

SWP Research Paper

Marianne Beisheim (ed.)

Country-level Politics around the SDGs

Analysing political will as a critical element of the
Mid-Term Review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
German Institute for
International and Security Affairs

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- The SDG Summit will take place on 18 – 19 September 2023 in New York. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called it the “centrepiece” of the UN’s work this year.
- Numerous reports for this year’s mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will lament the “lack of political will” to implement the SDGs.
- This research paper addresses the lack of analysis of country-level politics around the SDGs by assessing the political priorities of local elites in eleven countries.
- Alongside the specific findings for these countries, we present overarching conclusions on the significance of country-level politics for SDG implementation.
- Analysing political will and considering country-level constraints should be part of the mid-term review and inform the outcome of the summit.

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