



ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



**Global Week of Action 20-27 September**

**#StandTogetherNow**

We Stand Together for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world

### **Toolkit for action**

#### **Contents**

1. Why we are standing together now
2. Key themes
  - a) Voice
  - b) Equality
  - c) Peace
  - d) Climate & Environmental justice
3. 2019 Timetable
4. Week of Action
5. Take Action
6. Share your action

## 1. Why we are standing together now

In 2015 world leaders signed historic agreements - the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the broader 2030 Agenda to push for a more just and sustainable world by 2030. **These inter-linked agendas promised to transform the world, to end poverty, to reduce inequality, ensure peace and combat climate change; to set us on a path towards a just transition and a holistic approach to the systems which underpin our economy, society, and environment.** So far, delivery has failed to live up to this bold ambition. In September 2019 world leaders will gather again and we must demand action!

**Around the world, people are suffering from the overlapping impacts of inequalities, loss of rights, gender injustice, conflict, militarisation, environmental degradation and climate change. The economic, financial and political systems are concentrating power and wealth in the hands of a few, favouring a limited number of individuals, countries and businesses. Nature is our life support system - when it is degraded, polluted and overused then there are big impacts for our food security, water supply, air quality and for our economy. Climate change impacts food security, water to irrigate crops and disruption from extreme weather events. Without tackling climate change and loss of biodiversity by protecting and restoring our natural world, we will fail to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**That is why we are standing alongside many others around the world in calling out a state of emergency. Humanity cannot afford to wait, people are demanding transformative change, and we are not willing to accept the current lack of action and ambition from many governments.**

We are at a critical turning point - in September 2019 heads of state will meet again to review progress and we demand that they **set out a more ambitious roadmap for practical action.** This moment has the potential to foster irreversible momentum for greater accountability, enhanced ambition and clear action in the following 10 years to deliver on the promise of a just transition.

In order to deliver this momentum, we are working together across movements and across borders, to push for wider change, amplifying voices of local communities, and sharing the demands for transformational change coming from people from all across the globe.

Since September 2018, we have hosted a series of discussions with key partners around the world to define a joint approach to tackling these challenges. Action for Sustainable Development has been working with Climate Action Network to develop collaboration with a wide range of civil society partners to ensure a broad movement across the themes outlined above.

The discussions so far have included many diverse civil society partners, such as the **Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), CIVICUS, Forus, ActionAid, Oxfam, Amnesty International, Greenpeace, 350.org, WWF**, as well as faith groups such as **Act Alliance** and a wide range of community organisations in more than 100 countries.

You can sign up and see the latest list of organisations on [standtogethernow.net](https://standtogethernow.net)

The crucial aim of this initiative is to continue to bring together the many national coalitions that are at the heart of pushing for change in each country. There is a strong opportunity to further **develop national coalitions and widen their membership base to include engagement of a range of national and local partners, including community-based organisations focusing on youth, women's rights, disability, indigenous peoples and other key communities.**

These national coalitions will be best placed to define their own needs and build from people's lives and lived experiences, the joint movement must shed light on lived reality- tell the individual stories of people facing the combined challenges described in the major themes, this will ensure governments feel the pressure from their own citizens.

## 2. Key themes

To ensure that we move towards a just, peaceful and sustainable world by 2030... we stand together with rising movements, such as those led by women and young people for our rights to **voice, equality, peace, climate and environmental justice.**

**Voice:** We call on governments to guarantee the right to freedoms of expression, association and assembly; and to ensure inclusion and participation for all; so that people and community organisations can engage freely in all levels of decision-making processes without fear of violence or intimidation. We also call on governments to commit to the universal moratorium or reduction of military budgets in order to fund climate and environmental protection and the fight against poverty, hunger and inequality

**Equality:** We call on governments to address the multiple dimensions of **inequality**, deliver on their promise to 'Leave No One Behind'; and to tackle the root causes of inequality through tax justice and social protection and an end to discrimination against women and girls and the most marginalized communities in every country. We call on all governments, but in particular provider countries, to champion these goals by overhauling their approaches to financing, consistent with both our ambition and agreed development effectiveness principles -- to ensure democratic country ownership, a focus on results, inclusivity and mutual accountability.

**Peace and Disarmament:** We call on all governments to address the multiple dimensions of peace in terms of positive peace and sustaining peace and to tackle the root causes of violence and armed conflicts to end all forms of violence against people in vulnerable and conflict situations through universal disarmament and promotion of a culture of peace.

We demand that all governments declare and implement the moratorium or reduction of military spending, to invest more for the accelerated implementation of the SDGs specially climate crisis, poverty, inequality and decent jobs. We also demand that all governments ratify and implement key international arms control and disarmament agreements including the Arms Trade Treaty, Landmines Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

**Environmental & climate justice:** We demand that countries honor their commitments by presenting concrete and ambitious plans to protect humanity and human rights; halting biodiversity loss and implementing concrete conservation measures; protection of people and communities at the frontlines of climate change, to build their resilience, support adaptation and address loss and damage; and move towards a just transition to renewables and concerted action to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and to eliminate them altogether by 2050 at the latest; so that we ensure that we limit the global temperature rise to 1.5C degrees.

We are working together for a joint civil **Week of Action on 20-27 September, join us!**

### 3. Timetable 2019

Overall timetable for 2019

Timeline	National coalitions	Shared moments	Joint communications
May	Confirm key countries with existing national coalitions	Agree on joint message	Develop joint webpage
June	Develop plan in at least 15 key countries	Launch call for greater ambition	Build joint webpage  Toolkit for national partners
July	Present recommendations at HLPF	Partners meeting at HLPF	Open Letter  Launch joint call at HLPF
August	Finalise actions in key countries	Refine key actions and opportunity to share at UN	Promote via newsletters and social media
September	Finalise actions in key countries		Share communications
	Ensure comms support to amplify stories	Draw out stories in each major theme	Promote individual actions
	Week of Action	Week of Action	Week of Action
October	Follow up with		Thanks & plan for 2020

	governments		
November		Reflect and plan ahead	
December			

## 4. Week of Action

The week of action in Sep 2019 will be the key moment to highlight our shared priorities for greater ambition from the UN on the inter-related themes that will lead to a more just and sustainable world.

Each day of the week can include a specific theme to highlight the inter-connected elements of the movement, including key constituencies working on equality, civic space, climate, peace, effective financing etc.

See below suggested activities:

Date	UN Events	Global & National Mobilisation	New York civil society activities
Day 0: Sept. 20 (Friday)		Fridays for Future- Schools Strike for Climate	
Day 1: Sept. 21 (Saturday)	UN Day of Peace	#StandTogetherNow for peace	
Day 2: Sept. 22 (Sunday)		#StandTogetherNow key moment for circles of solidarity at a public building	
Day 3: Sept. 23 (Monday)	UN Climate Summit	#StandTogetherNow for climate	
Day 4: Sept. 24 (Tuesday)	UN SDGs Summit (Day 1 - Afternoon) SDG Media Zone	#StandTogetherNow for voice	People's Summit (organised by GCAP in NY)
Day 5: Sept. 25 (Wed.)	UN SDGs Summit (Day 2)	#StandTogetherNow for equality	People's Summit (organised by GCAP in NY)
Day 6: Sept. 26 (Thursday)	UN Day of Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons		

	UN High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (Day 1)	#StandTogetherNow for fairer financing	
Day 7: Sept. 27 (Friday)	UN High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (Day 2)	Friday Climate Strike #GlobalClimateStrike	

## 5. Take Action

The week of 20-27 September will be a key moment to hold decision-makers to account, the Global Week of Action has grown and has multiple inter-connected dimensions. There is no one single organisation leading the Week of Action but rather many complementary actions planned around the world during this crucial week.

The Fridays at each end of the week, 20 and 27 September will be major climate strikes.

So there is an opportunity for additional actions to take place in the week between the Fridays.

**Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September is our key day to #StandTogetherNow in a circle of solidarity at an iconic place**

Our main supported action this year is to stand together in a circle of solidarity, with people of all backgrounds in an iconic place to highlight the need to work together and ensure mutual respect to deliver on these inter-connected themes.

The national coalition will present a powerful message to the Heads of State - to the president or prime minister of your country before they leave for New York.

The message should be based on people's voices - including coming from citizens and VNR shadow reports. As part of the mobilisation there should be a meeting of marginalised groups to generate the message. Representatives of women's and youth organisations, of persons with disabilities and other marginalised group shall come together in a People's Assembly. This can be done for example in a slum. Ministers, MPs and media shall be invited.

Afterwards the message shall be given to the Head of State and brought to the public in a stunt or action. Please identify a public building or an iconic place (such as the Christ Statue in Rio), to bring a group of key participants together to stand together in a circle for Voice, Equality, Peace, Climate & Environmental Justice. Each person could wear a colourful T-shirt to highlight the different goals but hold hands in a circle to symbolise united action.

You can use this moment of solidarity as a key chance to call for more ambition from your government before they depart for the High Level Summits in New York on 23-25 September.

This is a key chance for you to share your 'People's Scorecard' or Civil Society Report on the SDGs to raise proposals on what more your government can be doing to ensure delivery of the transformative potential of the SDGs.

You can also make banners to say:

"Stand Together Now"; "Voice", "Equality", "Peace", "Environment", "Climate justice", or a combination of these ideas.

The Week of Action:

In order to promote the notion of a whole week of integrated action, we suggest each day can be focused on a specific theme.

The hashtag #StandTogetherNow can be coupled with a different theme each day and your actions/partners in each country can be highlighted via social media with photos or videos.

The hashtag can also be used in Spanish (#Unámonos) or French (#AgissonsEnsemble).

Sat 21 #StandTogetherNow for Peace

Sun 22 #StandTogetherNow – mobilisation

Mon 23 #StandTogetherNow for Climate – share climate priorities

Tues 24 #StandTogetherNow for Voice – our voices will not be silenced!

Wed 25 #StandTogetherNow for Equality – share priorities on different dimensions of inequality

Thurs 26 #StandTogetherNow for Fairer Financing – highlight key recommendations on improving finance

## 6. Share your Action

You can share your action and join the broad movement online in a number of ways using the hashtag #StandTogetherNow:

### 1. Sign the statement

You can sign up for the joint statement calling for more ambitious action from member states here: <https://standtogethernow.net>

### 2. Register your initiative:

You can also register your initiative on the map at [standtogethernow.net](https://standtogethernow.net) by filling in [this form](#).

### 3. Promote

Once you have defined your specific action, including the timing and location, make sure to promote your plans via the website and social media. You can also promote the statement by sharing the url, or invite others to register their initiatives.

3. Take photos of your action:

- a) Consider capturing the diverse faces of participants
- b) Consider including images of hands held in unity
- c) Consider broader shots of the whole group

4. Take video of your action:

- a) 1 minute interviews of participants-

“I am standing together with other people around the world for XXX (eg. social justice/inequality/ climate justice/ economic justice...);

I call on my government to deliver on XXX (eg. ambitious climate action/ freedom of association/ equal rights for women...)

- b) 2 minute video of whole group standing together at iconic place

5. Share on social media using the hashtag #StandTogetherNow

Please share all your photos, videos and recommendations using the hashtag #StandTogetherNow throughout the week on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

You can link to each theme on each day, see calendar above.