



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# The Importance of Assessing SDG 6 Interlinkages to Inform Policy Making

*Findings and Recommendations from a Policy Analysis 2019*



Atacama Desert South America

***Water is key to advancing human rights,  
reducing poverty and inequality, and  
enabling peace, justice and sustainability***

1) Three Regional Evaluations:

- Africa
- Arab states
- Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC)

2) Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) 2019

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Perugia, Italy*



# HLPF Review Cycle

## 2019

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality



{ The set of goals to be reviewed in depth will be the following, including Goal 17. }

2015

Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015

2017

Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world



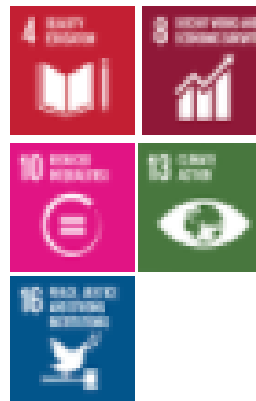
2019

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality



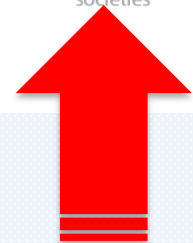
2016

Ensuring that no one is left behind



2018

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies



# SDG 6 Synthesis Report (UN, 2018)

## HIGHLIGHTS



*The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation* reviews the global progress made towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It builds on the latest data available for the 11 SDG 6 global indicators and will inform the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development during its in-depth review of SDG 6 in July 2018. The report represents a joint position from the United Nations family.

## The world is not on track

- Billions of people still lack safe water, sanitation and handwashing facilities: 844 million lack basic water ser-
- Agriculture places enormous stress on water, but could be part of a water-saving solution: The agriculture

MANY other contributors. Members of Taskforce include:

CEO Water Mandate, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO (WWAP, coordinator), UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNU, UN-Water TAU, WHO, WMO and World Bank



# Achieving SDG 6 is essential for progress on all

other SDGs,

and

vice versa!

Feedback:

Disaggregate!

(UN, 2018)



# Science's role in supporting SDGs

- Science has an **important role** to play
- Need for a strong science-policy interface to support sound **reviewing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of the SDGs (-> *effective policies*)
- Science **can contribute to**, for instance:
  - better understanding of interlinkages
  - understanding factors that affect coordination and cooperation across different sectors
  - assessments of data and methods for implementation and measuring progress on SDG 6
  - perform future predictions and changes

(source: adelphi, adapted)



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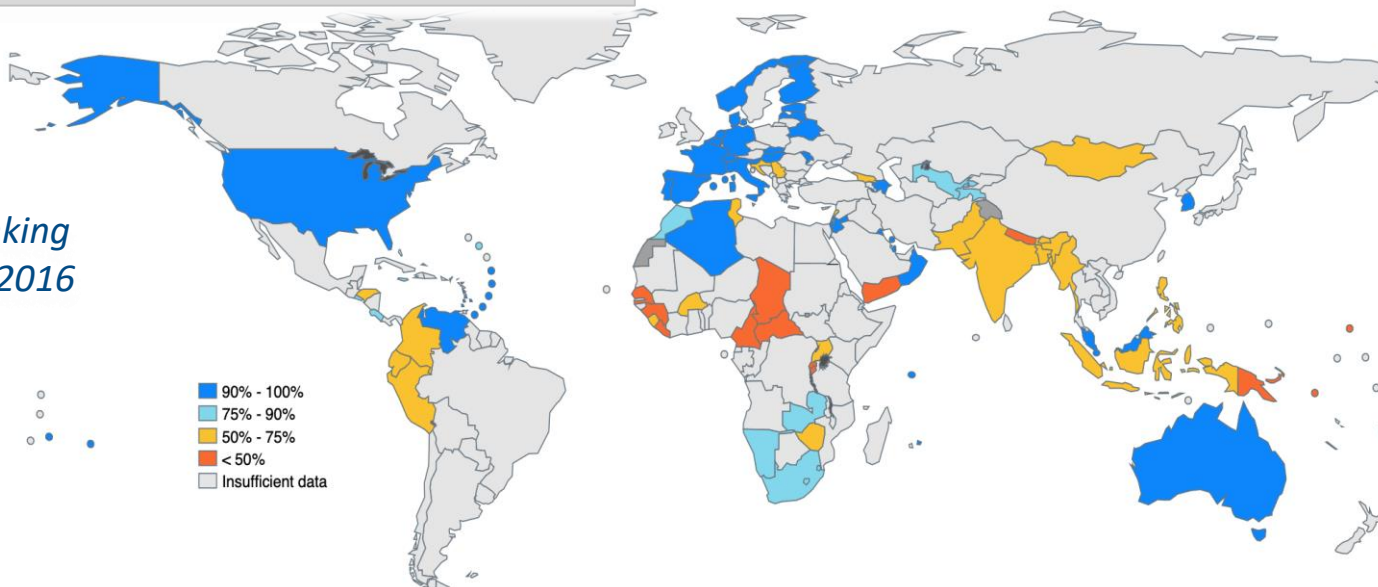
# Ensuring inclusive access to education & improving educational outcomes through WASH

## SDG 4 & 6

In 2016, only 69%, 66%, and 53% of the world's schools had basic drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services, respectively.

*Global coverage of safe drinking water services in schools in 2016*

*(Source: WHO and UNICEF, 2017)*



**Access to adequate WASH and Menstrual Hygiene Management infrastructure reduces absenteeism of both educators and students, reduces the transmission of diseases, and favors inclusion and dignity, improving enrollment and educational outcomes.**



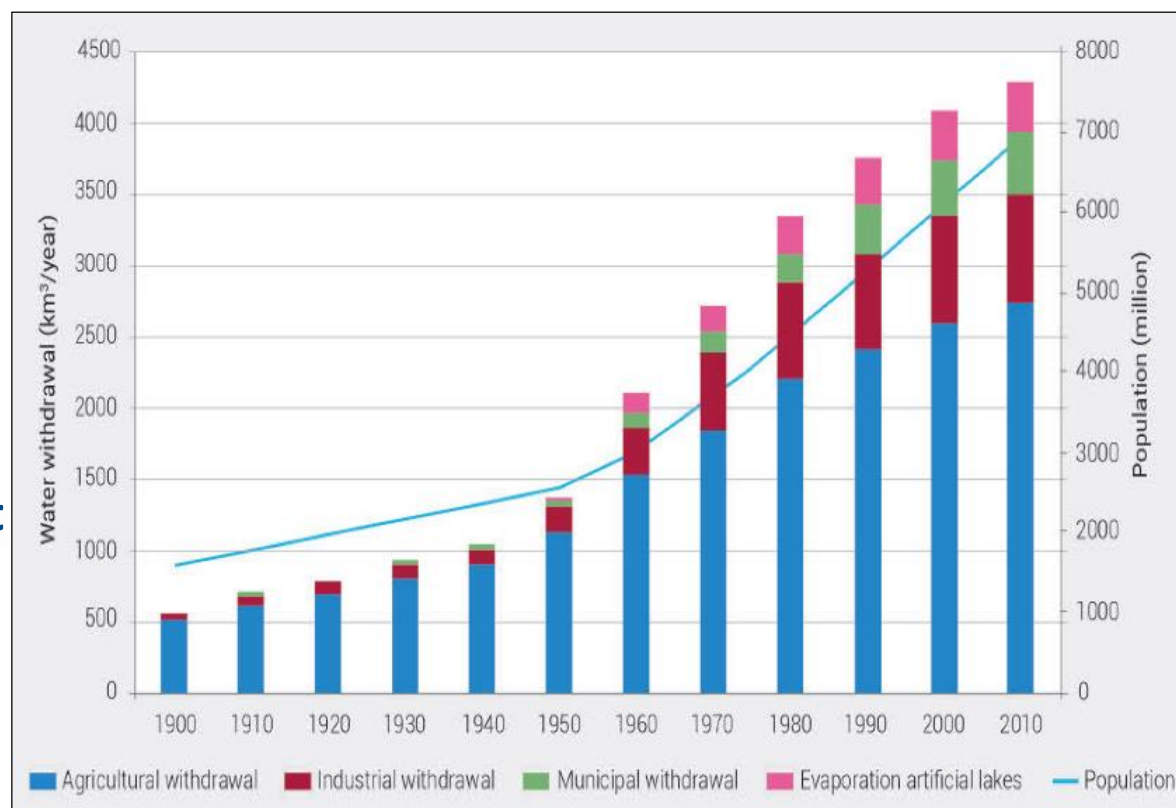


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# Sustaining inclusive and productive economic growth and employment through water

## SDG 6 & 8

- 3 out of 4 jobs are **water-dependent** (WWDR 2016)
- **Agriculture** – globally 30% workforce and 69% annual withdrawals
- WASH is critical for **full and productive employment**
- Significant **GDP gains with universal access to WASH**: 23% in DRC to 12 % in Madagascar.



(Source: UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018)





# Water in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

**VNRs submitted by 47 countries at 2019 HLPF:**

- 1. Highlight the potential of water for both fostering and hindering sustainable development.**
- 2. Recognize the importance of water for achieving SDGs under review to diverse degrees**
- 3. Dedicated attention in the VNR:**
  - **74%** include a specific section on SDG 6
  - **40%** mention water in their main messages (= one-pager)



# Water in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

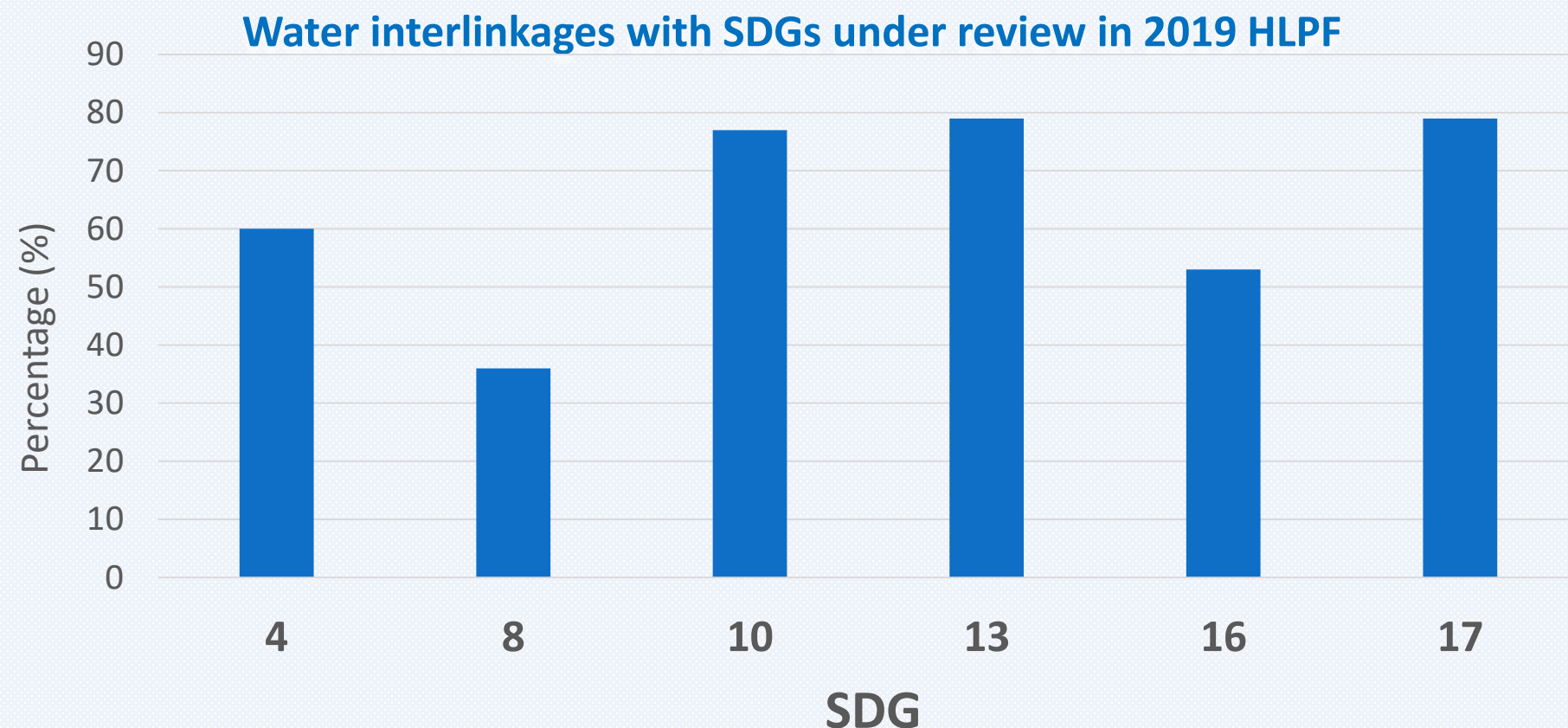
VNRs highlight the potential of water for both fostering and hindering sustainable development.



Water is referenced as a **problem** for sustainable development in 89% of VNRs, and as a **solution** in 77% of the 2019 VNRs.

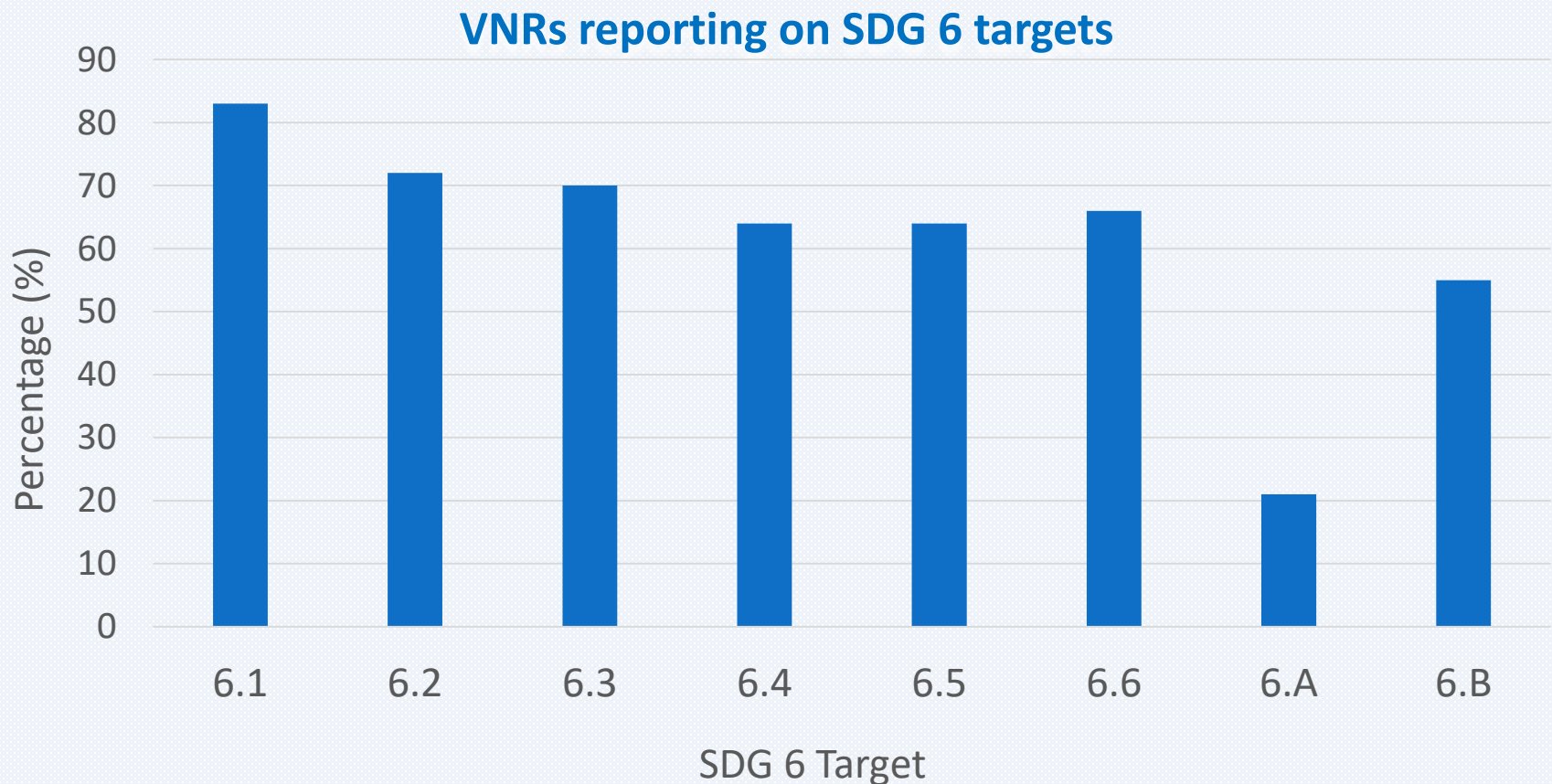
# Water in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

**VNRs recognize the importance of water for achieving SDGs under review to diverse degrees**



# Water in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

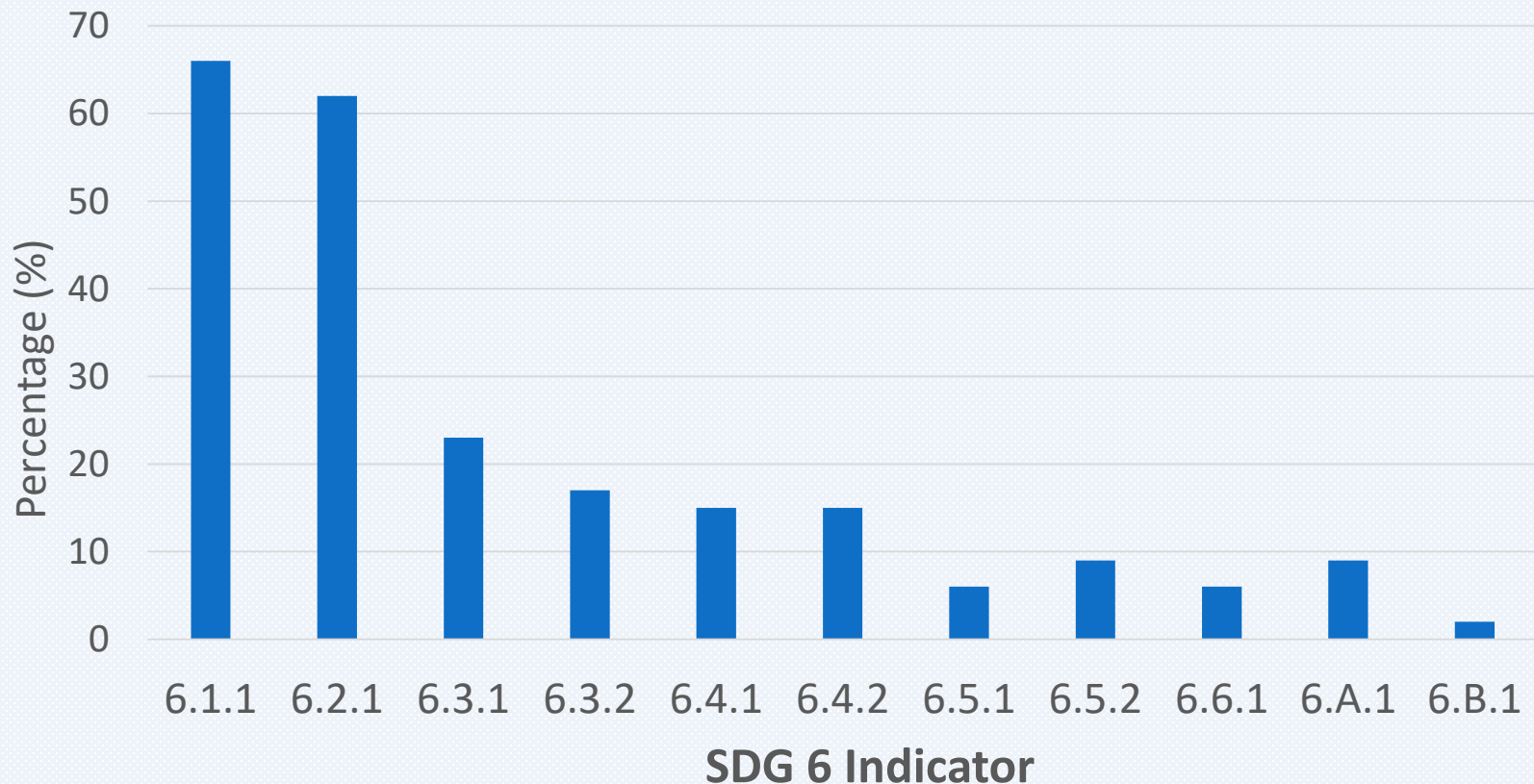
**74% of VNRs include a specific section on SDG 6  
& significantly report on SDG targets**



# Water in the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)

**Low reporting on SDG 6 indicators does not match progress under global monitoring initiatives**

VNRs reporting on SDG 6 indicators







# Science-policy transfer in GRoW

- **Research projects jointly prepare syntheses and policy recommendations to support evidence-based decision making towards achieving multiple SDGs, e.g. on**
  - Procedures to assess and address SDG interlinkages
  - Data and monitoring issues
  - Water Footprint as a tool to support SDGs
- **Targeted dissemination of position papers and policy briefs**
  - To international organisations, SDG indicator custodians
  - To national ministries and development organisations
  - At the UN High-Level Political Forum on SD in New York
  - At other relevant events such as this Stockholm WWW!



(source: adelphi)



