

ANDREA FARKAS¹**Security Risks in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030)****Biztonsági kockázatok az ENSZ fenntartható fejlődési céljai (2016-2030) között****Abstract**

United Nations adopted its Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. The 2016–2030 agenda includes 17 goals and 169 targets for humanity. This paper discusses the 30 targets aimed at security, i.e. the threats upon us and their mitigation. I have broken down the targets into four categories: health, socio-economic, infrastructural and environmental risks. Each category entails 8, 9, 5, and 9 targets, respectively. (One of the targets belongs to two groups.) These security-related targets are global targets. They represent a challenge for all leaders within their respective operational fields, enabling them to thwart any threats and recognize business opportunities.

Keywords: Millennium Development Goals, UN Sustainable Development Goals, environmental threats, health, infrastructure, socio-economic threats, climate change

Absztrakt

Az ENSZ 2015-ben fogadta el a Fenntartható Fejlődési Célokat. Ez a 2016-tól 2030-ig érvényes lista 17 célt és 169 rész-célt fogalmazott meg az emberiség számára. Írásunk azt a 30 rész-célt ismerteti, amelyek a biztonsággal, azaz a ránk leselkedő kockázatokkal illetve azok mérséklésével foglalkoznak. Négy csoportot állapítottam meg, nevezetesen egészségi, társadalmi-gazdasági, infrastrukturális és környezeti jellegűeket, melyekbe rendre 8, 9, 5 illetve 9 rész-cél volt sorolható (van egy olyan, amelyik két csoportba tartozik). A biztonsággal összefüggő rész-célok az egész világra vonatkoznak. A saját működési területén minden vezető

¹ Nemzeti Közszerológati Egyetem, Hadtudományi Doktori Iskola, doktorandusz hallgató – National University of Public Service, Doctoral School of Military Sciences, PhD Student, E-mail: andrea.farkas@klimaklub.hu ORCID: 0000-0002-1820-7988

számára egyedi kihívás, amivel veszélyek háríthatók el és üzleti lehetőségek ismerhetők fel.

Kulcsszavak: Milleniumi Fejlesztési Célok, ENSZ Fenntarthatósági Célok, környezeti fenyegetettség, egészségügyi, infrastrukturális, gazdasági-társadalmi fenyegetettség, klímaváltozás

IMPLEMENTATION

Security means a high level of protection against a vast array of potential dangers. In many cases, only a limited scope of these dangers is discussed, mostly in connection with current tragedies. For a more detailed and versatile analysis on the topic, see the study conducted by Ürmösi (2013).

Nevertheless, there are several monograph overviews available in Hungarian that discuss risk-mitigating experiences (Bukovics, 2008; Földi and Halász, 2009); moreover, Szabó (2007) clearly recognized the role mitigating security threats plays in sustainable development. Most of these journal articles only discuss one or a just a few interrelated security issues, while some of them examine security issues in the context of general problems of sustainability (e.g. Hajdú, 2015).

Having read and contemplated the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015) and their detailed targets, the present study attempts to provide a list of security threats present worldwide and to classify these threats.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (2016–2030)

The notion of sustainable development became widely known in the wake of the second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). In 2000, the United Nations laid down eight main goals called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (2016–2030) (SDGs, 2015) were outlined by a United Nations working group. In *Figure 1*, the original colors for the icons of the 17 goals are indicated.

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

2018. XI. évfolyam 4. szám



Figure 1: Short summary and icons of the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030) (Harvey, 2016)

The goals are logically separated from each other, but their sequence and numbering seem to be erratic, and the coloring of the pictograms is not logical either. The 17 sustainability goals were grouped according to their contents by Mika (Mika, 2016, Mika and Tóth, 2017). Based on this classification, we can distinguish the Goals aiming to achieve:

- basic human needs (goals 2, 3, 6, and 7)
- equality between people (goals 1, 4, 5, and 10),
- efficient, but sustainable economy (goals 8, 9, 12, and 13),
- protection of vulnerable spheres (goals 11, 14, and 15)
- promotion of the common goals of humankind (goals 16 and 17)

Classifying the Goals helps to memorize them and facilitates a more detailed record of the content of sustainable development, rather than simply talking about environmental or socio-economic pillars (Kiss and Morelli, 2016), or goals.

Note that Goal 13, combating climate change, is hard to classify because, in addition to its current classification, it also fits group five. This is the only global environmental problem forming a separate Goal. The other serious issues (e.g. biodiversity, increased nitrification, and air pollution) are part of the goals associated with the effects.

The 17 Goals include a total number of 169 targets. Out of these, 126 are of the *number.number* type targets, laying down verifiable and tangible indicator values for an exact target date (for 2030, in some cases for 2020). A further 43 targets are identified by a *number.letter* combination, urging changes in policies, institutions, and financial funds to improve the situation in the topic.

This study aims to highlight the sustainability goals associated with security and to classify them according to their contents to enable a better identification and memorization of the threat types, which ultimately boil down to the four threat types demonstrated in Table 1. Each of the 30 selected targets can be clearly fit into one of these groups, except for

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

2018. XI. évfolyam 4. szám

target 1.5, which refers to both social and environmental threats. Therefore, the total number of targets broken down according to their types is 31.

Goals

Threat group	Threat types	Target
HEALTH	Nutrition, health, water	8
SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Economic crisis, aggression	9
INFRASTRUCTURAL	Energy, housing, transportation	5
ENVIRONMENTAL	Pollution, disasters	9

Table 1: Security threats discussed in the targets of the UN Sustainable Development

The subchapters below introduce the targets broken down into the four threat-groups. The targets are directly taken from the SDG (2015), though not indicated by quotation marks.

HEALTH THREATS

The sources of health threats vary to a great extent. The following targets associated with nutrition, health, and water belong here (*Table 2*).

According to the selected targets, they include the lack of food, the lack of safe drinking water, environmental pollution, toxic chemicals, but the same number of targets reminds us of inadequate healthcare present in a lot of places which disproportionately increases deaths associated with childbirth and various illnesses.

2.1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
3.1	By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
3.2	By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
3.3	3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
3.4	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing.
3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

2018. XI. évfolyam 4. szám

6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
-----	--

Table 2: The targets related to health threats with their numbers. The texts are directly taken from SDG (2015).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC THREATS

These nine threats (Table 3) are associated with seven goals, indicating the second widest diversity in content, right behind environmental threats. An unfortunate fact is that these include such very real threats as dangers of violence against women, child trafficking, and organized crime. The issue of security comes up even in connection with schools.

1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
2.c	Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.
4.a	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
16.4	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Table 3: The targets related to socio-economic threats with their numbers, directly taken from SDG (2015).

Of course, in addition to interpersonal relations, economic crises, inadequate rules for allocating food and (un)safe working environments also represent a risk factor. The wording of target 10.7, migration, is interesting. Most probably, if the Goals were phrased today, this point would be elaborated differently and with more care.

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

2018. XI. évfolyam 4. szám

INFRASTRUCTURAL THREATS

This group of threats entails risks inherent to transportation, energy supplies, housing, and unavailable infrastructural services (*Table 4*). Their separate handling is justified by the fact that this is the field with the most potential future development; however, fast developments in the past often resulted in an increased risk of opportunities becoming unavailable.

3.6	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.
11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.
11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

Table 4: The targets related to infrastructural threats with their numbers, directly taken from SDG (2015).

ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

Environmental threats (*Table 5*) are derived from some of the targets from the biggest number of Goals (a total of 8), indicating the several consequences of environmental pollution and natural disasters. The fact that these were discovered by several working groups independently resulted in overlaps and repetitions.

If we merge the similar contents, then tendencies of climate disasters and floods mostly associated with climate change, agriculture resistant to such disasters, environmental pollution, ocean acidification, and desertification are represented in the targets independently.

1.5	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

2018. XI. évfolyam 4. szám

6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
11.5	By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.
11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.
12.4	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
14.3	Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.
15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

Table 5: The targets related to environmental threats with their numbers, directly taken from SDG (2015).

SUMMARY

We have discovered security threats in 30 targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and we have grouped these into four categories. Health, socio-economic, infrastructural, and environmental threats are represented by 8, 9, 5 and 9 targets, respectively, totaling 31 targets, since target 1.5 can be classified into two different threat categories. I hope that the descriptions of targets discussing security threats are clear, not needing further explanation.

Acknowledgements: The author would like to grab the opportunity to thank Professor *János Mika* for the idea of the paper and for making part of the references available.

REFERENCES

1. Bukovics I. (szerk.), (2008): *Katasztrófavédelmi igazgatás. [Direction of Emergency Response.]* Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem, 312 p.
2. Földi L., Halász L. (2009): *Környezetbiztonság. [Environmental Security.]* COMPLEX Wolters Kluwer Csop., Budapest, 419 p.

HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE

2018. XI. évfolyam 4. szám

3. Hajdu Z. (2015): Gondolatok világunk jelen állapotáról. [*Thoughts about the Present Status of our World.*] *Lépések a fenntarthatóság felé. Part I:* vol. 20. N2. pp. 13-13; *Part II:* vol. 20. N3. pp. 26-27
4. Harvey R. (2016). Co-ops commit to UN Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved from <http://www.thenews.coop/106853/news/co-operatives/co-ops-commit-un-sustainable-development-goals/>
5. Kiss, K., Morelli, J. (2016): Discussing Sustainability. LAP Lambert Acad. Publish. 129 p.
6. Mika J. (2016): Szinergiák és konfliktusok az ENSZ Fenntartható Fejlődési Célok (2016-2030) és a megújuló energiaforrások között. [*Synergies and Conflicts between the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2016–2030) and Renewable Energy Resources.*] In: IV. Környezet és Energia Konferencia (Lázár I., szerk.) 9-15
7. Mika J., Tóth B. (2017): Az ENSZ Fenntartható Fejlődési Célok (2016-2030) környezeti vonatkozásai. [*Environmental Aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2016–2030).*] In: HERA Évkönyvek 2016 (Mrázik J., ed.) 549-569, http://hera.org.hu/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/HERA_tanulas_uj_utjai20170509.pdf - obtained on June 3, 2017.)
8. SDG (2015): United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. [*The Goals start in paragraph 51.*] (http://www.un.org/qa/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)
9. Szabó J. (2007): Fenntarthatóság, kockázatok, biztonság. [*Sustainability, Threats, Security.*] Zrínyi Kiadó, Budapest, 335 p.
10. Ürmösi K. (2013) A biztonság, a biztonság fogalma. [*Security and its Definition.*] *Hadtudományi Szemle* vol. 6. N4. pp. 147-154