

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023-2024

## Rome Launch

20 | 05 | 24

  
**SPES**

Sustainability  
performances,  
evidence & scenarios

09.15 Palazzo delle Esposizioni  
11.00 via Nazionale, 194 - ROMA

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Going forward, as societies become more linked in multiple ways, addressing shared challenges and the provision of global public goods will become ever more important. Although international trade in goods and capital flows have stabilized or even decreased, there is no region in the world today that is completely self-sufficient.

Global interdependence is, in some respects, deepening as the dangerous planetary changes of the Anthropocene – pandemics, climate change, biodiversity loss – transcend borders, all while cross-border flows of information skyrockets, facilitated by digital technologies. At the border, policies may stop or slow down trade and capital flows but are less effective against a new set of global interdependencies.

Yet today, collective action on challenges ranging from climate change mitigation to peace and security, is frustratingly slow or stymied altogether. Lack of trust and polarization, both associated with insecurity, exacerbate the gridlock. Shared, interlinked global challenges, like the pandemic and its recovery, are outpacing our willingness and our institutions' capacities to respond to them.

Why, despite all our riches and technologies, are we so stuck? How do we get unstuck? Is it possible to mobilize action to address globally shared challenges in a world that is intensively polarized?

The 2023-2024 Human Development Report: Breaking the Gridlock seeks to address these questions. It argues for a reimagining of Global Public Goods, which allows us to move beyond narrow zero-sum thinking and supports cooperation even as we have diverging interests and views. It also identifies ways to ease polarization, which is putting up barriers to action, and to narrow agency gaps to enable people to feel more in control of our shared future.

### OPENING

**Mario Biggeri**, SPES project - University of Florence

### WELCOME REMARKS

**Agostino Inguscio**, UNDP Rome Centre

### HDR 2023-2024 PRESENTATION

**Heriberto Tapia**, UNDP HDRO

### PANEL DISCUSSION

**Mario Biggeri**, SPES project - University of Florence

**Enrico Giovannini**, ASVIS

**Michaela Salsana**, JRC Competence Centre on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards

### Q&A SESSION

### CLOSING

**Agostino Inguscio**, UNDP Rome Centre

**Mario Biggeri**, SPES project - University of Florence

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## SPES POLICY DIALOGUE

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# SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

## Evidence and policies for a Social Green Deal

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The European Green Deal (EGD) - one of the flagship initiatives of the 2019-2024 EU mandate - has provided ambitious legislation to move Europe towards a carbon neutral society. However, climate solutions – and, more broadly, sustainability transitions – need to be embedded within social justice to ensure no one is left behind during this transition.

The focus on the social dimension of the just transition has been insufficient in the last EU mandate. This is leading to a backlash from groups unable to shoulder the cost of the EGD or concerned about its impact on their standard of living, following a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

At the same time, discussions around the next EU strategic agenda for 2024-2029 increasingly focus on competitiveness, productivity, industrial policies, enlargement and defence. There is a significant risk that the EGD – and even more so its social dimension – will be put on the back burner.

In this political context, research is crucial to provide evidence and support good policymaking.

### OPENING PRESENTATION OF SPES ARGUMENTS

**Mario Biggeri**, SPES project - University of Florence

### SPEAKERS

**Elisabetta Ambrosi**, Journalist for "Il Fatto Quotidiano"

**Peter Benczur**, European Commission JRC

**Romina Boarini**, OECD WISE

**Laura de Bonfils**, Social Platform

**Lars De Nul**, European Commission DG RTD

**Enrico Giovannini**, ASVIS

**Linda Laura Sabbadini**, Women20

**Frank Siebern-Thomas**, European Commission DG EMPL

**Heriberto Tapia**, UNDP HDRO

### MODERATION

**Andrea Ferrannini**, SPES project - University of Florence

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Da un secolo, oltre.

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