



International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions

GET INTO SDG ACTION WEEK

11 September 2020

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Action Week takes place around the anniversary of the agreement of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda in 2015.

Organised by the UN and civil society platforms, it is an opportunity both to raise awareness around the SDGs and show how different actors – including libraries – are delivering on them.

SDG Action Week has taken place a number of times already, but this year it will be bigger than ever. This is because it will coincide with a session on the SDGs at the UN General Assembly in New York.

With world leaders looking on, it is a great opportunity to offer a reminder of their commitments made in 2015, and an illustration of the actions taken by libraries and others to deliver progress. This guide explains more about the celebrations, and about how libraries can get involved, and get their contributions noticed.

What is SDG Action Week?

SDG Action Week – or the Global Week to Act for SDGs – takes place from 18 to 26 September 2020. This period includes a number of relevant anniversaries and international days, notably an ‘SDG Moment’ at the UN General Assembly on 18 September, the International Day of Peace on 21 September, World Development Information Day on 24 September, the anniversary of the SDGs’ agreement on 25 September.



It also falls at the same time as key discussions at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, looking back on progress over the last five years, as well as the UN’s own 75th Anniversary celebrations, focused on how work at the international level can make a difference.

The goal, as set out on the Action Week website, is specifically to send a key message to those participating in the discussions in New York, that there is a need to accelerate efforts to achieve all of the SDGs, and that plenty of actors are already playing their part.

SDG Action week is supported by the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As the name suggests, it is focused on encouraging as many people and organisations, in as many places as possible, to define actions.

These can be focused on raising awareness, advancing discussion, delivering the SDGs, or encouraging governments to accelerate their own efforts. The actions taken can be registered on a global map on the SDG Action Week website.

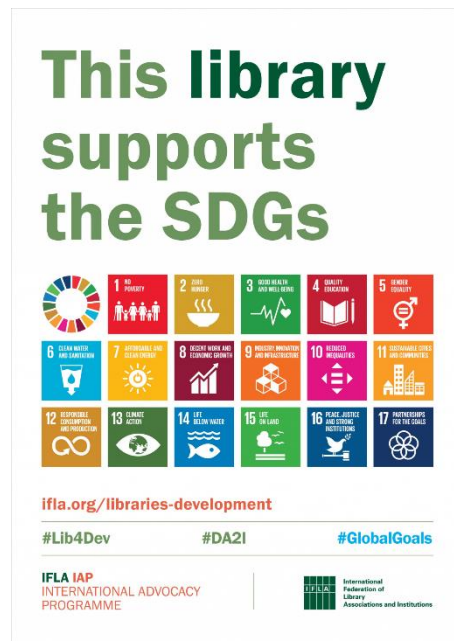
Why Is It Relevant for Libraries?

SDG Action Week will involve all types of organisation and actor, in order to show the breadth of engagement in delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, as IFLA has underlined over the past years, libraries have a particular role to play, both in raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda, and in delivering on it. Our institutions have the potential to be showcases for the SDGs, letting people find out more about what the goals mean, as well as to support their achievement by providing access to information from the local to the global level.

Libraries around the world have answered the call, organising hundreds of meetings, training sessions and other activities. In a number of cases, this engagement has been recognised, with libraries mentioned in official government strategies or reports on the SDGs, or invited to join coordinating committees.

SDG Action Week is a chance therefore both to join with other institutions and organisations who support the achievement of the SDGs, and to underline what libraries in particular are doing. It will lead, hopefully, to stronger commitments by government, and stronger recognition of the work of our institutions.



How is IFLA involved?

IFLA supports SDG Action Week, and will both be participating in events, and communicating about the role of libraries contributing to the SDGs throughout the week. In particular, we will be highlighting the importance of access to information – and the libraries that guarantee it – as accelerators of strong, equitable and sustainable development.

Furthermore, we are also looking forward to the launch of videos from the side-event at the 2020 High Level Political Forum on Culture and COVID-19, alongside our partners in the Culture2030Goal coalition.

What Can I Do?

The below are just suggestions on how you could get involved – you do not need to do all of them! Maybe you have a better idea for your situation! Do share your actions on the SDG Action Week website though – see Action 8 for more!

1. Look at the list of examples of actions on the [SDG Action Week website](#). Think about whether you could do something similar!
2. Look at what libraries have already been doing to talk about, and deliver, the SDGs, for example in our [2018](#) and [2019](#) Great Ideas for Advocacy sessions at the World Library and Information Congress.
3. Download our [This Library Supports the SDGs poster](#) and hang it in your library. If it isn't available in your language, let us know and we can share the editable file.
4. Use the logo and other communications tools on the [SDG Action Week website](#). Following the instructions there, you can use these on your own website and social media presence.
5. Write a letter to a newspaper talking about how libraries support the SDGs. You can use the tools on our [Take Action page](#) as a basis for this.
6. Post photos or other relevant messages on social media using the hashtags #Act4SDGs and #Lib4Dev, and tag @SDGActionWeek.
7. Launch an [SDG Book Club](#). IFLA is one of the organisers of this initiative, which invites libraries and others worldwide to use books to raise awareness of the SDGs and the issues they cover.
8. Share your action on the SDG Action Week website, linking it to IFLA! Click on the 'Add your action under this partner' button on our [partner page](#).

