



Open Call for Inputs – United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2027 (GSDR)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on behalf of the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General



 **OPEN CALL FOR STAKEHOLDER INPUTS**

IOSH's consultation response to United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2027 (GSDR)

Introduction

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), the world's largest chartered body for health and safety professionals, is an active civil society organisation with special consultative status with UN ECOSOC. As a global voice for occupational safe and healthy, and decent work, IOSH contributes evidence-based expertise to UN processes that advance social justice, sustainable development, human wellbeing and principles of good occupational safety and health. IOSH was granted special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2023, recognising its global expertise in occupational safety and health and its contribution to the sustainable development goals and to advancing decent work. This status enables IOSH to support UN processes with evidence-based insights on worker protection, sustainability and social justice. By participating in UN ECOSOC forums and UN consultations, IOSH helps ensure that safe and healthy working environments— which is a fundamental principle and right at work as per the ILO Declaration, is fundamental to human rights and sustainable development— are embedded across global policy agendas.

IOSH regularly engages with UN forums to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promote the centrality of occupational safety and health in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes active participation in the ECOSOC Partnership Forum—most recently in preparation for the 2026 Forum—where IOSH advocates for stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration to improve working conditions worldwide. IOSH also contributes to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), offering insights on decent work, social protection, and resilient labour and OSH systems.

Beyond the HLPF, but within the UN system, IOSH engaged and contributed to the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 in Doha, is a member of the Global Coalition for Social Justice's Forum organised by the ILO, as well as participating in other UN-led platforms that advance inclusive growth and human-centred development. Through research, partnerships and global advocacy, IOSH brings the voice and perspective of occupational safety and health professionals to the heart of UN deliberations, helping ensure that the right to a safe and healthy working environment remains a foundational pillar of sustainable development.

IOSH advances occupational safety and health (OSH) worldwide by promoting evidence-based practice, advocating for evidence-led policy positions and calls to action, strengthening professional standards, and supporting organisations to create safer, healthier and more sustainable workplaces. Through research, capacity-building and global advocacy, IOSH helps embed the IOSH ten principles of good OSH within policies that drive decent work, social protection and inclusive growth. Its work directly contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 on health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work, and SDG 17 on partnerships. By championing prevention-first approaches, worker rights and protection and responsible and sustainable business practices, IOSH contributes to resilient labour systems and the broader ambition of achieving sustainable development for all.

Background and positioning

At IOSH, we stand with civil society partners in warning that global sustainable development has reached a critical juncture. Despite progress in some areas, structural challenges continue to undermine SDG delivery—especially SDG 8. Informality, modern day slavery, persistent gender and youth labour market gaps, and the erosion of workers' rights are limiting inclusive growth and

weakening resilience. As highlighted in recent UN reviews, these trends reflect deeper pressures: inequality, climate shocks, geopolitical fragmentation and rapid digital transformation.

Yet the pathway forward is clear. Pro-employment macroeconomic policies, universal social protection, and just digital and green transitions can accelerate progress—particularly when they embed strong labour standards and occupational safety and health. Approaches to capacity building - education, awareness, skills, and training - and employment must evolve to support all workers across the life course, ensuring they can adapt to new ways of working and to technological and environmental change.

Formalising informal work, financing robust social protection systems, and strengthening data on labour rights and non-standard work are essential to realising the 2030 Agenda. Decent work shouldn't just be seen as an economic objective; it is foundational to poverty reduction, gender equality, climate resilience and social cohesion. By prioritising OSH and worker rights and protections, governments and stakeholders can drive integrated, people-centred sustainable development beyond 2030.

Safe and healthy working environments are fundamental to decent work and must be central to sustainable development. The recognition of a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work creates vital momentum to eliminate dangerous, degrading and insecure work. Strong OSH laws, improved OSH capacity building across governments and national systems, effective enforcement, and responsible business practices—supported by employment injury insurance—are essential to achieving SDG 8 and advancing wider social and economic goals. Strengthening OSH across global supply chains ensures that decent work, labour and OSH rights and responsible production are upheld at every tier.

Least developed economies face deep structural barriers: widespread informality, weak regulatory systems, limited resources, hazardous work, gender inequality and persistent child labour. These challenges demand coordinated action. IOSH calls on governments to place decent work, robust labour protections and strong OSH systems – that include IOSH's ten principles of good OSH - at the heart of economic policy—leveraging social dialogue, responsible business conduct and supply chain governance to ensure all workers are protected, empowered and able to contribute to sustainable development.

IOSH's research and campaigns.

IOSH's *Catch the Wave* campaign¹² positions occupational safety and health as a core driver of social sustainability, calling on organisations to recognise that protecting people is fundamental to long-term value creation. Central to the campaign is a growing body of IOSH-commissioned research that demonstrates how strong OSH systems contribute to resilient businesses, more proportionate social reporting practices and sustainable development.

IOSH has invested in a series of evidence-based studies exploring the relationship between OSH, corporate responsibility and sustainability performance. These include research on the integration of OSH into ESG reporting, the role of worker wellbeing in productivity and resilience, and the importance of ethical supply chain governance. The findings consistently show that organisations with mature OSH cultures are better equipped to manage risk, adapt to change and deliver sustainable outcomes for workers, communities and investors. Our most recent white paper, *Sustainability Stalled?*³, highlights a concerning slowdown in global sustainability progress and warns that many organisations are struggling to translate commitments into meaningful action. The paper argues that

¹ Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. *Catch the wave. Harnessing the power of social sustainability.* 2022.

² Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. *Wave generation: a model approach to socially sustainable safety and health.* May, 2022.

³ Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. *Sustainability stalled.* Leicester. January, 2026.

sustainability efforts often falter because they overlook the workforce—the people who ultimately deliver change. It reinforces that OSH is not a peripheral compliance issue but a strategic enabler of sustainable business, underpinning decent work, responsible production and long-term organisational resilience. Through *Catch the Wave* campaign and its research programme, IOSH continues to champion a people-centred approach to sustainability—one that recognises safe, healthy and empowered workers as essential to achieving lasting economic, social and environmental progress.

IOSH's submission text – all content hereafter was submitted by 31 March 2026 using the online platform.

SECTION 1 - Understanding Stakeholder Expectations

Please identify the top three priority issues where stronger scientific synthesis and policy-relevant guidance in the 2027 GSDR are most needed to support integrated SDG implementation. (Open ended, Maximum 150 characters per response, max 3 answers per submission.)

- **Decent work for all:** Stronger guidance on integrating OSH into decent work policies to reduce inequalities and strengthen resilient labour systems.
- **Climate change & work:** Scientific synthesis on climate-related risks to protect workers and support just, safe, healthy and sustainable transitions.
- **Digitalisation & OSH:** clear evidence and policy direction for managing OSH risks from AI, automation and platform work to ensure safe digital futures.

Additional comment we are unable to submit due to limited characters:

- *Embedding **responsible business conduct and robust OSH standards across global value chains** to ensure decent work, protect vulnerable workers, and align production systems with sustainable, safe, healthy, equitable and rights-based SDG implementation.*

What type of guidance do you wish to see in the 2027 GSDR about how countries can advance sustainable development by 2030 and beyond? (Open ended, maximum 500 characters)

To embed decent work and occupational safety and health at the core of sustainable development. Stronger direction is needed on integrating good OSH into decent work strategies, ensuring safe, healthy and just transitions in the face of climate change, and managing digitalisation so new technologies enhance—rather than undermine—worker protection. Prioritising OSH will strengthen resilience, reduce inequalities and accelerate progress toward the SDGs beyond 2030.

If you are asked to name one thing that the 2027 GSDR could do to strengthen the effectiveness and usability of the report, what would that be? (Maximum 500 characters)

By providing clearer, evidence-based guidance on protecting migrant, vulnerable and informal-economy workers, whose health and safety and rights remain under-addressed in SDG implementation. Prioritising OSH and decent work for these groups would make the report more actionable, equitable and aligned with the 'leave no one behind' commitment.

SECTION 2 - Identify evidence-based good practices and lessons learned from SDG implementation to inform the GSDR

Based on your experience, what is the main challenge that needs to be addressed to strengthen integrated approaches to SDG implementation? (Open ended, Maximum 500 characters per submission)

The main challenge is integrating OSH and decent work into policies that reach the informal economy, where most workers lack legal protections, social security and safe and healthy working environments and conditions. Weak data, limited enforcement and exclusion from national strategies hinder coherent SDG action. Strengthening OSH systems to include informal and vulnerable workers is essential for truly integrated SDG implementation.

Please share a good practice/case study/policy tool from your work illustrating integrated implementation of the SDGs. (Maximum one per submission) Short summary about the good practice/case study/policy tool (500 characters max) Partners involved (500 characters max) Short summary of barriers faced and how they were overcome (800 characters max) SDG result/impact achieved (500 characters max) Relevant link

The IOSH report⁴ demonstrates that occupational safety and health (OSH) is a foundational enabler of integrated SDG implementation, showing that good OSH practice in IOSH's opinion can contribute either directly and indirectly to **51 SDG targets**, with **31 receiving a direct contribution**. As the report notes, *"good OSH management is good for individuals, businesses and the wider world."* By embedding prevention-first strategies, risk management and worker wellbeing into organisational systems, OSH strengthens social sustainability and supports progress across economic, environmental and social goals.

The report highlights how OSH risk management underpins resilient, sustainable work by anticipating and preventing and reducing harms, contributing to SDGs on health, industrial sustainability, chemical safety and disaster resilience. Strong OSH management systems and governance promote transparency, equality, responsible business conduct and effective institutions—key elements of SDGs 8, 10, 12 and 16. Welfare and occupational health provisions advance SDGs on health, sanitation and equality, while the protection of vulnerable workers—including migrants, gig workers and those in the informal economy—directly supports the SDG commitment to leave no one behind.

⁴ Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. Delivering a sustainable future. Leicester, 2024.