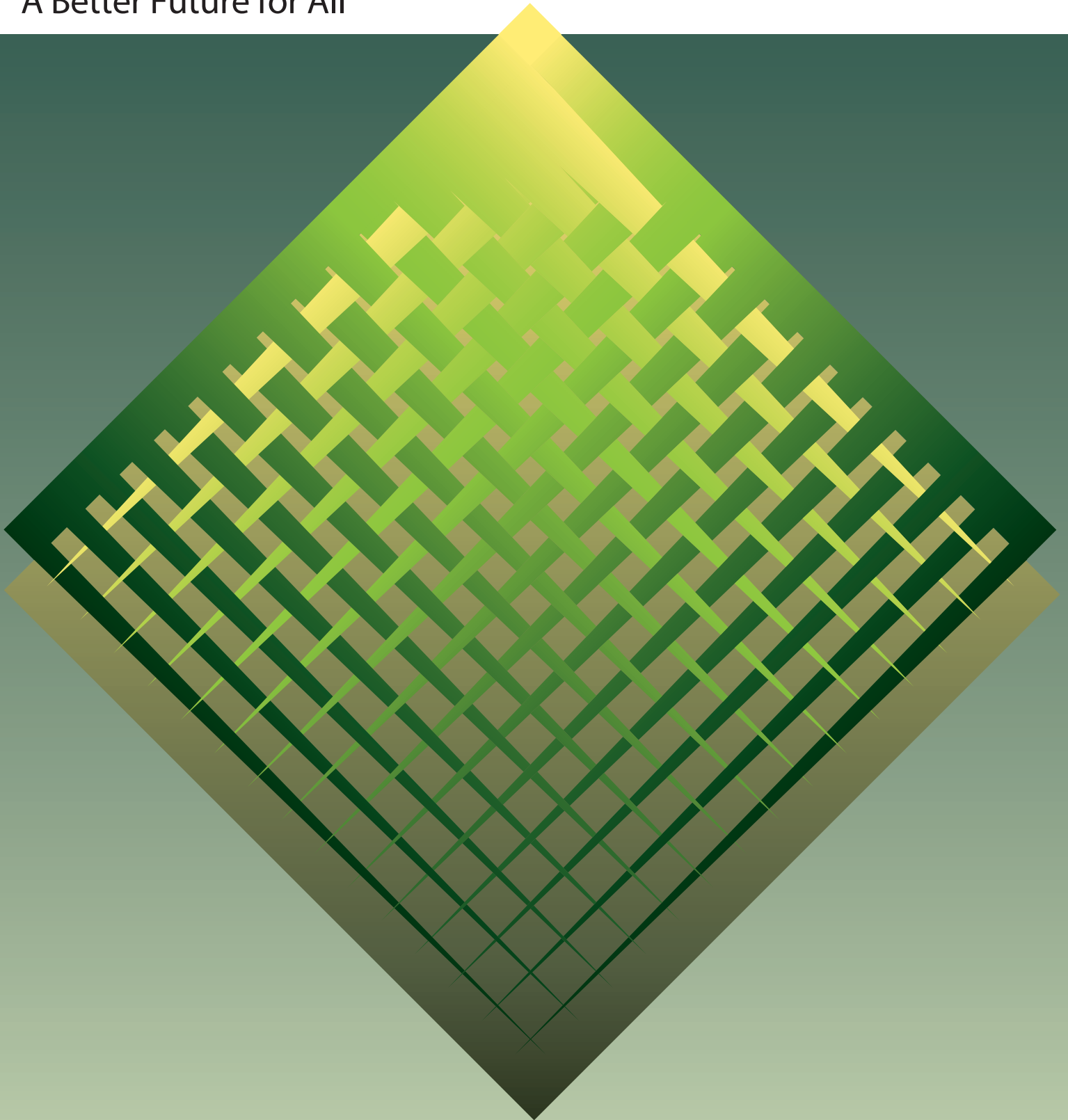


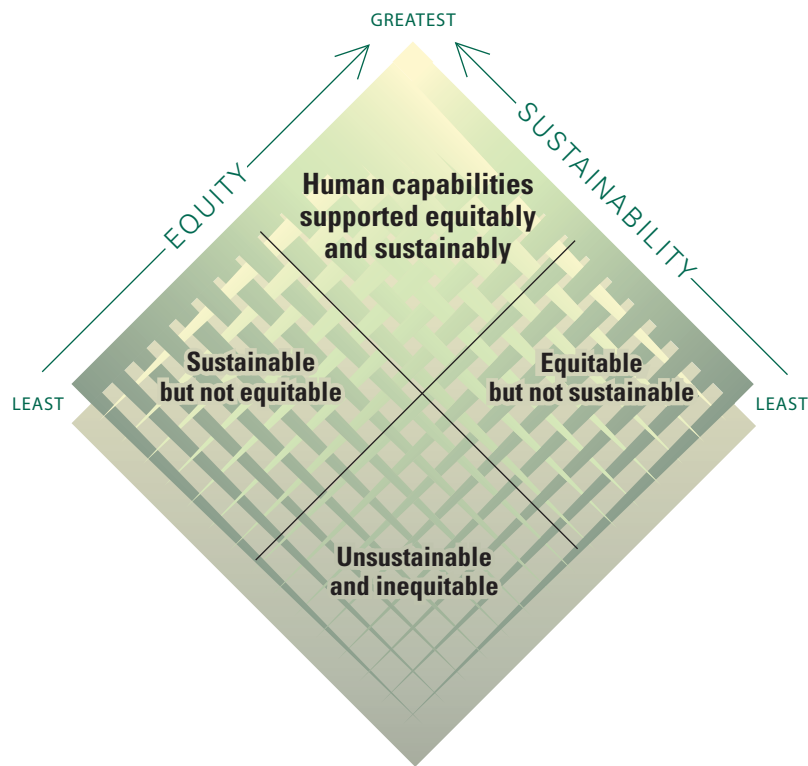
# Human Development Report 2011



## **Sustainability and Equity:**

A Better Future for All





This Report explores the integral links between environmental sustainability and equity and shows that these are critical to expanding human freedoms for people today and in generations to come. The point of departure is that the remarkable progress in human development over recent decades that the *Human Development Report* has documented cannot continue without bold global steps to reduce environmental risks and inequality. We identify pathways for people, communities, countries and the international community to promote environmental sustainability and equity in mutually reinforcing ways.

The cover diagram symbolizes how different policies can have different implications for sustainability and equity. Whenever available, we should prefer solutions that are good for the environment while also promoting equity and human development. Pursuing sustainability and equity jointly does not require that they be mutually reinforcing. In many instances they will not be. Sometimes the most feasible alternative involves trade-offs between sustainability and equity and requires explicit and careful consideration. No trade-off is isolated from a society's structural and institutional conditions, and so we must address the underlying constraints and identify positive synergies between sustainability and equity. This Report is aimed not only at finding positive synergies but also at identifying ways to build them.

## KEY TO COUNTRIES

### 2011 HDI rank and change in rank from 2010 to 2011

Afghanistan	172		Georgia	75		Occupied Palestinian Territory	114	
Albania	70	↑ 1	Germany	9		Oman	89	
Algeria	96		Ghana	135	↑ 1	Pakistan	145	
Andorra	32		Greece	29		Palau	49	
Angola	148		Grenada	67		Panama	58	↑ 1
Antigua and Barbuda	60	↑ 1	Guatemala	131		Papua New Guinea	153	↓ -1
Argentina	45	↑ 1	Guinea	178		Paraguay	107	
Armenia	86		Guinea-Bissau	176		Peru	80	↑ 1
Australia	2		Guyana	117	↑ 2	Philippines	112	↑ 1
Austria	19		Haiti	158	↑ 1	Poland	39	
Azerbaijan	91		Honduras	121	↓ -1	Portugal	41	↓ -1
Bahamas	53		Hong Kong, China (SAR)	13	↑ 1	Qatar	37	
Bahrain	42		Hungary	38		Romania	50	
Bangladesh	146		Iceland	14	↓ -1	Russian Federation	66	
Barbados	47		India	134		Rwanda	166	
Belarus	65		Indonesia	124	↑ 1	Saint Kitts and Nevis	72	
Belgium	18		Iran, Islamic Republic of	88	↓ -1	Saint Lucia	82	
Belize	93	↓ -1	Iraq	132		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	85	↓ -1
Benin	167		Ireland	7		Samoa	99	
Bhutan	141	↓ -1	Israel	17		São Tomé and Príncipe	144	↓ -1
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	108		Italy	24		Saudi Arabia	56	↑ 2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	74		Jamaica	79	↓ -1	Senegal	155	
Botswana	118	↓ -1	Japan	12		Serbia	59	↑ 1
Brazil	84	↑ 1	Jordan	95	↓ -1	Seychelles	52	
Brunei Darussalam	33		Kazakhstan	68	↑ 1	Sierra Leone	180	
Bulgaria	55	↑ 1	Kenya	143	↑ 1	Singapore	26	
Burkina Faso	181		Kiribati	122		Slovakia	35	
Burundi	185		Korea, Republic of	15		Slovenia	21	
Cambodia	139	↑ 2	Kuwait	63	↓ -1	Solomon Islands	142	
Cameroon	150	↑ 1	Kyrgyzstan	126		South Africa	123	↑ 1
Canada	6		Lao People's Democratic Republic	138	↑ 1	Spain	23	
Cape Verde	133		Latvia	43		Sri Lanka	97	↑ 1
Central African Republic	179		Lebanon	71	↓ -1	Sudan	169	
Chad	183	↓ -1	Lesotho	160		Suriname	104	
Chile	44		Liberia	182	↑ 1	Swaziland	140	↓ -2
China	101		Libya	64	↓ -10	Sweden	10	
Colombia	87	↑ 1	Liechtenstein	8		Switzerland	11	
Comoros	163		Lithuania	40	↑ 1	Syrian Arab Republic	119	↓ -1
Congo	137		Luxembourg	25		Tajikistan	127	
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	187		Madagascar	151	↓ -2	Tanzania, United Republic of	152	↑ 1
Costa Rica	69	↓ -1	Malawi	171		Thailand	103	
Côte d'Ivoire	170		Malaysia	61	↑ 3	Timor-Leste	147	
Croatia	46	↓ -1	Maldives	109		Togo	162	
Cuba	51		Mali	175		Tonga	90	
Cyprus	31		Malta	36		Trinidad and Tobago	62	↑ 1
Czech Republic	27		Mauritania	159	↓ -1	Tunisia	94	↓ -1
Denmark	16		Mauritius	77		Turkey	92	↑ 3
Djibouti	165	↓ -1	Mexico	57		Turkmenistan	102	
Dominica	81	↓ -1	Micronesia, Federated States of	116		Uganda	161	
Dominican Republic	98	↑ 2	Moldova, Republic of	111		Ukraine	76	↑ 3
Ecuador	83		Mongolia	110		United Arab Emirates	30	
Egypt	113	↓ -1	Montenegro	54	↑ 1	United Kingdom	28	
El Salvador	105		Morocco	130		United States	4	
Equatorial Guinea	136	↓ -1	Mozambique	184		Uruguay	48	
Eritrea	177		Myanmar	149	↑ 1	Uzbekistan	115	
Estonia	34		Namibia	120	↑ 1	Vanuatu	125	↓ -2
Ethiopia	174		Nepal	157	↓ -1	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	73	
Fiji	100	↓ -3	Netherlands	3		Viet Nam	128	
Finland	22		New Zealand	5		Yemen	154	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	78	↓ -2	Nicaragua	129		Zambia	164	↑ 1
France	20		Niger	186		Zimbabwe	173	
Gabon	106		Nigeria	156	↑ 1			
Gambia	168		Norway	1				

#### NOTE

Arrows indicate upward or downward movement in the country's ranking over 2010–2011 using consistent data and methodology; a blank indicates no change.

The great development challenge of the 21st century is to safeguard the right of generations today and in the future to live healthy and fulfilling lives. The 2011 *Human Development Report* offers important new contributions to the global dialogue on this challenge, showing how sustainability is inextricably linked to equity—to questions of fairness and social justice and of greater access to a better quality of life.

Forecasts suggest that continuing failure to reduce the grave environmental risks and deepening inequalities threatens to slow decades of sustained progress by the world's poor majority—and even to reverse the global convergence in human development. Our remarkable progress in human development cannot continue without bold global steps to reduce both environmental risks and inequality. This Report identifies pathways for people, local communities, countries and the international community to promote environmental sustainability and equity in mutually reinforcing ways.

New analysis shows how power imbalances and gender inequalities at the national level are linked to reduced access to clean water and improved sanitation, land degradation and illness and death due to air pollution, amplifying the effects associated with income disparities. Gender inequalities also interact with environmental outcomes and make them worse. At the global level governance arrangements often weaken the voices of developing countries and exclude marginalized groups.

But there are alternatives to inequality and unsustainability. Investments that improve equity—for example, in access to renewable energy, water and sanitation, and reproductive healthcare—could advance both sustainability and human development. Stronger accountability and democratic processes can also improve outcomes. Successful approaches rely on community management, broadly inclusive institutions and attention to disadvantaged groups. Beyond the Millennium Development Goals, the world needs a development framework that reflects equity and sustainability. This Report shows that approaches that integrate equity into policies and programmes and that empower people to bring about change in the legal and political arenas hold enormous promise.

The financing needed for development are many times greater than current official development assistance. Today's spending on low-carbon energy sources, for example, is less than 2 percent of even the lowest estimate of need. Financing flows need to be channeled towards the critical challenges of unsustainability and inequity. While market mechanisms and private funding will be vital, they must be supported and leveraged by proactive public investment. Closing the financing gap requires innovative thinking, which this Report provides.

The Report also advocates reforms to promote equity and voice. We have a collective responsibility towards the least privileged among us today and in the future around the world—and a moral imperative to ensure that the present is not the enemy of the future. This Report can help us see the ways forward.

