SDSN NETWORKS IN ACTION 2020
Introduction to the SDSN’s Networks Program

In 2015, 193 countries adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, for people and the planet. The transformation that is needed to make this vision a reality is massive in scale and scope. Universities are well-positioned to support this transition. They develop new technologies, business models, and governance frameworks; train future leaders to be global, innovative and effective; and have a proven track record working with diverse stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes the world’s academic and research institutes and leverages their strengths to help realize the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. It has operated under the auspices of the UN Secretary General since 2012. The SDSN pursues its mission by working with over 3,300 member institutions in 150 countries, organized into 34 networks at the national and regional level. This expertise is channeled into multistakeholder events, pilot projects and SDG implementation in the field, and reports, including the Sustainable Development Report and the World Happiness Report, which have been downloaded millions of times.

In their respective countries and regions, SDSN Networks of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focus on:

- Localizing and mobilizing support for the SDGs, including supporting government in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Facilitating and launching solutions initiatives, including supporting the preparation of long-term pathways.

This report presents our unique global network of problem solvers and their contributions to addressing the world’s most pressing problems.
SDSN Networks work together to respond to COVID-19 and achieve the SDGs

2020 has been a challenging year for humanity. Climate change continues to threaten human and natural systems, with near-record heat and drought on record. Many African countries have seen a decrease in desert locusts, thanks to improved agricultural practices. The coronavirus has affected the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers. Australia has seen a record-breaking bushfire season and all of this has been completely eclipsed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest global threat to human well-being since World War II.

It is hard to exaggerate the devastation wrought by the new coronavirus. At the time of writing, over 20 million people have been confirmed to have been infected, and over 800,000 have died. Health systems and health workers have been put in extreme situations, as have the many millions of others who have been out of work or left unemployed. It is impossible to predict the many lasting and deep ways this crisis will transform our society, but we remain hopeful.

This pandemic is a multidimensional health and humanitarian crisis, and solving it requires contributions from all areas of science. Saving lives is the immediate objective, but in the long term, addressing this crisis requires the strengthening of health systems, ensuring universal access to care, developing therapeutics in record time, and ensuring no one is left behind with regard to a vaccine. Networks like the SDSN are critical in the response. They facilitate the formation of research collectives, share best practices across scientific disciplines and political horizons, and are efficient at distributing accurate and timely information. The key challenges of 2020 are not collective, but are, instead, embedded in a broader set of social, economic, and political contexts. The only path to effective solutions is collaborative, and depends on networks such as the SDSN.

In the last century, the world has suffered from and in turn suffered many public health problems: the number of people affected by smallpox, measles, polio, and yellow fever has fallen dramatically. Solving these challenges was a test of major investments in the science, and the advancements made have had many additional benefits for human well-being. Development has always raised environmental and social issues, including the emergence of disease. Public health institutions respond by making scientific breakthroughs. Today science and technology institutes and public policy makers face a great challenge, but also an opportunity to strengthen health systems with strong foundations in primary care and expand access. We also have an opportunity as we improve care, to reduce historical inequalities in the health system. Now more than ever, networks of scientists and public health practitioners like the UN SDSN are building on a powerful tradition of strong response during crises.

At present, there is a global mobilization of national investments in health for development, innovation, and production. The World Health Organization (WHO) is making an important effort to ensure access to new vaccines and medical devices. However, there remain important gaps and several countries have released reports of medical equipment and supplies, expecting the world's ability to procure essential goods. Just ten countries account for 60% of the world's health expenditures, showing great inequities in innovation, which makes universal access to health globally unfeasible. This situation needs to be addressed, as local production and innovation must be scaled up globally, and the existing social contract between governments and patient users reconsidered in order to protect human well-being. Innovative forms of global health governance, such as the ACT-Accelerator for the Development and Distribution of Vaccines, diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, are key to this rapidly changing landscape.

The social sciences are also vital in health emergencies, particularly in understanding the circulation of a virus and its impacts on society. The social sciences also make important contributions to understanding how we perceive risk and its effects on public policies. Social sciences are needed to look at what measures and communication tools can change behavior and reduce inequalities. There is a very important social dimension to disease; everyone can catch the disease, but at the same time, there are different risk factors that align to unequal social relationships and power structures. The SARS-CoV-2 was first reported in Wuhan, China. The solidarity of the global scientific community is essential in the response. WHO's Global Research and Innovation Forum, towards a research roadmap for the COVID-19 response, is a critical input, and WHO is also leading an international clinical trial on treatments, with input from a number of top-tier institutions.

The SDG Network for All has been a key player in this, hosting several webinars on COVID-19, as have many of the SDSN's other networks, organizing local efforts to address their distinct regional or national contexts. This diversity of institutions, which together constitute the SDG Network for All, is also global leaders in the response. The Nefbelie, a network of health scientists, has led a number of initiatives, including a collaboration to identify and track COVID-19 cases across Latin America. The COVAX Facility has contributed to global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The SDG Network for All has been a key player in this, hosting several webinars on COVID-19, as have many of the SDSN's other networks, organizing local efforts to address their distinct regional or national contexts. This diversity of institutions, which together constitute the SDG Network for All, is also global leaders in the response. The Nefbelie, a network of health scientists, has led a number of initiatives, including a collaboration to identify and track COVID-19 cases across Latin America. The COVAX Facility has contributed to global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.
dissevering and coordinating the WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial in Brazil. The laboratory for Respiratory Viruses and Measles at Oswaldo Cruz Institute has been nominated a reference laboratory for COVID-19 in the Americas and participates in the WHO network of laboratory specialises in COVID-19. In addition, it is testing the Latin American and Caribbean countries’ networks of national public health institutes, establishing joint research projects, training staff, and supporting research in partner countries. Brazil is also supporting the Brazilian Safety System of Health (SIH) in their response, and monitoring and distributing more than 60 million diagnostic kits for testing, clinical attention, social support, and epidemiological information.

Benedicto Jardim, the head of the Department of Health Foundation of India, PRI, was appointed to India’s National Technical Taskforce on COVID-19 and has been supporting the response there at both the state and national level. PRI’s health technology division developed a digital solution to help community health workers identify people at increased risk of contracting COVID-19, based on travel history, contact history, and symptoms and also led the way on training health workers to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19, offer diagnosis, and test cases.

With Spain critically affected by COVID-19, the Raji Balse Institute for Global Health (IIGS) is providing critical support locally in Barceloña, to the Spanish government at the national level, and to European collaboration. Critical contributions include a number of white papers on strategies for progressively lowering COVID-19 containment measures, and IIGS’s partnership with over 70 institutions in the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition. The institute is also leading important epidemiological studies in various locations, while developing major policy transformation and innovative solutions through the direct leadership of the Chief Executive Officer to address the pandemic crisis and the future of health care.

We have seen how marginalized people, always the most vulnerable in any crisis, have been disproportionately affected. Social isolation and lockdowns have affected the poor, particularly those living in slums, who have little or no access to medical care. In many countries, the pandemic has brought this to the forefront, especially for low-income countries and the public.

In China, Dr. Gordon Liu was the only economist selected to serve on the China National Expert Panel for COVID-19. He has been advocating globally for increasing testing and access to medical treatments, which can be more cost-effective than diagnosing infections and control testing. Antibody testing would allow us to identify the healthy and return them to work so that the economy can function while preventing future waves. An alternative to this would be to target high-risk groups for testing, tracing, and isolation, letting the majority of the population at low risk to continue normal social and economic activities.

While the COVID-19 crisis has shown, in dramatic fashion, the many weaknesses of our global health system, even in well-equipped countries, it has also demonstrated clearly the interlinkages between health and many other social, economic, and environmental issues. Academia has long recognized these connections, but the pandemic has brought this to the forefront for both policymakers and the public.

In recent years, a number of issues have caused an increase in the number of uninsured people globally, and the current crisis threatens to pull us further backward. However, this is an opportunity, for we can learn valuable lessons and take concrete steps to prevent a more severe coronavirus pandemic in the future.

We have seen dramatic impacts to the education sector as well. All levels, from early childhood through tertiary education, have been hit hard. However, some countries have been successful in adapting to the crisis, while continuing to provide services like school meals and health care to students. However, these gains have been unequal and many students are out of school, particularly in lower-income countries, who have not been given meaningful opportunities to continue learning. Achieving the SDGs means all students, at all levels, receive a quality education. But realizing this goal means success must be scaled up rapidly, and interventions undertaken to ensure the most vulnerable students, without access to the internet, do not fall behind.

Inequalities in access to infrastructure have also made it difficult for students to use the network environment. It is important to consider SDG 4, which seeks to reduce inequalities, in taking out our response, from both a health and an economic perspective, to ensure no one is left behind.

Despite global trade and supply chains have not yet been fully interrupted, but already we are seeing effects on certain commodities, particularly in the food and agriculture sector. In recent years, a number of issues have caused an increase in the number of uninsured people globally, and the current crisis threatens to pull us further backward. However, this is an opportunity, for we can learn valuable lessons and take concrete steps to prevent a more severe coronavirus pandemic in the future.
Our National and Regional Networks

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

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Source: UNAIDS
SDSN Afghanistan

SDSN Afghanistan launched in August 2019 as a platform for university, business, government, and civil society organizations to promote evidence-based solutions to help achieve the SDGs in the country. The network is set out to act on three long-term objectives: Awareness and Engagement, Track Afghanistan, and Solutions for Sustainable Development.

Awareness and Engagement

By using platforms such as research journals and community-based campaigns, SDSN Afghanistan will raise SDG awareness in different sectors. An SDG Steering Committee and sectoral SDG dialogues are planned to accelerate their implementation in the country. The network will also translate SDG-related documents into local languages to enhance their understanding within society. In this context, Kekel University organized the firstever conference on the role of universities in achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan in August 2019.

Kekel University

Kekel University, a private, private university, is currently the only secular university under the Afghan National Accreditation Board. It has very few students currently residing in the field. At Kekel University, Master’s in Islamic Studies is a specialized program. Kekel University is an official university and its students are members of the professional community. Kekel University is a two-year institution and its students are members of the professional community. Kekel University is an official university and its students are members of the professional community.

SDSN Afghanistan also participated in the UNSC’s online Webinar on Happiness and Sustainability held in April 2021, with a discussion on the topic “Afghanistan Peace Process: Role of Women – Opportunities and Challenges.” The session highlighted policy options for more gender equality in the country and generated broad interest among participants from business, public sector, and civil society.

Teach Afghanistan

In order to support access to quality education in the country, the network will adopt a three-tier solution:

1. Implement a systematic study of higher education to formulate recommendations for improvement.
2. Provide high-quality, affordable programs to public and private universities to increase access to higher education.
3. Train university educators on the SDGs and best practices current and future implementations.

Looking Ahead

SDSN Afghanistan is currently growing its membership, while engaging its Leadership Council, building strategic partnerships with businesses, and enhancing linkages with organizations to facilitate the implementation of the network objectives.
SDSN Amazônia

The SDSN Amazônia network coordinates action on the 2030 Agenda across the Amazon basin region, aiming to mobilize local knowledge in the search for solutions and good practices in line with the SDGs, while respecting local contexts.

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. It features 100 solutions from 6 countries implemented by a diverse set of institutions. The projects are in different stages of development, with some in the implementation stage, while others are ready to be scaled up. The platform is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to facilitate exchange of information.

SDSN Amazônia Award

This award raises awareness of promising solutions to the most challenging problems of sustainable development in the Amazon. In 2020, the most innovative initiatives, encompassing Sustainable Solutions for Amazônia (for the Amazon), a prominent NGO representing the network at the Global Solutions Summit in New York. In 2020, the 193 theme was sustainable solutions to face COVID-19 in the Amazon. The 2020 Award aims to identify and encourage good and effective, sustainable solutions that address COVID-19 in vulnerable communities, in particular indigenous, traditional, and downtown urban areas.

Amazônia Education Program

One of SDSN Amazônia’s main goals is to promote education and capacity building for Amazonian leaders. In this context, Amazônia Ed was launched to train change agents for sustainable development through experiential education. In 2019, SDSN Amazônia supported the Amazon Journey Immersion course. The Amazon Journey is an intense, 10-day program focused on capacity building, which helps participants understand, reflect on, and take action in the field of sustainable development. Through a collective learning process, the group builds their expertise together based on a shared purpose, work, and values.

SDSN Youth in Amazonia

Our youth network launched an ESG Photography Contest in July 2019. The 13 winning pieces, representing positive actions for achieving the SDGs, were exhibited during the Rain Around Manaus Festival. Also, the youth representatives actively participated in events to create awareness about the importance of the Amazon forest and the 2030 Agenda. The youth Network Coordinator represented the Amazon network during several side events at Climate Week in New York and made an inspirational presentation at the 2020 Vatican Youth Symposium, focusing on empowering youth to act locally and think globally.

Supporting Actors

SDSN Amazônia and SDSN Nodes are developing an online, ESG-focused, user-friendly, open-access platform for monitoring ESG progress in South America. The tool will also provide essential information for implementing projects towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Initiative Lab hosted by IHE and GLA selected this project as the top solution. Through the platform, the initiative will receive membership from strategic partners. The platform is a pioneering tool to boost the 2030 Agenda in South America.

Sustainable Amazônia Foundation (FAS)

The Sustainable Amazon Foundation (FAS) is an Brazilian non-governmental organization that has helped over 3,000 families, involving 15,000 people living in 50 communities in 18 Amazonian states. It promotes sustainable development of the Amazon basin, including the conservation of its diversity of species and the landscape, the quality of life of its inhabitants, and the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes.
SDSN Andes


Online Community Action Platform
SDSN Andes and SDN launched an online, open-access platform focused on COVID-19. The platform is a virtual space for academics, researchers, engineers, specialists from various organizations, and the public-at-large to share ideas, information, best practices and lessons learned in relation to the fight against the pandemic. In addition to being a repository of free information, this platform is an opportunity to generate synergies that contribute to the search for solutions to the crisis caused by COVID-19, and an invitation to everyone, particularly from the Andean region, to join the discussion about how to turn this global shock into an opportunity and reframe our communities into more resilient and sustainable social systems.

24-hour webinar
On April 21, SDN hosted the first worldwide 24-hour webinar to address the issues of happiness, well-being, and sustainability. SDSN Andes’ webinar focused on reflections and solutions from the Andean region, explored human-nature relations and conservation, as well as SDG localization effects in Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador. Panelists included Alejandro Maiztegui, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Inés Echeverría, former President of SDN and WFP; Laura Campsarea, Founder of Engineering Without Borders - Argentina; Rosalba Chauvet, Director of the Sustainability Observatory - Universidad de Chile; and Leonardo Orteo, Catholic Prepar working with impoverished communities in Argentina. Julio López, Director of Sustainable Cities Group (FURG) and Miryra Villalobos, Project Coordinator, Fundación Pénizoles, Latin America.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Andes and SDN Andes will create an SDG-focused, user-friendly and free online platform to display key information for implementing projects to achieve Agenda 2030. The platform will show general, extended information on progress made, local prioritization of SDGs, local authorities in charge of SDG implementation, SDN members organizations, relevant initiatives, lessons learned, and locally applicable funding opportunities. This project won the Initiative Lab contest hosted by SDN and SDG and will be developed with the support of several partners. While encouraging action on all of the SDGs, the platform directly addresses SDG 16: “encouraging the development of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at the national, regional, and local level.”

Yacilag Tech

Yacilag Tech is an andean, public university located in March 2017, which aims to position Ecuador as a center for research, innovation, and technological excellence in Latin America.

* Images by Clouds & Currents

* Image by Paulino Portocarrero

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SDSN Andes

SDSN Andes works on four thematic areas: 1. Biodiversity, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems; 2. Sustainable and resilient human settlements; 3. Sustainable production and consumption; and 4. Data, management and monitoring of the SDGs.

Online Community Action Platform
SDSN Andes and Hipsi separately launched an online, open access platform focused on COVID19. The platform is a virtual space for academics, researchers, engineers, specialists from various organisations, and the public-at-large, to share ideas, information, best practices and lessons learned in relation to the fight against the pandemic. In addition to being a repository of free information, this platform is an opportunity to generate synergies that contribute to the search for solutions to the crisis caused by COVID19, and an invitation to everyone (particularly from the Andean region) to join the discussion about how to turn this global shock into an opportunity and reorient our communities into more resilient and sustainable social systems.

24-hour webinar
On April 24, SDSN hosted the first worldwide 24-hour webinar to address the threats of food security, well-being, and sustainability. SDSN Andes' various reflections and solutions from the Andean region explored human-nature relations and conservation, as well as SDG localization efforts in Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador. Participants included a Nobel Peace Prize winner; Ignacia Kakabadse; Former President of SDG Urban, Ekaterina Komarova; Founder of Engineering Without Borders, Argentina; Raimundo Clemente, Director of the Sustainability Observatory - University of Chile, Montaño-Delerit, Catholic Priest working with impoverished communities in Argentina; Julian López, Director of Sustainable Cities - Grupo EAE, and Mireya Villasis, Project Coordinator - Fundación Futuros Latinoamericanos.

LOOKING AHEAD
SDSN Andes and SDSN Amazonia will create an SDG-focused, user-friendly and free online platform to display key information for implementing projects to achieve Agenda 2030. The platform will show general, extracted information on progress made, on local prioritization of SDGs, local authorities in charge of SDG implementation, SDN members, organizations, solutions initiatives, lessons learned, and locally applicable funding opportunities. This project was the Initiative Lab content led by SDSN and GIZ and will be developed with the support of several partners. While encouraging action on all of the SDGs, the platform directly addresses SDG 17 by “ensuring and promoting effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and renewing strategies of partnerships” (Target 17.17).

71/100
In-transformed average
10 & 16
sustainable urban
strategies

At the time of writing, COVID-19 infections continues to grow rapidly in South America

Yachay Tech
Yachay Tech is an innovative public university founded in March 2014, which aims to position Ecuador as a center for research, innovation, and technological excellence in Latin America.

Yachay Tech

As the virus now
spreads across the
region, Yachay
Tech is
working
to ensure
continuity of
education and
research projects.

COVID-19
RESPONSE

Crisis in Latin America

The current situation is
critical, and we must
act quickly and
effectively.

Yachay Tech

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SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific focuses on four main areas: (1) elevating cross-sectoral action to support SDG localization, (2) mobilizing university action on the SDGs, (3) supporting the activities of SDSN Youth in the region, and (4) supporting regional contributions to global SDSN initiatives.

Empowering universities to address the SDGs
As part of our ongoing Accelerating SDG Practive initiative, organized jointly with Australian Universities Towards Sustainability (AUS4TS), the network organized several forums to enhance our members’ capacity on the SDGs. Topics included how to engage staff and students on the SDGs and how the COVID-19 crisis will affect this work. The network is also playing a leading role in the preparation of the SDSN guide Accelerating Education for the SDGs at Universities.

Advancing local SDG action
In February, the network launched the SDSN’s Action Initiative to showcase pioneering member projects that use the SDG framework as a tool to help governments, businesses, communities, universities, and others take ambitious “beyond-2030-as-usual” actions on sustainable development. The initiative is gathering case studies for a regional action report and showcasing them in virtual forums.

Supporting youth action
In 2020, the network supported SDSN Youth’s SDS Students Program, aimed at engaging university students in SDG implementation. The program helped SDSN members to set up SDS Students hubs and organize a range of events and activities such as public lectures, campaigns and role-playing labs to encourage students to be active, engage with, and take action on the SDGs.

Supporting global projects
Australia is contributing to SDSN’s Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) initiative through the Land Use Futures project. Led by SDSN member Griffith University in Sydney, together with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the project is working with a cross-sectoral coalition of organisations to develop pathways and build a roadmap to a sustainable food and land-use system for Australia.

Looking ahead
In August 2020, the network will host SDSN President Jeffrey Sachs in a virtual regional event, which will engage different audiences on how the region is tracking five years past the SDGs and the role of the SDGs in the regional public health and economic responses to the COVID-19 crisis.
Launched in 2018, SDSN Belgium is working on localizing the SDGs in the country through education and engagement of students and the general public on the issues of sustainability.

SDSN Belgium was appointed by the Belgian Federal government as an "SDG-Link" and official ambassador translating the SDGs into concrete actions. SDSN Belgium actively works on creating a Youth Hub with and for students in Belgian higher education institutions. The Youth Hub and its committed members will inform students on the SDGs and help them transform their college to university’s teaching, research, services, and policies towards full alignment with the SDGs.

Holistic Approach to Sustainability
SDSN Belgium brings people together for the exchange of innovative and practical ideas on the SDGs and the best ways of achieving them. In particular, the network is trying to place greater emphasis on sustainable development in research and education by taking a holistic approach to academic institutions.

Global Sustainable Technology & Innovation Conference
Technological innovation gets connected with decision-making for sustainable development at the Global Sustainable Technology & Innovation (SDG-TIC) Conference in which all members of the network take part. This year, the SDG-TIC conference will be part of a special SDG week, organized by SDSN Belgium.

Antwerp’s SDG Transition
In 2020, SDSN Belgium also started the “SDG transition” project.

This project supports the Province of Antwerp in integrating the SDGs into their operations. A stakeholder co-creation process with the provincial administrative staff is ongoing, in parallel with the development of a methodology to assess and monitor implementation of the SDGs at the sub-provincial level.

Looking Ahead
In December 2020, SDSN Belgium’s International Center for Education Law and Policy (ICERP), and SDSN Great Lakes plan to organize an international conference on SDG 4 in the Great Lakes region. The conference will explore the interlinkages between human rights, water management and treatment, and healthcare.

Responding to the growing need for long-term thinking and action in the post-COVID-19 world, together with ICERP, SDSN Belgium will take the lead in establishing a Flemish Scientific-Friction Council The Council, supported by a research department that focuses on the methodology and the foundation of best practices, will work across sectors aiming at sustainable, integrated policies.
DSN Black Sea was officially launched in October 2019 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTN). The idea was to unite the people in the Black Sea region under the goal of sustainable development. It aims to protect and preserve the region’s vulnerable ecosystem and to build programs around economic transformation, youth employment, innovation, and sustainable tourism.

Regional Partnership for Sustainable Development

In October 2019, the network co-organized the international conference “Implementation of the SDGs in the Black Sea Region.” It highlighted many cross-border problems and issues shared among countries of the region. Thus, regional actions such as DSN Black Sea are crucial in providing a regional dimension to SDG implementation.

DSN Black Sea supported the 3rd Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, organized by UNDP Greece and the Diogenes Institute. Stakeholders from government, academia, public and private sectors discussed the status of SDG implementation in the region, stressing the challenges and opportunities related to critical issues such as migration and security, climate change, and poverty.

In March 2020, DSN Black Sea co-organized the 10th International Conference on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region entitled “Ecosystem Services on River-Sea Macro-Ecosystems.”

In February 2020, the DSN Black Sea Regional Meeting (March 2020) and the DSN Black Sea Regional Summit (May 2020) were held.

DSN Black Sea has been impacted by the cancellation of numerous events due to the global pandemic. In the coming months, several events will be held.

1. DSN Black Sea Summit “Sustainable Cities and Ports” (September 2020)
2. DSN Black Sea Summit “Sustainable Cities and Ports” (November 2020)
3. DSN Black Sea Summit “Sustainable Cities and Ports” (December 2020)

The network will further grow its membership base by pooling more research and educational institutions in the Black Sea region. Second, AUTN and UNDP are expected to launch a new network for joint projects and activities.

Happiness Webinar

The network celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Black Sea Day by participating in the “Happiness Webinar” organized by UNDP.

Prof. Theodora Chirou, Chair of the DSN Black Sea, invited the renowned academics to a session on inclusive and sustainable economic growth and human well-being, whilst DSN Black Sea explored the interlinkages between well-being and urban environments in the session “Happy Cities: Strategies and Applications in Pursuit of Urban Wellness.”
The overarching objective of SDSN Bolivia is to promote sustainable solutions and initiatives for long-term development in Bolivia. The network aims to bring together the private sector, government institutions, the academic sector, and civil society to tackle the most pressing issues facing the country. This year, the key challenge is the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

The Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia
SDSN Bolivia has been working for almost two years on producing a Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia. Launched in July 2020, this is the most detailed SDG Index in the world, covering all of the 55 municipalities that exist in Bolivia. The results indicate that the differences in the SDG Index between municipalities within Bolivia are similar to the differences between all of the 195 countries in the global SDG Index. This highlights the importance of providing this information at the sub-national level.

SDSN Bolivia’s main goal with this effort is to stimulate research in all areas of sustainable development in Bolivia, to inform national, departmental, and municipal policies, and to help local stakeholders develop strategies towards sustainable development for their communities.

The 2020 Bolivia Conference on Development Economics
SDSN Bolivia’s annual Development Economics conference was held in July 2020 in a virtual format. One of the keynote speakers was Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, and the network used this opportunity to officially launch the Municipal Atlas of the SDGs. The event included over 60 research paper presentations, as well as several panel discussions addressing some of the most pressing policy issues in Bolivia.

Eco-tourism as an Engine of Sustainable Development
With about 1% of the national territory covered by national, departmental, and municipal protected areas, Bolivia has tremendous potential for tourism based on nature, culture, and adventure. SDSN Bolivia is working together with its member institutions, as well as national and local authorities, to position tourism as an engine for sustainable development in dozens of Bolivian municipalities.

Looking Ahead
In the coming months, SDSN Bolivia, together with its member organizations, will use the Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia to promote decentralized and locally determined processes of sustainable development.

> 20% of adults own a mobile phone.
50% of the area is currently forested.
Bolivia has one of the worst property rights indices in the world.

World Heritage sites in La Paz make up nearly 10% of Bolivia’s territory.

Universidad Privada Boliviana

Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB) is one of the top universities in Bolivia and Latin America. According to Times Higher Education, UPB is among the top 5% universities in the LAC region. UPB covers a wide range of fields of study, including the humanities, social sciences, and technical specialties, allowing students to study in more than 90 courses, 14 postgraduate programs, and 27 doctoral programs.

Fundación Solidaridad y Desarrollo Productivo Sostenible

Fundación Solidaridad y Desarrollo Productivo Sostenible (FODPS) is a non-profit organization based in La Paz, which was established in 1990 with the sole purpose of fighting poverty in Bolivia by promoting innovative initiatives. Since then, FODPS has been a central actor in the development and consolidation of the microfinance sector in Bolivia and has implemented programs promoting entrepreneurship with positive social impacts.
University of Waterloo in partnership with the Waterloo Global Science Initiative

SDSN Canada is focused on three main objectives: to develop an SDG-oriented research agenda for Canada; to cultivate high-quality SDG education; and to galvanize support throughout the country to achieve the SDGs. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada moves from a public health emergency to the early stages of recovery, SDSN Canada is now considering how its work can focus on supporting "building back better" to achieve the sustainability objectives of the SDGs.

Together with partners, SDSN Canada is working on various initiatives, including:

- ** bourbon (2021)**: A call to action for city leaders on the SDGs.
- ** ISDG Network**: A network of city leaders working on the SDGs.
- ** CityMakers**: A platform for city leaders to share best practices.
- ** CitySDG Lab**: A laboratory for city leaders to test new ideas.
- ** CitySDG Connect**: A platform for city leaders to connect and collaborate.

The network has a number of initiatives planned for the year ahead, including:

- **Collaborating within SDSN to build a global community of practice to share approaches and best practices on reporting on the SDGs in post-COVID-19 Canada.**
- **Developing a pilot program with municipalities to create evidence gap maps to identify existing evidence that can help answer particular SDG policy issues in Canada.**
- **Working with municipalities across the country to pilot the creation of Voluntary Local Reviews that align the SDGs with municipal plans.**

SDG Student Alliance

In partnership with SDSN Youth, the SDSN Canada Youth Coordinator oversees and manages an annual SDSN Campus Coordinator network and connects students to the global network. The Campus Coordinators, from across the country, are the backbone of the network and are leading on advancing the SDGs on campus, including how to build administrative partnerships and link effective advocacy campaigns.

**Joint Initiatives with Members**

In our collaboration with network members, SDSN Canada issued a challenge to its members to take urgent action on the SDGs. The challenge utilized ten ways for campus leaders to take action, including aligning institutional reporting to the SDGs and pursuing new research focused on SDG achievement. SDSN Canada has also created a seed funding initiative to support members to work together to develop research that addresses the economic, social, and/or environmental impacts of COVID-19 that will lead to achieving one or more of the SDGs in Canada.
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**University of the West Indies**

Established in 1948, UWI is the largest and longest-standing institution of higher education in the English-speaking Caribbean. UWI educates over 60,000 students and is a comprehensive research university with a diverse faculty of over 1,500, including two Nobel laureates, and is home to the Caribbean Institute for Resource Management.

**SDSN Caribbean**

Hosted by the University of the West Indies

Kingston, Jamaica

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SDSN China Hub

Hosted by the Institute for Sustainable Development Goals of Tsinghua University (TUDG) - Beijing, China

TUDG became the China Hub of the SDSN in February 2019. As one of the leading academic institutes focused on the SDGs in China, TUDG is committed to building an interdisciplinary, high-end platform to contribute to further research, talent training, policy consulting, and international exchange and cooperation.

Major Research Projects
Approved and funded by the National Social Science Fund of China in 2017, TUDG has been working on the major projects: Research on the Evaluation System Construction and Implementation Path of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The research aimed at a conversation on how China can achieve sustainable development by implementing the SDGs from the perspectives of global development and public governance; what would be long-term implementation pathways, response strategies, and policies at global, national, and local levels. Meanwhile, the research will share with other countries knowledge and experiences on China’s experience of SDGs implementation.

SDGs Localization
Since 2018, the state council, P.R.C. has initiated the national plan of China’s Innovation Demonstration Zones for promoting SDGs implementation in China, starting with several pilot cities and gradually expanding to the whole country in the future. Since then, TUDG has been working with local governments in Hubei, Yunnan, Zhejiang, and Sichuan province, and jointly promoted the SDGs localization by providing an implementation strategy, policy suggestions, and practical solutions. Currently, TUDG is working on the study on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Qinghe county government, which will be the first SDG implementation and localization solution at the county level within China.

Dual Master’s Programme in Public Policy for SDGs
In January 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Swiss President Doris Leuthard witnessed the signing of a cooperative memorandum on sustainable development between Tsinghua University and University of Geneva. This cooperation would result in the launch of a unique Dual Master’s Programme entirely focused on the SDGs.

Most SDGs High-End Forum
This is one of the TUDG’s flagship events set up for international exchange and communication on the SDGs. Many world-renowned experts in political, business, and academic circles have been invited to share their frontier research, insightful insights, and practical experiences about the SDGs. The Forum has received broad attention and extensive coverage from hundreds of media outlets at home and abroad.

Looking Ahead
Research Progress
The results of the above-mentioned research on the Evaluation System Construction and Implementation will be finalized in 2020 and published in a series of academic journals and books.
Established in November 2019, and publicly launched on June 12, 2020, SDSN Cyprus is dedicated to providing science-based solutions for the implementation of the SDGs in Cyprus. The network is led by an influential multiscopical, multidisciplinary Leadership Council representing all the different sectors in Cypriot society: universities and academia, the private sector, influential former high-ranking civil servants, and civil society organizations. SDSN Cyprus is working with all parts of society to improve the country’s performance in implementing the SDGs until 2030. To do this, the network is collecting and disseminating best practices, raising awareness, promoting sustainable development education, engaging with youth, and assisting the authorities, the private sector, and civil society organizations in mainstreaming the SDGs into their daily operations.

While there is broad consensus on the importance of environmental and climate change as major issues facing the island, in addition to the need for gender equality when facing these challenges, it was considered pertinent to select specific SDGs for the network to focus on at this stage. These are SDG 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

The network is chaired by Prof. Costa N. Papathanas, President of the Cyprus Institute and Special Envoy on Climate Change of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, and Dr. Ernesto Morante-Monti, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the CRE Board of Trustees.

Looking Forward

SDSN Cyprus is looking forward to establishing an SDSN Youth Network for the island, as well as participating in the SDSN MED Hubs, which are internationally renowned research centers and will be of reference for the region. The network aims to be a reference for the world, providing the public interest at large. The Cyprus Institute, which is both a research and educational institution, as well as the physical manifestation of CRE, is the physical location for the headquarters of SDSN Cyprus, and provides all the necessary administrative back-up.

Photo: Vassilios Katopodis

Quotes:

1. "The focus on renewable energy sources is crucial to our future. SDSN Cyprus is at the forefront of this change." — Prof. Costa N. Papathanas

2. "The network is a great opportunity for the youth to be involved in sustainable development projects." — Dr. Ernesto Morante-Monti

3. "We are looking forward to the establishment of SDSN Youth Network for the island." — Crete, Greece
SDSN France

SDSN France was launched in February 2018 as an action-oriented network to help create and mobilize initiatives and projects in support of the SDGs. It is a platform for stakeholders, including NGOs, universities, businesses, and civil society organizations, to collaborate on implementing the SDGs in France. The network is hosted by the CERG-Télécom Paris Institute, the HEC Paris Business School, and the PSL University, and it is led by a steering committee consisting of representatives from various sectors.

The network aims to:
- Pool resources and knowledge to support the implementation of the SDGs in France.
- Foster partnerships and collaborations between different stakeholders.
- Raise awareness about the SDGs and their relevance in France.
- Provide technical assistance and support to help implement the SDGs.
- Facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.
- Support the development of local initiatives that align with the SDGs.
- Encourage the involvement of young people and students in the SDGs.

The network organizes regular events, workshops, and seminars to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration. It also produces publications and reports to disseminate information about the SDGs and their implementation in France.
Since 2014, leading knowledge centers and partners from civil society and the private sector have been working together in SDSN Germany to promote sustainable development in the country and encourage Germany’s commitment to sustainable development in the SDGs and globally. Going beyond this, the network creates new forums for dialogue and transdisciplinary cooperation.

Germany’s National Sustainable Development Strategy
SDSN Germany is actively involved in the institutional architecture for further developing Germany’s National Sustainable Development Strategy, thus combining academic and scientific debates with governance and implementation. The 2018 overhaul of the strategy brought it in line with the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. In 2021, its next step, more action is around the corner. Building on its five structural proposals for this update, from March 2020, SDSN Germany published a statement on how to address the gaps in action on sustainable development policies in critical areas.

Digitalization, Finance & Sustainable Development
How can (digital) innovation, new technologies, and digitalization contribute to financing sustainable development? While the critical role of finance for achieving the SDGs and the climate goals are widely accepted, the role of digitalization for both the finance sector and sustainable development still needs to be further explored. During this high-level conference ‘Connecting the dots: Digitalization, Finance & Sustainable Development’, which took place in Berlin in January 2020. The conference was organized by the SDSN Germany, the Sustainable Digital Finance Alliance (SDF Alliance) and the UN Secretary General’s Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs in cooperation with Frankfurt School of Finance & Management.

Looking Ahead
SDSN Germany will continue its work at the science-policy interface regarding progress towards sustainable development. In 2020, the network will support activities in the context of the advancement of Germany’s National Sustainable Development Strategy, the German EU Council Presidency, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the 75th anniversary of the UN.
SDSN Great Lakes

SDSN Great Lakes was launched in 2014 with a mandate to promote the implementation of the SDGs in the complex region of Central and Eastern Africa. Through its activities, it seeks to mobilize universities, research centers, and civil society in the region to take action and get involved.

Local Solutions Initiative

Since 2015, SDSN Great Lakes has been holding annual conferences focusing on local solutions to achieve the SDGs. These events have brought together hundreds of researchers from the region to present projects that help change the lives of people in the region for the better. Each year, the network selects a particular SDG challenge. This year, the network selected “Promoting Pig Value Chain to Reduce Poverty, Fight Malnutrition and Enhance Youth Employment.”

One of the major challenges the network set out to address was how to increase returns on smallholder pig production. The network organized a series of public lectures to discuss the current state of the pig value chain in the region. The series aimed to raise awareness among university communities and to share updated information on the progress made by countries in the SDG implementation.

In addition to these lectures, the network successfully completed a pilot study on offering a Master Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled “Introduction to Sustainable Development.”

Community Work for Sustainable Development

Community work, locally known as “Umuganda,” is a monthly activity which brings together citizens of every village and/or organization to perform activities that benefit the entire community, such as building infrastructure or taking care of the environment. This year, SDSN Great Lakes brought together university communities at their respective campuses to conduct such activities and offer educational sessions on issues such as sanitation, conflict, drug abuse or school dropout.

Looking ahead

The network is planning to build on its success and continue to coordinate activities that help in sustainable development. The network is also planning to organize annual conferences on the SDGs and hold series of events to raise awareness among the general public on the importance of the SDGs.
SDSN Greece focuses on five thematic priorities: sustainable shipping and marine resource management, sustainable energy, biodiversity, education for sustainable development, and the water-energy-food nexus.

**New Initiatives**
SDSN Greece launched two new initiatives in 2019 and 2020: The Global Compact for Sustainable Shipping, launched at COP25, brings together shipowners, shipbuilders, technology developers, researchers, ports, and policy makers from across the globe to decarbonize the shipping sector by 2050.

The 43rd initiative, launched at the third Sustainability Summit, is a U.N.-sponsored initiative that mobilizes science-based blue growth and the implementation of the SDGs in the Mediterranean, Black, Caspian, and Arctic Seas. The objectives of the initiative include research, education, data management, innovation, and policy.

**Online Education for Social Innovation**
To advance understanding of social innovation and governance in agriculture, forestry, and rural development, the network is co-developing two MINOCA under the Horizon 2020 program. Social Innovations in Rural Areas (SIARA), launched in March 2020, and will explore different applications of social innovation in rural areas, while simultaneously discovering best practices for managing such projects. The Decision Analytics Framework to explore the water-energy-food Nexus in complex transboundary waterbodies of fast-developing countries (DANFE), launched in July 2020. The project helps students with knowledge transfer in relation to methodological aspects relevant to the investigation of the Water-Energy-Food (REF) Nexus.

**Pursuing Research Projects**
SDSN Greece is involved in several EU-funded Horizon 2020 projects focusing on sustainable development: Managing Water, Resources and Food in the South Mediterranean (WATERMEN) developing a decision-support platform based on a multi-level, integrated Water model. The platform will help stakeholders understand trade-offs and capitalize on synergies. Digitizing economic and social impacts in Rural Areas (DEERAS) seeks to develop soft, Cyber-Physical Systems to advance understanding of the impact of digitization on rural areas. Bringing this analysis to the SDGs. Also, SDSN Greece is engaged in a number of EU ClimateRes2C projects, such as Deep Demonstration of Maritime Nexus, which is studying the decarbonization of European Ports.

**Looking Ahead**
Together with the event’s opening address, SDSN Greece is co-organizing the Fourth Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean. The summit will host several distinguished speakers and panelists who will share their knowledge and experience on integrated solutions for the urgently needed sustainability transition. Also, SDSN Greece established a strategic partnership with Apr autonomy to build a powerful MaritimeTech hub, which will generate and support new concepts, startups, or scaleups.
SDSN Hong Kong is a unique integrated learning model, competing racing and services businesses, a membership club, responsible sports betting and lottery, and charity and community events.

The Club is Hong Kong’s largest, single campus and one of the city’s major employers. Its Campus Forum is also one of the world’s top ten charity dinners and its supported projects cover all 15 SDSNs.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) founded in 1963, CUHK is a world-class research university with a global vision and 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 the world’s first Institute of Climate Change, and is home to a range of centres, including the Institute of Environmental Energy and Sustainability and the Institute of Health Equity.

SDSN Hong Kong focuses on public education for sustainable development, climate action, clean energy, and responsible consumption. It has hosted a total of 10,000 members from over 200 Hong Kong institutions.

The year has been challenging for Hong Kong due to the coronavirus outbreak and local protests. Amidst these challenges, the network has pursuit events and activities. In line with its belief to sustainable development, SDSN Hong Kong will continue to support the community especially through the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

SDSN Person Series

In addition, SDSN Hong Kong, together with CUHK’s Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (MeC) and the Office of University Education, hosted two public forums, covering a range of sustainability topics from waste management, public health, climate change, AI, and sustainable cities.

Sharing Philanthropic Action through COVID-19 Webinars

SDSN Hong Kong’s co-host, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, has mobilized resources and capabilities swiftly to address urgent community needs during the pandemic. It has sourced or funded the purchase of more than 14 million face masks, provided HK$75 million in emergency grants to community organizations to support relief efforts, and fashioned mobile internet data bandwidth for 36,000 underprivileged students to facilitate online learning.

To promote multistakeholder collaboration and knowledge dissemination, the Network Co-Chair, Long Cheung, who is also the Executive Director, Charities and Community, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, participated in a series of local and international webinars to share insights from the Club’s work to help the Hong Kong community deal with the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Long noted the need to mobilize resources with agility, proactively approaching different stakeholders to form innovative solutions, and empowering community partners to support society’s most vulnerable groups.

In support of the Happenst and Sustainability Around the Earth webinar in April 2020, SDSN Hong Kong hosted the kickoff session, COVID-19, globalization, and philanthropy to address the relationship between stress and happiness, and how philanthropic work is essential in bringing happiness to vulnerable groups during COVID-19.

Looking Ahead

SDSN Hong Kong will continue to promote SDG localization in the city, support the community through the challenges brought on by COVID-19, and engage with local knowledge institutions and NGOs in Hong Kong to expand its membership.
SDSN Indonesia

A
s the fourth most populous country in the world, with an abundance of natural resources and biodiversity, Indonesia is an essential contributor to the 2030 Agenda. Women are stakeholders who are coordinated under the Government’s SDSN NationalCoordination Secretariat to align their programs with the SDGs.

Highlighting Universities’ Activities in Achieving the SDGs
SDSN Indonesia members have undertaken local research and community-based solutions to support regional and district-level sustainability efforts. For example, University of Gadjah Mada and Universitas Budi Karya are delivering training and volunteer programs for both community members and government officials on promoting sustainability science and the SDGs. Universitas Cenderawasih in Papua has identified conservation and agricultural best practices derived from local wisdom. Moreover, Universitas 17 April in Makassar and Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta are working together to promote research and development related to poverty reduction, climate change, and disaster risk reduction challenges.

SDSN Indonesia Secretariat has a growing reputation as a bridge between universities and the general public in promoting mental health (Goal 3), social entrepreneurship (Goal 9), food (Goal 2), and environmentally focused initiatives (Goals 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15).

"The transformation to achieve the SDGs" in Indonesia
SDSN Indonesia has focused on a series of national and international meetings since 2018. During these consultations, the network used the transformation to achieve the SDGs to emphasize the importance of SDSN’s role in supporting the Government of Indonesia in advancing the SDGs.

The discussions with the government are ongoing to identify ways of improving Indonesia’s performance on the SDG Index, collaborating on the ongoing Nature Map project, and setting up a local task force to support Green Investment in Indonesia.

Universitas Indonesia (UI)

Universitas Indonesia (UI) is known as a modern and green campus, consisting of 32 faculties with a central campus. It was founded in 1928 by the German and Dutch colonial administration. Currently, it has a strong research foundation in all of its academic disciplines with 90 degree and non-degree programs of study. Ranked 4th in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2019, UI is known for its ability to produce national and global leaders, particularly in the Southeast Asian region.

The United in Diversity (UID) forum

The United in Diversity (UID) forum is a non-profit organization established with Indonesian leaders from business, government, and civil society. Launched in 2004, UID has set out to bring together, in a new dialogue, leaders from the Indonesian academic world to address the country’s current and emerging problems, as well as regional and world challenges.
SDSN Italia

SDSN Italia aims at mobilizing Italian society to achieve the SDGs and that is only possible if the 2030 Agenda is fully supported by institutions, the private and public sectors, research and young people.

Localizing the SDGs

SDSN Italia aims to localize the 2030 Agenda at different levels, building tools and involving a variety of stakeholders to ensure that the SDGs are being fostered at all levels of society. The Italian SDG Cities Index, produced in 2018 by SDSN Italia and IREMB, was an important step in this direction. The Index is an initiative that measures SDG progress at the provincial level and identifies cities that are making significant progress in achieving the SDGs.

Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development

The Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development focuses on current, knowledge and skills in sustainable development. The school is held at the University of Siena's Facoltà di Scienze della Vita and includes lectures and discussions on sustainability, social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Agenda 2030 and Young People

The Siena Summer School and University initiatives focus young people on an incredible challenge in building a sustainable future for the next generation. The Fourth Roadmap is a joint network to share knowledge on the 2030 Agenda and to innovate in sustainable development through various initiatives and events.

Finding relevant Pathways to 2030

SDSN Italia actively responds to the global call to design and implement decarbonization pathways. After reviewing four out of the five most representative sectors worldwide, the Italian government has chosen the most important: energy, industry, transport and agriculture. The country has chosen to focus on the transport sector, given its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. The main aim of the project is to consider the potential share of biofuels and synthetic fuels in the energy mix and identify available options and roadmaps for a progressive decoupling of supporting industries.
SDSN Kenya

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Kenya chapter, was approved on March 30, 2020, by the National Strategy Council. The chapter is hosted by two institutions: Moi University (Centre for Public Sector Reforms) and University of Nairobi (Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies), both domiciled in Kenya.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the inaugural Kenyan SDSNs Summit of the chapter was postponed to a later date. This summit is expected to be Kenya’s first high-level multi-stakeholder forum to advance national implementation of the SDGs. The two-day summit themed “Strengthening Stakeholders’ Capacities in Contributions to the Implementation and Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda” will bring together leaders and decision-makers from across all sectors to build a common understanding of the opportunities of the SDGs and how they could be put into practice in Kenya.

SDSN Kenya aims at fostering global SDSN activities within Kenya by developing and promoting solutions, policies and public education in three phases and in line with its three broad objectives as follow:

1. Phase 1 (2020-2022): Awareness creation, sensitization and resource mobilization
   - Promoting the understanding of SDGs and their linkage to the national and local planning frameworks,
   - Engagement of local actors in the implementation process,
   - Identification and mobilization of potential sources of resources required to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

2. Phase 2 (2022-2025): Mainstreaming and localization of SDGs
   - Identification of specific mechanisms, processes and tools for effective implementation and monitoring.

3. Phase 3 (2025-2030): Acceleration of SDGs implementation process
   - Implementation of relevant projects towards attainment of visions 2030.

Monitoring and evaluation of projects to ensure that the country remains on course towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

Moi University

Moi University is a public university located in the town of Eldoret in western Kenya. It was established as the second university in Kenya by an Act of Parliament, the Moi University Act of 1970, the Moi Act No. 34 of 1970. Initially known as the Public Sector Reform (PSR) Unit, Moi University was later reconstituted as the Public Sector Reform Unit (PSRU) in 1974. In 1976, Moi University was granted university status by the University of Eldoret Act No. 1 of 1976.

The University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi, a body corporate established by an Act of Parliament Cap 235 of the Laws of Kenya is the pioneer institution of University education in Kenya and in Africa. The University is a leading institution in the region, and as a black institution, the University of Nairobi is continuously engaged in various high-level training and outreach programs. The institute’s academic programmes are designed to suit the needs of students, technology, business, social services and the arts.
SDSN Malaysia

SDSN Malaysia was established in 2015 to mobilize a community of experts to translate ideas into practical action towards sustainable development for Malaysia. SDSN Malaysia was one of ten networks that participated in the inaugural Global Solutions Summit. With multiple cities being home to the network’s focus, SDSN Malaysia showcased its partnership solution for sustainable urban development, using Sunway City as a case study.

**ARASAN Sustainable Development Summit**
SDSN Malaysia organized the ARASAN Sustainable Development Summit in November 2019 in collaboration with the Jeffrey Sachs Center and the Asian Strategies and Leadership Institute. Under the theme of “The Future Together: Deepening Partnership for Agenda 2030”, the Summit engaged speakers and participants from ARASAN countries in discussions on how to address issues of environmental degradation and socio-economic wellbeing through sustainable public and private action. The one-day event provided a platform and practical framework for ministers, policymakers, industry practitioners, civil society actors, and experts to address shared challenges and to discuss feasible and effective implementation strategies and solutions.

SDSN Malaysia’s members have also engaged in noteworthy initiatives:

- **Sustainability and Livelihood Improvement for Oil Palm Smallholders**
  This project by the Center for Sustainable Smallholders, Malaysia Institute for Supply Chain Innovation aims to safeguard independent growers of oil palm and improve their livelihoods while ensuring ethical and responsible sourcing, including commitments of no deforestation, no plantation on peatlands and no exploitation in the supply chain. This project is a solutions initiative in line with the Network’s aim to address landuse challenges posed by the palm oil industry.

- **SDGs & Malaysia Resources Sustainability**
  This study by the Center for Environmental, Technology & Development uses the SDGs to assess the management of Malaysia’s resources, ranging from water to petroleum. The Network will translate the findings of this study into actionable interventions and present them in a position paper to the relevant stakeholders.

- **Biodiversity Conservation in Ranau Cities & Waters**
  The RMAI Project, by Universiti Malaysia, is a living lab of biodiversity observation in the nation’s capital. It is a walkable educational nature park showcasing how urban secondary forests provide a habitat for wildlife, help mitigate flash floods, serve as water reservoirs, and help regulate the climate, thus improving urban livability and sustainability. This project shows new models of sustainable urban solutions that can be pioneered by the Network in other cities in Malaysia.

**OVERVIEW**
The Network is part of a working group to generate innovative solutions focused towards addressing social, technical, policy issues related to COVID-19, vulnerable populations, and wellbeing. The project will integrate methodologies and analytical frameworks to understand social-technical linkages in wellbeing and informational flows.

**The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) at Sunway University**

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development is a regional center of excellence that strives for the achievement of the 17 SDGs in Malaysia and Southeast Asia through education, research, and policy work. Launched in November 2019, the Center operates out of Sunway University, a leading private university committed to the pursuit of education through scholarship, research, and enterprise. The University is committed to establishing a synergy in sustainable development within an urban environment. It champions healthy living, and the development of innovative technologies, including green energy, water conservation, and waste management. This is being done in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund, Sunway City, Sunway University, and the Dresden International University from seven cities in five countries in the region, the Eco Agri Centre campus.
SDSN Mediterranean

SDSN Mediterranean is a regional network that aims to boost awareness of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the Mediterranean region by promoting collaborative research, innovative teaching, youth leadership, and by engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships. One of the main features is innovation and capacity building in the agri-food sector. The network is a part of the UN Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan, a Union for the Mediterranean and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**Partners for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)**

PRIMA is the most ambitious Mediterranean-wide program establishing science and cultural diplomacy for sustainable development. It was initiated as a partnership among countries thanks to the impulse of SDSN Mediterranean. It funds research and innovation projects in sustainable water, and the agriculture and food value chain. 83 projects were funded in 2019/20 with a budget of over €750 million. An additional €40 million will be allocated in 2020 and 2021.

**PRIMA Global Peace on Innovation (PGI)**

PGI is a digital platform collecting, sharing, and promoting best research, innovation, and education practices in the agri-food sector in the Mediterranean. It highlights new concrete solutions for SDG members and enterprises and fosters new partnerships among researchers, innovators, businesses, and stakeholders.

**Education for Sustainable Development**

In 2019, over 10,000 learners engaged in the MOOC "Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective," developed by SDSN Mediterranean in collaboration with the Barilla Foundation and the SDG Academy. The MOOC was also adopted by the European Commission for an Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project. Moreover, the network continues to host the annual Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development to teach upcoming leaders from all walks of life on sustainable finance, sustainable energy, and green and social economy, among others.

**Fishing the Business of Food**

“Fishing the Business of Food” is a research project promoted by SDSN Mediterranean in partnership with Barilla Foundation, SDN and the Columbia Centre for Sustainable Investment. The project aims at mapping and specifying the reporting and operational practices of companies involved in the agri-food sector.

**Sustainable Development Report - Mediterranean Countries Edition 2020**

SDSN Mediterranean serves as a science-policy interface providing governments, intergovernmental organizations, policy makers with relevant information on the achievement of the SDGs. The Mediterranean Countries Edition of the Sustainable Development Report 2020 is an important means of engagement of our actors.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network is launching the “Red Fish” project, which builds on a transdisciplinary approach and proposes to create six thematic hubs in the Mediterranean region. Each hub, coordinated by an SDSN Network in partnership with another organization, aims to promote innovation in their sector and to serve as an interface for science-oriented policies.
SDSN Mexico

SDSN Mexico promotes and strengthens collaboration between academia, the public and private sector, civil society, and non-governmental organizations while generating innovative and practical solutions to address the SDGs that involve young people, harness innovation, and capitalize on the knowledge of national experts in the field of sustainable development.

 Residents of Project Brief

After its launch in March 2016, SDSN Mexico presented its first flagship project in the fall of 2016. The Project Brief was set up to showcase the different initiatives with which Mexican society is addressing the implementation of the SDGs at local, regional, and national levels. It also featured key proposals received nearly 100 applications and included topics such as sustainable education, environment and biodiversity, innovation and social wellbeing, as well as entrepreneurship and mariculture technologies. A panel of experts selected nearly 100 initiatives which are currently receiving technical and financial advice.

Active Engagement with Key National Partners

SDSN Mexico is actively committed to collaborating with a wide range of strategic national stakeholders. The network facilitates the participation of the academic sector within the National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in its working committees. Additionally, SDSN Mexico is part of the Technical Committee for the Chamber of Distinction Strategy on the 2030 Agenda, which aims to align existing Mexican legislation with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as well as to identify those gaps where legislative action is needed in order to achieve the SDGs and its targets by 2030.

A National Network to Develop the Country

For the first year, SDSN Mexico has increased its membership from 20 to nearly 46 institutions nationwide. Having more than 45 national coverage has strengthened the network’s reach and engagement for an effective implementation and achievement of the SDGs at all levels across the country.

Learning Areas

SDSN Mexico will carry on several solutions programs that will enable and empower every sector of the society. Experts/GIS herders and connects researchers and producers worldwide to promote sustainability in everyday life! 2026 Leaders will create teams groups within universities and high schools and provide them with tools and guidance on sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda, and project development. To contribute to the solution of these challenges regarding the SDGs in a decentralized manner, and the Youth Solutions Report – Mexico 2026: an adaptation of the Global Youth Solutions Report, to identify the prioritized solutions at a national level and to provide them with a platform to overcome the most common obstacles while ensuring them with national allies.
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 efforts and the custodians of science, knowledge, and innovation for the 2030 Agenda.

Bolton Sustainable Development Summit (BolSUN)

Every August, SDSN Nigeria organizes the Bolton Sustainable Development Summit (BolSUN), the premier academic forum on sustainable development in Nigeria. The summit has recorded remarkable milestones, including the domestication of the SDGs on the Nigerian national context, the development of local solutions, initiatives, and the creation of strategic partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations and stakeholders. The summit attracts participants from academia, government, civil society, religious bodies, and government departments. Over the years, it has emerged as the most popular annual event aimed at supporting the Nigerian SDGs.

Capacity Building in Academia

The network has leveraged a capacity-building series for academics. The purpose is to teach skills for successful research proposal writing and to share information on funding opportunities for research-related activities. Three workshops have been held, two in Ibadan, and one at the federal University of Technology, Minna. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining workshops were planned remotely as well. The first webinar was held in May on the topic of “The Impact of COVID-19 on the achievement of the SDGs in Nigeria.”

Partnerships

The Nigerian network has strengthened partnerships with strategic stakeholders within and outside the country in a bid to achieve the SDG agenda. The network entered into a partnership with the Nigerian Academy of Sciences, the foremost independent scientific body in the country, and another partnership is being established with the Nigerian Academy of Letters, the humanities counterpart. The network has also expressed commitment to partner with the Private Sector and Coalition Against COVID-19 (PSCA).

Global Festival of Action

The University of Ibadan’s Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV)

CESDEV was established in 2011 as a demonstration of the University’s commitment to sustainable development. It is based on the need to provide an intellectual platform for students and researchers to identify areas of research and development that can contribute to the University of Ibadan’s goal of sustainability in Ibadan, Nigeria. The University was founded in 1962 as University College Ibadan, and it became an independent university in 1965. It is the oldest degree-awarding institution in Nigeria.

Partners and stakeholders

Participants of the capacity building activities at the University of Ibadan
SDSN Northern Europe is an international network focusing on mobilizing Nordic scientists and technological expertise to create a more sustainable society. Through a wide set of activities and initiatives, its members from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland seek knowledge to action to implement the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Solutions Initiative Forum AIR
More than 90% of the world population lives in areas in which the WHO guideline values for air pollution are exceeded. This results in 7 million deaths globally every year. To bring forward solutions to this challenge, SDSN Northern Europe and the Stockholm Air and Climate Network organized the Solutions Initiative Forum (SIF - AIR) on the 28th of August 2020. SIF Air and the accompanying AIR Solutions Report published solutions for improved air quality, as well as up-to-date knowledge on past, present and future air pollution, public health implications, regulations and policies, and concrete examples of mitigation.

Member Conference
SDSN Northern Europe was at the final stage of preparing its first member conference, in which the COVID-19 crisis caused a setback all over the world. To go onto lockdown and social distancing, the network quickly decided to instead arrange an online edition of the conference, which was held on the 2nd of March 2020. The conference presented the SDSN Northern Europe strategy, the latest solution initiatives of the network, and the Climate Framework for Higher Education Institutions. The conference provided an opportunity to report on the University Impact Rankings by SDG by Times Higher Education. In addition, the two co-chairs and two members of the Leadership Council discussed Sustainable Development from the Nordic Perspective.

Looking Ahead
By June 2020, over 1,200 users were registered worldwide in the free online course, the SDG Impact Assessment Tool. Launched back in February 2019, SDSN Northern Europe now aims to publish a guide for the tool and organize online seminars and workshops to support its use. Similar to the EU policy recommendations from the Beyond Growth Conference in Helsinki 2019, the network will continue to engage in the Science Policy Interface at local, national, Nordic, and EU levels. In addition, the network is analyzing the performance of Nordic municipalities and cities, aiming to publish a municipality-level Nordic SDG Index.
SDSN Philippines engages higher education institutions in promoting and achieving the SDGs, as well as connecting the needs of business groups and other stakeholders with actions and solutions that advance sustainable development in the country.

**SDSN Philippines Solutions Forum**

SDSN Philippines organized its first Solutions Forum on February 28, 2020, at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. Modeled after the Global Solutions Forum, which brought together some of the best solutions from the SDN networks around the world, the SDSN Philippines Solutions Forum highlighted key challenges, gaps, and solutions initiated by various member universities and partner institutions. Through short presentations that showcased projects, programs, and partnerships designed to achieve the SDGs, the event sparked discussions, actions, and collaborations.

Nine solutions were presented during the Forum, including:
- Ateneo de Manila University, addressing agricultural challenges in the country (Alveo AgriFood), and increasing water access among poor communities (Philippine Network for Social Progress).
- Davao City, focusing on initiatives to address reproductive health and wellness concerns.

The members agreed the Forum had allowed them to understand how universities could address the sustainable development challenges.

**Strengthening Networking in Sustainable Development**

The network continued to work towards strengthening the linkages between member universities, local businesses, and local communities in sustainable development, which is a project supported by the German Development Agency (GIZ). The project has so far hosted eight workshops around the country, including major cities like Quezon City, Davao, Zamboanga, and Cebu, and also in the provinces of Laguna and Batangas. Using the clusters framework provided by the UN Development Program Philippines, the Business for Sustainable Development, and the Ateneo Institute of Sustainability, the six SDG working groups have identified areas for policy and program interventions:
- **Natural Capital,** Food Systems, Social Services, Urban Communities, and Ethics and Governance.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network plans to develop training materials and publications that will help other universities map their SDG partnerships with their local businesses and communities at large.
SDSN Russia

Supported by the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)

Moscow, Russian Federation

SDSN Russia translates the SDGs to the Russian context by providing key research and by engaging in a wide array of projects and partnerships to prepare the country for its achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Conducting High-Level Scientific Research

The network specializes in transforming research projects into policy action at the highest level. This year, the network focused on the following topics:

- Achievement of the SDGs 1 and conditional convergence for different groups of countries
- Theoretical and applied approaches to modeling the electric power industry, taking into account the assessment of impacts over time from harmful emissions
- Identification of important regional socio-economic factors for the creation of new, knowledge-intensive industries in Russia (i.e., high- and medium-tech firms)

Promoting Cutting-edge Ideas

The first English-language special issue of the journal "Economic Policy" was prepared and published, featuring articles from leading experts, including many from SDSN Russia. The issue covers topics related to sustainable development, from ecological and energy efficiency to renewables, decarbonization, and integration technologies.

Engaging Society and Education

SDSN Russia promotes the SDGs through different public events, working with multiple local and international stakeholders, state and municipal authorities, businesses, academics, and students. Concepts such as the Concept for Sustainable Development and Energy Efficiency, offered at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, and at the Lomonosov Moscow State University, are the first ones of their kind in Russia.

Looking Ahead

In 2020, the ECOPF Green Documentary Film Festival was chosen as a solution that will be presented at the Global Solutions Forum 2020. In 2020, the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia, a civil society organization, was launched at the annual SDSN Russia meeting at the Gaidar Forum — one of the largest political and economic events in Russia. The Coalition also presented Russia’s independent civil society review on SDG implementation, with the active participation of SDSN Russia. The report was published in July 2020.

In 2020, SDSN Russia became a partner of the SDG Magnolia Tech Accelerator, a project of the blockchain-based platform Binance. The project will facilitate SDG-related digital innovations to combat the COVID-19 crisis.
Across the region, SDSN Sahel is working to raise awareness and promote solutions for the SDGs.

**Data for New in Senegal:**

SDSN Sahel is an initiative to ensure that there is more accurate, timely, and comprehensive data to make the SDGs an actionable framework that can drive policies and programs in real time for all people. SDSN Sahel implements this project in partnership with the SDSN Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (SDSN DSS), the World Bank, the United Nations Statistics Division, and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. In November 2019, representatives from each project country convened in Senegal to discuss priority data needs, specifically, the kinds of timely, (even indicative) data required to effectively track sustainable development. For Senegal, the lack of urban data from the cadastral sector is a challenge to development. The involvement of communities and local authorities is of paramount importance in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, it contributes to the sustainability of national and local plans. To this end, the use of municipal data by development actors is an absolute necessity. The general objectives of this multi-stakeholder project is to highlight the relevance of using data at the local level, but also to engage all stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

**SDG Awareness**

In order to engage and include citizen’s voices in the development debate in Senegal, SDSN Sahel and its partners, the ONE Campaign, and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, co-organized a university tour across four campuses. The purpose was to promote and raise awareness of the SDGs in Senegal and to encourage young people to get involved in the key issues pertaining to the country’s development. These key issues include poverty eradication, the demographic dividend, gender equality, education, agriculture, transparency, and accountability.

**New Governance Structure**

SDSN Sahel has established a new Leadership Council. The ten-member council includes academic, civil society, and government, and includes high-level figures such as:

- Khalil Alcine, Minister of Health and former Executive Director of UNAIDS
- Khadija Bane, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mali
- Aly Bongo Ondimba, President of the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network
- Dr. Hichem Bousaidi, President of the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network

- Echanges Citoyens autour des Enjeux du Développement au Sénégal
SDSN South Asia has been very active in the past year. They hosted India’s largest Sustainability Quiz in association with WIPRO, called ‘Roastum’, which about 200 students from all over India participated. They also organized two days of the annual technical symposium (Re-trospective) which provided students with a deeper understanding of the various challenges and strategies for sustainable energy. A full-day program was held to create awareness on the theme of Youth & Climate Action, including a series of events such as: workshop, debate, quiz and talks by renowned climate experts.

SDSN South Asia Youth also organized workshops and awareness campaigns on trash challenge, solid waste management, SDG 13. They supported the local government on localizing the SDGs by developing a SDG-related questionnaire for village profiles.

SDSN South Asia Youth – Practice and Passionate
The SDSN South Asia Youth collaborated with the Climate Reality Project organizing a Walk for Climate Emergency where we walked to the government school to educate the local community. We arranged to raise awareness on air pollution. The network used the walk to add practical value about air pollution to the students. In a fun way through a series of interactive programs, including a short talk, quiz, and a treasure hunt game on the SDGs.

2019-2020 Initiatives at the Secretariat
The SDSN South Asia secretariat at TERI held a workshop on and launched the RECU project report with its consortium partners. SDSN South Asia actively participated in the World Sustainable Development Summit held annually in New Delhi, where SDS had TERIANS students play an active role and volunteer.

Looking Ahead
SDSN South Asia is planning to conduct a webinar series in the coming year, focused on selected SDGs. The network will support green Olympiad activities, and participate in the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSSD).
Despite SDSN Korea’s presidential effort since 2013 to persuade the government to launch a high-level, pan-governmental committee on sustainable development to direct and coordinate national efforts to implement the SDGs, the 20th national parliament, ended its term in May 2020 without establishing such a body. Better late than never, the next parliament will hopefully pass such laws early next year.

SDSN-KR Sustainable Development Solutions Forum Series
The KDI Center for International Development will be launching this forum with three international webinars on “Exploring South Korea’s Experience with COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness: Pilots and Lessons” to identify critical elements and pitfalls in tracking the current and potential future pandemics. Also the Solutions Forum will go beyond pandemic preparedness to cover other critical contributions to achieving the SDGs, particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, rural development, public health and universal health care, women’s development, clean water, industrial development and other important topics. The forum will launch in the format of a webinar and continue through the fall.

A Study of How to Launch ‘65 Transformations’ for South Korea’s SDGs Implementation
The Sustainable Development Report 2020 mapped the transformations to implement the SDGs. Undertaken by the KDI Center of Global Economics, this study will examine the impact of South Korea’s existing long-term policies and plans to see how they may be modified and coordinated to affect the proposed 65 transformations for South Korea, underpinned by the principles of leaving no-one behind and inclusivity. The study will include an assessment of South Korea’s current implementation of the SDGs based on the Sustainable Development Report 2020.

Developing Mass Indices, SDS Indicators, and the Earth Observation Data-Sharing System for The Mid-Latitude Regional Network (MLMN)
The Mid-Latitude Region is broadly defined as a horizontal belt of temperature climate in the northern hemisphere between 30°-60° latitude encompassing 16 countries from Europe, Asia and North America. It is vulnerable to changing environmental conditions and extreme climate conditions such as drought and desiccation. As part of the MERN, OERI, host of SDSN Korea, will launch a report, “Applications of the SDG-SDS Indicators for SDG 4, 7, 11, 13, 15 to South Korea: Spatial Analysis”.

LOOKING AHEAD
In order to help ensure sustainability and impact from these various efforts this year SDSN Korea will prioritize outreach activities to inform politicians and the public about the significance and importance of launching the implementation of the KDI Center for International Development (CII).
SDSN Southeast Asia is working to scale up efforts to promote and implement the SDGs across the Southeast Asian region. A core principle of this network is to reflect on the lessons of local culture and spiritual philosophies to support the SDGs. One of the most well-known of such philosophies in this region is the Balinese Philosophy of Tri Hita Karana, or the Three Ways to Happiness.

SDG Happiness Festival 2020
For the third year in a row, the network organized the SDG Happiness Festival in Indonesia with the help of campaign.com. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the main event of this year's SDG Happiness Festival had to be organized online. The unprecedented circumstances led to a unique approach of reaching out via the internet platform. We are excited to report that the 2020 SDG Happiness Festival successfully connected more than 50 webinars, attracting over 1,000 participants from across Indonesia and the region.

Blended Finance and Innovation
The Government of Indonesia and United in Diversity with its Tri Hita Karana (THK) partnership held a private dinner dialogue in January 2020 in Davos, focused on "Realizing Indonesia's Potential through Sustainable Development." The dialogue focused on two priority themes: (a) investing in nature-based solutions (IBSs) to combat climate change, forest conservation, and healthy cities; and (b) creating innovation hubs for the SDGs, especially for the new capital city. Participants shared how Indonesia can be built through nature-based solutions aided by technology and innovation, with a focus on engaging indigenous communities. The dialogue proposed new blended finance solutions, such as blended social impact bonds, and new approaches to mobilize private, public, and philanthropic funds to secure sustainable futures.

LOOKING AHEAD
The network aims to hold the Tri Hita Karana Forum on Sustainable Development Virtually in November 2020. The virtual format will highlight projects piloting nature-positive and SDG-aligned solutions with innovative financing models to continue to build momentum for an environmentally and socially inclusive development model.
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.

**Moderating stakeholders through 2030 Awareness**

The Spanish network works with multiple levels of government, academic institutions and the private sector to ensure widespread awareness and action on the SDGs. It does so by organizing, among other events, an Annual Meeting to discuss the progress of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. At the national level, since 2017 the network has been collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the implementation and communication of the SDGs, and, as a member of the National Sustainable Development Council, with the Government’s Office for the Agenda 2030. Following the organization of the three-year Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Forums in 2019, and also as a response to the COVID-19 crisis, the network has launched the Day After initiative together with the Global Action on Climate (Oxfam), a leading health organization in Spain, CEPYME, a leading academic member; and Biodrive, a leading energy provider. The Day After is an innovative platform that gathers science, academia, policy makers, business leaders and civil society in order to coordinate key transformations to achieve the SDGs.

During 2019 and 2020, the network mobilized the private sector around the 2030 Agenda through bi-monthly “SDG@Breakfasts”. Over the same period, SDSN Spain published several reports: “Measuring the SDGs in Spain” (October 2019), and the second edition of the Urban SDG Report for Spanish cities (Autumn 2020).

The network also aims to leverage art and culture as a communication tool for sustainable development and help align relevant institutions with the SDGs. REDS has already organized three editions of the Seminar on Arts & Sustainable Development in 2017, 2018 and 2019. REDS has developed the first website in Spain on culture and sustainable development “CulturaSostenible.org”. Furthermore, supported by the Ministry of Culture, the network incubate a working group on Culture and Agenda 2030 which has published the first-ever monograph on this topic in Spanish (April 2020).

**Educating for Sustainable Development**

In 2018, following the Spanish version of the guide “Getting started with the SDGs in Universities,” the network issued a practical guide with inspiring experiences in education of the SDGs “Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Best practices in Spanish Universities.” The network has actively contributed to the development of the MIDOC “Partnership: an essential vehicle to achieve the SDGs” developed by the SDG Academy and the Inter-American Development Bank. This MIDOC entirely in Spanish, was launched in 2019 and 2020 (second edition).

During 2020, REDS has fostered a participative process to develop a new national strategy for environmental education, after issuing the “White Paper on Environmental Education in Spain” (2019).

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The Day After Platform is the first meeting point and agenda for the SDGs in the country. Initially born as an online agenda, the work of the Day After Platform will continue during 2020. The network will also continue delivering on the Sustainable Culture and the Sustainable Investment initiatives and will work to link them with the Day After.
SDSN Switzerland

SDSN Switzerland brings together worldwide scientists, researchers, civil society actors and representatives from business to co-create and implement transformative solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland and beyond.

Exploring new ways to cooperate and develop joint activities.

With almost all member organizations and several partners, SDSN Switzerland has become a well-known network. In order to explore each other’s projects and activities, member and partners were invited to participate with a stand in a marketplace in the second annual assembly. This setting brought the members’ work into the spotlight and the participants were invited to freely move around and interact with each other.

At one of the participants called it, the marketplace provided a valuable space for “tactical networking.” Furthermore, at the assembly, members elected Prof. Dr. Jürg Hering (Karger Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) as co-Chair for the network with Daniela Diaper (WWF Switzerland). On Weerthaus, the immediate past Co-Chair of SDSN Switzerland, highlighted the strategic priorities for the next stage of the working plan. The resulting composition of strategic and operational elements of the plan will make the network’s actions even more relevant and effective.

Continuing the outreach activities despite the COVID-19 pandemic:
The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many planned events of SDSN Switzerland to be rescheduled. Nevertheless, the network was able to organize a workshop at the World Biodiversity Forum in Zurich Switzerland to discuss how the biosphere supports the Sustainable Development Goals in their entirety.

The workshop aimed to bring together all stakeholders in Switzerland, including experts, policy-makers, and decision-makers.

The network decided to convert the SDSN Switzerland conference jointly planned with the National Research Programme 77 “Sustainable Economy” (NRP 77) into a series of online workshops held in June and July 2020. The objective of the online workshops was to debate the preliminary findings of selected projects of the NRP 77 and to establish calls to action to facilitate the transition to a sustainable economy and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The topic of the 6 workshops were: Sustainable construction & building, Digital innovations for sustainable agriculture, Urban green effects of sustainable behavior, Watering and voluntary agreement in the private sector, Sustainable food systems, and Environmental monitoring.

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern

CDE is Switzerland’s center of excellence for sustainable development. As one of the university’s main strategic research centers, it reviews sustainability throughout the university’s research and teaching, in an effort to chart pathways to sustainable development and to enhance transformative action with the Agenda 2030.

Biennio - Foundation for Ecological Development

Biennio was founded in 1957. Biennio confronts hunger and poverty at their roots. Through the active participation in the implementation, Biennio captures the transformative potential of the Agenda 2030 and the policy measures that will support this course. Biennio works in Switzerland and internationally. It is known for conducting a constructive dialogue with different stakeholders.

Looking back:

In 2020, SDSN Switzerland launched a “Call for Participation” initiative as a framework to engage and support the members and partners of the network and disseminate innovative solutions for sustainable development. The Network will continue using this framework to actively engage and work with its members and partners, together with its members. SDSN Switzerland will continue to bring together all stakeholders in Switzerland, if needed virtually, to shape the dialogue and the calls for action made at the 2030 online workshops.
SDSN Thailand

The network aims at uniting experts and researchers from a wide range of sectors to tackle the challenges of sustainable development in Thailand. In addition, it will also act as a platform for knowledge and experience sharing between national and global experts. SDSN Thailand will support existing academic networks, as well as nurture new thematic networks to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in Thailand. SDSN Thailand has four pillars:

1. Shaping multi-stakeholder dialogue and providing platforms for exchanging ideas and experiences across sectors to foster systemic solutions and mobilize tangible actions.
2. Nurturing thematic networks to promote sustainable development solutions by incorporating SDGs into existing thematic networks, as well as developing new thematic networks.
3. Providing evidence-based advice and recommendations to policymakers and leaders of different sectors to create transformative change.
4. Strengthening capacity in research and education on sustainability for Thailand’s primary and higher education sectors through innovative teaching and learning tools.

SDSN HIGHLIGHTS OF LOOKING AHEAD

Stakeholder engagement: During its first year, the network will carefully identify and engage relevant stakeholders at both regional and national levels. In that regard, the network has already received great support from two main strategic partners: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union (EU) Thailand Office. SDSN Thailand is working with the EU to provide capacity building for EU’s civil society partners.

Online seminars: The network has already hosted a series of online seminars exploring how COVID-19 impacts SDGs advocacy and implementation across different sectors.

Forefront Thailand Project: A research project funded by the Thailand Science, Research and Innovation Office. It leverages the SDGs framework to analyze significant needs, and produce policy recommendations for the regions.

National SDG Report: The report will be the first national SDGs report produced by an independent body. It will use data and information from the Forefront Thailand Project.

University Ranking: SDSN Thailand has planned to launch workshops and provide several seminars in the country with materials for integrating SDGs into their policies and administrations.

SDG Research and Support Programme (SDG Move), Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

Thammasat University (TU), founded in 1942, is known to be one of the leading universities in Thailand. It has been a part of several social transformations of the country, often dubbed as “the university of the people.” As a result of SDSN Thailand, SU has offered SDG-oriented multidisciplinary policy research and teaching programs. It also mediates an academic network to promote sustainability transformation.

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS), Chulalongkorn University

Chulalongkorn University (CU), founded in 1917, is the oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in Thailand. It is ranked as one of the “World’s Top Universities for the Best Academic Reputation” by QS World University Rankings and is a distinguished peace studies center. Specialized in peace studies and conflict resolution, CPCS has been a key resource in the national dialogue for the SDGs in Thailand.

Technology and Information Institute for Sustainability, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

NSTDA has a mission to perform and support scientific, technological, as well as engineering research and development. It responds to the need of the country’s development. The Technology and Information Institute for Sustainability (TIS), under NSTDA, aims to serve as a central body to harness the database for sustainable development as well as to develop a data management system in accordance with the international criteria.
SDSN Turkey

Hosted by Boğaziçi University
Istanbul, Turkey

Mobilizing Turkish Society around Sustainable Development
SDSN Turkey mobilizes companies, institutions, and governmental organizations promoting the territories of the SDGs in Turkey as an extension of the SDGs. The network is invited to participate in various events such as the Social Impact Summit organized by UNDP. In May 2019, the Network organized its first online Corporate Sustainability Certificate Program in collaboration with BDDK, Turkey. A specific Certificate Program on Sustainable Marketing was also developed and conducted for company professionals together with Sustainability Academy. SDSN Turkey also contributed to UNDP’s Grand Webinar and organized the participation of Mustafa Seckin, CEO of Unilever Turkey, Central Asia and Iran, who delivered a speech on Food and Happiness.

Working Towards Sustainable Urban Development
To localize SDGs 1 and 11 and raise awareness, SDSN Turkey initiated action at municipal level and held the “Cities for Climate Workshop.” The representatives of 11 municipalities declared their intent to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2030. Moreover, SDSN Turkey conducted the “Sustainable Cities and Climate Change-Online Training Program,” urging municipalities to undertake mitigation and adaptation efforts.

SDSN Youth and Global Schools Pilot Project
SDSN Youth Turkey works with the youth focal points of member universities. SDSN Turkey and SDSN Youth Turkey collaborated with ABIBICI Turkey in a one-year education for 200 students of K-12 schools. SDSN Turkey devotes special attention to the Global Schools Project. The Network works with a number of leading academics and government executives of K-12 schools to introduce the Global Schools Program in the national education system.

Looking Ahead
SDSN Turkey keeps contextualizing the SDG Academy courses. The Network is preparing a new training program called “Sustainable Cities and Climate Change” with further outreach to the municipalities while also working on developing a pilot SDG Index for Cities. Moreover, SDSN Turkey collaborates with the Danish Embassy in organizing the “Great Danish Zero Waste” event on sustainable food and gastronomy. Finally, the Network submitted an Erasmus+ Project Application to foster digital social innovation for the SDGs among European university students.
Makere University

Makere University is the leading public university in Uganda, and one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Africa. Within the university, the network is hosted by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), which is now the University College of Agriculture, Veterinary and Natural Resources Management (UCAVNR). This college is involved in research and teaching in agriculture, environment, and natural resources management.

SDSN Uganda is a new network that has already established a collaborative relationship with the Government of Uganda’s DSG Coordination Task Force in the Office of the Prime Minister. The network maintains all the SDG coordination meetings and will be the leading intergovernmental implementing entity of the SDGs in Uganda. The network is also in discussion with the UN Resident Coordinator’s office and UNDP Uganda to advance the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uganda.

Moving forward, SDSN Uganda plans to focus on six thematic areas:

1. Agriculture in Uganda is a dominant economic activity, with 42% of the GDP, 56% of export earnings, and about 50% employment. But agricultural productivity is very low and is largely untapped, making it vulnerable to climate change. SDSN Uganda will work with sector actors to develop transformative pathways that foster sustainable and resilient agricultural systems to increase production, food security, and income, and reduce poverty.

2. Good health is essential for healthy and productive economic development in Uganda. Access to quality healthcare is a big challenge, and human expectancy, high maternal and child mortality, and non-communicable diseases are major issues. The country has a high prevalence of malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. SDSN Uganda will support the development and implementation of policies and practices that promote equitable access to affordable, accessible, appropriate and quality health services for all people in Uganda.

3. Natural resources management and ecosystem health: ecosystems and land degradation are widespread challenges in Uganda. The network will develop transformative approaches that will reduce deforestation, forest degradation, and desertification, and support the achievement of environmental sustainability.

4. Renewable energy and energy efficiency: energy poverty is a challenge in Uganda. The network will develop transformative approaches that will reduce energy access and cost. SDSN Uganda will work with stakeholders to increase access to clean and affordable energy access to rural and urban areas. Renewable-based solutions for increasing renewable energy in the country’s energy mix (solar, wind, and energy etc.) and energy efficiency (efficient cookstoves, bulbs, other home appliances) will be sought.

5. Sustainable cities face huge challenges, including poor spatial planning, drought, poverty, air and water pollution, and urban ecosystem degradation. Uganda is reforming at a fast pace, so SDSN Uganda will support integrated urban planning approaches that address economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

6. Climate compatible development: Uganda is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. SDSN Uganda will support capacity building and transformative solutions for climate compatible development pathways. The network will engage in activities that increase climate change awareness, knowledge generation, research, and implementation of smart policies and practices.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Uganda’s formal launch was planned for May 2018, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the lockdown in Uganda. The network is now focused on operationalizing the Secretariat at Makerere University, including designing a network website, establishing its governance structure, and starting an SDSN Youth Chapter. The network will also prioritize monitoring of SDG implementation at subnational level and plans to conduct a survey on the likely impact of COVID-19 on SDG achievement in Uganda.
SDSN USA is a dynamic network of more than 150 universities, colleges, and 200 nonprofit organizations across 43 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Network members collaborate and share knowledge towards achieving a vision of a more equitable future through sustainable development. Since its launch in December 2013, the network has introduced a flagship project on deep decarbonization in the United States, produced research focused on measuring the SDGs in the United States, formed working groups around areas of common interest, and held a number of webinars and events to build network capacity and connectivity.

**Working Groups & Initiatives**

In January 2018, SDSN USA launched a US Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project. Since then, the network has produced a national-level white paper modeling the energy and infrastructure transitions to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Furthermore, the network has named two regional Decarbonization Co-hubs: a University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and a University of California, Berkeley, in Berkeley. These co-hubs include leading institutions in climate and environmental science and engineering.

**Government Strategy and Policy Initiatives**

The United States is at a critical moment for climate action, with multiple federal agencies and state-level organizations concerned about climate change.

**Host Institution(s)**

The SDSN USA team is based out of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network New York Office. Co-chairs include Brian Low, Professor of Environment and Development at Columbia University; Jordan Walker, Director of the Climate Change Program at the World Resources Institute; and Lauraessens, Director of the Energy and Environment Program at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research.

**Looking Ahead**

Throughout 2020 and into 2021, SDSN USA will continue to build out the working groups and support the development of new solutions initiatives. The network will also host a number of virtual events, including collaborations with other SDSN networks on the topics of university SDG reporting, networking events, and topic-specific webinars. The SDSN USA working group plans to release a report in Fall 2020, and the Zero Hunger Working Group plans to launch an initiative on Zero Hunger in the United States later in the year. In addition, an updated report on the SDGs in the United States, incorporating disaggregated data and examining disproportional impacts across Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous populations, is in progress.
Upcoming Networks

Argentina
The 3rd largest economy in Latin America and a G20 member, Argentina was an active participant in the negotiations process that led to the 2030 Agenda. In national development priorities, are adapted to locally implement and achieve the SDGs. UNSDN is in discussions with the Centre de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Desarrollo (CIPP) and Fundación Balseiro to establish a National SDSN.

Czech Republic
The Czech Republic is the best performing country in Central and Eastern Europe on the SDG Index and is amongst the top 10 in the world. UNSD is working on establishing a national network with the oldest, largest and dedicated Czech university, Charles University, as well as with the Academy of Science.

European Union
In December 2018, the European Commission announced the European Green Deal which outlines a strategy to transform the EU into a “fair and prosperous society, with a modern, efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.” The EU is thereby committing its bold commitments towards implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving the SDGs. UNSD will be working on establishing a European SDSN Network to promote and support this vision with academic experts from all countries of the EU.

Georgia
At the intersection of Europe and Asia, Georgia has demonstrated commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda. While Georgian universities have engaged with the SDGs, the Black Sea regional network, several institutions have expressed interest to create a new national network to specifically focus on domestic SDG challenges.

Ghana
Ghana has shown a great deal of leadership on the SDGs and President Akufo-Addo is a co-Chair of the SDG Advocacy. With the help of the Millennium Promise Alliance (MPA), UNSD is in discussions with the University of Education and the University of Ghana to set up a national network.

Lebanon
Lebanon is a strategic actor in the MENA region in terms of trade, academic and research excellence, and entrepreneurship. Consistently ranked within the top 10 universities in the Arab world, the American University of Beirut is an SDN member and has developed a proposal to host a new national network.

South Africa
South Africa is home to many of the top universities in Africa and has a strong academic sector with deep expertise. The University of Pretoria has developed the South Africa SDG Hub, which connects policymakers with the research and innovations needed to implement the SDGs, and is working on a proposal to coordinate a new national network.

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 actionable materials, including through the SDG Academy. They also support the National and Regional SDSNs in advancing the SDGs and operationalizing the goals in each country. UNSD currently hosts seven Thematic Networks across the full range of sustainable development areas. Four are featured in this report as they contribute to: Thematic Networks can collaborate with National and Regional SDSNs.
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

Hosted by Wageningen University & Research
Wageningen, The Netherlands

The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems network has been organizing a conference since before the COVID-19 pandemic. For all conferences, the network supports an online platform where participants interact as they would in a ‘normal’ conference, by asking questions, discussing their work, and making new connections. Three fully online conferences address timely and important topics, such as food security, a devastating malady post-COVID, and the American which has been introduced to other countries. The next conference focused on Africa and was held in October 2020. A follow-up event on Asia was held in July 2020. Over 300 participants attended, all of whom felt that the event was engaging and informative. The conferences discussed a wide range of topics, including biodiversity, food security, and sustainable agriculture.

In February, the network organized an online forum on ‘Food Security and Food Safety’ and, in March, an online event focused on ‘Food Security and Food Safety’ and ‘Food Security and Food Safety’ and ‘Food Security and Food Safety’. Over 200 participants attended each event, all of whom felt that the event was engaging and informative. The conferences discussed a wide range of topics, including biodiversity, food security, and sustainable agriculture.

The Wageningen University & Research team is dedicated to exploring and discussing the challenges and opportunities in making a reality for better farmers.

Looking Ahead:
The network plans to organize an online forum to discuss the impact of food security and food safety on the local community, including an interactive food tour, live online panel discussions, video interviews, and audience videos.

Sustainable Cities: Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected

Hosted by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and ISDN

Urbanization is a defining development trend and the dynamics of cities represents a major sustainable development opportunity. Today, about 16% of the world's 7.3 billion people live in cities, and by 2050, this will rise to 70%. Roughly 35% of global economic activity occurs in urban areas. At the same time, cities are home to severe social, economic, and environmental challenges, with one billion people living in slums. Cities have also felt the worst impacts of COVID-19 with high rates of fatalities and death tolls relative to rural areas.

The ISDN Cities Network supports the global urban community with relevant knowledge, education, data, and monitoring to support the implementation of the SDGs in cities and urban communities. Key activities over the past year include:

- Leveraging the SDGs for India 2018:
- Tracking the Changing Urban Context
- This is the first state-level, sub-national report tracking India's progress on the SDGs.

Sustainable Cities Network:
This online centre was launched in 2018 and updated in 2020 with new interviews and discussions.

City Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Planning Initiative (CRIPI):
This is an initiative of the Penn Institute for Urban Research, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The network's ambition is to grow the pool of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers around the world. This will enhance the reach of the global network and translate SDG-oriented research into policy-relevant tools. This includes peer-reviewed literature as well as wider access for policymakers.

Looking Ahead:
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Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources

Hosted by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)

New York, USA

http://www.ccsi.org/

Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources explores 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 leverage natural resources to provide maximum prosperity for both current and future generations and respect the rights of people within their borders. Governments, but also companies, must respect individual and community rights, and comply with high international standards on environmental, social, and human rights.

Working across the SDSN

This network works with National and Regional SDSN to promote good governance worldwide, with an emphasis on transparent and participatory practice. 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 an NGOCD on natural resource governance.

Looking Ahead

This network will continue to develop resources for businesses to support the achievement of the SDGs in the coming months and continue to offer its online open-access course (MOOC) through the SDG Academy.

Columbia on Sustainable Investment

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CSCI), a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute, is the only university-based applied research center and forum dedicated to the study, practice, and discussion of sustainable investment. Their mission is to develop practical approaches for governments, investors, companies, and other stakeholders to maximize the benefits of international investment for sustainable development.

Barcelona Institute of Global Health

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) was set up in 2004 as a center of excellence in research and knowledge development to stave off the twin challenges of global health in the 21st century. ISGlobal is an international research institute of excellence that represents a unique combination of prevention and public health research, with more than 2000 local, national, and international partners.

Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)

Fiocruz is the oldest public health research institution in Brazil, with a long-standing history of scientific excellence, philanthropic activities, and contributions to international development. It is a founding member of the Global Health Institute, which is hosted by the Pan American Health Organization and the Pan American Health Institute.

Health for All

Hosted by the Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGlobal), Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

www.healthforall.org

The SDSN Health for All network is a dynamic platform in action in many ways, as the network has leveraged its global expertise to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented health challenge has necessitated millions and resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths globally. It has rapidly reshaped the way we live and work, and its consequences will be felt for years to come.

The network’s main contribution has been the organization of a series of webinars to examine the implications of the pandemic for public health and the SDG, to present science-based recommendations for how to contain the spread of the virus, and to discuss options for mitigating the pandemic’s accompanying economic downturn. The first webinar featured 15 speakers who discussed successful public health interventions, how to ensure policy responses promote health equity and reduce inequality, and different scenarios for ending confinement measures and returning to normal. Specific presentations focused on the importance of social protections in ensuring COVID-19 responses leave no one behind, macro-economic policies to mitigate economic impacts, and the need for recovery efforts to be green.

Looking Ahead

SDSN Health for All continues to scale up its work on COVID-19, partnering closely with ISDN Amazonia, to address disparities in health outcomes among indigenous communities in the region. A number of resources will be developed to help governments and communities adopt science-based responses, to help communities and civil society organizations advocate for the social protections they need in these difficult times, and to support lasting and transformative recovery.
SDSN Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS) mobilizes technical and policy-oriented solutions to advance the data revolution for sustainable development. Its network of experts hails from across the global scientific, development, public, and private sectors and data communities.

TReNDS works to strengthen the data ecosystem by advancing the use of more frequent, high-quality data to guide and spur progress and to ensure that the data revolution is grounded in strong expertise and evidence.

Specifically, TReNDS aims to:

1. Develop timely, multi-sectoral, policy-relevant research to strengthen local, national, and global statistical systems, focusing on themes such as governance, new technologies, SDGs monitoring, financing, and data collaboration, thereby helping to ensure that data collection and production strategies are capable of supporting good practice and partnerships.

2. Test new approaches in data management, sharing, and use through pilot projects and partnerships in countries worldwide, documenting both process and program, to create applied, cutting-edge approaches that are highly replicable, as well as to encourage a more open dialogue on data-based innovations, collaborations, and data sustainability.

3. Continue to serve as a leading data-oriented think tank and advisory group, working to facilitate connections between local and global data science and innovation, in support of SDG monitoring, and in partnership with technical experts, to produce resources which help to empower and capture the potential of both local academia and governments.

Looking ahead:

In 2020-2021, TReNDS will delve deeper into the recommendations outlined in its flagship report, Counting on the World to Act, focusing on three key areas:

1. Building the Right Institutional Framework
2. Innovations for Timely SDG Monitoring
3. Data Sharing and Collaboration

This includes examining countries' governance arrangements to ascertain how ministries, agencies, and others can be reformed to better produce and use data to guide decision-making, identifying new technologies and methods to generate more timely data on sustainable development, and evaluating the legal and policy conditions required for safe and effective data use.
The SDG Academy is an SDG-focused education initiative. We create and deliver free online educational resources on sustainable development and offer them as a global public good. This offering includes more than 30 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), covering each of the 17 sustainable development goals, and an extensive library of open-access educational video content, themed webinars, and a Community of Practice that brings together universities, NGOs, and businesses to advance education for sustainable development through peer exchange and learning.

COVID-19 Updates
Since the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the SDG Academy has been working to help our audience understand the context of the crisis, enable the achievement of the SDGs through remote learning, and empower educators around the world to teach online. To this end, the SDG Academy has compiled resources and best practices for transitioning to remote learning, and joined collaborative efforts such as the eXtreme Access and Open Campus programs and the UNESCO Global Education Coalition for COVID-19.

Community of Practice
Launched in 2016, the SDG Academy Community of Practice brings global higher education institutions, NGOs, for-profit businesses, and relevant government entities to join a diverse community. The Community is dedicated to advancing education for sustainable development through peer learning and the sharing of best practices, customized resource development, and opportunities for research and strategic leadership. Members have the opportunity to engage with the SDG Academy, participate in these resources for their own needs and institutional context, and develop their own resources, communities of learning, networks, and dialogues across the wider Community of Practice. Applications are open to all SDG Academy members and institutions.

Course Creation Partnerships
The SDG Academy collaborates with SDG Networks to co-create online courses. For example, Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective, a regionalization of the Academy’s global course on sustainable food and agriculture, was created in partnership with SDG Mediterranean and focuses on the particular challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean region. It integrates global-local challenges related to achieving the SDGs, outlines the history and culture of agriculture and its characteristics with a focus on the “Mediterranean diet,” explores agricultural data with a focus on rural development models and value creation, explores EU policy frameworks and international agreements related to food and agriculture in the Mediterranean, and highlights emerging opportunities linked to innovation and sustainability in the sector.

Open Call for Translations
The SDG Academy endorses the present translation of our courses in as many languages as possible and actively seeks collaboration opportunities with Network members.

Master’s in Development Practice
Launched in 2019, the Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) is an inter-disciplinary, two-year graduate degree program that prepares students to better identify and address the challenges of sustainable development. The curriculum includes core courses in the natural social, health, and management sciences, as well as field experiences and shared online learning. The Global Association of MDP programs currently includes 38 academic programs in 26 countries. The Global MDP Network is a part of the SDG Academy and serves as the umbrella organization overseeing most of the MDP activities worldwide.

More information please visit: sdgacademy.org

The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) Pathways Consortium
FABLE is a collaborative initiative, operating as part of the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), to understand how countries can transition towards sustainable land-use and food systems. FABLE works with how countries can collectively act on the SDGs and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. To design and implement the sustainable transformation of land systems, countries will need to carefully assess the trade-offs between competing land uses for food, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation, among others. They will also need to account for their dependency on food imports and the international spillers of their demand for imports on other countries. Yet, many countries lack integrated strategies that tackle the synergies and trade-offs between the multiple and interconnected pressures on land.

FOLU’s website: www.foodlandusecoalition.org/folu

Pathway to Action Challenge:
- FOLU Country Platforms: FOLU Country Platforms
- Project Partners: Project Partners
- Country Partners: Country Partners
- Project Partners: Project Partners

Country Platforms are open to all FOLU member institutions and NGOs, as well as for-profit businesses.
Sustainable Development Report

The 2020 Sustainable Development Report outlines the likely short-term impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs and describes how the SDGs can frame the recovery. The report also tracks progress by country towards the SDGs. Since its launch in 2015, this annual report has provided the most up-to-date data to track and rank the performance of all UN member states on the SDGs. As an essential monitoring tool, the SDG is complementary to official efforts to monitor the SDGs.

Sustainable Development Report 2020
The Sustainable Development Goals and Covid-19
Addressing the SDG Hubs and Challenges

SDSN Youth

SDSN Youth is the global youth program of the SDG and was established in 2019 to empower young people globally to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth has 1800 members working to more than 37 different countries across the National Networks (Regional and National) and in collaboration with SDSN Network, focusing on mobilizing young people towards achieving the SDGs.

SDSN Youth also leads global initiatives and programs on a number of domain areas: education, advocacy for kids, sustainable consumption, sustainable cities, and entrepreneurship. Each program follows a seven-step theory of change: educate, empower, train, volunteer, share and collaborate or communities; then implement and scale the solution.

Education
The Global Schools Program trains educators to become advocates for sustainability education, connect with schools, and run workshops on the SDGs. Educators will then run activities with students to implement small-scale solutions (e.g., creating a worm farm) as the first step towards contributing to sustainable development.

The Doctoral Students Program is a global network of student hubs based at SDSN Member Institutions, where students can come together to learn about, engage with, and take action on the SDGs.

Commuting
SDSN Youth runs a number of events to bring young leaders together to share their experiences and identify potential opportunities for collaboration, including the Volcani Youth Symposium, where the young leaders and experts came together to find solutions and partnerships to further the implementation of the SDGs on a national, regional, and international scale.

Innovation
The Local Pathways Fellowship is a 12-month training program, where young innovators analyze the local context of their cities, to then develop concepts for a project to implement. The program equips the Fellows with the knowledge and resources to work with local authorities in planning, building, and maintaining cities that are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

The Youth Scholars Program aims to advance youth-led SDG innovation. We provide an ecosystem of resources to help young people overcome barriers to launching, implementing, and scaling innovative solutions by providing access to experts, funding, training, and exposure to opportunities.

Highlights of 2020
- Launch of the SDSN Students Program Certificate, co-designed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
- 600 schools have signed up to the Global Schools Program, committing to align their curriculum with the SDGs using our content
- A new education research project focused on SDG target 4.7 by being piloted in Morocco, Ghana, and Turkey with the minimum to instill the national curriculum in each country and align it with the SDGs.
Participation in global initiatives

To advance global progress on the SDGs, SSN facilitates member and network engagement in global initiatives which focus on important themes relating to fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Below we highlight several initiatives, organized by SSN and our partners, which help advance global policy work in these areas.

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FORUM

Joining the world’s biggest problems isn’t easy. Progress is often slow and incremental. But all over the planet, brilliant people are implementing local initiatives designed to help achieve the SDGs. The Global Solutions Forum brings these people together in an inclusive space to share progress, to highlight important takeaways, and to inspire one another to keep moving forward. As the leading global network of knowledge-creating institutions in support of the Agenda 2030, the SSN has unique expertise and actionable solutions for sustainable development. Through the Global Solutions Forum, we are committed to showcase and highlight our members’ most impactful solutions. This global event brings together leaders, experts, and stakeholders to discuss the latest on global sustainability and innovation, and to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The 2018 Edition

The inaugural GSF was held in New York on September 19, 2018, and brought together experts in science, technology, and policy to present innovative thinkers in rapid-fire talks packed with challenges and discoveries from around the world. The SSN network—Gold through members, images, and insights, the talks were designed to unite and inspire the 1000 participants.

The 2019 Edition

On the 17th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2019, SSN hosted its first 24-hour global webinar, “Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth: 24 Hour Webinar.” In an event that drew participants from 24 countries, speakers from various sectors discussed how the global community can work together to achieve global sustainability. The webinar was designed to highlight the importance of collaboration and to encourage global action.

Partners for Review

Partners for Review (PR) 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. Hosted by GIZ, the network brings together members from around the world to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise. For more information, please visit: www.globalpartnerreview.org.

Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth: 24 Hour Webinar

On the 17th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2019, SSN hosted its first 24-hour global webinar, “Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth: 24 Hour Webinar.” The event featured speakers from different countries, sectors, and disciplines discussing the importance of happiness and sustainability in our world.

Participating in the webinar were experts from various sectors, including business, government, and academia. The event aimed to highlight the importance of global collaboration and to encourage worldwide action towards achieving sustainable development.

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The biannual network meetings facilitate dialogue and peer learning, and provide space to explore best practices and lessons learned on the exchange of expertise on issues related to national monitoring and review. SSN contributes expertise on developing a robust global review and accountability mechanism for achieving the SDGs and mobilizes stakeholders from our network to participate in the network meetings. For more information, please visit: https://www.partnersforreview.org.

Participating in the network meetings are experts from various sectors, including business, government, and academia. The event aimed to highlight the importance of global collaboration and to encourage worldwide action towards achieving sustainable development.

Participant map from PR workshop in Berlin, November 2019.
Network benefits

Network Manager Training

The SDSN Secretariat has crafted a continuous training program for SDSN Network managers. Thanks to the generous support of GIZ, the program includes a virtual seminar series as well as two-week workshops, usually held around the SDSN Leadership Council meeting. These training sessions are an opportunity for SDSN Network managers and Secretariat members alike to present initiatives and share experiences and lessons learned regarding managing their networks and projects. In addition, this space allows networks to collaborate around joint initiatives such as the three-hour webinar “Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth,” which was conducted during the September 2020 workshop week in New York.

The 4th edition of the training workshop was scheduled in March 2020 in Madrid, but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period of uncertainty, SDSN’s efforts were curtailed and, together with GIZ, the Secretariat developed a capacity building program to support the network managers. This program focused on skills and tools to support networks during the crisis and beyond, including shared subscriptions to online meeting and webinar platforms, a digital and interactive toolbox with tips for online meetings and more, and an updated monthly seminar series with special sessions on virtual member engagement and multisector partnerships.

To date, the workshops have trained up to 40 different managers covering a range of topics including SDSN member engagement, fundraising, solution initiators development, community management and much more. In addition to building capacity and developing skills amongst the diverse global teams, these workshops also help facilitate discussions and build support between networks.
SDSN Mobilize is our exclusive internal communication platform for all 250+ SDSN member organizations around the world. Our aim is to help turn thought into action, provide inspiration, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise within our global network of problem-solvers. The platform facilitates a direct line of communication between members, geographic and thematic networks, and the SDSN Secretariat. Mobilize is every member’s one-stop shop for networking and connecting.

As part of the SDSN online community, representatives from SDSN member institutions can identify and connect with peers, increase the outreach of their projects and activities, position their organization as leaders in their field, find new prospects for collaboration, ask questions, identify funding opportunities, and draw upon the community’s ever-growing expertise. To date, SDSN Mobilize boasts around 3,000 individuals in this one-of-a-kind pool of sustainable development experts. Once a week, we shine a light on one of our incredibly diverse members, highlighting their work in our “Mobilize Member Highlight.” Additionally, the platform features exclusive content like a comprehensive weekly compilation of funding opportunities in sustainable development and a bulletin on SDSN-related research and events. We also help our members apply for grants, participate in conferences, identify fellowships, publish research, and much more.

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

Join the SDSN!

Our global network of problem-solvers is always expanding. Join us and enhance national and regional capacity to address sustainable development challenges.

As a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, your institution will be part of a unique network of problem-solvers and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development. Together, we work in three main areas:

1. Advocating and mobilizing support for the SDGs, including supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development;
2. Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
3. Identifying and launching solution initiatives, including supporting the preparation of long-term pathways.

SDSN Membership is FREE and open to any university, research institute, research and science-oriented civil society organizations and foundations, and other institutions that have deep expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development.

Government entities and private sector institutions (profit-oriented businesses) are not eligible for membership but are welcome to join as partner universities. Universities can join at the level of the university or on an institutional department/program.

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

www.sdsn.org/member