

Letter**Letter: Infrastructure has big role in UN sustainability goals**

From Dinah McLeod, Chief Executive, Global Cement and Concrete Association, London W2, UK

12 HOURS AGO

Your recent article (“State spending bonanzas risk building roads to nowhere,” [November 27](#)) focuses on lessons that can be learned from public works programmes as pressure mounts on countries to combat the economic impact of Covid-19.

While in general terms construction and infrastructure support prosperity and growth, planners, leaders and governments need to avoid misguided projects and misdirecting resources that ultimately fail.

There is, however, another positive aspect to the IMF’s push for substantial and timely capital project spending to stimulate the bounce back, which is the way that these opportunities can help drive sustainable development and a green recovery. Infrastructure has a critical role to play in achieving the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

A recent UN study highlights this positive contribution, indicating that infrastructure has an influence on almost three-quarters of those goals. Well thought through construction projects support sustainable and resilient communities, whether clean water and sanitation, the transition to clean energy, or providing schools, clinics, housing or modern transport networks.

A key question, surely, in any infrastructure decision today is — what is its contribution to building the sustainable world of tomorrow.

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