



Economic &

Social Affairs

WORLD ECONOMIC and SOCIAL SURVEY 2017



Reflecting on
seventy years of
development
policy analysis



70TH
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

JULY 2017

Presented by Diana Alarcón

Chief, Global Economic Monitoring Unit
Development Policy and Analysis Division



World Economic and Social Survey: the oldest annual economic and social report

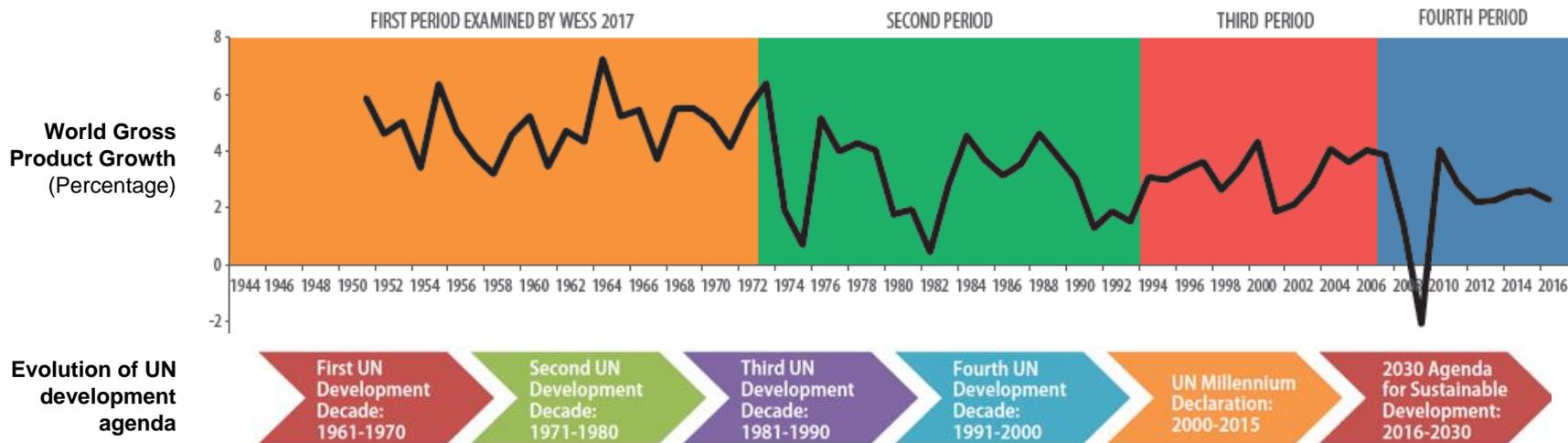
- First published in January 1948, as mandated by the UNGA in 1947
- Many prominent social scientists contributed to the Survey, including Nobel Laureates
- WESS 2017 reviews its 70 years of development policy analysis



Second regular session of UNGA in 1947

WESS 2017 covers the evolution of global economy and the UN development agenda in the past 70 years

- Over the past 7 decades, the global economy has grown faster than in any other period in history, but it generally followed a boom-and-bust cycle
- The UN development agenda has continuously evolved



WESS has consistently produced prescient and accurate policy analyses

Some examples:

2000s

- Among the first that consistently warned against unsustainable global growth prior to the Global Financial Crisis

1990s

- Its critique of the “one-size-fits-all” approach of adjustment programmes supported countries in designing country-specific development strategies

1980s

- Raised concerns over large fiscal and trade deficits of developing countries before the debt crisis

1960s

- Contributed to the analytical basis for the establishment of UNCTAD and UNIDO

1950s

- Early proponent of development as structural transformation

Current growth trajectory poses challenges to 2030 Agenda, but past lessons could be highly relevant

Development progress requires:

- Robust global economic growth
- Solid trade expansion
- Steady access to financial resources for development

Current growth trajectory does not provide enabling environment for achieving the SDGs...

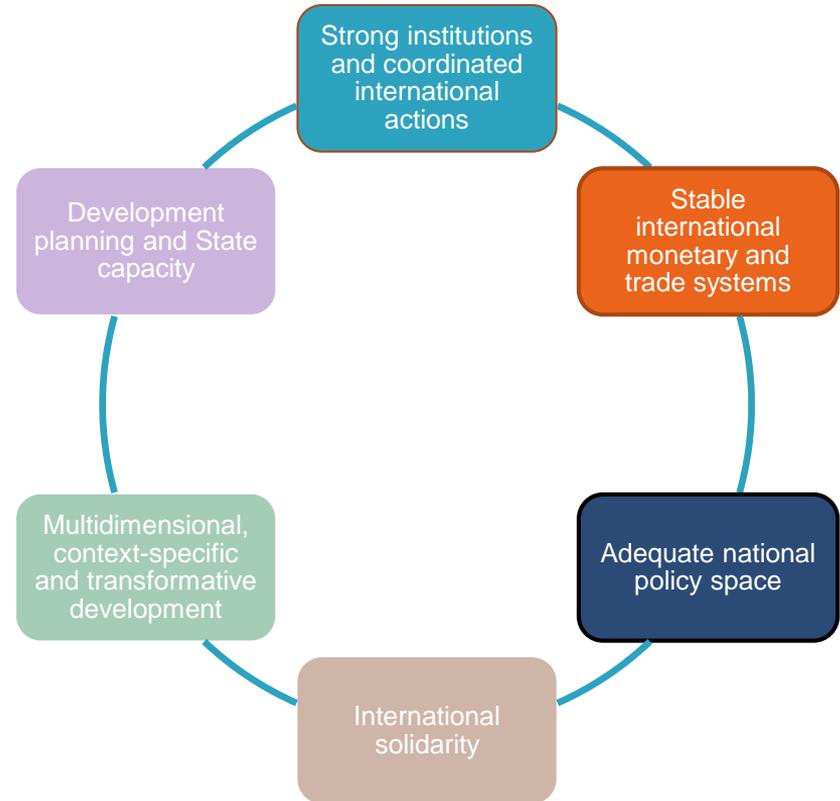
... and global economic integration has outpaced the development of global economic governance mechanism

Many parallels can be drawn between past and current challenges facing the international community

WESS 2017 highlights the key enabling factors for development that are relevant for 2030 Agenda

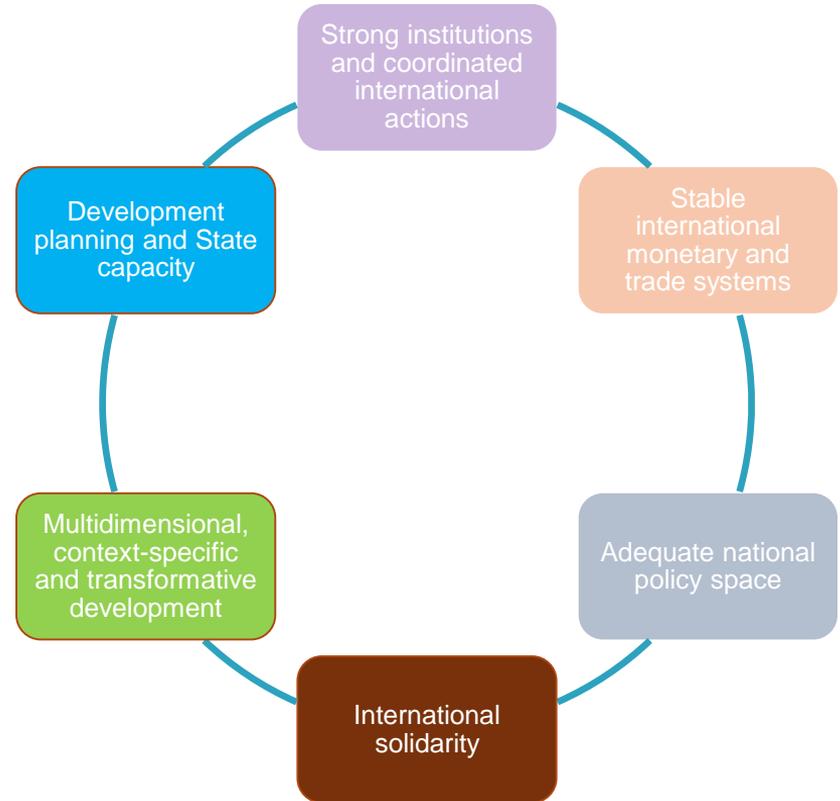
Key lessons from WESS relevant for 2030 Agenda

- ❑ The global economy needs strong institutions and coordinated international actions
- ❑ Stability in the international monetary and trade systems underpins development
- ❑ Countries need adequate policy space to accelerate development



Key lessons from WESS relevant for 2030 Agenda (cont'd)

- ❑ International solidarity is the foundation for development and rebuilding the global economy
- ❑ Development is multidimensional, context-specific and about transformation, underpinned by strategic development planning and strengthened State capacity



Thank you

You can find WESS 2017 and related knowledge products at:

□ <https://bit.ly/UNDESASurvey>

