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## What are the SDGs?

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The 17 SDGs are intersectional, in that they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

## What is the role of libraries?

Libraries are key partners in this global work. Achieving all of the Goals depends on libraries and information. The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) has been actively involved with the creation and promotion of the UN 2030 SDGs. They have advocated for the inclusion of access to information, safeguarding of cultural heritage, universal literacy, and access to information and communication technologies in the framework.

All types of libraries, professional associations, and other cultural heritage organizations can be involved in this work. Doing this work and connecting it to the SDGs makes it easier to advocate for libraries at the local, regional, and state level.

## What can you do?

Libraries play a big part in helping to provide knowledge, understanding, and resources to our communities. When we are providing information at the local level, we are providing resources, skills, and tangible ways to achieve the goals of the SDGs.

- When you have a storytime about climate change, you are creating informed citizens who will protect the planet.
- When you bring the library to unconventional places, you are reducing inequalities.
- When you give out summer meals to youth in your community, you are helping eradicate hunger.
- When you organize summer reading programs, you bring literacy skills to those that might not be reading.
- When you provide career development programs and basic computer access, you are creating economic growth and decent work for all.
- When you provide gender neutral bathrooms, you are reducing gender inequality.
- When you provide spaces for communities to gather, you are building sustainable communities.

When you do these actions and more, you are a part of making the world a better place. Let's get started!

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