

Applying the **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and **Net Zero** objectives creates a framework for "neuro-inclusive sustainability." By integrating the scale's specific metrics into these global agendas, organizations can ensure that technological advancements in robotics and AI do not inadvertently exclude neurominorities.

1. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

This is the primary point of alignment. The NSIR directly addresses the "Leave No One Behind" principle by identifying how robots can be designed to accommodate diverse cognitive styles.

- **Equitable Access:** Use the **NSIR Factor: Social Comfort/Trust Safety** to ensure that automated service delivery (e.g., in government or retail) does not create new barriers for neurodivergent individuals.
- **Non-Verbal Communication:** **NSIR Item 3** (*"I think I can share my thinking with the robot without speaking"*) provides a metric for measuring whether a technological "solution" is truly inclusive or if it forces users into neurotypical communication patterns.

2. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Robotics is a catalyst for improved healthcare, especially in home care and therapy.

- **Predictability and Anxiety Reduction:** In line with SDG 3's focus on mental health, **NSIR Item 8** (*"I believe that my robot is the same with me as it is with anyone"*) measures the environmental predictability that reduces social anxiety—a key wellness indicator for neurodivergent populations.
- **Radical Privacy in Care:** For robots providing physical assistance, use **NSIR Item 7** (*"I feel comfortable undressing in front of my robot"*) to evaluate if the technology maintains the user's dignity and psychological safety.

3. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Robots contribute to SDG 8 by taking over "dirty, dull, and dangerous" tasks.

- **Worker Inclusion:** Apply the **NSIR Factor: Anthropomorphic Connection/Kinship** to measure how "cobots" (collaborative robots) in the workforce can be designed as peers rather than just tools. High scores on **Item 1** (*"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"*) suggest that for some neurodivergent workers, robots provide a safer, more identity-affirming workplace collaboration than human teams might.

4. Transitioning to Net Zero

Net Zero goals rely heavily on efficient, automated production and the "prepare-to-repair" industrial strategy.

- **User Retention and Longevity: NSIR Item 4** ("*The robot and I will be together forever*") measures long-term user attachment. In a Net Zero economy, fostering deep "Kinship" with devices can reduce "electronic waste" (SDG 12) by encouraging users to repair and keep their robotic partners for decades rather than replacing them frequently.
- **Predictive Maintenance:** While the industry focuses on the robot's "mechanical" state to reach Net Zero, **NSIR Item 2** ("*Sometimes I stare at the robot*") can be used to measure how human "masters" monitor their apprentices. This social data can help optimize the human-robot collaborative learning cycle, leading to more efficient energy use in automated factories.

Summary: NSIR and SDG Alignment

UN SDG / Net Zero Target	NSIR Application
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	Use Item 3 to remove communication barriers in service robotics.
SDG 3: Health & Well-being	Use Items 7 & 8 to ensure psychological safety in care settings.
SDG 8: Decent Work	Use Item 1 to foster inclusive, low-anxiety human-robot work teams.
Net Zero / SDG 12 (Waste)	Use Item 4 to measure "social durability" and reduce electronic waste.

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