The COVID-19 pandemic and overlapping global crises, including geopolitical conflict and climate change, have made achievement of the SDGs more challenging. While the scope of the challenges and opportunities to achieving the SDGs are global, U.S. stakeholders have many opportunities to take action to operationalize sustainable development.

### Operationalizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

#### Decarbonization

Decarbonization of energy systems is central to achievement of all SDGs.

**The U.S. government** could identify strategies for carbon dioxide removal (CDR) that are place-based, community embraced, and environmentally and intergenerationally just; ramp up research, development, demonstration and deployment for all forms of CDR; and enhance federal coordination relating to monitoring, reporting, and verification.

### Food Systems

Achieving the SDGs will be impossible without a holistic reform of the food system.

Universities and the private sector could support training and workforce development at universities, community colleges, and tribal colleges to promote sustainable and equitable food systems.

### Science and Peace

Conflict undermines achievement of all SDGs.

Governments, academia, NGOs, and international organizations could create peer groups for implementing and monitoring the SDGs, dealing with crisis situations, and facilitating exchange among justice actors, peace builders, and inequality experts.

### Financing to Achieve the SDGs

Realize tangible and intangible benefits from SDG-related investing.

Public, private, and other organizations could create more blended finance options given the growing demand for positive ESG (environmental, social, and governance) investments where social benefits are significant and measurable.

### Localization of the SDGs and Indigenous Knowledge

The SDGs must be rooted in local buy-in and implementation.

The U.S. government could create a Voluntary National Review (VNR) by encouraging more states and cities to conduct Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and synthesize already good work at the local level to scale to a VNR roll-up.

### Education and Capacity Building

Educational institutions are powerfully positioned to operationalize sustainable development across society.

Universities could develop Voluntary University Reviews (VURs), partner with governments and NGOs to advance the SDGs, and ensure that every student regardless of major is exposed to the challenges and opportunities in sustainable development.

Governments and education leaders could engage the public to raise awareness of the SDGs, and cities and school districts could initiate and support locally relevant K-12 learning on the SDGs.

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### The Role of U.S. Stakeholders

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Local officials could commit their support to the SDGs and use the framework to align local policies and initiatives.

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