



Johan Rockström (2018): *Five transformational policies for a prosperous and sustainable world*

A. Preparation

In 2015, the UN defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure the future of the planet. The 17 symbols in the image below represent the 17 goals. With your partner, decide what you think they represent. The first one has been done for you as an example



- |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1. = No poverty | 10. .... |
| 2. ....         | 11. .... |
| 3. ....         | 12. .... |
| 4. ....         | 13. .... |
| 5. ....         | 14. .... |
| 6. ....         | 15. .... |
| 7. ....         | 16. .... |
| 8. ....         | 17. .... |
| 9. ....         |          |

Now watch the video here to check your answers:



## TED talks: SDGs. Student worksheet 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G0ndS3uRdo>

### B. Vocabulary

1. These collocations all appear in the talk. Try to match the words in the left-hand column with a word on the right. Discuss or check the meanings. As you watch the talk, listen to how they are used in context, and check your answers.

1. legally	a. back
2. a few years	b. call
3. to step	c. outside of the box
4. stable	d. fuels
5. underlying	e. binding
6. inherent	f. earth / planet
7. fossil	g. down the line
8. planetary	h. eye
9. tipping	i. boundaries
10. bull's	j. points
11. thinking	k. contradictions
12. a wake-up	l. problems

2. The speaker uses some examples of 'buzzwords' in his talk. What do you think these phrases *in italics* mean? How could you express them in another way?

- Are there *inherent trade-offs* that are not compatible with our *current development paradigm*?
- Are there *synergies* where we can *accelerate change*?
- We need to define a *safe operating space*.
- We need to achieve *SDGs* within *PBs*.
- The *window of success is still open*.

### C. Listening

As you watch, answer these questions:

1. Why do goal 8 (decent work and economic growth) and goal 13 (climate action) possibly contradict each other?

.....

2. The 'planetary boundary framework' defines ..... environmental processes that regulate the stability of the earth system:

- a. 9    b. 12    c. 17



## TED talks: SDGs. Student worksheet 1

3. On the graph below, mark the approximate position of :

- a. The world situation in 1980.
- b. The optimal position (best possible scenario)
- c. The world situation in 2015
- d. What will the world situation be if we continue with 'business as usual'?
- e. What will the world situation be if we implement the five transformational policies (see below)?



4. Complete these summaries of the 5 transformational policies that the speaker outlines:

- a. Cut emissions by half every ....., doubling investments in ..... energy.
- b. A rapid ..... towards sustainable food systems.
- c. Replicating the economic success of countries such as China, within environmental .....
- d. Redistribution of ..... . Putting limits on the amounts the top 10% could amass.
- e. A radical increase in .....: health, access to work, contraception, investing largely in .....

### D. Follow-up

Prepare to summarise this talk to your partner:

What do you think were the most important points?

What did you find in common in your talks?

Your opinion

Are you a pessimist or an optimist about the world's future? Why?