The 17 Sustainable Development Goals approved by the United Nations General Assembly for the period 2015-2030 (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/) replace the eight Millennium Development Goals that covered the period 2000-2015. They aim to engage not only governments, but “all people, everywhere,” at all levels of civil society. Carrying them out will require active, two-way, democratic communication, in a multiplicity of languages. Furthermore, several of the Goals imply direct attention to issues of language. Study and research on language in relation to economic and social development is a well-established field. What does this field have to contribute to the realization of the SDGs? What linguistic obstacles stand in the way of their successful realization?

The organizers welcome proposals for brief 20-minute papers on topics linked to the SDGs, such as:

- Language as a factor in sustainable development
- Language as a factor in the realization of the SDGs
- Language revival and maintenance in relation to the SDGs
- Language and quality education (Goal 4)
- Language and mother-tongue education (Goal 4)
- Language and gender equality (Goal 5)
- Language and economic growth (Goal 8)
- Language and reduced inequalities (Goal 10)
- Language and peace & justice (Goal 16)
- Cooperation in the fulfilment of the SDGs (Goal 17)
- NGOs and language policy in relation to the SDGs
- UN language policy and the SDGs

Please send proposals (200 words or less, accompanied by an approximately 50-word biography) to the chair of the symposium organizing committee, Prof. Humphrey Tonkin, at tonkin@hartford.edu, by February 15, 2016. The committee expects to make final decisions on the program by March 1.