ADDRESS | UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

Building a SDG Delivery Architecture

Delivered at the United Nations, Geneva

Lord JD Waverley 26 November 2026

My core argument is that the world might be tempted to answer the end of this round of SDGs with another set of goals. That would be a mistake. The SDGs have done their job. They gave the world a shared language for development.

What they lacked however was not ambition but a delivery architecture. Governments signed commitments without funding them. International organisations coordinated without being judged on results. Development banks stood largely outside the accountability system. Companies used sustainability language without showing impact. And when delivery fails, nobody is held responsible. The world does not need a new set of goals. It needs a system that turns ambition into delivery that is financed, measured and accountable.

To put pressure on the system I propose that our gathering encourages parliamentary processes globally, through the establishment of SDG parliamentary groups. As far as the UK is concerned there is a past colleague from my time in the House of Lords, who chairs and cares deeply on our objectives. I will happily sit with him to garner support.

The general problem is as much as anything institutional. A post 2030 successor should be a Global Delivery mechanism in which every significant commitment has an owner, a delivery plan, a financing proposition, milestones and evidence of performance. What in my mind is required is a calibrated series of endeavours that are branded and awarded a SDG seal of approval. The SDGs are to set the destination. The world does not need another promise. It needs a credible way to deliver the promises already made.

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I present a plan that in my mind ticks the boxes concerning a country that as much as any deserves, and needs, our attention. The Central African Republic is a country that is off most people’s radar. That is a mistake. Racked by poverty, hunger, civil war, is largely ignored but is the size of France with a population of five million. Some 2.4 million people, 38% of the population, needed humanitarian aid in 2025, with a response that is sharply underfunded. None of this makes the country safe overall or prosperous. All the ingredients for turning a page in its history that could become a template for change are in place, however.

The question now is not whether CAR can recover, but who will do the specific activities that turns a fragile pause into lasting change. Step forward the Bangui Declaration on Joint Actions that will establish a place of dialogue where citizenry, Government, industry and investors are at the table, will deliver a place for peace with stability reinforced by visible improvements in daily life, and a gateway for development with a route for recovery and investment into every prefecture. The private sector is to become centre stage to work in line with United Nations SDG principles for the betterment of mankind.

So finally, we can stop hearing the universal criticism that the SDGs have had their day and are nothing more than a talking shop. The next era of SDGs must be built with budgets behind commitments, accountable institutions, banks judged on development, business as a partner, and outcomes measured.