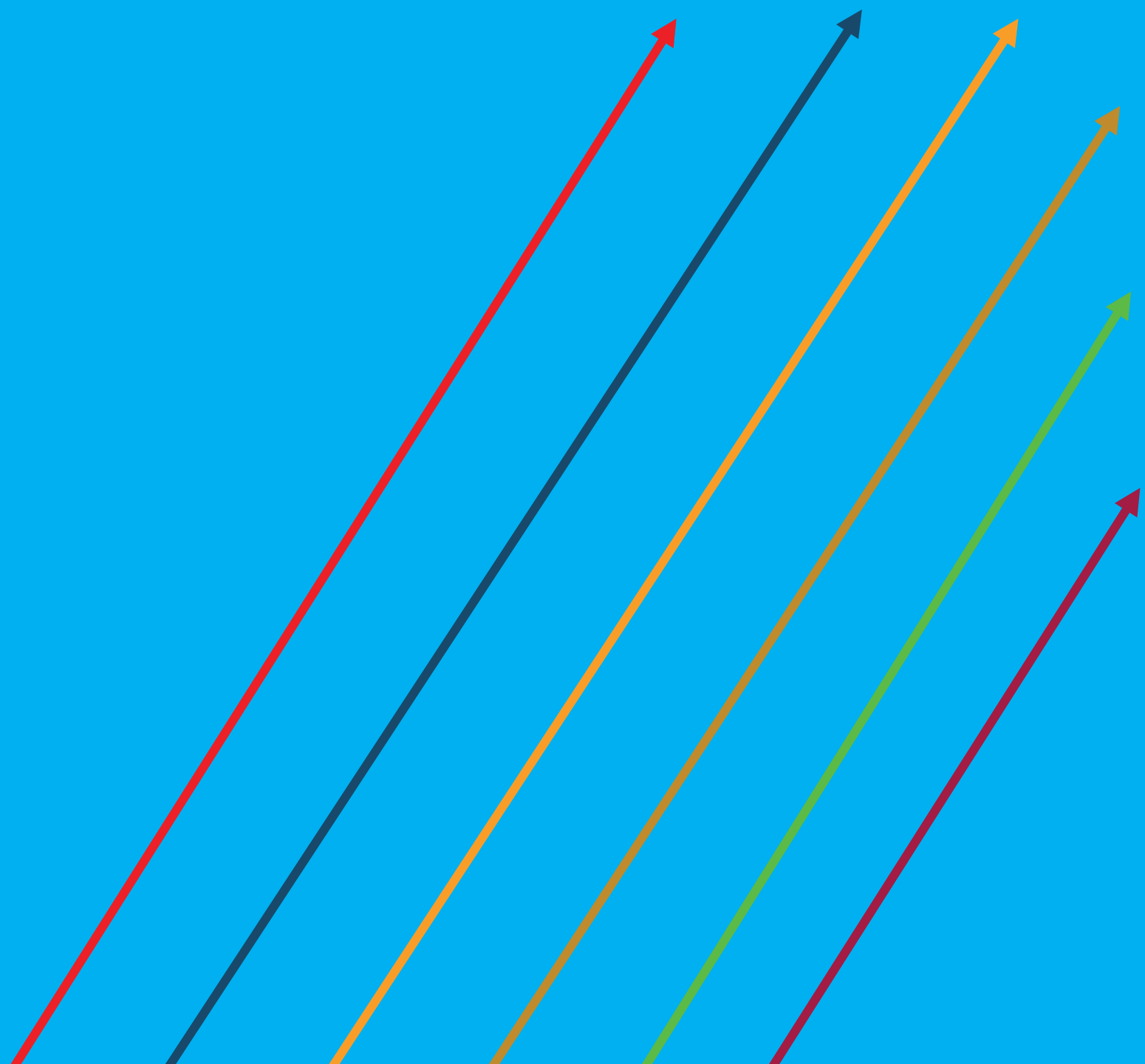


# Valuing What Counts

A UN Systemwide  
Contribution on  
progress beyond  
Gross Domestic  
Product (GDP)



**Why do we  
need to go  
beyond GDP  
and why  
now?**

- We need **new metrics to tackle today's challenges** and secure our future:
  - Crises: climate change, environment, pandemic, conflict, inequalities - GDP alone is not enough
  - Assess progress from environmental, social, digital, distributional and vulnerability aspects
  - Go beyond income, beyond today, beyond averages

OUTCOMES



PROCESSES





## Respect for life and the planet

- Climate change targets are slipping out of reach
- Environmental degradation and pollution increase
- Serious biodiversity loss
- Relentless use of natural resources
- Environmental inequality
- Slow uptake of innovations such as renewable energy solutions



## **From vulnerability to resilience**

- Disaster and crisis preparedness
- Exposure to economic and environmental risks, social safety nets, insecurity,
- Digital and transport connectivity, geographic remoteness, lack of economic diversification and structural transformation, weak productive capacities, reliance on primary production or food imports, poor technology readiness, weak infrastructures, third sector, barriers to participation in global value chains and digitalization, weak skills for the future.



## **Participatory governance and stronger institutions**

- Illicit financial flows, bribery and corruption,
- Terrorism, violence, armed conflict, war
- Rule of law, regulatory quality, effectiveness, success in fighting criminality,
- Civil and political rights, peace, fear and insecurity,
- Good conditions for business, technological advancement and innovation,
- Transparency, accountability, strong institutions, democratic participation



## Innovative and ethical economies

- Short-term decision making, ignoring social norms,
- Poor or insecure working conditions,
- Relentless use of resources, intergenerational equity,
- Unethical treatment of animals,
- Unnecessarily long transport routes, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions embedded in goods,
- GDP generated by crime and illegal activities, illicit finance,
- Resulting air pollution and degenerating health of ecosystems,
- Harnessing innovation and new technology for more ethical, green economy.



## Wellbeing and agency

- Improved coverage of informal activity, care economy, voluntary work, underpaid or unpaid activities,
- Achievement of human rights, health, education, housing, decent employment, food security, nutrition,
- Creative economy, cultural activities
- New forms of employment, social justice
- Political representation





## **Reduced inequalities and greater solidarity**

- Growth does not benefit everybody, extreme poverty increases while the richest get richer,
- Rural and urban communities, intra-country and inter-country income/wealth disparities,
- Gender, race and multidimensional inequalities, intergenerational equity,
- Unequal economic opportunities or access to resources, food insecurity is rising in many countries while it has vanished from others,
- The pandemic has increased gaps and affected countries unevenly,
- Soaring debt burden of countries, development aid, financing for development.

## Proposals in a nutshell

- The aim is a universal, country-owned Framework for Beyond GDP with high quality metrics.
  - Based on the 2025 SNA update and building on existing capacity and data, e.g., SDG indicators.
- Informed by HLCP deliberations, we propose a value-based approach to progress with:
  1. A political process to set ambitious targets
  2. Criteria for identifying a focused dashboard of 10-20 indicators maximum, not one index
    - Dynamic and adapted to changing circumstances
    - Easy to use with clear and actionable messages
  3. Call for investing in disaggregated data systems to enable deep insight and analysis of inequalities