)

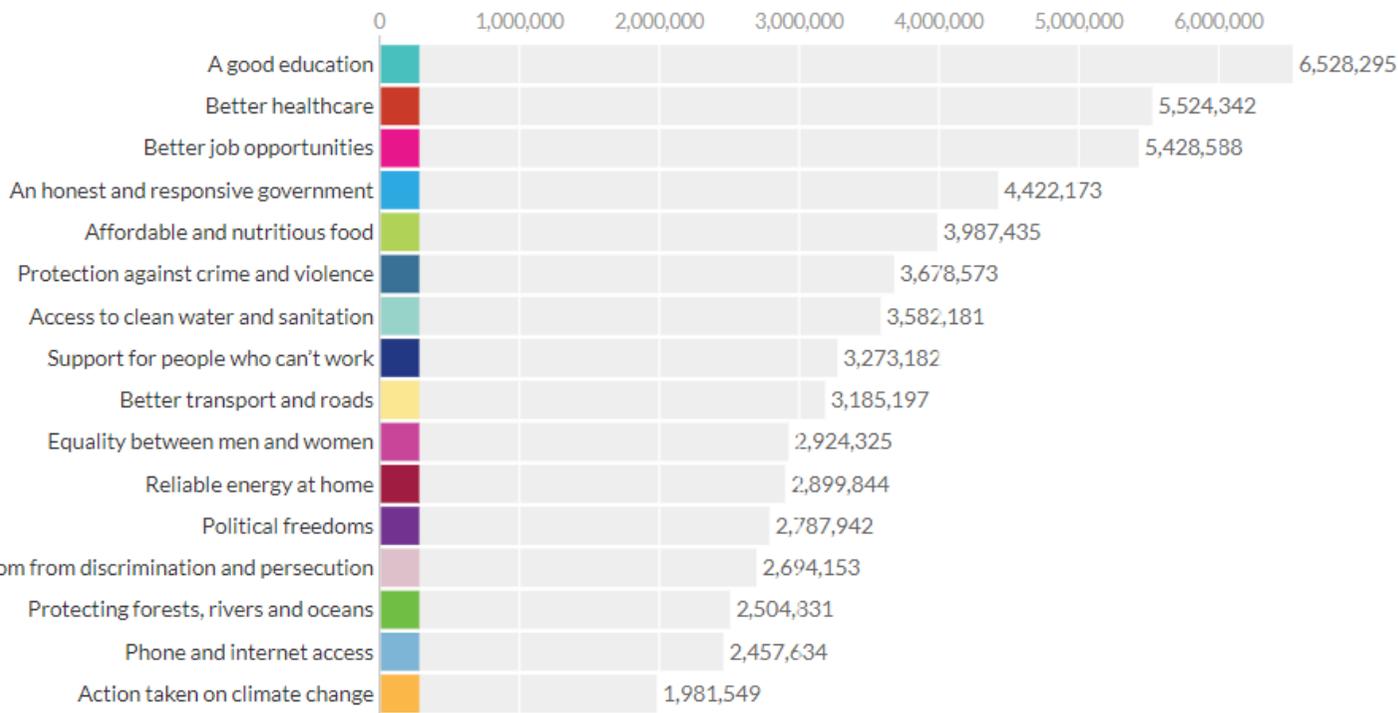
Voices from high-income, English-speaking countries were over-represented in consultation syntheses

Table 3 Difference between largest response categories in final report and e-discussions

Largest response category	Final report analysis (%)	e-Discussion outcome (%)	Difference (%)
Country—USA	29	19	+10
HDI—very high	62	48	+14
Language—English	100	88	+12
Region—N. America	38	23	+15

MY World Survey

9,736,484 votes for All Countries & Country Groups / All Genders / All Education Levels / Age Group (All Age Groups)

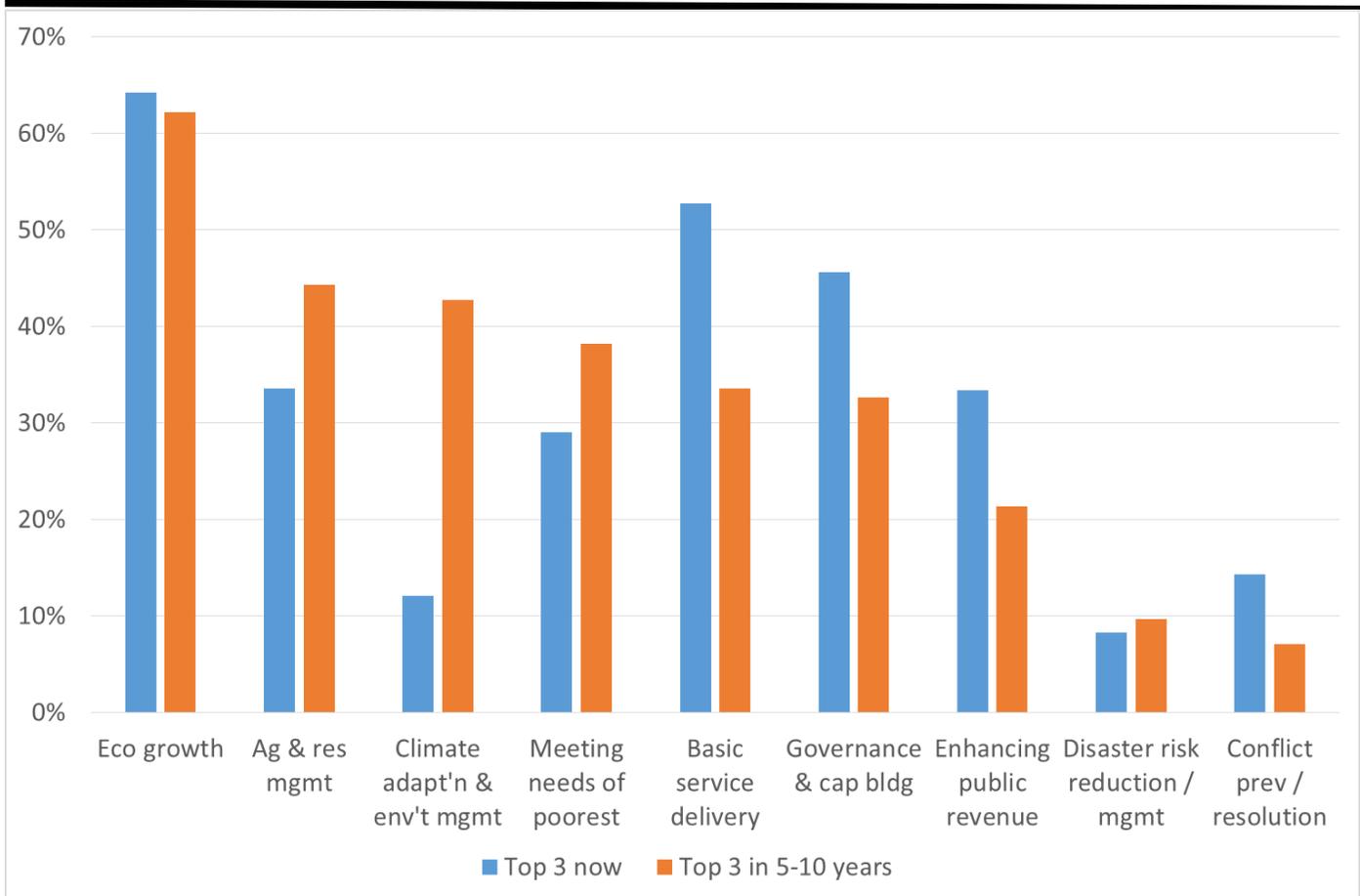


<http://data.myworld2015.org/> (17 Nov 2017)



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Concern about climate change varies over timeframes



Davies and Pickering (2017). Survey conducted mid-2014 (n=61). Respondents were asked about the top 3 challenges facing their country now and in the next 5-10 years.

Climate change ranks highly in perceptions of global threats

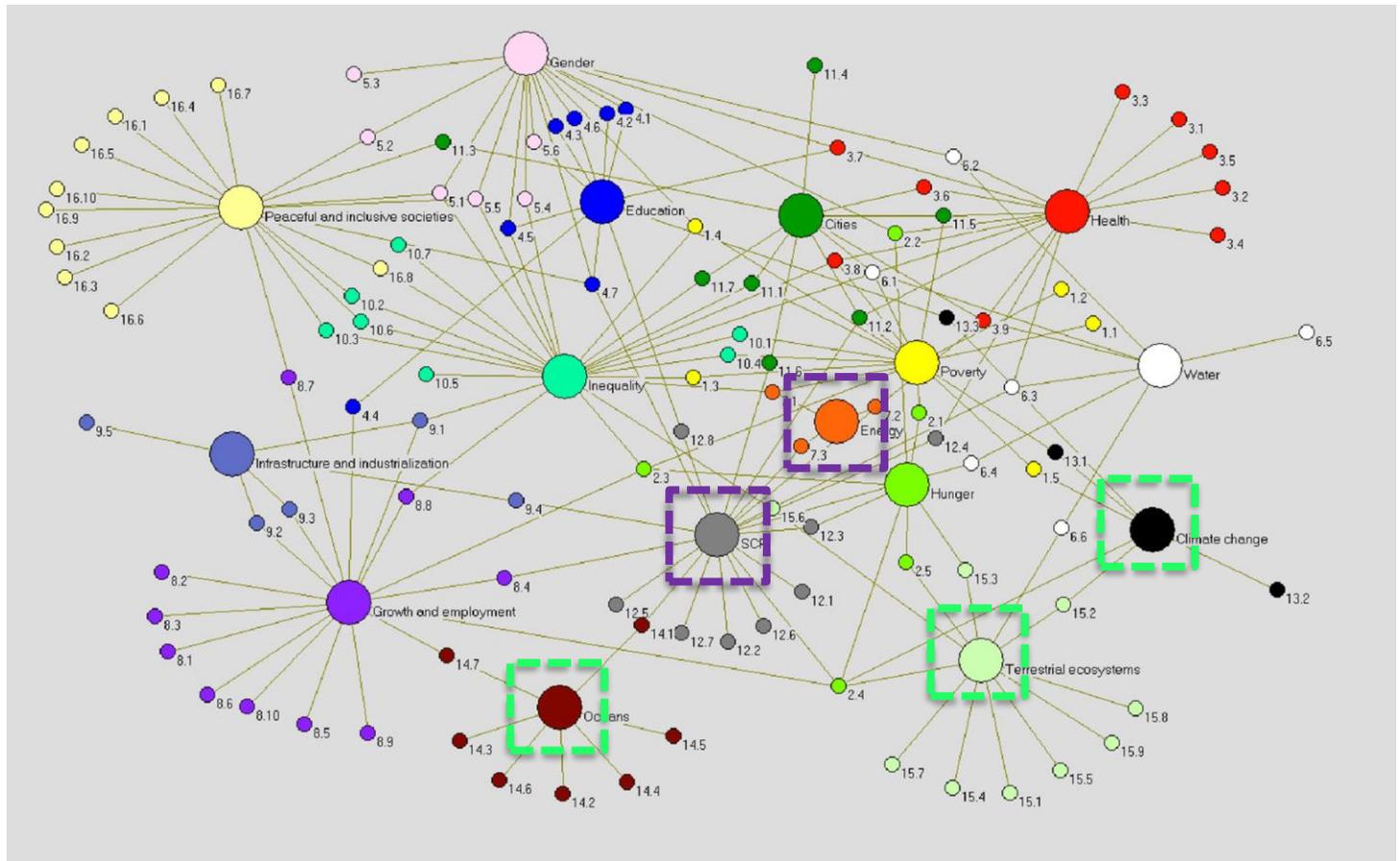
	Top concern		
U.S.	ISIS	Malaysia	Climate/Economy
Canada	ISIS	Pakistan	Climate change
France	ISIS	Philippines	Climate change
Germany	ISIS	South Korea	ISIS
Italy	ISIS	Vietnam	China
Poland	Russia	Argentina	Climate change
Spain	ISIS	Brazil	Climate change
UK	ISIS	Chile	Climate change
Russia	Economic instability	Mexico	Climate change
Ukraine	Russia	Peru	Climate change
Turkey	Climate change	Venezuela	Climate/Economy
Jordan	ISIS	Burkina Faso	Climate change
Lebanon	ISIS	Ethiopia	Climate change
Palest. ter.	ISIS	Ghana	Climate change
Israel	Iran	Kenya	Climate change
Australia	ISIS	Nigeria	Climate change
China	Climate change	Senegal	Economic instability
India	Climate change	South Africa	Climate change
Indonesia	ISIS	Tanzania	Economic instability
Japan	ISIS	Uganda	Climate change

Pew Global Attitudes Survey (Spring 2015) [n=45,435]. Participants were asked how concerned they were about seven global issues (very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Integrating environmental concerns in the SDGs?





3. Implications for SDG implementation & review

Denmark's National Action Plan for the UN Global Goals

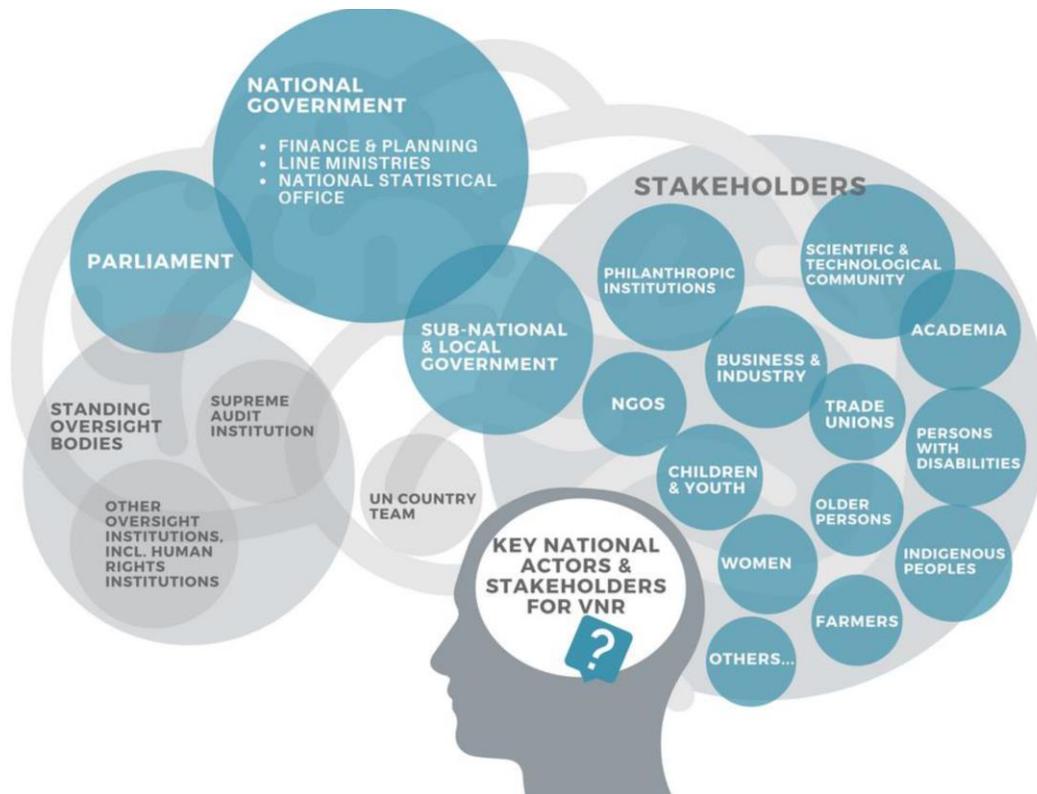
Handlingsplan for FN's verdensmål

– Danmarks opfølgning på FN's
verdensmål for bæredygtig udvikling



MARTS 2017

Stakeholder participation in Voluntary National Reviews



Departmental responsibilities in Australia: SDG17



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Lead Department

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Supporting Departments

- The Treasury
- Australian Bureau of Statistics

VNR and beyond

- Australia's VNR an opportunity to showcase progress & areas for improvement in aid/development policy
- But VNR presentations brief & infrequent
 - Need for periodic (e.g. 4-yearly) domestic reviews: Halle & Wolfe 2016
- At global level, other reviews remain crucial
 - e.g. DAC peer reviews, UNFCCC (climate), UPR (human rights)

SDG Index 2017: How does Australia fare?



Rank Country

1	Sweden	11	Japan	21	Belarus	77.1
2	Denmark	12	Belgium	22	Malta	77.0
3	Finland	13	Netherlands	23	Slovak Republic	76.9
4	Norway	14	Iceland	24	Croatia	76.9
5	Czech Republic	15	Estonia	25	Spain	76.8
6	Germany	16	United Kingdom	26	Australia	75.9
7	Austria	17	Canada	27	Poland	75.8
8	Switzerland	18	Hungary	28	Portugal	75.6
9	Slovenia	19	Ireland	29	Cuba	75.5
10	France	20	New Zealand	30	Italy	75.5

Thank you

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An integrated approach to sustainable development

