Introduction to the SDSN and the Networks Program

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development. The SDSN has operated under the auspices of the UN Secretary General since 2012. We are committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales.

SDSN mobilizes the academic community to translate the latest expertise in sustainable development into action. To this end, we are building a global network of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focusing on:

- Providing and mobilizing support for the SDGs;
- Promoting practical Solutions Initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

Spanning six continents, the SDSN Networks Program draws upon the knowledge and educational capacity of over 800 member institutions. This report presents our unique global network of problem solvers and their contributions to addressing the world’s most pressing problems.

Universities are critical for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals, through their teaching programs, research activities, and powerful ability to convene leaders of government, civil society, academia and business to collaborate on SDG solutions. It is deeply gratifying to see the SDSN’s national and regional chapters and its thematic networks leading in these ways around the world. This year’s report on The SDSN Networks in Action 2018 is inspiring and informative. We learn how the SDSN networks are creating new online courses, educating their students and the general public, working with governments, engaging and empowering young people, and offering innovative solutions for the SDGs. We need a global mobilization of energies, knowledge, and organizations to achieve the SDGs; the inspiring accounts in this year’s report will help us to find the path forward.

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs,
Director of the SDSN and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the SDGs
The Fuller Projection Map is the only flat map of the entire surface of the Earth which reveals our planet as one island in one ocean, without any visually obvious distortion of the relative shape and sizes of the land areas, and without splitting any continents. It was developed by R. Buckminster Fuller in 1954.
Mission-Led Research and Innovation in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals

The world is afflicted by problems that people experience in their daily lives: dirty air in congested cities, a lack of access to digital technologies that improve public services, and diseases like cancer or obesity that continue to afflict millions of people across the globe. What is the relationship between these problems and the dynamics of science, research and innovation? Of course, we all recognize that science is needed to produce medicines, but what is the role of research and innovation in producing a more ‘caring’ society and solutions to health care systems? Similarly, while we know that science is needed for the emergence of renewable energy, what is the role of research and innovation in producing economies that are more sustainable in their production, distribution and even consumption patterns? And what is the role of innovation to build cities that are more enjoyable to live in?

In fact, most of the ‘smart’ products we have in our bags and pockets came from investments that were more far reaching than a simple ‘science push’ explanation. The internet was not discovered as an ex-ante objective, but to solve the problem that scientists had in the late 1960s of how to allow multiple computers to communicate on a single network. This led to the creation of ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, and later the Internet that connects all of our smart products today.

Today we have the opportunity to direct innovation in similar problem-solving ways, as bold as the moon shot program was but instead aimed at the multiple social issues and in so doing catalyze cross-sectoral investments that are more focused problem-solving lens. This is not about a box-ticking exercise to solve one problem after another. Rather this is a way to steer economic growth in more meaningful ways. Indeed, in a historical period in which business investment is lagging, missions also need to incorporate the new knowledge we have on how innovation comes about into their design: it is serendipitous, non-linear and very high risk. When developing a new mission, the art lies in learning from past experience. Putting old wine in new bottles won’t work. We must allow missions to genuinely interact with the new types of complex problems societies face, as well as incorporating the new knowledge we have on how innovation comes about into their design: it is serendipitous, non-linear and very high risk.

Societal relevance

A mission must have societal relevance, such as the ability to improve health or nutrition. Research and innovation missions should aim to improve society’s welfare. This will require dedicated framing. For example, a mission on quantum computing could have strong societal impact if it is framed in terms of the potential to enhance cyber security, improve industrial processes, or support the development of new types of health care services. At the same time, the innovative spillovers that might result along the way may not be known beforehand and can have unforeseen applications. Indeed, most of the technologies in our smart products today — from the internet to GPS — emerged as spillovers from missions of the past.

Today’s missions are more complex, or ‘wicked’, than going to the moon. This is at the heart of what Dick Nelson meant in his excellent work on The Moon and the Ghetto, where he asked how it could be that we got a man to the moon and back, and have not been able to solve key issues around inequality, such as the persistence of ghettos. Wicked problems require more attention to ways in which social issues interact with political and technological issues, the need for smart regulation, and the critical feedback processes across the entire innovation chain.

Global challenges have been expressed as 17 SDGs. 193 countries have signed up to these inspirational goals; hence, they provide an excellent opportunity to move forward with mission-oriented thinking. They must be taken seriously as an obligation to future generations and for global prosperity, but also as opportunities to steer investment led growth. Addressing the challenges around health and the environment must not be seen as a trade-off with economic growth. Rather they present a means to focus on opportunities for investment-led growth — crowding in activity across actors. In addition, targets must be set so that progression to achieving such challenges is as serious as the goal setting itself.

The SDGs, Societal Challenges or Focus Areas are useful based on Mazzucato (2017) from broad challenges to specific missions.

No one size fits all

Missions come in different shapes and sizes. There is no one-size-fits-all definition of what a mission should be and how it should be structured. In some areas, a mission should trigger acute progress in the development of technologies to increase their societal impact. In other areas, the mission should drive a systemic change. Most likely, ambitious missions that have the potential to have wide societal impact will need a combination of both, but their characteristics may differ.

When developing a new mission, the art lies in learning from past experience. Putting old wine in new bottles won’t work. We must allow missions to genuinely interact with the new types of complex problems societies face, as well as incorporating the new knowledge we have on how innovation comes about into their design: it is serendipitous, non-linear and very high risk.

Selecting missions that matter to society and stimulate innovation across multiple sectors is a highly complex task. Successful missions must meet the following five criteria:

1) be bold and address issues of societal value,
2) formulate concrete targets that demonstrate mission achievement,
3) involve research and innovation to ensure technical readiness over a specific time frame,
4) be cross-sectoral, cross-actor, and cross-disciplinary,
5) provide multiple competing solutions.

Grainularity: between a project and a challenge

Global challenges have been expressed as 17 SDGs. 193 countries have signed up to these inspirational goals; hence, they provide an excellent opportunity to move forward with mission-oriented thinking. They must be taken seriously as an obligation to future generations and for global prosperity, but also as opportunities to steer investment led growth. Addressing the challenges around health and the environment must not be seen as a trade-off with economic growth. Rather they present a means to focus on opportunities for investment-led growth — crowding in activity across actors. In addition, targets must be set so that progression to achieving such challenges is as serious as the goal setting itself.
Missions should be broad enough to engage the public and attract cross-sectoral investment, yet remain focused enough to involve industry and achieve measurable success. By setting the direction for a solution, missions do not specify how to achieve success. Rather, they stimulate the development of a range of different solutions to achieve the objective. As such, a mission can make a significant and concrete contribution to meeting the SDG or Societal Challenge.

New conversations between fundamental and applied research

Missions are not about prioritising applied research and innovation over basic fundamental research. Rather, they propose a new way to frame the conversations between the two, galvanising new forms of collaboration. Missions are also a new way to think about the dynamic interactions between enabling horizontal policies (framework policies around e.g. education, skills, training, research and innovation) and more directed vertical policies (e.g. health, environment, energy). Instead of using vertical policies to pick sectors or technologies, the vertical aspect of missions picks the problem. The solution is then reached by stimulating multiple sectors and multiple forms of cross-sector collaborations to work to address those problems using the entire research and innovation value chain, from fundamental research to applied research and cutting-edge innovation.

Fostering experimentation

Missions must be chosen. Yet their success will depend on the bottom-up processes that nurture innovation while getting there. A culture of experimentation and risk-taking is a crucial element in the philosophy of missions. There must be incentives to think outside the box to come up with new solutions to address the mission’s objective. This requires a portfolio approach, based on different solutions, and a broad range of different interactions. The objective should be addressed by multiple actors, stimulating cross-disciplinary academic work, with a strong focus on the intersection between natural sciences, formal sciences, social sciences and humanities; collaborations across different industries; and new forms of partnerships between the public sector, the private sector, and civil society organisations. Innovation itself is often characterised by feedback effects, trial and error, and serendipity (the search for one thing leading to the discovery of another) - picking missions that have different possibilities for solutions will enhance the innovation dynamic itself.

Mariana Mazzucato

Mariana Mazzucato (PhD) is a Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London (UCL), and is the Founder and Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose (IIPP). She is the winner of the 2018 Lionel Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought, and was named as one of the 3 most important thinkers about innovation by the New Republic. She advises policy makers around the world on innovation-led inclusive growth and is currently a member of the Scottish Government’s Council of Economic Advisers; the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Leadership Council; SITRA’s Advisory Panel in Finland, and is a Special Advisor on mission oriented innovation for the EC Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas.

Find out more

- Mariana Mazzucato: mmmazzucato.com/
- The Value of Everything: making and taking in the global economy: a new book which argues that reforming capitalism requires reimagining value creation over value extraction.
- The Entrepreneurial State: debunking public vs. private sector myths Financial Times 2013 book of the year which examines the role of state investments in catalysing radical innovation.


Image 651x280 to 761x434
Our National and Regional Networks

SDSN’s National and Regional networks promote the localization and implementation of the SDGs, develop long-term transformation pathways, provide education for sustainable development, and launch solution initiatives to address challenges. Each network focuses on distinct projects and priorities in line with their local contexts and challenges.
SDSN Amazônia

Hosted by Fundação Amazonas Sustentável
Manaus, Brazil

SDSN Amazônia is hosted by the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS). The Amazônia network coordinates action on the 2030 Agenda across the nine Amazonian countries, aiming to mobilize local knowledge in the search for solutions and good practices in line with the SDGs, while respecting local contexts.

Amazônia Education Program
One of SDSN Amazônia’s main goals is to promote education and capacity building for Amazonian leaders. In this context, Amazônia-edu was launched to train change agents for sustainable development through experiential education. This is accomplished through two key activities:

I. The Amazon Summer School is a 21-day intensive program focused on building capacities to understand, reflect on, and take action in the field of sustainable development. Participants learn from local community leaders, sustainability practitioners, the forest, and each other. Through a collective learning process, the group builds their experience together based on shared purpose, work, and values.

II. From the Ground Up: Managing and Preserving Our Terrestrial Ecosystems is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) produced in 2017 in partnership with the SDG Academy and supported by UN-Environment. This MOOC, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, aims to disseminate knowledge about sustainable development of terrestrial ecosystems at the postgraduate level and to make knowledge a tool in the fight against climate change.

Amazon Solutions Platform
The Amazon Solutions Platform, developed by SDSN Amazônia and supported by UN-Environment, is a georeferenced database of SDG solution projects from around the Amazon. The solutions included come from a diverse set of institutions and are in different stages of development, from concept to implementation and scale up. The platform is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to facilitate exchange of information.

SDG Ambassador
SDG Ambassador is a three-module project, led by SDSN Youth Amazônia, focused on building capacities among riverine youth to understand and take action on the SDGs. The modules were designed to focus on specific issues including geopolitics, participative planning, leadership, networking, and activism. The initiative currently operates in two of the Amazon’s Protected Areas, Juma and Uatumã.

LOOKING AHEAD
The SDSN Amazônia network seeks to facilitate better communication and knowledge exchange between Amazon-based institutions. In the coming months, the network will consolidate partnerships with local organizations and financial institutions to accelerate and disseminate the networks tools and projects.

About 15% of global freshwater entering the oceans is from the Amazon.

The Amazon is the single largest remaining tropical forest in the world.

15% of global freshwater entering the oceans is from the Amazon

350 different ethnic groups call the Amazon home.

Amazon residents depend on the forest’s natural resources.

In just a few hectares of this vast forest world laboratory can be found more species of native trees than in all of North America, and on just one of these trees are more species of ants than exist in all of England.

Gabriel García Márquez,
Prologue, La Amazônia Sin Mitos

Fundação Amazonas Sustentável / Sustainable Amazonas Foundation (FAS)
The Sustainable Amazonas Foundation (FAS) is a Brazilian non-governmental organization that has helped over 9,597 families, benefiting 40,230 people living in 16 Conservation Units (UC) across Brazil’s Amazonas state. FAS, founded in 2007, promotes sustainable development of the Amazon Basin, including environmental conservation, improvements to the quality of life of riverine communities, and inclusion of stakeholders in decision making processes.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK
Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Perú, Suriname, Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE
• Amazon Summer School – www.amazonsummerschool.com
The SDSN Andes currently works on four thematic areas: (1) Biodiversity protection and sustainable management of ecosystem services, (2) Sustainable and resilient human settlements, (3) Sustainable production and consumption, and (4) Data management and monitoring of the SDGs.

Launch of a binational conservation project
Linked to the network’s aforementioned thematic areas 1 and 2, the SDSN Andes brought together a coalition of organizations to develop the project “Conservation and Management of Ecosystem Services in the Mira-Mataje Binational Watersheds”. This group includes the University of Nariño (Colombia), the National Amazon University IKIAM (Ecuador), the Pacific Environmental Research Institute (Colombia), the National Institute of Biodiversity (Ecuador), Corporación Grupo Rondi Rondi (Ecuador), and the bird conservation NGO FELCA (Colombia). Now in its implementation phase, the project is managed and coordinated by Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment and the SDSN Andes Secretariat, with financial support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The 3-year project seeks to enhance conservation in the watersheds through a) scientific knowledge of ecosystems status and services, and b) territorial governance and stakeholder participation. The primary outcome will be a binational management strategy and integrated conservation action plan. This project touches on several SDGs, in particular Goal 6, Target 6.5.

Initiative to analyze inter-country influences on the SDGs
Linked to the network’s aforementioned thematic areas 3 and 4, and in collaboration with the Integrated Sustainability Analysis (ISA) research team from the University of Sydney (Australia), the SDSN Andes Secretariat launched the Influence of Economic Structures on the SDGs - Effects from, to and within the Andean Region Initiative. The aim of this initiative is a) to assess spillover effects in terms of the SDGs through global supply chains and trade, and b) to devise and implement measures to reduce negative effects and increase positive ones.

Support to the SDGs localization and VNR processes
As part of the “SDGs Strategic Thinking Group” lead by the “Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano” and “Grupo FARO” (SDSN member organizations), the SDSN Andes Secretariat provided inputs and commentary for the localization of the SDGs in Ecuador, as well as for Ecuador’s 2018 Voluntary National Review.

LOOKING AHEAD
The SDSN Andes will continue the binational conservation project, engaging with governments, communities, and other key actors in the Mira-Mataje watersheds. In 2018 and 2019 the project will develop an open online information platform (“wiki”) to summarize and validate information (both collected and generated by the organizations leading the project) on the watersheds, thus promoting a binational perspective. The platform will also seek to crowdsource knowledge, allowing external information contributions and commentary, and ensuring stakeholder buy-in and local contextualization.

Additionally, the SDSN Andes will continue analyzing inter-country influences on the SDGs. Next steps involve applying ISA’s Multi-Regional Input-Output (MRIO) models to assess spillover effects from, to, and within the Andean Region. Particular attention will be put on the impacts of soy production in Argentina due to growing interest in this commodity.

COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE
- Influence of Economic Structures on the SDGs - Effects from, to and within the Andean Region - www.unsdsn-andes.org
- Biodiversity protection and sustainable management of ecosystem services – www.unsdsn-andes.org

Yachay Tech University
Yachay University of Experimental Technology and Research (known as Yachay Tech University) is an Ecuadorian public university founded in March 2014, whose aim is to position Ecuador as a center of innovation and technological excellence in Latin America.
Sustainable development doesn’t just ‘happen’ or is the responsibility of someone else, somewhere else. It requires everyone to make a global effort. We will be leaving the next generation our problems unless we address the SDGs – uncertain jobs, unaffordable housing and a degraded environment.

John Thwaites, 2018 Australian SDG Summit

SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific

Hosted by the Monash Sustainable Development Institute

Melbourne, Australia

The SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific focuses on three main areas: fostering cross-sectoral action to support SDG localization, mobilizing university-sector action on the SDGs, and supporting the activities of SDSN Youth in the region. It also supports regional contributions to global SDSN Solutions Initiatives.

University Guide to the SDGs

In August 2017, the network released Getting Started with the SDGs in Universities, a practical guide to the important role of universities in SDG implementation, developed in collaboration with the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) and Australian and New Zealand universities. The guide is now being used by universities, SDSN networks and other organizations around the world. SDSN networks have already produced Japanese and Spanish translations, and a number of other translations currently in the works.

Input to National SDG Reviews

The network played an important role in supporting Australia’s first Voluntary National Review (VNR), which was presented to the UN in July 2018. This included helping capture the contribution of the Australian university sector to the SDGs through a consultation workshop with key stakeholders, collection of case studies, and preparation of a summary statement. SDSN Youth helped lead youth input towards the Australian component of the VNR, bringing together its member organizations and youth leaders for a consultation, which illustrated the potential for Australian youth to lead on implementation of the SDGs, demonstrated existing efforts, and offered recommendations on how to maximize impact.

Australian SDGs Summit

In March 2018, the network partnered with key civil society and business organizations in Australia to co-host the second Australian SDGs Summit, a high-level, multi-stakeholder forum to advance national implementation of the SDGs. The Summit brought together almost 300 stakeholders from government, business, civil society, academia, and youth to assess the country’s progress and discuss further action.

Supporting Global Projects

The Monash Sustainable Development Institute (through ClimateWorks Australia) and CSIRO are partnering to deliver the Australian component of the FABLE (Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy) project, which aims to develop transition pathways and roadmaps to a sustainable food and land use system.

Looking Ahead

The network is currently working with the global SDSN to expand the Universities Guide to include case studies from around the world and to develop a companion online portal to share best practices.

Countries and Territories Included in the Regional Network


Find out more

- University Guide – ap.unsdn.org/university-sdg-guide
- Food Agriculture Biodiversity Land-use (Bio)Energy (FABLE) – ap.unsdn.org
- SDSN Youth – sdsnyouth.org
SDSN Brazil is a national network aiming to translate the SDGs to the Brazilian context, engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships that will set the country up for the challenges and opportunities of the 2030 Agenda.

Reflections on an Urban World
One big focus of SDSN Brazil, ever since its inception in 2014, is sustainable urban development. With the network’s host institutions based in Rio de Janeiro, the second-most populous municipality in Brazil, many of its actions have been rooted in addressing the sustainable development challenges of the country’s cities. The network has hosted several events to promote dialogues around sustainable cities and communities, aiming to exchange knowledge and experiences from the academic, scientific, and professional community that are directly or indirectly related to urban challenges. These debates, lectures, round tables, and workshops help find solutions for integrated and participative governance of the metropolitan territory, urban agriculture, resilience to climate change, and the participation of civil society.

Another part of SDSN Brazil’s urban work is the Metropolitan Approach for Rio de Janeiro (M.A. Rio), a scientific cooperation between the network’s host institutions and the Politécnico di Milano, Italy. It presents a metropolitan vision, aiming at the improvement of the Practice of the Metropolitan Discipline with new competences of shaping and re-shaping the metropolis. It adopts an interdisciplinary strategy, integrating various disciplinary knowledge and transversal management skills to deal with metropolitan complexities and fragmentation. It also intends to bridge the gap between theory and practice by defining tools that can meet Brazil’s metropolitan needs.

A Peek into the Future of Cities
As one of the world’s first museums incorporating the ideas of sustainable development, the Museu do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow) was the perfect fit for the 2018 Forum “Sustainable City Rio” (Fórum Rio Cidade Sustentável 2018), co-organized by SDSN Brazil. Showcasing the power of innovation as a determining tool in the transformation process of Rio de Janeiro as a sustainable metropolis, the Forum mirrored the Museum’s emphasis on mixing science and art, and the need for change if mankind is to avoid climate disaster, environmental degradation, and social collapse. The event benefited from the participation of officials from the municipal public administration, the City Council, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UN-Habitat, Metropolitan Chamber, PUC-Rio, the international climate alliance C40 and Casa Fluminense, and SDSN Brazil’s key stakeholders.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Brazil will continue to engage and activate its members, partners and other stakeholders to address sustainable development challenges. To leverage this work, the network will translate SDG Academy content into Portuguese, as well as identify more universities for cooperation and support the development of education initiatives with members (the “2030 challenge”). Secondly, the network will continue their work on their Solutions Initiative on Metropolitan Governance and Sustainable Cities throughout the country.
SDSN Canada

Hosted by University of Waterloo in partnership with the Waterloo Global Science Initiative

SDSN Canada officially launched on May 7th and 8th, 2018, at the University of Waterloo. The two-day event brought together 700 participants to discuss Canada’s challenges and opportunities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and included over 30 post-secondary institutions from across Canada, as well as students, members of the public, businesses, government representatives, and civil society organizations. The launch featured a keynote lecture by renowned development economist and senior UN Advisor Jeffrey Sachs in addition to a series of collaborative workshops exploring ways to develop transformational pathways for sustainable development in Canada. The workshops explored four thematic SDG areas: Education and Training for Sustainability, Sustainable and Inclusive Cities, Canada’s Energy-Climate Nexus, and Doing Justice to Life on Land and Below Water.

Increasing awareness around the network

Along with its partners, SDSN Canada has initiated a number of other events as a way to increase awareness of this new network and generate new membership including:

- A dinner gathering of Canada’s leading business, government, and civil society leaders to provide counsel and enable dialogue on Canada’s role in accelerating action on the SDGs and catalyzing change throughout the country. April 2018;
- Participation and support for Waterloo Global Science Initiative’s Generation SDG Summit which brought together a multi-disciplinary and multigenerational group for four days of intensive discussion on the best ways to catalyze the most impactful and coordinated actions to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs in Canada. April 2018;
- A keynote lecture by Jeffrey Sachs at the University of Ottawa on the crucial role that universities can play in implementing the SDGs in Canada coupled with a panel discussion on Green Growth and Sustainable Development Policy Implementation. April 2018;

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on the success of the launch, SDSN Canada is now focused on engaging with universities and colleges from throughout the country. SDSN Canada is also looking at the feasibility of hosting a Solutions Forum within the coming year, creating a Sustainable Cities Index for Canada, and developing SDG teaching case studies and other course materials in collaboration with the SDG Academy. The network will also prioritize the deepening of relationships with the Government of Canada and will work to advise on and support federal SDG strategy and policy initiatives.

FIND OUT MORE

- Learn more about WGSI’s Generation SDG Summit – www.wgsi.org

University of Waterloo in partnership with the Waterloo Global Science Initiative

The University of Waterloo is home to Canada’s largest Faculty of Environment, and has researchers and institutes across campus working on every facet of sustainability and social justice. Consistently ranked Canada’s most innovative university, the University of Waterloo is home to advanced research and teaching in science and engineering, mathematics and computer science, health, environment, arts and social sciences.

Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSI) has been catalyzing collective action since 2009. The conversations they host bring people with diverse viewpoints together, prompting multi-disciplinary, inclusive collaboration to address sustainable development challenges. By combining the results of these cross-cutting conversations with the science and technology of today, WGSI and their network take answers from paper to the real world, addressing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals in sectors such as energy, education, and beyond.

The establishment of SDSN Canada is a vital opportunity for Canada to make a coordinated effort to leverage our collective strengths and expertise, and build on the excitement and opportunity we have to make a positive impact on our future for generations. Universities play, and will continue to play, an integral role in making progress on our SDG targets through the talents of our researchers, graduates and entrepreneurial enterprises.

Feridun Hamdullahpur, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Waterloo
The SDSN Caribbean focuses on three shared regional priorities: climate change, energy, and the blue economy, which is the use of the sea and its resources for sustainable development. These priorities are interlinked; climate change is a major threat to the region due to sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storm events, changes to disease vectors, effects on agriculture, and more. When considered along with overfishing, impacts on Caribbean ecosystems and infrastructure jeopardize the tourism sector, a major part of the region’s economy. Moving Caribbean states away from fossil fuels and investing in energy efficiency are therefore key components in supporting the economy and achieving energy security and climate mitigation goals.

Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
The network supports the SDSN’s SDG Index and Dashboards report through an initiative to close data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Caribbean team is working with government agencies, NGOs, and academia to request data that are not currently publicly available through international institutions, as well as advise National Statistical Offices on how to set up frameworks for future reporting. Data gathered will be included in the annual SDG Index and Dashboards report. Results are also presented to countries at multi-stakeholder events, and lead to conversations on SDG prioritization as well as the sharing of best practices and successful programs between countries in the region.

Jamaica is naturally and irrevocably aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals and at every opportunity we reaffirm our commitment to achieving them. Furthermore, Jamaica will play its part in regional and international fora to promote attainment.

Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, speaking at ICSD in 2016

COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK
Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States Virgin Islands, Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE
* Caribbean Action 2030 – www.caribbeanaction2030.com
* SDG Index – www.sdgindex.org

US$ 170bn

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness with Professor Jeffrey Sachs and participants at the Caribbean Action 2030 Summit

US$ 170bn

Caribbean coral reef ecosystems are threatened by climate change, over fishing, and water pollution

Jamaica has committed to going fossil free by 2020

14.3%

Average coral cover in the Caribbean declined from over 50% in the 1970s to an estimated 14.3% in 2012.

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Average coral cover in the Caribbean declined from over 50% in the 1970s to an estimated 14.3% in 2012.

The Malecón in Havana, Cuba

US$ 170bn

Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

US$ 170bn

Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

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Closing data gaps in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
As a primary focus, the network addresses the structural challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Germany. Founded by leading knowledge centers, SDSN Germany pools the knowledge, experience and abilities of academic, corporate and civil society organizations to promote sustainable development at the national and international level.

Shaping the Political Landscape in Germany
Since its launch, SDSN Germany has been actively shaping the political landscape to more prominently feature the 2030 Agenda and call for the required changes. During the last general elections and now the new legislative period in Germany, the network has been an outspoken actor for the SDGs on the national and European level. With regard to the German Sustainability Strategy (Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie), the network contributed to a peer review of the plan of action outlined in the document. Even though progress has been made, Germany is falling short of its own targets and the Agenda has not yet become the fundamental principle in policy making. Additionally, SDSN Germany is one of the organizing parties of the Science Platform Sustainability 2030, and has supported dialogues between Scientific Advisory Councils and the Federal Government.

A European Voice for Change
To continue the discussion on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the EU, SDSN Germany has organized events with key stakeholders and has reached out to political foundations in Germany and the EU for closer cooperation on this issue. These events have been organized against the backdrop of upcoming European political events, such as the parliamentary election in 2019, the next Multiannual Financial Framework, and the new EU Commission.

Sustainable Development on the Global Stage
On the international level, members of SDSN Germany continue to contribute to the work of the T20 think tank task forces under the Argentine G20 presidency after last year’s German presidency. Moreover, SDSN Germany members have been active in several initiatives of the global SDSN such as The World in 2050, FABLE and the SDG Index & Dashboards.

LOOKING AHEAD
As one of the organizing parties of the Science Platform Sustainability 2030, the network is leading the working group on mobility, one of Germany’s great challenges. Together with its members, the network will develop new and innovative solutions around the topic. Additionally, SDSN Germany aims to create a stronger connection between political processes at the European level with sustainable development. A conference on how the SDGs can be an opportunity to shape a sustainable future of the EU is planned for October 2018, co-hosted by the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP).

Find out more
- Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project (DDPP) - deepdecarbonization.org
- The World in 2050 - unsdsn.org
- Food Agriculture Biodiversity Land-use (Bio)Energy (FABLE) - unsdsn.org
- SDG Index e Dashboards - www.sdgindex.org
SDSN Great Lakes

SDSN Great Lakes strives to promote the implementation of the SDGs in the complex region of Central and Eastern Africa.

Local Solutions Conference
The SDSN Great Lakes flagship initiative is an annual conference focused on local solutions to achieve the SDGs. Since 2015, these conferences have brought together hundreds of researchers and academics from the region to present innovative and practical projects that can help change lives for the better. Each year, the network selects one or more themes, related to particular SDG challenges in the region, and holds an open call for institutions to submit their projects. The projects, some still in proposal phase, are then reviewed by a panel and the best ones are selected to be presented at the conference.

Public Lecture Series
In 2018, the network launched a public lecture series to raise awareness of the SDGs and share new research and innovation coming out of its member institutions. The first such talk was held at the University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics entitled “Customizing the SDGs for Rwanda Development Priorities.” The talk was given by Professor Francois Naramabuye, a faculty member at UR and the national coordinator of the SDSN FABLE project (Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land, and Energy). All local network members were represented and a delegate from Burundi also attended the talk.

In an effort to boost membership engagement, the public lecture series will be organized on a rotational basis between all network members, starting with those in Rwanda over the coming year. Each member will choose a topic and organize a talk on that theme.

Looking Ahead
The next local solutions conference is planned at the end of 2018 and the public lecture series will continue. The network is also developing its governance and will soon announce a new Leadership Council, comprised of members from academia, the private sector, and civil society, to guide and support the activities moving forward.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK
Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda
Greece’s desire for social, political and economic recovery and long term prosperity should be aligned with sustainable development practices.

Prof. Andreas Popandreu, Professor in Environmental Economics, Director of PESD, Co-Chair SDSN Greece

SDSN Greece launched in 2017 during the 3rd International SDSN Mediterranean Conference (MED Solutions) in Athens. It aims to revive the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative (MCCI), an autonomous Mediterranean political initiative to strengthen international and regional agreements; while also focusing on national priorities for SDG achievement such as responsible consumption and production, sustainable tourism, clean energy, and climate change.

SDSN Greece aims at connecting all Greek universities and research centers that are active in the field of sustainable development to coordinate their efforts towards achieving the 17 SDGs. Additionally, to support Greece’s sustainable development following the economic crisis of 2007-2008 the network aims to develop work streams that can support decision-makers on all levels to promote change that reinvigorates the principles of liberalism and good governance.

The Value of Nature

One central topic for SDSN Greece is making the value of nature a central part of project design and policy recommendations for climate change adaptation practices. Through ICRE8, one of the network’s co-host institutions, the network has been involved in a number of national and regional projects relevant to the SDGs. Through the networks’ involvement in the European Commission Horizon 2020 program, issues like environmental management, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, disaster resilience, and social innovation are being looked at through the lens of the value of natural capital, providing analytic frameworks for managing natural resources sustainably.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

In view of the region’s vulnerability to climate change and its effects, experts of SDSN Greece are exploring suitable mitigation and adaptation strategies for implementation in Greece and more generally in the Mediterranean region. Special attention is given to the interaction of these policies with the rest of the economy and to developing potential low-carbon pathways that both mitigate climate change and stimulate the economy. In addition, the network is exploring adaptation strategies to protect vulnerable sectors and create new economic opportunities.

SDSN Greece

Hosted by the International Center for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8) and the Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab (PESD)

Athens, Greece

LOOKING AHEAD

Together with The Economist Events, SDSN Greece is co-organizing the Second Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean. Together with key thinkers, business leaders, policymakers, scientists, advocates and investors, the Summit will shed light on the main focus areas like green shipping and sustainable marine management, sustainable food-water-energy nexus, sustainable energy and security.

The network is also working with Climate KIC Greece as part of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) that aims to boost innovation. CleanTech Companies and Initiatives towards the reduction of brown coal production and decentralized energy system, helping Greece to achieve a low carbon economy until 2030.

The International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8)

The International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8) is a nonprofit private research Centre dedicated to interdisciplinary research on sustainable development and management of the Environment, Energy, Economy, Eco-innovations and their electronic versions (hence E8).

The Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab (PESD)

The Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab (PESD) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is devoted to the political economy dimension of sustainable development. In other words, it focuses on how institutions, the political environment and the economy interact and influence each other and thus form the underlying conditions that allow or prevent sustainable development.

In 2019, Greece will launch a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs, consistent with the National Growth Strategy

30% of the Greek coastline is affected by erosion

In 2019, Greece will launch a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs, consistent with the National Growth Strategy

18,000 km

Despite this very long coastline, Greece is one of the 20 most water-stressed countries in the world

One of the many coastal areas of Greece

Official launch of SDSN Greece 2017

FIND OUT MORE

- Welcoming Remarks of SDSN Greece Launch See the video on youtube
- Sustainable development in times of crisis

Session 1 - Greece as a case study – See the video on youtube
- ICRE8 – www.icre8.eu/
- PESD – pesd.econ.uoa.gr/index.php

Αthens, Greece
SDSN Hong Kong

SDSN Hong Kong was launched on 8 January 2018, and seeks to mobilize expertise, information, and resources from academia, philanthropy, government, business and non-profits to tackle the challenges of sustainable development.

Launch of SDSN Hong Kong

At the launch ceremony, Professor Jeffrey Sachs gave a keynote speech and joined other experts on a panel discussion to share their views on advancing the SDGs in Hong Kong. The event attracted over 200 participants from academia, government, civil society, and business in Hong Kong.

The establishment of SDSN Hong Kong was a result of the long-term partnership between The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (the Trust) on various social and sustainable development issues, including the establishment of the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (the Museum), the first museum of its kind in the world, at CUHK in 2013. The Museum supports the day-to-day activities of SDSN Hong Kong and offers a unique platform to localize SDGs and communicate about climate change to the general public.

JC–CUHK Climate Action

In recognition of the importance of inspiring behavioural change, a community outreach programme—JC–CUHK Climate Action—was introduced to localize SDGs and promote climate action, environmental conservation, and sustainability in local communities through public education and carbon- and waste-reduction partnerships with schools and non-governmental organizations. Under the programme, SDSN Hong Kong and the Museum jointly organized several events and activities, including an exhibition on the theme ‘Vanishing Glaciers’ (March–June 2018) and a two-day carnival ‘Green Family Day 2018’ (May 2018), to address and advance various SDGs.

A Plastic Ocean: Screening and Forum

Plastic pollution is a pressing environmental issue in Hong Kong. To enhance public awareness and inspire behavioural change, SDSN Hong Kong together with the Museum and WWF-Hong Kong organized ‘A Plastic Ocean: Screening and Forum’ in April 2018. The event, preceded by a campus-wide ‘No Straw Day’, was also part of a joint-university campaign under the Sustainable Campus Consortium, to reduce plastic use on campus.

Spreading the Word

SDSN Hong Kong has also taken up activities initiated by SDSN Global. Among others, these include producing a promotion video titled ‘What Makes You Happy’ to celebrate the ‘International Happiness Day’ and promote mental wellness.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Hong Kong is in the process of establishing the Leadership Council, and reaching out to new potential partner institutions and organizations in Hong Kong. With the objective of empowering the young people in Hong Kong to create sustainable development solutions, SDSN Hong Kong also plans to establish the Hong Kong chapter of SDSN Youth by the end of 2018.

Not only do we create and incubate new technologies in tackling challenges in the 21st century through research and development, most importantly it is our solemn obligation to educate and inspire our future generations of leaders in sustainable development.

Professor Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Founded in 1963, CUHK is a forward-looking comprehensive research university with a global vision and a mission to combine tradition with modernity, and to bring together China and the West. Dedicated to research and education excellence as well as the advancement of sustainable development, the University houses several world-renowned, productive research centres, including the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability and the Institute of Future Cities.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Founded in 1884, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of our society. The Club has a unique integrated business model, comprising racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charities and community contributions. In 2016/17, the Club’s total direct return to the community was HK$3.2 billion. It is Hong Kong’s largest single taxpayer and one of the world’s top ten charity donors.

FIND OUT MORE

• The Chinese University of Hong Kong – cuhk.edu.hk/
• The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust – charities.hkjc.com/charities/english/charities-trust/index.aspx
• Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change – www.mocc.cuhk.edu.hk/
• International Happiness Day video

• International Happiness Day

Green Family Day 2018
SDSN Indonesia

Hosted by the University of Indonesia (UI) and United in Diversity (UID)
Jakarta, Indonesia

SDSN Indonesia focuses on specific solutions and strategies that will help Indonesia reach its sustainability goals. Specifically, the network is working to engage youth and the wider community with the aim of building trust and creating avenues for collaboration on the SDGs and their achievement.

Indonesia and Youth
Young people are key stakeholders to the SDG process in Indonesia, not only as a group of future beneficiaries, but also as the movers, initiators, and implementers of the goals and associated projects for decades to come. SDSN Indonesia developed a platform, The Youth Action Forum (YAF), where people aged 18-30 can exchange ideas and research, make policy recommendations, and share concrete actions to achieve the SDGs. The YAF has successfully conducted workshops, classes, dialogues, leadership development programs, research and policy recommendations, and solution-oriented projects.

Last April, SDSN Indonesia held The Indonesian-Dutch Youth Dialogue for a Sustainable Future to identify and explore areas of bilateral partnership in connection to youth development and youth engagement in achieving the SDGs. It follows the first youth dialogue held in the Netherlands on 7 June 2017. Like the previous dialogue, the event took place at a critical crossroad as Indonesia, the Netherlands, and other UN Member States are dealing with the negative effects of economic globalisation and global environmental challenges such as climate change. Moreover, as global economic and trade competition increases, nationalism and protectionism become more widespread, jeopardising the tackling of global issues, which could only be solved effectively in partnership beyond the country level.

Education to Unite Sectors
SDSN Indonesia also co-hosted the third UID-UNSDSN Award at the International Conference on Sustainable Tourism. Bintang Sejahtera Waste Management was the winner of the annual award. The award aims to support local initiatives with financing, greater exposure, and networking opportunities. The winner of the UID-SDSN Award obtains mentorship, publicity, and a cash prize of US$30,000.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Indonesia plans to partner with the Belantara Foundation, based out of Jakarta. Working very closely with the University of Indonesia, this new partnership started in the Spring of 2018 and will expand the impact of the network members, while also bringing on a new portfolio of projects around ecotourism and conservation across Indonesia.
**SDSN Italia**

SDSN Italia aims at mobilizing Italian society to achieve the SDGs and works with the UN Global Compact Italian Network and ASviS - the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development- to reach this goal. Achieving the SDGs is only possible if the Agenda 2030 is scaled down to the local level and has the full support of young people.

To spread this vision, in 2018, SDSN Italia prepared and disseminated a report entitled “Agenda 2030: From Global to Local”.

**Cities and SDGs: the Italian Sustainability Ranking and the SDSN Italia SDGs City Index**

SDSN Italia is deeply engaged in building a tool for policy dissemination and awareness, that can elevate urban sustainability issues in the local context. The aim is to bridge the existing gap in the national context, making a link between Italian reality as a whole and the local sphere while taking into account the economic, social, geographical, and demographic heterogeneity of the country. Both the Italian Sustainability Ranking and the SDSN Italia SDGs City Index were released in June 2018 and will be followed by a detailed report in late 2018 after a public consultation.

**Youth in Action for SDGs**

SDSN Italia believes that the youth can play an indispensable role in building a sustainable future. For a second year in a row, the network collaborated with Fondazione Accenture and Fondazione Feltrinelli on the “Youth in Action for SDGs” contest calling for sustainable solutions. Hundreds of millennials answered the call and several six-month private sector internships were awarded to help them realize their ideas. The winners presented their SDG solutions at the International Conference for Sustainable Development (ICSD) in New York (September 2017 and September 2018).

**Agenda 2030 and the Regional Perspective**

Since 2017, SDSN Italia has been actively participating in preliminary discussions and debates around the regionalization of the SDGs. The network has done so through creating and supporting institutional networks to spark a dialogue on the Agenda 2030 at the local level and participating in meetings with national and international working groups on the topic. Moreover, in the Basilicata region, activities are underway that aim to enhance the link between community development and the local identity. These activities aim to contribute to the sustainable development of different sectors, such as agriculture and tourism.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

At the international level, SDSN Italia is part of a larger initiative, the Task Force for the G20 on the 2030 Agenda and is contributing to a Policy Brief on Improving the G20’s Development Pathway. In 2018, the network collaborated with ASviS around the Sustainable Development Festival which hosted over 700 events across Italy, actively participating and co-organizing events covering a broad number of SDG themes.

**FIND OUT MORE**

- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) – www.feem.it
- Facebook – FondazioneEniEnricoMattei
- Twitter – @SDSN_Italia
- ASDS Italia – asvis.it/asvis-report-2017/
- Facebook – youthinactionforsdgs.ideatre60.it/
- Sustainable Development Festival – www.asvis.it/sustainable-development-festival/
- UN Global Compact – www.unglobalcompact.org
- Italy and the SDGs (ASviS) – asvis.it/asvis-report-2017/

Young people have to play a leading role in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda: as decision makers and leaders of tomorrow, they are the ones who have to mobilize today to build their sustainable future.

Sabina Ratti, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei Executive Director
SDSN Japan conducts policy-relevant research and capacity-building activities to help mainstream the SDGs into national and sub-national policies. The network brings together policy leaders and experts from a variety of stakeholder groups, conveying key messages and recommendations to government ministries and a broader public audience.

Implementing the SDGs in Japan
Members of SDSN Japan have actively contributed to the Japanese Government’s adoption of the “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles”, the country’s strategy to address the major challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The network also helped raise public debates over the Principles in partnership with other stakeholders like the Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs.

SDG Dialogue Series
SDSN Japan has developed the “SDG Dialogue Series”, an event series to discuss solutions and enhance public awareness of the SDGs. The diverse set of experts, researchers, and stakeholders were invited to share insights and ideas for achieving the SDGs in their multidimensionality. Recently, it held a symposium on ‘SDGs and Education for Sustainable Development: Promoting Organic Collaboration in ESD Practice and Research’ together with the Japanese Society of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC). The event focused on a collaboration for practice, research, and quality of ESD, drawing on national and international examples.

International Outreach
Host of SDSN Japan, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), developed the ‘Guidelines for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) to Implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific’.

The guidelines were published in March 2018 during the 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bangkok, Thailand. They will help governments to identify, build, and maintain partnerships to overcome challenges throughout the policy cycle towards achievement of the SDGs. The guidelines respond to evidence-based assessment of the current performance of MSPs and challenges faced in the vision to achieve progress on the 2030 Agenda to provide a practical a step-by-step guidance to build and sustain effective MSPs.

LOOKING AHEAD
The members of SDSN Japan are looking to pivot to sub-national SDG implementation by contributing to a project developed by the Japanese Government’s project on “SDGs Future Cities”. The project selected 29 cities as ‘SDGs Future Cities’ which suggested advanced activities for SDG implementation. The Japanese government is supporting these cities in the internalization of the SDGs in their own action plans, according to each areas’ challenges and opportunities.

Some core members of SDSN Japan have assisted the Government of Japan in planning a side event on how Japan has made its effective actions to address the SDGs in close collaboration with stakeholders, which took place during the HLPF in July 2018.

Cities’ initiatives will contribute to the global sustainability through SDGs as a common language.
Kazuhiko Takemoto, Director of UNU-IAS and Secretary General, SDSN Japan

140 specific measures (for home and abroad) are outlined in Japan’s SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles.

29 cities Japan’s “SDGs Future Cities” selected 29 cities for their advanced activities for SDGs implementation.

40% It is projected that in 2050, people over the age of 65 will comprise 40% of the population.

APFSD Mar 2018

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)
The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is a leading research and teaching institute based in Tokyo, Japan. UNU-IAS’ mission is to advance efforts towards a more sustainable future through policy-oriented research and capacity development focused on sustainability and its social, economic and environmental dimensions around the world.

FIND OUT MORE
• United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) – ias.unu.edu/en/research
• Guidelines for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) to Implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific – collections.unu.edu

Tokyo cityscape
Innovative technologies defining the Fourth Industrial Revolution hold the promise of a path to environmental sustainability. Malaysia is compelled to embrace this transformation in order to stay competitive.

Professor Zahir Abdul Hamid
Chair, SDSN Malaysia

Malaysia has aligned national development with SDGs and formulated a National SDG Roadmap, designed to be the action plan to implement the goals.

2017
Malaysia presented its first voluntary national review and self report every four years

0.6%
Absolute poverty in Malaysia has been reduced from 9.7% in 1970 down to 0.6% in 2014

SDSN Malaysia

Hosted by the Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)
Cyberjaya, Malaysia

SDSN Malaysia’s initiatives are diverse, address every goal, and are implemented by academia, government, civil societies, and private sectors.

Local Solutions Based on the SDG Dashboard

The SDG Index and Dashboard global report helped the network identify the SDGs that require more concerted effort in Malaysia. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Sunway University have teamed up to focus on three “red” areas: improving efficiency of electricity, reversing forest and biodiversity loss, and combating stunting. The research teams will publish one policy paper on each, which will provide local solutions to these issues. The recommendations will be presented to the government and proposed as part of the Annual Budget process. Long-term solutions can also be considered for the next review of the five-year Malaysia Plan.

Malaysian Cities Index and Dashboard

80% of the Malaysian population will be urban by 2030, in view of this the “smart sustainable city” concept has emerged as a next generation approach to improving the quality of life of urban dwellers. Smart initiatives are already underway across major cities including Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Melaka, and Ipoh and the network is developing a local version of the Cities Index and Dashboard to assist Malaysian cities in SDG implementation. MIGHT, as the Secretariat of Global Smart Cities Alliance (GSCA), presented this work during the World Urban Forum in February 2018. A first solutions report was also launched: Towards Achieving Sustainable Cities and Communities, a compilation of 38 initiatives of smart and sustainable cities in Malaysia.

Training Leaders in Sustainable Development

Sunway University hosted its inaugural Executive Training Program “Leaders in Sustainable Development: Empowering leaders to elevate the region to the forefront of the global SDG achievement in October 2017. A diverse group of leaders from both public and private sector organisations in Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, and China attended. The training addressed strategic leadership to advance sustainable development in a rapidly changing world, while also taking into account local circumstances.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Malaysia would like to work with stakeholders on providing more solutions for more red and amber areas in the SDG Index. The network looks forward to engage the civil society and private sector on providing awareness and solution implementation.

FIND OUT MORE

• The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) – www.might.org.my

Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology

The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the purview of the Prime Minister’s Department. MIGHT, plays a key role in developing Malaysia’s high technology for business through its role as a think-tank, private-public consensus building and business nurturing platforms. It is an organisation built on the strength of public-private partnership with more than 80 members, both local and international, from industry, government and academia.

Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology

www.sdsn.org.my
The big challenges of the Mediterranean Region need to be addressed urgently. A scientific and cultural diplomacy approach is the core of our commitment. Education, research and innovation will help Mediterranean societies to improve their life and to be more sustainable.

Angela Riccaboni, Chair of SDSN Mediterranean, Chair of PRIMA Foundation.

SDSN Mediterranean is a regional network that aims to boost the knowledge on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the Mediterranean area, promoting research, innovative teaching, youth leadership, and engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships.

PRIMA - Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

Initiated by SDSN Mediterranean, PRIMA began as a partnership of 19 countries from the Med Region with a view to develop a 10-year European Programme to fund research and innovation projects in the field of sustainable water-use and agriculture, while also including the food value chain as a driver of regional and local development. The budget of the project amounts to roughly 500 million euros committed in equal parts by the European Commission and the participating States. To date, PRIMA stands as the most ambitious programme for the Mediterranean region thanks to its unique approach which marries both science and cultural diplomacy towards sustainable development.

Education for Sustainable Development

SDSN Mediterranean understands that innovative and quality teaching methods are essential to shape the common values required to improve social inclusion and to leave no one behind. To this end, the network has kick-started several education projects, including the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) “Sustainable Food Systems: a Mediterranean Perspective,” developed in collaboration with the Barilla Foundation and the SDG Academy, showcasing a successful model of public-private partnership. Moreover, the course provides expertise and helps build transversal skills for school teachers, professionals, and the private sector in particular on issues related to the SDGs.

Plastic Busters Project

The nature and effect of plastic litter on the marine ecosystem, fisheries, and human health are largely unknown and are important issues to be investigated. The Plastic Busters Project (PBP) aims to enhance stakeholder awareness and change perceptions and attitudes towards waste. SDSN Mediterranean is assessing sources of plastic marine litter to devise mitigation strategies to reduce its impact and accumulation in the Mediterranean Sea. In February 2016, PBP was endorsed and labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) as a strategic project providing lasting developmental solutions intended to touch thousands of lives directly and provide tangible results on the ground. The project was recently approved by Interreg-MED.

COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Gibraltar, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.

FIND OUT MORE

• PRIMA – www.prima-med.org
• Plastic Busters – plasticbusting.unisi.it
• MOOC “Sustainable Food Systems: a Mediterranean Perspective” – sdgacademy.org/courses/
A researcher harvests a cassava root from a farm in Abuja, Nigeria, to study solutions to boost cassava yield and thwart pest and disease threats.

The SDGs offer us an opportunity to rediscover ourselves in an unprecedented manner that will enable us recreate a common prosperous and sustainable present and future.

Lobode Popoola, Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University.

SDSN Nigeria

SDSN Nigeria is a consortium of Nigerian universities and other academic tertiary institutions. The network’s vision is to be the vanguard of the national sustainable development effort and the major source and custodians of the science, knowledge, and innovation for the sustainable development agenda.

Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS)

Every August, SDSN Nigeria co-organizes the Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS), the premier venue for academic discourse on sustainable development issues in the Nigerian and African context. ISDS has recorded remarkable milestones, including domestication of the SDGs in the Nigerian national context; the development of six local Solutions Initiatives; and the creation of strategic partnerships with members of the business, civil society, and not-for-profit organizations, religious bodies, and government departments. Nearly 500 participants from academia, government, civil society, and business from all over Nigeria and the continent come together to share their expertise annually.

Role of Universities

Universities members have stepped forward to initiate many programs to facilitate actions on the achievement of the SDGs on campuses and in communities. This includes a national workshop organized by the University of Nigeria Sustainable Development Solutions Research Group. The focus of which was the unique opportunity that the SDGs offer to academia in the heart of implementation process as well as the responsibility for teaching and research to integrate the SDGs.

LOOKING AHEAD

The network’s joint committee on SDG Priority Solution Schemes is set to roll out solution schemes with partners on topics including sustainable water, cities education, climate change, and food systems. SDG advocacy in remote communities will be priority in 2019 with plans to visit with traditional rulers, community leaders, political parties, and philanthropists to mobilize strong voices toward SDG implementation at all levels.

University of Ibadan

The University of Ibadan Centre for Sustainable development (CESDEV) was established in 2010 as a demonstration of the University’s commitment to Sustainable Development. It was based on the need to provide an intellectual platform for identification of issues germane to sustainable development, critically analyse them, and provide leadership in finding enduring solutions that will enhance sustainable development.

FIND OUT MORE

• CESDEV – cesdev.ui.edu.ng

1 in 4 Nigerians applying for university gets admitted

5,000 naira identified per one vulnerable household receives a monthly conditional cash transfer as part of a national social safety net programme

91 Nigeria ranked 91st out of 156 countries in the 2018 World Happiness Report
SDSN Northern Europe is an action-oriented network focusing on mobilizing Nordic scientific and technological expertise to solve problems and create a more sustainable society. Through a wide set of activities and initiatives, its 44 members from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland link knowledge to action to implement the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

A Spotlight on Migration and integration

Migration and integration into receiving states are highly pressing challenges for the global community. To showcase current solutions on this topic, SDSN Northern Europe, the Forum for Social Innovation, GU Ventures and the Swedish National Committee for Global Environmental Change, arranged the Solutions Initiatives Forum (SIF) Integration. Over 100 participants from academia, government, business and investment gathered in Stockholm to promote 20 sustainable solutions for a more inclusive society. The SDG Impact Assessment Tool was used to assess their impact on the SDGs at large. These results, reviewed by an expert panel, showed that the solutions had a positive impact on 15 of the SDGs, with the most impact on SDG 4 and 8. The Integration Solutions Report was given to Catrine Bangum, Senior Advisor for the Nordic Council of Ministers, to be spread for use among Nordic authorities.

Including the Nordic Youth: The Sustainability Coach Program - Young people are key for achieving sustainable development, not only because they will lead our society in the future, but also because they possess the creativity, hope, and knowledge necessary to replace business as usual with business for sustainability. The Sustainability Coach Program connects university students with high school students to build competence and confidence, supporting them to become young entrepreneurs and develop sustainable business ideas for the SDGs. To maximize the effectiveness of the program, university students are trained with an education kit prepared by SDSN Youth in Northern Europe. The program is a collaboration project with Junior Achievement and the University of Gothenburg.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway

FIND OUT MORE

- Integration Solutions Report – www.unsdsn-ne.org
- Sustainability Coach – www.unsdsn-ne.org/nur-actions/initiatives/sustainability-coach/
- Pre-study for a Nordic Panel for SDG12 – www.unsdsn-ne.org/nur-actions/initiatives/nordic-panel/
- www.unsdsn-ne.org

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Northern Europe is currently carrying out a pre-study to create a “Nordic Panel for SDG 12”. The pre-study maps existing Nordic research and potential knowledge gaps for this Goal, and investigates the possibilities to construct a Nordic Science-Policy Panel for this area in order to design policies that specifically and effectively target SDG 12.

Targeting SDG 12 in the Nordic Countries

Achieving Responsible Consumption and Production patterns (SDG 12) is key to unlock the potential of many other SDGs. With support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, SDSN NE is currently carrying out a pre-study to create a “Nordic Panel for SDG 12”. The pre-study maps existing Nordic research and potential knowledge gaps for this Goal, and investigates the possibilities to construct a Nordic Science-Policy Panel for this area in order to design policies that specifically and effectively target SDG 12.

SDSN Northern Europe will deepen its collaboration with our member universities to apply sustainable development to all their activities. As universities have a broad responsibility in creating and disseminating knowledge, they have a critical role to play in the achievement of the SDGs. SDSN Northern Europe will continue its series of Solutions Initiatives Fora, with the next one coming up in spring 2019. Air pollution has been discussed as a likely theme. As the deaths of 6.5 million people (11.6% of all global deaths) were associated with air pollution in 2012, it has a strong impact on human societies and represents an important challenge to reach the Agenda 2030.
SDSN Philippines has been to update the activities of its different member-universities in terms of the various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and matching them with the articulated needs of business groups and other stakeholders to develop actions that can advance sustainable development in the country.

Collaborating with Universities
In 2017, SDSN Philippines Leadership Council member Dr. Assunta Cuyegkeng, Director of Ateneo de Manila University’s Institute of Sustainability (AIS), brought together faculty members from across disciplines to form an Interdisciplinary Technical Working Group on Water. Including faculty from economics, environment, electronics, communications, and engineering departments, the team has been developing a framework to assess the supply and demand of water in several urban poor communities in a municipality north of Metro Manila. Additionally, a team from the De La Salle University, another major Philippine university, is undertaking the same methodology to define water issues in two municipalities in the southeast of Metro Manila.

Partnering with the Private Sector
The SDSN Philippines has partnered with several business groups, such as the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the Philippine Business for the Environment, and the Global Compact Network Philippines to identify means of collaboration around the SDGs. These networks have identified several areas for possible coordination, including on food systems, natural capital, social services, built environment, and business integrity. Currently, they are conducting an expanded inventory of the needs of business groups and the scope of existing research by universities relating to these themes.

Some of the models that have been discussed are being undertaken by schools in a municipality province south of Manila and in the island region of Mindanao. Additionally the partnership are also developing “nutrition strategies” to reduce malnutrition which are being piloted in the suburbs of Metro Manila.

Ideas Fair
To further develop the network’s thematic focus on urban development and develop new solutions, SDSN Philippines is planning an “Ideas Fair” to foster knowledge exchange and outreach among the network member institutions and beyond. Several urban themes will be explored including green architecture, water sustainability, energy sustainability, sustainable mobility, urban farming, waste management, housing, and other urban development concerns.

LOOKING AHEAD
The network is looking forward to completing the water demand and supply framework in order to enable the Water Alliance, a private sector alliance of business and socio-civic groups, to enhance the provision of water services in impoverished municipalities in the country.

University of the Philippines
Founded in 1908, the University of the Philippines is the country’s national university and is the premiere institution for tertiary education. It was established to provide advanced training in literature, philosophy, the sciences and arts, and to give professional and technical training to students regardless of age, sex, nationality, religious belief, and political affiliation.
SDSN Russia aims to translate the SDGs to the Russian context, providing top-notch research, boosting youth leadership, and engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships that will set the country up for the opportunities of the 2030 Agenda.

Promoting Sustainable and Clean Energy
SDSN Russia specializes in transforming research projects relating to alternative and sustainable energy models, climate change, and entrepreneurship into concrete policy action for the SDGs at the highest level. This year, the research is devoted to the following aspects: Interrelations between different SDGs’ indicators and their other growth indicators through Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) Regional, time, and consumption-specific economic potential of renewables Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and their influence on regional production and employment in Russia.

Using a Varied Toolbox
SDSN Russia has effectively made use of traditional and unconventional tools to engage local and international stakeholders around the SDGs. In a workshop on “SDGs for Russia”, the network assessed the current stage of SDG implementation with academics, government officials, community leaders, students, and professionals.

The network also engaged with global actors when hosting the “Climathon” in Moscow just before COP23. In this 24-hour challenge, local stakeholders raced to develop innovative solutions for circular economies and solving problems of collecting, sorting, and processing waste. The winning team created “smart litter bins”. A strong branch of SDSN Russia is SDSN Youth Russia, which has managed to penetrate also more remote areas of the country and is growing steadily.

The World Cup
During the preparations for the FIFA 2018 World Cup™, SDSN Russia took part in the creation of the “Ecocity-2018”, a study guide for school children in the competition’s host cities. The program’s objective was to improve children’s knowledge around ecology, technology, opportunities for sustainable urban development, and awareness of environmentally responsible behaviour. For the first time in a mass-education program, the technology of augmented reality was used, reaching more than 11,000 children in eleven World Cup host cities.

Upon completion of the training, all children were invited to submit their projects in the field of environmental protection to their city’s sustainability competitions.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Russia will continue its research activities as spelled out above. The network will also be involved in providing expertise for Government, due to the recently announced Presidential Decree from May 2018 with key priorities and strategic development directions, including environmental issues, SMEs, economic growth, and sustainable cities.

FIND OUT MORE
- Eco-city 2018 – russiancarbon.ru
- Climathon – www.ranepa.ru/eng/sdsn/
- SDSNRussia

The SDGs are important as they provide a very balanced approach to socio-economic development of the country. For many years, Russia’s development model prioritized pure GDP growth, ignoring social and environmental aspects. Now, there are more political and public discussions about building a holistic system of macroeconomic indicators including factors from inequality and ecosystem degradation to climate change and urban development.

Angelina Davydova, Environmental Journalist, University Lecturer, Director of the “Office of Environmental Information”, and UNFCCC observer since 2008.

From 2001 to 2012, Russia gained 16.2Mha of forest cover equal to 20% of global total.

+16.2 Mha
From 2001 to 2012, Russia gained 16.2Mha of forest cover equal to 20% of global total.
Source: Global Forest Watch Russia.

From 2018 to 2025, the government plans to increase Russia’s Federal Protected Areas will by 18%.

+18% 
From 2018 to 2025, the government plans to increase Russia’s Federal Protected Areas will by 18%.
In its seven member countries, SDSN Sahel is working to develop strong ties with academia and government in order to actively participate in the bodies that determine national SDG policies and promote solutions.

**Inaugural Bamby Forum**

Alloune Diop University of Bamby in Senegal (UADB) and SDSN Sahel hosted the inaugural Forum on the SDGs entitled “Promoting Sustainable Development in Senegal” which took place in June 2018. The objective of the forum was to create a framework for exchange, dialogue, and collaboration in order to ensure a common understanding of between sustainable development researchers and academics, and decision makers in Senegal. It is the first and only such academic forum in Senegal and the network hopes it will be an annual event.

**Localizing SDG data**

In Senegal, the network conducted an analysis of data availability for official SDG indicators and the relevance of that data in the national context. A set of some 107 indicators was selected as available and relevant, and time series data are being gathered to provide a more detailed report on SDG progress. This analysis also informed the new local data pilot project, which the network will launch in the Bamby region in partnership with UADB. This project mobilizes students to undertake SDG baseline surveys in collaboration with the National Office of Statistics and the Ministry of Planning.

**Guinea SDG Localization**

In May, the Guinean Minister of Education convened a workshop with some 20 civil society organizations and the heads of 20 universities and research centers to discuss the role of these stakeholders in SDG implementation and to mobilize them for the network. Following this workshop, the government of Guinea reached out to SDSN Sahel to request assistance in an exercise to localize the SDGs.

**Deepening Engagement in Mauritania**

As a side event to the African Union Summit in Nouakchott, the network hosted a workshop to deepen its engagement with members and partners in Mauritania. The event was hosted by the University of Nouakchott and was opened by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. In his speech, the Minister highlighted the opportunity of using students to help implement and monitor certain aspects of SDGs - as is already being implemented in Senegal.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

SDSN Sahel will formally launch the local data action pilot project in the Diourbel region of Senegal, with the objective of scaling to the whole country. Following the government’s request, the network will also support SDG localization in Guinea.
SDSN South Asia

SDSN South Asia was established in 2014 to bring together academic and policy institutions from the region to focus on the SDGs. The SDSN South Asia network currently has 49 members including research institutions, universities, and think tanks. The current focus areas of the members include poverty reduction, food security, energy, education, sustainable consumption and production, health, climate change, urbanisation, pollution (air and water), and building partnerships for achievement of SDGs.

While South Asia is one of the fastest growing regions economically, it faces many challenges. According to the International Monetary Fund, South Asia’s real GDP grew at about 6.9 per cent in 2017 and an even higher 7.3 per cent in 2018. Despite this impressive economic growth, the region still lags on several social and developmental parameters. Based on the 2018 SDG Index report, the seven countries have an average score 58.89 out of 100. The region had one of the lowest per capita incomes at $6054 in 2016, according to the World Bank. Sustainable social and economic progress are priorities as the region advances towards the SDGs.

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) held annually by TERI. The central question of the meeting was “How can South Asia achieve the SDGs?” Participants discussed the various SDG challenges such as the energy transition, waste management, and biodiversity conservation. Health and education are key questions for the region that need to be addressed, even with the geopolitical challenges in the region. The participants at the session agreed that regional cooperation on these issues would be critical for the success of achieving the SDGs in South Asia. It was also pointed out that at the sub-national level in most of the countries, there is significant momentum towards implementing the SDGs. Several participants stressed the need to embed the SDGs in local contexts, and communicate their purpose locally to build regional and ultimately national momentum for the SDGs.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN South Asia plans to conduct an annual regional workshop on the sidelines of WSDS in New Delhi. The regional network also plans to engage further its members through research studies and outreach activities.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
Established in 1974, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a not-for-profit research organisation committed to every aspect of sustainable development and emphasises on finding innovative solutions to pressing issues facing the global community through research and practice. TERI works on a range of issues including energy access, sustainable lifestyles, water resources, biotechnology and agriculture, energy efficiency, and sustainable development of mineral resources, climate change, natural resource conservation, and transport. The institution has been critical in shaping policy in India and its contribution in the international domain has been noteworthy.

FIND OUT MORE
• The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
  www.teriin.org/
  www.facebook.com/TERIIN/
  twitter.com/teriin
  www.linkedin.com/company/teriin/
  www.youtube.com/user/teri

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
following the inauguration of the SDGs, governments, business, and civil society together with the SDSN Southeast Asia have mobilized efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. As the network assessed the seventeen goals, they reflected on how the roots of the local culture and spiritual philosophy has guided the lives of various communities around the world for centuries. One of the most well known such philosophies in this region being the Balinese Philosophy of Tri Hita Karana, the Three Ways to Happiness. 

The Three Ways to Happiness 

The Three Ways to Happiness is the foundation of sustainability. It is a way of thinking that has been adopted by various regions around the world for centuries. These ways are a reflection of the local culture and spiritual philosophy that has guided the lives of various communities around the world. The Three Ways to Happiness are: 

1. Kertha Gosa: The Balinese believe that the local government should be based on the principles of justice, fairness, and integrity. This way of thinking is reflected in the SDGs, where the focus is on promoting peace and justice.
2. Pura Dharma: The Balinese believe in the importance of spiritual practices and the importance of connecting with nature. This way of thinking is reflected in the SDGs, where the focus is on promoting the well-being of people.
3. Bali Mandala: The Balinese believe in the importance of harmony between people, nature, and spirit. This way of thinking is reflected in the SDGs, where the focus is on promoting sustainable development.

The Three Ways to Happiness is an example of how local culture and spiritual philosophy can be used to guide the implementation of the SDGs. It shows that the SDGs can be achieved through the local way of thinking and living.

The SDSN Southeast Asia network, in partnership with Hero X, announced the Island of Happiness Coastal Design Competition in 2017. The competition was launched on 18 September 2017 by the International Chamber of Commerce Secretary General, John Danilovich, and the SDSN Southeast Asia network chair, Cherie Nursalim at the ‘Business for the SDGs’ event at UN Headquarters in New York. In spring 2018 two design winners were announced. The two winning teams are one step closer to realizing their prototype development of an ecological seawall to protect the island from storm surges and sea level rise. Both teams comprise professionals with a passion for environmentally friendly solutions to seawall designs. The competition was designed to spur innovation in the face of the world’s most pressing challenges, in this case sea level rise and climate change.

Looking Ahead 

SDSN Southeast Asia will soon organize a regional Leadership Council that will convene leaders from across the countries of Southeast Asia to provide strategic direction and guidance to the network. It is the hope of the network that by providing a forum for this regional perspective, new partnerships and opportunities will be forged to help realize the SDGs across the regions and not only within national borders.

Moving forward, the network will focus on the concept of Blended Finance and is planning to host a large conference alongside the IMF annual meetings in Bali in October 2018. The conference will have concrete outcomes whereby blended finance models can be applied to practical problems across Indonesia and scaled with the support of the national government and with investments from major international partners.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK 

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

FIND OUT MORE 

• SDG Pyramid – www.sdgpyramid.org 
• United in Diversity – www.unitedindiversity.org

The United in Diversity (UID) Forum 

The United in Diversity (UID) Forum is a non-profit organization established with major international partners. It is the hope of the network that by providing a forum for this regional perspective, new partnerships and opportunities will be forged to help realize the SDGs across the regions and not only within national borders.

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• SDG Pyramid – www.sdgpyramid.org 
• United in Diversity – www.unitedindiversity.org
South Korea

SDSN Networks in Action 2018

54

Sunset in Jeonju, South Korea

Soogil Young, Chairman of the SDSN Korea

by the SDGs.

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participatory, deliberative, bottom-
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balancing of economic, social, and
environmental goals as captured
by the SDGs.

Soogil Young, Chairman of the SDSN Korea

SDSN South Korea

Hosted by the Ojeong Eco-Resilience Institute (OJERI) at Korea University

1 Seoul, Republic of Korea

Influencing National Sustainable Development Policies

Since its founding in October 2013, the network has held thirteen conferences and public seminars, published nine major reports on Korea's green growth experiences, and designed a national deep decarbonization strategy. It has submitted three packages of recommendations to the government: one on how to improve Korea's INDC for deep decarbonization and green growth, 2.0, and also on how to set the framework for implementing the SDGs (to the Park Gue-hye government in 2015 and to the Moon Jae-in government in 2017). These included recommendations on the how to restate the Presidential Committee on Sustainable Development with the existing Committee on Green Growth folded into it. In addition, the network has provided advice on draft reform bills on climate change and energy, green growth, and sustainable development that will be submitted to the National Assembly by the incumbent Democratic Party.

Ojeong Eco-Resilience Institute (OJERI) at Korea University

Understanding ecosystem resilience is a central concept of Korea University's founding philosophy and corresponds with humanity's ideal of improving the quality of life and using a limited amount of natural resources. The university's Ojeong Eco-Resilience Institute through its fundamental and applied research on ecosystem resilience prepared to contribute to the attainment of a sustainable society.

Honorary Chairman: Prof. Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General
Chairman: Prof. Soogil Young, State University of New York (SUNY) Korea
Director: Prof. Woo-Kyun Lee, Korea University

Education for Sustainable Development

On the education front, the State University of New York (SUNY) in Korea, a local network member, has launched courses on sustainable development blended with the SDG Academy Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The KDI School of Public Policy and Management has also produced a MOOC on “The Korean Story – The Lessons of the Economic Miracle for Sustainable Development” to be offered by the SDG Academy in Fall 2018.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Korea has launched several projects in 2018, including an international consortium project on Water-Ecosystems Resilience in the Mid-Latitude Region (MLR). The MLR can be broadly defined as the northern hemisphere from 30° to 60° latitude. Approximately 50% of the world population lives in this region. With the land cover of a number of countries in the region comprised mostly of arid or semi-arid area, the water-food-ecosystem nexus is regarded as highly vulnerable to climate change.

This project will explore this vulnerability and seek to establish a growing consortium of stakeholders across the region. The network’s other projects include a study of local governance architecture for SDG implementation, an SDGs-based study of development challenges for the North Korean Economy, Korea’s new paradigm for development cooperation, harnessing digital technology for disaster resilience, and a multi-stakeholder forum on Korea’s long-term low-emissions development strategy.

FIND OUT MORE
• The World in 2050 Thematic Network – twi2050.org
• Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project – deepdecarbonisation.org

11th
South Korea is the world’s 11th largest economy by nominal GDP and the 12th largest by purchasing power parity (PPP)

2%
The Green Growth Strategy will use nearly 2% of South Korea’s national GDP

5th
South Korea is the world’s 5th largest exporter

Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project –

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Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project –
The SDGs represent a positive version of globalization. They are an essential tool for establishing solidarity at the global level. The inclusive SDG agenda addresses the question of how to achieve global welfare within planetary boundaries, while recognizing the immense interdependence that we have with each other.

Miguel Morallos, Chair of SDSN Spain, and Teresa Ribera, Chair of SDSN Spain Advisory Council.

July 2018
Spain presented its VNR with the contributions of SDSN Spain/REDS

11/17
members in Spain are women, making this context critical in historical record in female representation.

April 2018
The President of the parliament committed to support and foster the implementation of the SDGs in April 2018

SDSN Spain (REDS)

SDSN Spain, also known as REDS (Red Española para el Desarrollo Sostenible), has been actively engaging different levels of government to promote the implementation of the SDGs.

Mobilizing stakeholders through SDG Awareness
The Spanish network works with various levels of government to ensure widespread awareness and action on SDGs organizing, among other events, an Annual Meeting to discuss the progress of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. At the national level, the network has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and is collaborating on the implementation and communication of the SDGs. To this end, the network has participated in meetings with the parliament to raise awareness on the SDGs and discuss recommendations on the role of parliamentary commissions in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The network has actively contributed to the “Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda in Spain”, prepared by the Spanish national government and was presented at the High Level Political Forum 2018 (in the frame of the VNR presentations).

This network has also been working with regional and local governments on different initiative, in particular to localize the 2030 Agenda to the Spanish context. To complement this work, REDS are also working with Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and academic experts to develop strategies for SDG implementation at the cities level. An “Urban SDG Report in 100 Spanish cities” will be presented in 2018, providing a snapshot of SDGs achievement on a city level. This project has been jointly developed with the SDSN Italy and has engaged academia, governments and the private sector.

REDS has also adopted an innovative approach to mobilizing diverse stakeholders and raising awareness of the SDGs by working closely with cultural institutions. The network aims to leverage art and culture as a communication tool for sustainable development and help align these institutions with the SDGs. REDS has already organized two editions of the Seminar on Arts & Sustainable Development in 2017 and 2018.

Education and Sustainable Development
In 2018 the Spanish version of the guide “How to start with the SDGs in universities” was produced in collaboration with various academic members of the REDS network and it’s being widely used as a road map by many Spanish speaking universities. Finally, the network has collaborated in two courses by the SDG Academy, “Sustainable Food Systems: a Mediterranean Perspective” (launched in 2018 by SDSN Med) and “Strategic alliances Perspective” (ongoing), Seminar on Arts & Sustainable Development (January 2019) and the SDGs Breakfasts: mobilizing the private sector around the 2030 Agenda (2018-2019).

LOOKING AHEAD
REDS is currently working on several projects and initiatives that will be carried out in the upcoming months. The following outputs will be released shortly: Urban SDG Report in 100 Spanish cities (October 2018), White Paper on Environmental Education in Spain (November 2018), Working group: Measuring the SDGs in universities (indicators proposal) (ongoing), Seminar on Arts & Sustainable Development (January 2019) and the SDGs

SDG Cities Guide – sdgcities.guide
Breakfasts: mobilizing the private sector around the 2030 Agenda (2018-2019).

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)
The REDS association is hosted in partnership with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). The UAM has earned itself a prestigious reputation as a state-of-the-art public university in view of the high-quality teaching and research activities on offer. Guided by their vocation to serve society, the academic and social values of its centres and services are reflected in their activities which aim to enhance solidarity, cooperation and the overall health of people and the environment.

FIND OUT MORE
• SDG Cities Guide – sdgcities.guide
Citizens voting at the Landsgemeinde Glarus (cantonal assembly), one of the oldest forms of participatory, direct democracy.

Sustainable Development

Michael Gerber, Ambassador and Swiss Special Envoy for Global for a sustainable Switzerland.

More and faster action is needed if we are to reach the SDGs by 2030. I welcome SDSN Switzerland as an important initiative to connect science with policy makers and societal actors, and to shape transformation pathways for a sustainable Switzerland.

Michael Gerber, Ambassador and Swiss Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development

The implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement require all countries to take responsibility for their actions and long-term, global impact. SDSN Switzerland was therefore founded in April 2017 and officially launched in February 2018 to initiate and accompany transformative social, technological, and environmental change towards sustainable development in Switzerland.

Bringing Together Unlikely Allies

As a community, the network creates thinking spaces for various actors - often unlikely allies - to jointly develop and implement transformative solutions in important thematic fields such as sustainable finance systems, governance for sustainable development, and sustainable consumption and production. We also offer evidence-based advice to decision-makers in politics, business, and civil society to fill policy gaps and motivate normative change.

Launching the Network

At the launch conference “Where society, science, and politics create solutions”, which brought together some 250 changemakers, SDSN Switzerland shared some innovative social methodologies, such as “collective story harvesting”. With the objective to build trust and unfold the dance between science, policy, society, and the economy, the network used humanity’s oldest knowledge management technique: storytelling. The breakout sessions kicked off with personal stories from eminent experts. From there, randomly mixed groups drew learnings and insights in order to converge them into transdisciplinary actions. The participants also received inspiration from top scientists and explorers such as Jacques Dubochet, Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry, who stressed the need for scientists to “come out of their ivory towers and tackle the challenges of our times” and Bertrand Piccard, who motivated the audience by making reference to his flight around the world without using a single drop of fuel “We must demonstrate that solutions already exist that are better than the status quo.”

Reaching Milestones

During the consultation process of Switzerland’s voluntary national report to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018, SDSN Switzerland provided directions for action in its discussion paper “Switzerland and the Agenda 2030.” Recommendations included among others: Strengthen the institutional setup for sustainability governance at the federal level; identify synergies (co-benefits) and conflicts of interest (trade-offs) to design better policies that foster sustainable development; exploit the potential of the Swiss financial centre and to better align financial flows with sustainable development.

LOOKING AHEAD

At the political level, SDSN Switzerland will offer its advice on the formulation of several key policies for sustainable development, such as the Sustainable Development Strategy 2020-2023, the Dispatch on International Cooperation (2021-2024) and the Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (2021-2024). In parallel, the network will continue bringing together representatives from different stakeholder communities to work on concrete solutions, including a social lab called “beyond waste - a circular resources lab.”

FIND OUT MORE

• Discussion Paper “Switzerland and the Agenda 2030” – www.sdsn.ch/resources
• Video and photos from the Launch Conference – www.sdsn.ch/launch-photos
• Sign up for the bi-monthly newsletter – www.sdsn.ch/contact

sdnswitzerland
SDSN Turkey aims to work with all levels of Turkish society to build local capacity around the SDGs through raising awareness and engaging stakeholders in Turkey and beyond.

SDG Hub
In the first half of 2018, SDSN Turkey continued its activities to raise awareness of the SDGs through the development of an SDG Hub. The Hub, supported by the United Nations, is a collaborative initiative hosted at Boğaziçi University with a view to bring together private sector actors and NGOs in Turkey to discuss the SDGs.

SDGs in Cities
The network has initiated an intensive exchange about the localization of SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities at the municipality level alongside the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (MoEU), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Through this collaboration, SDSN Turkey launched a climate change action plan for Istanbul-Beyoğlu Municipality in collaboration with the Regional Environment Center (REC) Turkey.

Education for Sustainable Development
The network continues to present SDG Academy courses to companies, institutions, and governmental organizations, such as the Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. To further this work the network has also organized workshops in four universities on how they could better integrate the SDGs into their curriculum and policies. These workshops, as well as a series of seminars on the 2018 SDG Index and Dashboards, are scheduled for the second half of 2018.

Mitigating Plastic Pollution
On March 23, 2018, the network organized a workshop entitled "Plastic: The Material that Binds our Planet" with the founder of the Ocean Recovery Alliance, Dr. Doug Woodring. Following the workshop, on June 8, 2018, SDSN Turkey organized a conference "All in Action for a Sustainable Plastic Industry" with the participation of the central government, municipalities, private sector, NGOs, and academia. There, all the stakeholders had the opportunity to collectively explore how to bring about positive change and laid the foundations for open platforms to enhance the reduction and reuse of plastic.

SDSN Turkey and SDSN Youth
On May 20, 2018, the network supported the SDSN Turkey Youth Program at the Boğaziçi Sustainability Festival, the first of its kind. The Turkish Youth Team hosted university and highschool students from all over Turkey to raise awareness on various SDG themes relating to Health (SDG 3), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Sustainable Consumption and Waste Management (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), and how to motivate young students to contribute to the 2030 Agenda through innovative solutions.

LOOKING AHEAD
The network will continue its plastic initiative with technical meetings and workshops. It aims to establish a P-platform where plastic producers, users, and consumers can openly discuss and form policies concerning the responsible use of plastic. Additionally, SDSN Turkey plans to organize an SDG Art Day on October 18, 2018, to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of SDSN Turkey in collaboration with UNDP Turkey during the Social Good Summit. In the pipeline for the second half of 2018 is the launch of an SDSN Turkey SDG Festival which aims to highlight and reward best SDG related projects in Turkey.

BOG˘AZIÇI UNIVERSITY
Bogaziçi University is a leading institution of higher education and research, one that shapes the future through being a pioneer in education, teaching, and research. Founded in 1863, its education vision with innovative and creative approaches perfectly fits with 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
Our Thematic Networks

SDSN’s Thematic Networks support SDG advocacy and implementation in key areas. Each network has one or more institutional hosts and a roster of expert members from around the world. Thematic Networks act as knowledge hubs, sharing new developments in research, policy, and program development, as well as educational materials, including through the SDG Academy. They also support the National and Regional SDSNs on advocacy for the SDGs and operationalizing the goals in each country. SDSN currently has a dozen Thematic Networks across the full range of sustainable development areas. Four are featured in this report as they exemplify how Thematic Networks can collaborate with National and Regional SDSNs.

Upcoming Networks

Bolivia
The Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB) is one of the top universities in Bolivia and Latin America. According to América Economía, it is one of the 23 best business schools in Latin America and the only Bolivian university that enters this prestigious ranking. Fundación SOLYDES is a foundation established in 1987 to fight poverty in Bolivia by supporting innovative initiatives. These two institutions have been recently approved by the Executive Council of SDSN to host the SDSN Bolivia. Its launch has been planned for September 2018.

Colombia
In March 2018, SDSN joined Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia to announce the launch of the SDG Center for Latin America and the Caribbean. The first of its kind in Latin America, the center will focus on the most pressing sustainable development challenges of the region and their diverse social, economic, environmental, political, and cultural dimensions. Guided by a board and an academic advisory council, the Center will be a regional hub for SDG-related research programs, professional training, and public policy advising. It will also host a national SDSN Colombia network, focusing explicitly on mobilizing the academic community in Colombia to support the commitments of the Government of Colombia, an early and proud adopter of the SDGs. With support from the Inter-American Development Bank and many others, the Center and Network will be officially operational and begin their ambitious work program in Fall 2018.

Mexico
The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) is the main higher education institution in Mexico with a total of almost 350,000 students and over 40,000 scholars. It provides 122 bachelor’s degree careers with 216 field-stage options and has 41 postgraduate study programs with 92 different curricula, translating into approximately 60,000 yearly graduates at the high school, bachelor’s, and postgraduate level. Tecnológico de Monterrey is a private, non-profit, independent institution with no political and religious affiliations. It was the first university to be connected to the Internet in Latin America, has a top ranked business school, and leads in patent applications among Mexican universities. It has 36 campuses in Mexico, enrolls almost 90,000 students, and has 10,000 faculty.

These two institutions will be hosting the SDSN Mexico, to be launched early 2019.

The following Networks are in formation: France, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and the United States of America.
Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources

Hosted by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)
> New York, USA

Extractive industry and land investments contribute to many states’ economies, but also often burden the environments and communities near project sites. The SDSN Thematic Network on the Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources looks at how to improve resource use, including land, for sustainable development.

As stewards of their resources, governments have a responsibility to effectively manage and regulate extractive and land investments, and to leverage natural resources into sustained prosperity for both current and future generations. This includes providing for the good governance of land and ensuring security of tenure. Similarly, companies have a responsibility to ensure individual and, where applicable, community rights are respected and should comply with high international standards on environmental, social, and human rights.

This network works with National and Regional SDSN Networks to promote good governance worldwide, with an emphasis on transparent and participatory practices. It comprises an expanded network of experts and practitioners focused on this cross-cutting area, including experts from SDSN’s National and Regional networks. The group has published numerous reports and policy briefs, organized workshops and events, and developed a MOOC on natural resource governance.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network is currently working on a report to map the many ways that renewable energy can affect the SDGs, both positively and negatively. It aims to help companies maximize positive impacts, such as addressing climate change and ensuring all people have access to modern energy services, while reducing or eliminating negative impacts, such as the displacement of communities. The report will be released for public consultation in September 2018, and a final version will be published in early 2019.

**FIND OUT MORE**

- Natural Resources for Sustainable Development – courses.sdgsacademy.org
- Blog Series: Global and Local Perspectives on land and the SDGs – landportal.org

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Hosted by Wageningen University and Research
> Wageningen, The Netherlands

The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Thematic Network believes that achieving SDG 2 by 2030 is within reach. Achieving this SDG means that everyone can enjoy a healthy diet that is produced by a productive and sustainable agricultural sector. Currently, however, 815 million people are undernourished, another 1 billion people lack key micronutrients like iron and vitamin A in their diets, and 2 billion adults are obese or overweight. In most parts of the world, agricultural systems are unsustainable, placing undue stress on water and soil resources, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, and overusing chemicals. Moreover, demand for food will greatly increase in the coming decades due to rising incomes and population. At the same time, farmers struggle to make a living from farming due to depressed prices. To meet these challenges and achieve SDG 2, transformational changes in agriculture and food systems are needed. Such changes need to overcome the distance between global goals and local contexts on the one hand, and between food production and consumption on the other – which we frame as the “Missing Middle(s)” in SDG 2.

This network works with the National and Regional SDSN Networks to promote transformational changes worldwide, including around promotion of the Massive, Open Online Course (MOOC) Feeding a Hungry Planet and an upcoming conference on fall armyworm (FAW).

The network is working on a research project in Tanzania and Vietnam. Both countries have policy frameworks in place that address agriculture and nutrition, but need support in local-level implementation to achieve SDG 2 and related goals. Tanzania’s main challenge will be to address low agricultural productivity and high rates of undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency, and stunting, while Vietnam faces issues of food safety and environmental degradation from inappropriate use of pesticides and fertilizers.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

In October 2018, the network will host a no-carbon e-conference on responding to fall armyworm (FAW) in Africa. FAW is a maize pest introduced to the continent from North America, with significant detrimental effects for smallholder farmers, both from dramatic declines in yields as well as negative health impacts from improper pesticide responses. The five-day, online conference will explore monitoring systems for FAW, effects of pesticide responses, alternatives to pesticides such as integrated pest management (IPM), and the roles of different stakeholders in addressing this pest. The Network is coordinating with the Nigeria and the Great Lakes SDSNs, some of the most affected regions, to promote this e-conference.

**FIND OUT MORE**

- Feeding a Hungry Planet: Agriculture, Nutrition and Sustainability – courses.sdgsacademy.org
- Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (2013) – unsdsn.org
- Processing Grain
- Smallholder Livestock Producer in Dryland Ecosystem
Sustainable Cities: Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected

Hosted by the the SDSN Secretariat with support from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements

Urbanization is a defining development trend and the dynamism of cities represent a major sustainable development opportunity. Today, 55% of the world’s 7.6 billion people live in cities, and by 2050, this will rise to 70 percent. Roughly 75 percent of global economic activity occurs in urban areas. At the same time, cities are home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation with one billion people living in slums.

The SDSN Cities Network aims to support the global urban community with knowledge creation, education, and action, and maximize support to the implementation of the SDGs within urban environments. It has at its core a network of 125 universities and knowledge institutions across multiple geographies and themes, with specialist expertise in urban sustainable development, policy and planning. To this are added representatives of key institutional groups that have an urban focus or interest: UN agencies, urban movements, scientific and social science networks from across the global north and south.

The network has developed tools such as the urban SDG Handbook, briefs and educational curricula on financing for sustainable urban development, and manuals concerning the collection of sustainable development data. In cooperation with SDSN’s national and regional networks in key cities worldwide, including in Brazil and the United States, the network runs pilot projects and builds on ongoing work under the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI).

Looking Ahead

The network’s ambition is to grow the pool of researchers and practitioners around the world to create a global network of sustainable urban development researchers who can translate SDG-related research and science into policy-relevant tools, using a wide variety of media. This includes peer-reviewed literature as well as wider and more participative forms of engagement like MOOCs and webinars. The Cities Network is also running a collaborative project with SDSN TReNDS and a range of national and regional networks (such as SDSN Sahel and the forthcoming SDSN Colombia) to better understand how local data is driving action on the SDGs.

Find Out More

• Local Data Action Solutions Initiative – unsdsn.org
• SDSG Academy online course on Sustainable Cities – unsdsn.org
• Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities – unsdsn.org
• Leaving No U.S. City Behind: The 2018 U.S. Cities SDG Index – unsdsn.org

Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS)

Hosted by the SDSN Secretariat

New York, USA

T he data revolution is transforming the way governments, citizens, and companies do business. The revolution is defined by the explosion in availability of data resources and rapidly evolving technologies, which are changing the way we collect, process, and disseminate data. The creation and implementation of the SDGs offers a unique opportunity to ensure that the benefits of the data revolution are extended to those most in need, and that it becomes a true data revolution for sustainable development.

SDSN’s Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS) convenes cross-sector technical and policy knowledge from across the global scientific, development, public and private sector data communities. Its members are leaders whose expertise spans the spectrum of global and national data policies, standards, and processes that guide data production, access, and use. TReNDS also provides members with unique peer group exchange at the highest level. TReNDS operates independently from, but in concert with, the formal UN system and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD). SDSN TReNDS catalyzes learning and investment in the data revolution for development. Specifically, we aim to:

• Help Strengthen the Data Ecosystem: Generate and curate ideas on how to strengthen local, national & global statistical systems and governance to harness the data revolution to achieve the SDGs. TReNDS engages directly with SDSN’s regional and national networks to source and disseminate ideas and innovations supported by TReNDS. For example, the SDSN Sahel network has worked closely with the TReNDS-supported Open Algorithms Project and sits on its Development and Ethics Advisory Board.
• Improve Learning on Data Sharing: Incubate technical coalitions to establish practice standards for new data approaches being pursued by a wide range of stakeholders. See for example the POPGRID initiative which aims to establish standards for high-resolution population estimation. We also analyze policies, conditions and investments that enable data sharing success, to generate more frequent and disaggregated data. See for example our project on data reconciliation in Colombia.
• Inform Investment in the Emerging Data Opportunities: Support policy-relevant research for advocacy, for example by estimating the scale of investment required to establish robust data systems for SDG monitoring, and case studies on the return on investment from funding data collection initiatives. We are excited to announce we will be re-launching our Counting on the World Report with new content and key informant interviews. We have established five new city-level partnerships to better understand and document how local actors are monitoring the SDGs.

Looking Ahead

In 2018-19 TReNDS will continue to deepen our research on global and local data governance, and we are excited to announce we will be re-launching our Counting on the World Report with new content and key informant interviews. We have established five new city-level partnerships to better understand and document how local actors are monitoring the SDGs.

Find Out More

• Open Algorithms – www.openproject.org
• Local Data Action – unsdsn.org
• Counting on the World – unsdsn.org
• POPGRID initiative – sites.google.com
• Data reconciliation in Colombia – unsdsn.org
• Robust data systems for SDG monitoring – unsdsn.org
• GPSDD – www.data4sdgs.org
Unique Opportunities for our Networks
SDSN’s Youth Network

SDSN Youth is the global youth program of the SDSN, and works to empower young people globally to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth is a network of 500+ member organizations from more than 70 countries, which was launched in 2015 to empower youth globally to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth has more than 140 core team members (staff, volunteers, and interns) working in more than 30 different countries across 20 regional/national networks. In addition to regional/national projects, SDSN Youth team also leads global initiatives and programs including the Local Pathways Fellowship, the Youth Solutions Report, the Global Schools Program, Arts Twenty Thirty, Youth, Peace & Security, the #KnowYourGoals campaign and other projects.

Membership in SDSN Youth is free and open to student associations, youth-led, and youth-focused organizations and other institutions dedicated to youth empowerment and the implementation of the SDGs. Member Organizations should have expertise or be active in one or more areas related to sustainable development and commit a substantial amount of their own work towards finding and/or implementing solutions for sustainable development. Additionally, SDSN Youth's SDG Students Program aims to ensure all students at SDSN Member Universities and Institutions are aware of the SDGs, understand their importance to the wider community and have opportunities to take action towards their implementation during their studies, and after they graduate.

To support this mandate, SDSN Youth annually recruits ‘SDG Coordinators’ who are representatives of SDSN Youth at their university and will work to implement the SDGs in the university operations, culture, and aspects of learning & teaching. Additionally, the network regularly puts out calls for talented and motivated students at member universities between the ages of 18-30 with an interest and drive for sustainable development to join the SDSN Youth community.

Visit the SDSN Youth website to become a member of SDSN Youth network or to join the team.

FIND OUT MORE

- 500+ member organisations - sdsnyouth.org
- Local Pathways Fellowship - www.localpathways.org
- Youth Solutions Report - www.youthsolutions.report
- Global Schools Program - www.globalschools.info
- Arts Twenty Thirty - www.twenty-thirty.org
- Youth, Peace & Security - sdsnyouth.org/peace-security
- Global Schools Program - www.globalschools.info

Participation in Global Initiatives

To advance global processes on the Sustainable Development Goals, SDSN facilitates member and network engagement in global initiatives which touch on important themes relating to fulfillment of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. Below we highlight several initiatives, organized by SDSN and by other institutions which help advance global policy work in these areas:

Partners for Review (P4R)

Partners for Review (P4R) is a transnational multi-stakeholder network for government representatives and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, and academia involved in the national SDG review processes.

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SDSN Mobilize is our exclusive internal communications platform for all 800+ SDSN Member organizations around the world. Our aim is to help turn thoughts into action, provide inspiration, and facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise within our global network of problem solvers. The platform facilitates a direct line of communication between members, both geographic and thematic networks, and the Secretariat.

As part of the SDSN’s online community, our members can identify and connect with peers, increase the outreach of their projects and activities, position their organization as leader in their field, find new prospects for collaboration, and ask questions and draw upon the ever-growing community’s expertise.

Through a comprehensive compilation of weekly funding opportunities in sustainable development, we also help our members apply for grants, participate in conferences, find fellowships, publish their research, and much more.

SDSN Mobilize invites all faculty and researchers at SDSN member institutions to join and actively participate.

Network Manager Training

The SDSN Secretariat hosts regular in-person training programs and workshops for SDSN Network managers. The first workshop was held in Paris in 2015 and since then, thanks to the generous support of GIZ, has been held around the SDSN’s biannual Leadership Council meetings. The Secretariat will be hosting the 6th edition of the training workshop in September 2018. The agenda usually spans one to five days and covers a wide array of important themes, identified by both the Secretariat and managers themselves. The trainings offer an opportunity for SDSN Network managers and Secretariat members alike to present initiatives, and share lessons learned and knowledge regarding managing their individual networks and projects. To date, the workshops have trained up to 30 different managers covering a range of topics including SDSN member engagement, fundraising, developing solution initiatives, community management and much more. In addition to building capacity and developing skills amongst the diverse global team, these workshops also help facilitate discussions and build rapport between networks.

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Join the SDSN!

By becoming a member of the SDSN, your institution will join a unique network of problem solvers and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development. Our members work together to implement solutions in their fields of interest.

Membership in the SDSN is free and open to universities, research institutions, foundations, civil society, and other organizations. Membership institutions should have deep expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development and commit a substantial amount of their own work towards finding and/or implementing solutions for sustainable development.

Applying for SDSN membership is simple – the online membership application form is available on our website: unsdsn.org/join. The form is available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION!

Jeffrey Sachs at the Ambassador’s Event hosted by SDSN in New York, September 2017

Public event at the Stockholm School of Economics

Albania
  - Kajiqi FJANA
Argentina
  - Instituto para la Participación y el Desarrollo
  - The Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACERC)
Aruba
  - America Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF)
Australia
  - Australian National University
  - Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council
  - Carribean Urban and Regional Development
  - Centre for Risk and Sustainability Studies
  - Our World in Data
  - Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSPI)
  - Deakin University
  - Global Idea
  - Jiangsu Crux University
  - Monash University
  - Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
  - The Butler Institute for Education, Training and Society
  - The University of Adelaide
  - The University of Sydney
  - University of Melbourne
  - University of Queensland
  - Business School New York University
  - University of Western Australia
  - Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor
  - Monash University
  - Western Sydney University

Austria
  - Global Forum on Sustainable Energy
  - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
  - Montanuniversität Leoben

Azerbaijan
  - Baku University
  - Western University

Bangladesh
  - AID Organization
  - Bangladesh NGOs network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
  - BRAC Development Institute (BDI)
  - BRAC University
  - Center for Human Development
  - Centre for Risky Dialogue (CRD)
  - DNet
  - GreenTech Foundation-Bangladesh
  - SEARAC-Bangladesh
  - The Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance (IPAG)

Belgium
  - Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences

Belize
  - Belize Association of Planners

Benin
  - Laboratory of Public Economics, University of Abomey-Calavi
  - Université de Abomey-Calavi (UAC)

Bhutan
  - Bhutan Institute of Himalayan Studies
  - Royal University of Bhutan

Bolivia
  - Center for human development and employability

Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - University of Banja Luka Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development

Botswana
  - University of Botswana

Brazil
  - Amazon Regional Network
  - Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FIOAM)
  - Instituto Brasileiro de Arquitetos e Paisagistas – ABIAP
  - Beija Verde do Rio de Janeiro
  - BVI
  - Brazilian Cyclists’ Union
  - Casa Pitumirim
  - Casal-UFRGS (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul)
  - CEDOJ Brazil – Brazilian Business Council on Sustainable Development
  - Centro de Estudos em Sustentabilidade (Cecos) da Escola de Agropecuária de Gramado
  - CERES da FGV-EAESP

Bulgaria, Croatia
  - Maria Foma

Burkina Faso
  - Université de Ouagadougou

Cambodia
  - University of Cambodia

Canada
  - Axial Centre
  - Brock University
  - Canada Council of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health
  - Department of Community Development, Acadia University
  - Environmental Sustainability Research Centre
  - Greenpeace (GfP), Paul’s University College
  - Hellon Centre
  - Littoral et vie Research Group
  - Simon Fraser University, Centre for Sustainable Community Development
  - St. Jerome’s University
  - Université Laval, Quebec
  - University of Calgary

Chile
  - Centre on Public Policy Analysis, Institute on Public Affairs, University of Chile
  - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (CLARES UC)

China
  - Institute for Sustainable Development Goals, Tsinghua University (TUSDG)
  - Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI), Chinese Academy of Sciences
  - School of Geographic Science, East China Normal University
  - Shanghai Institute for National Economy (SINE)

Colombia
  - Amazon Research Institute of Colombia
  - Asociacion Colombiana de Desarrollo Sostenible y Ecologia Industrial (ACOIDEI)
  - Centre for Research on Sustainable Agriculture (CIRSA)
  - Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Agricultura Familiar (CEDESARF)

Costa Rica
  - Asociación para la Investigación Científica de Costa Rica

Cote d’Ivoire
  - Université des Sciences et Technologies de L’Ouest

Croatia
  - Centre for policy Development
  - Centre for Responsible Citizenship

Cuba
  - Centro de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales de Cuba (CIÉSCA)

Cyprus
  - European University of Cyprus

Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Centre for International Development, University of Copenhagen

Denmark
  - Aalborg University
  - Danida

Dominican Republic
  - Centro Cultural de la Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo (CCUASD)

Ecuador
  - Centro para la Innovación y el Desarrollo de la Agricultura y la Pescadería (CIADAP)

Egypt
  - Tanta University

El Salvador
  - Universidad de El Salvador

Equatorial Guinea
  - Universidad de Las Lomas

Ethiopia
  - Addis Ababa University

Europe
  - Centre for International Development, University of Copenhagen

Estonia
  - Tampere University

Fiji
  - University of the South Pacific (USP)

Finland
  - University of Helsinki

France
  - Université de Montpellier

Gabon
  - Université de Gabon

Ghana
  - University of Cape Coast

Germany
  - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)
  - Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ)

Ghana
  - University of Cape Coast

Guyana
  - University of Guyana

Haiti
  - Haïti

Honduras
  - Instituto de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas (IICyT)

Hungary
  - University of Szeged

Iceland
  - Landmál

India
  - Assembly of Collaborators
  - Centre for Action Research and Learning (CARNET)
  - Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT)
  - Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT)

Indonesia
  - Universitas Gajah Mada

Iran
  - Isfahan University of Technology

Ireland
  - University College Dublin

Italy
  - Azuni

Japan
  - University of Tokyo

Jordan
  - Jordan University of Science and Technology

Kenya
  - University of Nairobi

Korea
  - KDI School of Public Policy and Management

Kyrgyz Republic
  - The Higher Academy of Kyrgyzstan (SHAK)

Laos
  - University ofor the Peoples of Lao PDR

Lebanon
  - American University of Beirut

Lesotho
  - National University of Lesotho

Liberia
  - University of Liberia

Libya
  - Libia

Lithuania
  - Vilnius University

Madagascar
  - University of Antananarivo

Malaysia
  - Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

Mexico
  - Universidad de Guadalajara

Moldova
  - University of Chisinau

Monaco
  - Monacan University

Montenegro
  - University of Montenegro

Mozambique
  - Universidade de Moçambique

Namibia
  - University of Namibia

Nepal
  - Kathmandu University

Netherlands
  - Wageningen University

New Zealand
  - University of Canterbury

Nicaragua
  - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN)-Managua

Nigeria
  - University of Nigeria

Netherlands
  - Wageningen University

Norway
  - Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Oman
  - Sultan Qaboos University

Pakistan
  - University of Karachi

Paraguay
  - Universidad Autonoma de Asuncion

Peru
  - Universidad de San Martín de Porres

Philippines
  - University of the Philippines

Poland
  - University of Warsaw

Portugal
  - Universidade de Coimbra

Qatar
  - Georgetown University Qatar

Romania
  - Universitatea “Politehnica” din Bucuresti

Russia
  - National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE)

Rwanda
  - National University of Rwanda

Singapore
  - National University of Singapore

Slovakia
  - Comenius University

Slovenia
  - University of Ljubljana

Somalia
  - University of Moruga

South Africa
  - University of the Western Cape

South Korea
  - Seoul National University

Spain
  - University of Valencia

Sweden
  - KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Switzerland
  - ETH Zurich

Tanzania
  - University of Dar Es Salaam

Thailand
  - Chulalongkorn University

Togo
  - University of Lomé

Tunisia
  - University of Sfax

Turkey
  - Middle East Technical University

Uganda
  - Makerere University

Ukraine
  - National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

United Arab Emirates
  - United Arab Emirates University

United Kingdom
  - University of Cambridge

United Kingdom
  - University of Oxford

United States
  - New York University

Uruguay
  - Universidad del Cerro

Uzbekistan
  - National University of Uzbekistan

Vietnam
  - Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology

Yemen
  - University of Sanaa

Zambia
  - University of Zambia

Zimbabwe
  - University of Zimbabwe

SDSN Member Organizations

Arima J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, during launch of Publication of the Compendium: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Least Developed Countries. 6 June 2018

For more information, visit unsdsn.org.