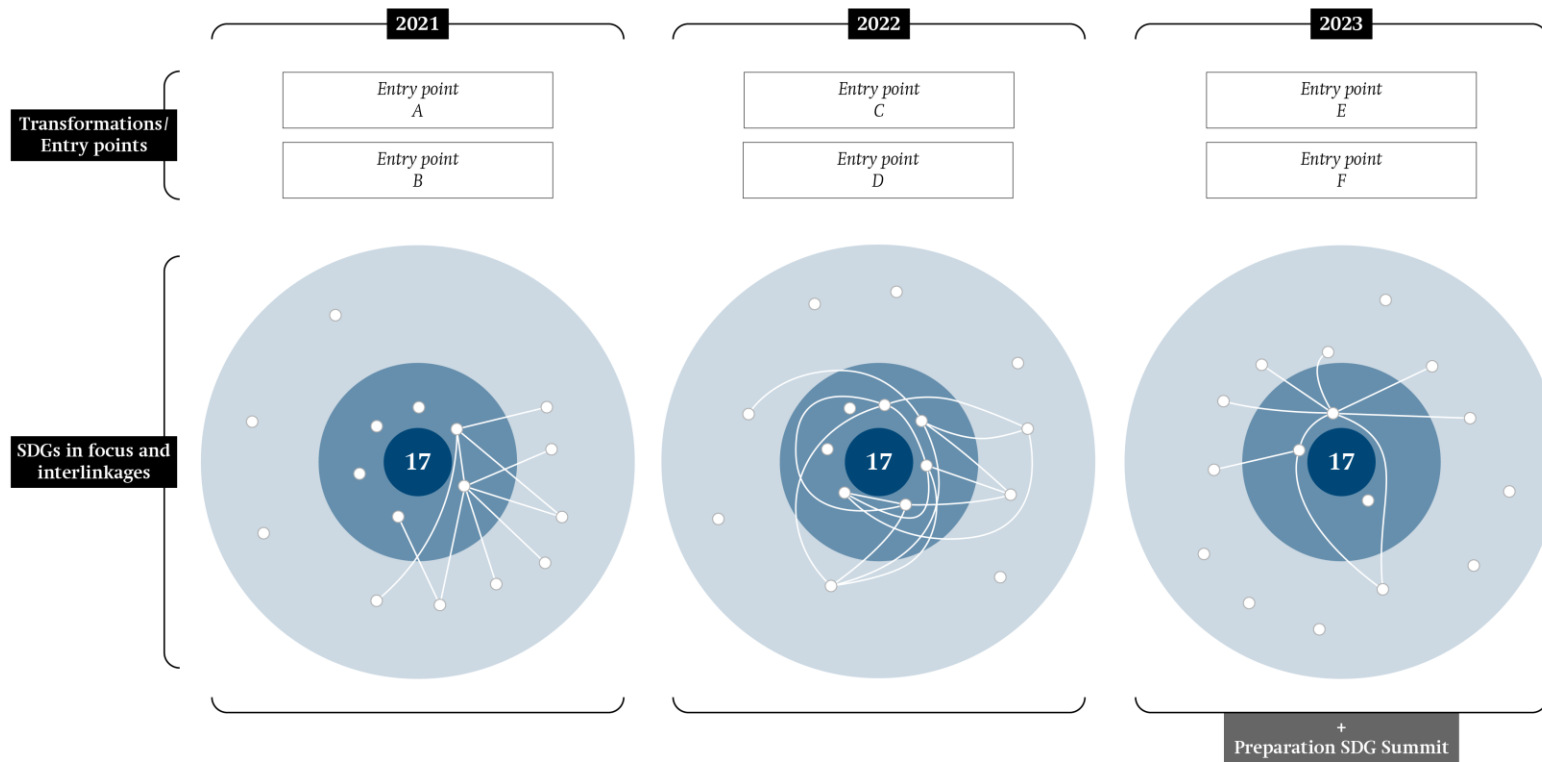


# HLPF Reform Option: GSDR-informed systematic approach to Reviewing Themes & SDGs with a focus on transformations and relevant interlinkages



## One possible combination of HLPF Thematic and SDG Reviews 2021–2023

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(Based on working paper "Reviewing the HLPF's format and organizational aspects – what's being discussed?" February 05 2020, Marianne Beisheim, SWP)

For a *systematic approach* to the **Thematic and SDG Reviews** at the annual HLPF (2021-2023), UN member states could decide to discuss each year *two entry points* for the *transformative pathways* outlined in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR).<sup>1</sup>

*Criteria* for the combinations of entry-points in each year could be:

- 1) those entry points with the highest distance to targets could be considered early in the HLPF-cycle,<sup>2</sup>
- 2) an alignment with relevant international processes and major upcoming events,
- 3) ensuring that all three dimensions of sustainable development are covered each year,
- 4) relevant interlinkages are in the focus of the overarching theme.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the selected combinations of entry points, the *most relevant SDGs* could be identified and reviewed in-depth in that year, emphasizing their *interlinkages to all* SDGs. As in the previous HLPF-cycle, SDG 17 could be discussed annually (see chart, combining SDGs in three concentric circles each year), and particular focus could be given to FfD, STI and countries in special situations.

This would ensure a more coherent *systems approach*, covering all SDGs and their interlinkages each year, while also mobilizing the respective communities of practice in a particular year. This is relevant because it would be most pertinent to forge and showcase progressive *good practice coalitions* – across sectors – for the six transformative pathways. The HLPF needs to remain an attractive platform, not only for participants from the sustainable development realm, but a forum that successfully engages *all relevant* sectoral expertise in a cross-cutting manner (see also the lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development, CSD).<sup>4</sup>

As we are in the decade of action and delivery, the HLPF Panels could discuss the four *levers* and specify the *action points* that the GSDR outlines for each entry point.<sup>5</sup>

Each year, there could be an *overarching thematic threat* that points to the relevant *interactions* between the entry points and SDGs (in this example something like: 2021 just transition, 2022 people and planet, 2023 rural-urban linkages).

In 2023, fewer SDGs could be reviewed in-depth, to allow for more preparatory time for the SDG Summit in September 2023.

<sup>1</sup> GSDR 2019: Entry point 1: human well-being and capabilities; Entry point 2: sustainable and just economies; Entry point 3: sustainable food systems and nutrition patterns; Entry point 4: energy decarbonization and universal access; Entry point 5: urban and peri-urban development; Entry point 6: global environmental commons.

<sup>2</sup> The GSDR offers a table on the “projected distance from reaching selected targets by 2030”. See GSDR 2019: table, page 10.

<sup>3</sup> See GSDR 2019: Box 1-2, page 6, for a table of interactions that could help to identify the most relevant interlinkages; for example, every interaction with a total strength above 50 could be depicted.

<sup>4</sup> UNSG Report on lessons learned from CSD. Another lesson was that many felt that clustering too many issues each year was a barrier to in-depth discussions and consensus building.

<sup>5</sup> GSDR 2019: Lever 1: governance; Lever 2: economy and finance; Lever 3: individual and collective action; Lever 4: science and technology; for the “Call to Action” see pages 127-136.