



## NEW INNOVATION APPROACHES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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## 1. Introduction

Achieving the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations, 2015) requires new innovation approaches that are socially inclusive and environmentally benign. This study presents several new and emerging innovation approaches, highlights how they may contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and discusses some of the policy implications in harnessing such approaches. It provides an overview of particular issues and considerations that need to be taken into account in coming years to maximize the contribution

of new innovation approaches to sustainable development.

Chapter 2 introduces reasons explaining the need for new innovation approaches to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Chapter 3 highlights the following five new approaches to innovation: mission-oriented; pro-poor and inclusive; grass roots; social; and digitally enabled open and collaborative. Chapter 4 proposes concrete policy considerations for Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen capabilities for harnessing such new innovation approaches for sustainable development.

## 2. Why do we need new innovation approaches for the Sustainable Development Goals?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development puts forward a broad and ambitious agenda for global action on sustainable development. The scale and ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals require innovation in development and innovation for development. To achieve the Goals by 2030, new modalities for development are required, including bringing innovation into the foreground of development projects. Innovation, understood as new forms of social practice and organization, as well as new or improved technological products and processes, is not only an explicit focus of Goal 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) but also a key enabler of most – if not all – of the Goals.

– will require fundamental changes in the ways in which energy, food, water, housing, welfare, mobility and other goods and services are delivered, distributed and consumed.

Harnessing the positive potential for innovation to address the Sustainable Development Goals will also mean recognizing that some forms of contemporary innovation also contribute to environmental degradation, are disruptive of livelihoods and exacerbate inequalities. The key questions concern not how to encourage more innovation in more places, but which kinds of innovation need to be encouraged while at the same time discouraging harmful innovation.

Until the late 1980s, innovation was widely

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