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 enormous in scale and complex. Universities are well-positioned to support this transition. They develop new technologies, business models, and governance frameworks; train future leaders to be globally-conscious and innovative; 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 1,300 member institutions in 130 countries, organized into 38 networks at the national and regional level. This expertise is channeled into multi-stakeholder 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’s networks of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focus on:

- Localizing and mobilizing support for the SDGs, including supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Vetting and launching solution 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.
The Fuller Projection Map is the only flat map of the entire surface of the Earth which reveals our planet as one island in one ocean, without any visually obvious distortion of the relative shapes and sizes of the land areas, and without splitting any continents. It was developed by R. Buckminster Fuller in 1954.
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 2019 the second hottest year on record. Many African countries fought swarms of desert locusts, jeopardizing food security and the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers. Australia has seen a record-setting fire season. And all of this has been completely eclipsed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest global peril 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 27 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 people who found themselves home schooling, childcare and remote work commitments, or the millions of others 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 regards 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 borders, and are efficient at distributing accurate and timely information. The key challenges of 2020 are all collective; exacerbated by global climate change and accelerated by a globalized economy and society, the only paths to effective solutions are all collective; exacerbated by global climate change and accelerated by a globalized economy.

In the last century, the world has suffered from and in turn solved many public health problems; the number of people affected by smallpox, measles, polio, and yellow fever has fallen dramatically. Solving these challenges was a result of major investments in the sciences, 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 institutions 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 responses 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 medicines. However, there remain fierce disputes and several countries have blocked exports of medical equipment and supplies, seriously limiting other countries’ ability to procure essential goods. Just ten countries account for 90% of patents, showing great disparities in innovation, which make universal access to health globally unfeasible. This situation needs to be addressed, local production and innovative models must be scaled up globally, and the existing social contract between governments and patent owners 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 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines – pay testimony 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 in designing effective public policies. Social scientists 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. If historian Eric Hobsbawn were alive today, he might say that the pandemic marks the socio-cultural beginning of the 21st century, as it calls into check the movement of people and goods from the so-called globalized world.

This emergency has brought out the worst in some of us, but it has brought out the best in the vast majority. We have seen the strength of our social fabric in the myriad creative ways people have found to help others while protecting themselves, from delivering groceries to the doorsteps of elderly neighbors, to the mass sewing of homemade masks, to the stirring rounds of nightly applause to celebrate essential workers. SDSN’s World Happiness Report identifies both generosity and social support as essential ingredients to well-being, and one of the positive results of the global pandemic is the many ways it has bolstered our sense of community, despite the many tragedies it has also caused.

The global scientific community has also come together in solidarity, with many efforts launched for joint research on effective prevention, treatment, and vaccines. Countries have launched for joint research on effective prevention, treatment, and vaccines. Countries have facilitated better data sharing, and the WHO has done a herculean job of coordinating the response. WHO’s Global research and innovation forum: towards a research roadmap 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 SDSN’s Health for All network has been a key player in this, hosting several webinars on COVID-19, as have many of SDSN’s other networks, organizing local efforts to address their distinct regional or national contexts. Our respective institutions, which together co-host the Health for All network, are also global leaders in the response. The Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz) has led a number of initiatives, including a collaboration lab to train countries across Latin America on COVID-19, and a COVID-19 Observatory to track the spread of the
disease and coordinating the WHO Solidarity Clinical Trial in Brazil. The Laboratory for Respiratory Viruses and Measles of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute has been nominated Reference Laboratory of the World Health Organization for COVID-19 in the Americas and participates in the WHO network of laboratory specialists for COVID-19. In addition, it is leading the Latin American and Lusophone African countries’ networks of national public health institutes, establishing joint research projects, training staff, and supporting laboratories in partner countries. Fiocruz is also supporting the Brazilian Unified System of Health (SUS) in their response, and manufacturing and distributing more than 1 million diagnostic kits for testing, clinical attention, social support projects, and epidemiological information.

Srinath Reddy of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) 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. PHFI’s health technologies division developed a digital solution to help community health workers identify people at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 based on travel history, comorbidities, and symptoms and also led the way on training health workers to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19, offer diagnoses, and treat cases.

With Spain critically affected by COVID-19, the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) is providing critical support locally in Barcelona, to the Spanish government at the national level, and also to European collaborators. Critical contributions include a number of white papers on strategies for progressively loosening COVID-19 containment measures, and ISGlobal’s partnership with over 70 institutions in the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition. The institute is also leading important prophylactic and serological studies in various locations, while co-leading major policy transformation efforts at the national level through the ad-hoc coalition ‘The Day After’, which brings together private, public and social sectors around the implementation of SDGs.

In China, Dr. Gordon Liu was the only econometrician selected to serve on the China National Technical Taskforce for COVID-19. He has been advocating globally for increasing resources and access to mass testing, especially antibody testing, which can be more cost effective than diagnosing infections and contact tracing. 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-resourced 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.

We have seen how marginalized people, always the most vulnerable in a crisis, have been disproportionately affected. Social isolation and lockdowns have affected poor people, particularly people in low-wage jobs with little benefits and those working in the informal sector, more than the wealthy. The economic impacts of this outbreak severely threaten gains at reducing poverty (SDG 1), with global poverty increasing for the first time since the 1990s. There are stark examples of inequality as well in communities of color in the United States, where statistics on both incidence and mortality show dramatic disparities. It is important to consider SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities, in tailoring our response, and ensuring no one is left behind.

Disruption to global trade and supply chains has yet to be fully understood, 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 undernourished people globally, and the current crisis threatens to pull us further backward. However, this is an opportunity, for as we recover, we can re-define value chains to be more sustainable, and to help small-scale farmers gain access to markets and higher incomes (SDG 2, No Hunger).

We have seen dramatic impacts to the education sector as well, at all levels, from early childhood through tertiary. However, this crisis has led to a lot of innovation in this space and some great advances have been made in virtual learning. Several cities and individual schools have been successful at adapting to online classrooms, while continuing to provide services like school meals and healthcare to students. However, these gains have been unequal and most students who are out of school, particularly in low-income countries, have not been given meaningful opportunities to continue learning. Achieving SDG 4 means that all students, at all levels, receive a quality education. But realizing this goal means success stories 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 to respond to COVID-19, emphasizing the importance of SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy. Much of the advice we receive to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, such as washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, or placing clothing in a dryer to kill germs, assumes that all people have access to safe water and reliable electricity. However, two out of every five people in the world do not have access to basic handwashing facilities. The lives of these people are at stake, today from COVID-19, but also from diarrheal disease and other pathogens. Responding to today’s crisis is an opportunity to bring lasting improvements and resiliency for the long term.

This global pandemic has educated many about the links between deforestation, human encroachment on natural systems, and the emergence of zoonotic diseases. The academic literature has drawn these linkages for years, and today their findings are receiving much attention. This strengthens arguments for preserving natural lands, particularly tropical and temperate forests, and reaffirms the importance of SDG 15, Life on Land. As we think through policies to prevent future pandemics, we must consider the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

While these have been truly devastating times for humanity, they also represent an opportunity to accelerate the transition away from business as usual towards the achievement of the SDGs. But working together to share what we have learned and develop a common vision for a better future, we can ‘build back better’ and create a more resilient global community. Now more than ever, it is clear that achieving the goals will bring lasting resiliency and prosperity for both people and the planet. Despite the current challenge, let us all remain committed to our mission to value human and non-human life, and work together through organizations like the SDSN for a more inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable world.
Our National and Regional Networks

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

Hosted by Kateb University | Kabul, Afghanistan

SDSN Afghanistan launched in August 2020 as a platform for universities, businesses, 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, Teach 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 Solutions Forum 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, Kateb University organized the first-ever conference on the role of universities in achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan in August 2019. As a result, UNDP pledged financial support and collaboration on data sharing, the Afghan government promised political support, and the Ministry of Economy suggested the One University – One Goal Initiative, a project aimed at providing dedicated SDG-support to higher education institutions.

SDSN Afghanistan also participated in the SDSN’s 24-Hour Webinar on Happiness and Sustainability, held in the SDSN's 24-Hour Webinar on Sustainable Development. Kateb University also participated in the national conference on "Best Practices and Innovations of Private Schools of Afghanistan" as a concrete example, Kateb University participated in the association of private schools to develop an SDG training program for school teachers and promote the SDGs among students and teachers.

Solutions for Sustainable Development
The decade of action to achieve the SDGs has started but Afghanistan is still in the localization phase. However, reliable data, technological support, and reporting mechanisms are missing and impede timely action on the SDGs. Therefore, SDSN Afghanistan will provide solutions for each of the above challenges by setting up an SDGs data center that supports data collection and monitoring on the SDGs while preparing a gap analysis on current policies.

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 named objectives.
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 160 solutions (from 5 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 2019, the most innovative initiative, Gastronomy with Conservation Flavour of Amazônicos por la Amazonía (Amazônians for the Amazon), a Peruvian NGO, represented the network at the Global Solutions Forum in New York. In its third edition, the 2020 theme was Sustainable solutions to face COVID-19 in the Amazon. 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 2019 Vatican Youth Symposium, focused on empowering youth to act locally and think globally.

Amazon Education Program

One of SDSN Amazônia’s main goals is to promote education and capacity building for Amazonian leaders. In this context, Amazônia-Edu was launched to train change agents for sustainable development through experiential education. In 2019, SDSN Amazônia supported the Amazon Journey immersion course. The Amazon Journey is an intensive, 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 experience together based on shared purpose, work, and values.

SDSN Youth in Amazônia

Our youth network launched an SDG Photography Contest in July 2019. The 17 winning pieces, representing positive actions for achieving the SDGs, were exhibited during the Turn 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 2019 Vatican Youth Symposium, focused on empowering youth to act locally and think globally.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Amazonia and SDSN Andes are developing an online, SDG-focused, user-friendly, open-access platform for monitoring SDG progress in South America. The tool will also provide essential information for implementing projects towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Initiatives Lab hosted by SDSN and GIZ selected this project as the top solution. Through the program, the initiative will receive mentorship from strategic partners. The platform is a pioneering tool to boost the 2030 Agenda in South America.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK

Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela

Participants of the 2019 Amazon Journey immersion course

© Dirce Quintino

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Online Community Action Platform
SDSN Andes and Hapicorporate 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 reshape our communities into more resilient and sustainable social systems.

24-hour webinar
On April 22, SDSN hosted the first worldwide 24-hour webinar to address the issues of happiness, well-being, and sustainability. SDSN Andes’ session Reflections and Solutions from the Andean Region explored human-nature relations and conservation, as well as SDG localization efforts in Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador. Panels included Adolfo María Pérez Esquivel, a Nobel Peace Prize winner; Yolanda Kakabadse, former President of IUCN and WWF; Estela Cammarota, Founder of Engineering Without Borders -Argentina; Reinalina Chavarri, Director of the Sustainability Observatory - University of Chile; Mariano Oberlin, Catholic Priest working with impoverished communities in Argentina; Julio López, Director of Sustainable Cities - Grupo FABO; and Mireya Villacis, Project Coordinator - Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano.

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 georeferenced information on progress made, on local prioritization of SDGs, local authorities in charge of SDG implementation, SDSN member organizations, solution initiatives, lessons learned, and locally applicable funding opportunities. This project won the Initiatives Lab contest hosted 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 “encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships” (Target 17.17).
SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific focuses on four main areas: i) fostering cross-sectoral action to support SDG localization, ii) mobilizing university action on the SDGs, iii) supporting the activities of SDSN Youth in the region, and iv) supporting regional contributions to global SDSN initiatives.

Empowering universities to address the SDGs
As part of our ongoing Accelerating SDG Practice initiative, organized jointly with Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), 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 SDGs in 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-business-as-usual” action on sustainable development. The initiative is gathering case studies for a regional action report, and showcasing them in virtual forums.

Supporting Youth Action
In 2019, the network supported SDSN Youth’s SDG Students Program, aimed at engaging university students in SDG implementation. The program helped SDG Coordinators at six member-universities set up SDG Student Hubs and organize a range of events and activities – such as public lectures, campaigns and solutions labs – to encourage students to learn about, 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 members ClimateWorks Australia and Deakin University, together with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the project is working with a cross-sector coalition of organizations 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 tour, which will engage different audiences on how the region is tracking five years into the SDGs, and the role of the SDGs in the regional public health and economic response 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.

**SDG Voice 2020**
In 2020, SDSN Belgium was appointed by the Belgian federal government as an “SDG Voice 2020” 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’s or 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 (G-STIC) Conference in which all members of the network take part. This year, the G-STIC conference will be part of a special SDG week, co-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 province administrative staff is ongoing, in parallel with the development of a methodology to assess and monitor implementation of the SDGs at subnational level.

**SDG Barometer 2020**
The network is a supporting partner of the SDG Barometer 2020 (led by the Antwerp Management School, member of SDSN Belgium), a research project which gives insights of the progress made, the challenges, success factors, and barriers for implementation. The results of this research will be compared with the data of the previous edition from 2018 to highlight best practices and showcase working strategies.
More data is needed for SDGs 10, 12, & 14.

SDSN Black Sea

SDSN Black Sea was officially launched in October 2018 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh). Its vision is 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 unemployment, innovation, and sustainable tourism.

Regional Powerhouse for Sustainable Development

In October 2019, the network co-organized the international Conference “Implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region.” It was highlighted that many cross-border problems exist among countries of the region. Thus, regional actors such as SDSN Black Sea are crucial in providing a regional dimension to SDG implementation.

SDSN Black Sea supported the 3rd Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, organized by SDSN Greece and The Economist Events. 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 tourism.

In March 2020, SDSN Black Sea co-organized the 1st International Conference on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Region entitled “Ecosystem Services on River-Sea Macro-Ecosystems”. The conference offered a framework for free debates, exchange of ideas, best practices, and knowledge. Such exchange allowed to identify new directions for conceiving policies to implement a regional Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Black Sea has been impacted by the cancellation of numerous events due to the global pandemic. In the coming months, these events will be revisited:

- Baku Forum 2020 and the SDSN Black Sea Regional Meeting (March 2020)
- Perspectives and Challenges of defossilization in South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean (May 2020)

SDSN Black Sea Youth is expected to launch soon
The overarching objective of SDSN Bolivia is to promote sustainable visions and solutions for long-term development in Bolivia. The network aims at bringing academia, government institutions, the private sector, philanthropic efforts, and civil society together to tackle the most pressing issues in 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 339 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 the 166 countries in the global SDG Index. That is why it was so important to provide this information at the sub-national level.

Eco-tourism as an Engine of Sustainable Development
With about 25% of the national territory covered by national, departmental, or 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 local member organizations, will use the Municipal Atlas of the SDGs in Bolivia to promote decentralized and locally formulated processes of sustainable development.
SDSN Brazil was set up to help achieve the 2030 Agenda in Latin America’s largest country. In light of the social and economic impacts caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the network has increased its efforts to build effective partnerships to overcome the current crisis and to use the SDGs to frame recovery in the Decade of Action. By the end of the year 2020, SDSN Brazil aims to have completely reactivated and remapped all of the current SDSN member institutions and initiatives located in the Brazilian territory. The network also continues ongoing work regarding SDG 11, and promotes new engagement with other SDGs.

**Strengthening the National Network**

Brazil is a country of continental dimensions, which is why SDSN Brazil has started the process of restructuring the national network by designating state chapters to better assess the relevance of the SDGs throughout the different stages of their implementation in the country. These permanent state chapters will bring nationwide coverage to the network, give visibility in a consistent and institutional way, and also enable proximity to local communities for open dialogue. Local initiatives will be reported to all Brazilian regions, in order to connect groups with shared interests.

**Cooperation for Education and Research**

On behalf of SDSN Brazil, the Interdisciplinary Center of Environment of PUC-Rio is coordinating an initiative to build a national network of academic institutions to promote education and research about sustainable development in the Brazilian territory. This initiative will also build international cooperation for research and is partnering with the Jesuit University Association of Latin America. SDSN Brazil will also be hosting debates, lectures, and workshops to educate the population, create new solutions, and discuss progress towards the SDGs. In addition, the network has taken on itself to translate the SDG Academy’s Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Encyclical Laudato Si’ to Portuguese. This self-paced mini course focuses on Pope Francis’ urgent call to action to protect the earth and its inhabitants from ruin.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

SDSN Brazil is committed to the Decade of Action and has established a work plan with a long-term perspective. The network is working on establishing the remaining state chapters to enhance the network’s presence nationwide, to localize and shed light on the countless and diverse initiatives around the country, and to support implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the network is working on identifying higher education institutions for cooperation in teaching and researching of sustainability in order to educate professionals for a world in transformation.
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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. As 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/Ensemble, co-created by the network, is Canada’s annual national conference devoted to tracking progress on the SDGs. An inclusive pan-Canadian SDG gathering for academia, civil society, business, youth, and government to advance implementation and collaboration on the SDGs, the 2020 conference was hosted online in May (sessions were recorded and available to view online). The conference aims include sharing SDG work happening across the country and mobilizing new partnerships, innovations and pathways for progress on the SDGs.

SDG Student Alliances
In partnership with SDSN Youth, the SDSN Canada Youth Coordinator oversaw and mentored six student SDG Campus Coordinators on member campuses. The Campus Coordinators built SDG hubs and student alliances to further youth action for the SDGs. SDSN Canada also co-hosted a meeting of youth from across the country focused on how to build a strong network to advance the SDGs on campus, including how to build administrative partnerships and lead effective advocacy campaigns.

Joint Initiatives with Members
To spur collaboration between network members, SDSN Canada issued a challenge to its members to take urgent action on the SDGs. The challenge outlines six 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,
IN THE REGIONAL NETWORK

Islands and Venezuela

Trinidad and Tobago, United States Virgin and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, El Salvador, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Cuba, Costa Rica, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, Colombia.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED

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SDSN Networks in Action 2020

Worldwide, the SDSN has over 1,000 active networks in 200 countries, and a number of special networks, such as the SDSN High-Level Ambassadors Corps, SDSN Research, SDSN Business, SDSN Youth, SDSN Cities and SDSN Ocean. The SDSN Caribbeans network and the Institute for Sustainable Development, Innovation and Infrastructure (ISDI) are examples of these networks. Each presenter delivered a short presentation on the nature of entrepreneurship and how they found their niche, the importance of entrepreneurship in sustainable livelihoods, and advice on how to manage and navigate discouraging situations. The seminar was attended by over sixty participants, who left saying that they received sound advice from the seminar and were encouraged to embark on starting their own businesses.

International Seminar on Climate Action

The SDSN Caribbean network and the SDG Center for Latin America held the 4th International Seminar on Climate Action on March 4th and 5th at the University of the West Indies. Participants and presenters discussed climate adaptation and resilience strategies in the Caribbean, the role of youth in climate action, and the implementation of the Biofuels solution and the focus on youth engagement. The pandemic and the testing plan has been accordingly amended to take place on the Cave Hill Campus.

Youth Entrepreneurs Seminar

In October 2019, SDSN Caribbean and the Institute for Sustainable Development, Innovation and Infrastructure (ISDI) each presented a forum on climate action, described by over sixty participants, who left saying that they received sound advice from the seminar and were encouraged to embark on starting their own businesses.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the next several months, SDSN Caribbean will continue to support the implementation of the Biofuels in Barbados solution and to focus on youth engagement. The pandemic is complicating these activities, but has renewed everyone’s passion to support lasting, sustainable development in the region.

University of the West Indies

Established in 1948, UWI is the largest and longest-standing institute of higher education in the English-speaking Caribbean. UWI enrolls over 45,000 students, and its impressive network of alumni includes more than 18 current and former heads of state, two Nobel Laureates, and dozens of Rhodes Scholars.

Field Visit to Mona Campus Renewable Energy Installations

SDGS 2 & 16

2019 Global Solutions Forum

SDSN Caribbean participated in the first Global Solutions Forum in New York in September 2019. The Network’s solution was “Alternatives to EVs: Biofuels in Barbados,” presented by Dr. Legena Henry, Lecturer in Renewable Energy at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, and principal investigator for the project. As a result of her presentation, Dr. Henry received a grant of one hundred thousand U.S. dollars from the Blue Chip Foundation, to support 21 months of research to further the initiative, starting in December 2019. Two Home Biogas support systems, each with a capacity of 2,500 litres, have been acquired to test the potential of turning rum distillery waste into fuel around Barbados. The equipment arrived during the peak of the pandemic and the testing plan has been accordingly amended to take place on the Cave Hill Campus.

The region is logging on SDG 7

Several countries have implemented SDGs 2 & 16

Significant data gaps pose a challenge, especially on SDG 10

Looking at the gap in the region, Dr. Henry presented at the 2019 Global Solutions Forum. He gathered at the Mona Campus in Kingston, Jamaica, to hear from SDSN Caribbean and the Institute for Sustainable Development, Innovation and Infrastructure (ISDI). Each presenter delivered a short presentation on the nature of entrepreneurship and how they found their niche, the importance of entrepreneurship in sustainable livelihoods, and advice on how to manage and navigate discouraging situations. The seminar was attended by over sixty participants, who left saying that they received sound advice from the seminar and were encouraged to embark on starting their own businesses.

International Seminar on Climate Action

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In October 2019, young people gathered at the Mona Campus in Kingston, Jamaica, to hear from SDSN Caribbean and the Institute for Sustainable Development, Innovation and Infrastructure (ISDI), each presented a forum on climate action, described by over sixty participants, who left saying that they received sound advice from the seminar and were encouraged to embark on starting their own businesses.

LOOKING AHEAD

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SDSN China Hub

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

TUSDG became the China Hub of the SDSN in February 2019. As one of the leading academic institutes focused on the SDGs in China, TUSDG is committed to building an interdisciplinary, high-end platform to contribute to: frontier 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, TUSDG has been working on the 3-year major project: Research on the Evaluation System Construction and Implementation Path of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The research raised 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, this research will share with other countries first-hand knowledge and perspectives 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 Driven Demonstration Zones for promoting SDGs implementation in China, starting with several pilot cites, and will gradually expand to the whole country in the future. Since then, TUSDG has been working with local governments in Hubei, Yunnan, Zhejiang and Guangxi provinces, and jointly promoted the SDGs localization by providing SDGs implementation strategies, policy suggestions and practical solutions. Currently, TUSDG is working on the Study on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Deqing county government, which will be the first SDGs 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 then 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.

Meet SDGs High-End Forum
This is one of the TUSDG’s flagship events set up for international exchange and communication on the SDGs. Many world-known experts in political, business and academic circles have been invited to share their frontier research, thoughtful insights, and practical experience about the SDGs. The Forum has received broad attention and massive 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 Path project will be finalised in 2020 and published soon thereafter.
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 multi-sectoral, 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 environment and climate change as major issues facing the island, in addition to the need for gender equality when facing these challenges, it was considered premature to select specific SDGs for the network to focus on at this stage. Thus, SDGs 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 were all agreed to be important areas of work for SDSN Cyprus, but this does not restrict the network from examining any of the other SDGs as considered relevant.

The network is chaired by Prof. Costas N. Papanicolas, President of the Cyprus Institute and Special Envoy on Climate Change of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, and Dr. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the CREF Board of trustees.

Looking Ahead

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 in the SDSN MED Community in the deep transformations needed to implement the Agenda 2030. SDSN Cyprus has been selected as the MED Hub for “digital revolution for sustainable development”. The network has also set out to bring 100% of the universities in the Republic of Cyprus on board. Aside from that, and beyond its launch event on 12th June 2020, SDSN Cyprus is working on establishing an SDSN Youth network, and preparing to roll out a summer environmental documentary film series, as well as encouraging CSOs and other organizations and networks to sign up as local partners.

Photos: ©Nicolas Jarraud

SDG 13 - The top of the ski slope in the Troodos mountains. How much longer will we be able to enjoy the annual snowfall in Cyprus?

SDG 16 - the word “Peace” written in English, Greek and Turkish in the Kontea peace park. Efforts are under way to resolve the long standing “Cyprus Question”
SDSN France

Hosted by CY Cergy Paris Université, Kedge Business School, and PSL University

CY Cergy Paris Université

CY Cergy Paris Université is a French public university and a leading center of teaching and research, which welcomes 17,700 students and 1,500 international students interested in studying abroad. UCP is a cultural, scientific and vocational institution that has decided to put itself more resolutely to an approach of social responsibility and sustainable development.

Kedge Business School

Kedge is a French management school with four campuses in France (Paris, Bordeaux, Marseille and Toulon), and three abroad (two in China, and one in Senegal). KEDGE is recognized as a key player in the field of sustainable development and CSR which focuses on coherence between research, pedagogy, campus social and environmental management, and governance.

PSL University

PSL is a French collegiate university that was formed in 2010 and is made up of nine member institutions in Paris. PSL offers an education based on research and interdisciplinary instruction, and its 20,000 students have access to a broad range of disciplines in science, engineering, humanities and social sciences, and the arts. PSL runs cross-cutting flagship programs such as the Scripta Interdisciplinary and Strategic Research Initiative (IRIS), the PSL Mathematics program, and the Q-Life Institute.

SDSN France was launched to federate and mobilize scientists and experts who focus on practical solutions to achieve the SDGs. Four themes have been prioritized: education, sustainable finance, media, and best practices. Held in January 2020 in Paris, the annual conference was dedicated to scaling up solutions that contribute to the SDGs and presented the first tangible results of the working groups across these four themes.

Education

The Education working group, co-hosted with Sulitest, identified two key projects that are taking shape: 1) promoting the sustainable development and social responsibility label (DD & RS) beyond higher education, and 2) extending digital platforms of sustainable development and social responsibility resources for higher education.

Sustainable Finance

The Sustainable Finance working group is focused on developing: 1) the content of teaching and research in economics and finance, 2) the consideration of SDGs by the specialized financial press and decision-makers, and 3) the capacity of research to integrate socio-economic actors in order to produce relevant solutions to achieve the SDGs. With the Alliance for Post-Crisis Finance, the finance working group aims to aggregate and connect existing initiatives. In 2020, the working group will develop a new sustainable finance textbook, numerous research conferences, and actions in connection with civil society.

SDSN France was deeply engaged in the yearlong development of the French government’s new SDG roadmap, which was formally launched in September 2019 and which explicitly names SDSN France as an important partner for SDG implementation in France. The network is now considered a key player in the French SDG ecosystem and will continue to support the government in its deployment of the national roadmap. In the coming months, SDSN France will also focus on consolidating its organization and communications, as well as setting up a local SDSN Youth network. The 2021 conference will continue in this direction and develop partnerships with the various French organizations engaging with sustainable development issues.

Best practice

What are the most common mistakes for a CSR or project manager to ‘mess up’ the transition to sustainable development? By posing the question in this way, the working group focuses its attention on the frequent errors made in this area to help spur progress on their elimination. During the annual conference, a brainstorming session was held and the results were summarized in the form of an infographic, which is an accessible and playful way to present the substantive material. By disseminating this infographic, the working group hopes that stakeholders can identify with some of these mistakes and consider ways to stop committing them.

LOOKING AHEAD

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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 EU and globally. Going beyond silos, 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 2016 overhaul of the strategy brought it in line with the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. In 2021, its next extensive revision is around the corner. Building on its five structural proposals for this update from March 2020, SDSN Germany published a statement in June 2020 in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development policy in times of crisis.

**Digitalization, Finance & Sustainable Development**
How can financial innovations, new technologies, and digitalization contribute to financing sustainable development? While the critical role of finance for achieving the SDGs and the climate goals is widely accepted, the role of digitalization for both the finance sector and sustainable development still needs to be further explored. Driving this debate forward was the aim of the 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 (SDFA) and the UN Secretary General’s Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs in cooperation with Frankfurt School of Finance & Management.

**EU Activities**
Together with other European SDSNs and the Secretariat of SDSN, SDSN Germany organized a webinar and developed a memo to inform other European SDSNs about the processes, which aim at bringing the European Semester in line with the SDGs. SDSN Germany has also engaged within the 2020 edition of the Europe Sustainable Development Report (ESDR).

**LOOKING AHEAD**
SDSN Germany will continue its work at the science-policy interface regarding processes towards sustainable development. In 2020, the network will support activities in the context of the advancements 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 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 takes the lead in mobilizing universities, research centers, and civil society in the region to take action and get involved.

Local Solutions Initiatives
Since 2015, SDSN Great Lakes has been holding annual conferences focusing on local solutions to achieve the SDGs. Those 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 Opportunities in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)” from the University of High Technologies of the Great Lakes.

Public Lecture Series
To raise awareness among university communities and to share updated information on the progress made by countries in the SDGs implementation, the network has been organizing a series of public lectures since 2018. This academic year, in addition to these lectures, the network successfully completed a pilot study on offering a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled “Introduction to Sustainable Development.”

SDGs Summer School
Home Association, a Paris-based students’ initiative, in partnership with the University of Kigali and SDSN Youth Great Lakes hosted an SDGs summer school program in Kigali in August 2019. The program, which included around 25 students from three Rwandan higher learning institutions, invited participants to channel their creativity and build innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges that society is facing, while practicing digital communication skills and building frugal technologies.

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 malnutrition, social conflicts, drug abuses or school dropouts.

Looking Ahead
The Network is planning to hold a regional conference on SDG4 at the end of 2020 which shall bring together experts from the region and global level. The MOOC on Sustainable Development, webinars, and the public lecture series will continue in the coming year as well. The network will also organize monthly community work and take it as an opportunity to educate the population on SDGs.
SDSN Greece focuses on five thematic priorities: sustainable shipping and marine resource management, sustainable energy, biodiversity, education on sustainable development, and the water-energy-food nexus.

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

The 4-Sea Initiative, launched at the Third Sustainability Summit, is a Euro-Asian initiative that mobilizes science-driven Blue Growth and the implementation of the SDGs in the Mediterranean, Black, Caspian, and Aral 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 MOOCs under the EU-funded Horizon 2020 program. Social Innovation in Rural Areas (SIMRA), was 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 Analytic Framework to explore the water-energy-food Nexus in complex transboundary watersheds of fast-developing countries (DAFNE), was 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 (WEF) Nexus.

European Research Projects
SDSN Greece is engaged in several EU-funded Horizon 2020 projects focusing on sustainable development: Managing Water, Ecosystems and Food Across Sectors and Scales in the South Mediterranean (AWESOME) is developing a decision-analysis platform based on a multi-level, integrated WEF model. The platform will help stakeholders understand tradeoffs and capitalize on synergies. Digitization: Economic and Social Impacts in Rural Areas (DESIRA) seeks to develop Socio-Cyber-Physical Systems to advance understanding of the impact of digitization on rural areas, linking this analysis to the SDGs. Also, SDSN Greece is engaged in a number of EIT Climate-KIC projects, such as Deep Demonstration of Maritime Hubs, which is studying the decarbonization of European Ports.

LOOKING AHEAD
Together with The Economist Events, 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 science-driven solutions for the urgently needed sustainability transition. Also, SDSN Greece established a strategic partnership with Optima-X to build a powerful MaritimeTech hub, which will generate and support new concepts, startups, or scale-ups.
SDSN Hong Kong focuses on public education for sustainable development, climate action, clean energy, and responsible consumption. It now hosts a total of 10 members from renowned Hong Kong Institutions.

The year 2019/20 has been challenging for Hong Kong due to the coronavirus outbreak and local protests. Amid those challenges, the network had to cancel events and activities. In line with its belief in sustainable development, SDSN Hong Kong will continue to support the community especially through the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

**SDG Forum Series**

In 2019/20, SDSN Hong Kong, together with CUHK’s Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (MoCC) and the Office of University General Education, hosted six public forums, covering a range of sustainability topics from waste management, public health, climate change, to 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 its resources and capabilities swiftly to address urgent community needs amid the pandemic, it has sourced or funded the purchase of more than 14 million face masks, provided US$3 million in emergency grants to community organizations, and has sourced or funded the purchase of more than 14 million face masks.

In support of the Happiness and Inequality’s most vulnerable groups.

SDSN Hong Kong hosted the kick-off session, COVID-19, Globalization and Philanthropy, to address the relationship between illness and happiness, and how philanthropic work is essential in bringing happiness to vulnerable groups during COVID-19.

**Zero Waste, No Disgrace**

SDSN Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) hosted the kick-off session, SDG Forum Series, October 2019.

In support of the Happiness and Inequality’s most vulnerable groups.

SDSN Hong Kong hosted the kick-off session, COVID-19, Globalization and Philanthropy, to address the relationship between illness and happiness, and how philanthropic work is essential in bringing happiness to vulnerable groups during COVID-19.

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.
As 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. Numerous stakeholders are coordinated under the Government’s SDGs National Coordination Secretariat to align their programs with the SDGs.

Highlighting Universities’ Activities in Addressing 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 Bengkulu and Universitas Andalas 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 agri-business best practices derived from local wisdom. Moreover, Syiah Kuala University in Aceh and the Center for Sustainable Development in Udayana University in Bali are working together with their respective regional government to implement sustainable solutions by providing evidence-based research related to poverty reduction, climate change, and disaster risk-mitigation challenges.

SDSN Indonesia Secretariat has a growing reputation as a bridge between universities and the general public in promoting mental health (Goal 3), social enterprises in agri-food (Goal 2), and environmentally focused initiatives (Goal 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

“Six transformations to achieve the SDGs” in Indonesia

SDSN Indonesia hosted an array of ministerial level meetings in February 2020. During these consultations, the network used the Six transformations to achieve SDGs to emphasize the importance of SDSN’s role in supporting the Government of Indonesia in achieving the SDGs. The discussions with the government are ongoing including 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.

SDSN Indonesia and the Indonesia SDGs Hub have a multi-stakeholder partnership plan underway to leverage support for the SDG implementation. Moreover, the network is working closely with the local chapter of SDSN Youth to develop a program of work to engage youth in innovative solutions. Thanks to the continuous support from the Belantara Foundation, SDSN Indonesia is able to strengthen the efforts of the secretariat by inviting exciting new members, providing global resources and opportunities for learning, and promoting peer-learning amongst members.
SDSN Italia aims at mobilizing Italian society to achieve the SDGs and that is only possible if the UN 2030 Agenda has the full support of 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 pioneered at all levels of society. The Italian SDG Cities Index, produced in 2018 by SDSN Italia and FEEM now sees an important update and extension - with an index that measures SDG progress at the provincial level (“Comoscere il presente per un futuro sostenibile”). Such work, widely disseminated during the Sustainable Development Festival promoted by AVIS (L’Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile), gave birth to a public-private partnership on smart ports (ports enhanced by digital transformation) and the surrounding urban area. This partnership was selected and presented at the first Global Solutions Forum in September 2019.

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), founded in 1989, is a non-profit, policy-oriented, international research center and think-tank producing high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research on sustainable development which contributes to the quality of decision-making in public and private spheres. Thanks to its international network, FEEM integrates its activities with those of the best academic institutions and think tanks around the world.

Santa Chiara Lab
The Santa Chiara Lab is an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development, including SDSN Mediterranean, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) and the PRIMA Observatory on Innovation.

SDSN Italia actively responds to the global call to design and implement decarbonization pathways. After assessing four out of the five most energy-intensive sectors worldwide in 2019, power, hard-to-abate industry, transport, and buildings in the report Roadmap to 2050: A Manual for Nations to Decarbonize by Mid-Century, in 2020 SDSN Italia, together with SDSN Global and SDSN Mediterranean, focuses on the fifth sector, land use, responsible for 24% of global 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 trade-offs for a progressive scale-up of supporting technologies.

The European Semester
Starting in Autumn 2020, SDSN Italia will engage in the European Semester process, the EU’s principal mechanism for coordinating economic policies across the European Union with the SDGs. By taking part in the consultation process, SDSN Italia will assist the European Commission in refining European and national policies towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

SDG Italia
Hosted by Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and the Santa Chiara Lab in Milan and Siena, Italy

LOOKING AHEAD
Throughout 2020, SDSN Italia furthered its research activities by developing tools for the dissemination of the SDGs, raising awareness of SDG challenges and developing solutions in a deeply changed world, which must be able to respond to the unprecedented health crisis that we are facing. In this respect, SDSN Italia and its Hosting Institutions started a series of policy briefs and research papers making the connection between SDGs 3, 7, 11 and 17 and the current COVID-19 related emergency.
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Kenya chapter, was approved on March 30, 2020, by the Networks 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 SDGs 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 to Contribute to the Implementation and Follow Up of the 2030 Agenda” will bring together 50 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 follows:

› 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.

› Phase 2 (2022 - 2025): Mainstreaming and localization of SDGs
- Identification and mobilization of potential sources of resources required to achieve the SDGs by 2030.
- Contextualization of the 17 SDGs to make them suitable to national and county realities.
- Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships to inspire the SDG implementation process in transforming global commitments into local action and to ensure that the progress draws on the actions of local governments and galvanizes participation from all actors in the society.
- Crusading for local economic development to ensure that the local communities in Kenya see concrete dividends of the SDGs.

› Phase 3 (2025-2030) Acceleration of SDGs implementation process
- Implementation of relevant projects towards attainment of vision 2030.
- Monitoring and evaluation of projects to ensure that the country remains on course towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.
The RIMBA Project’s latest activity on ‘Buluh in the City’ is an awareness on urban biodiversity and landscapes.
**SDSN Mediterranean**

**Hosted by the University of Siena - Santa Chiara Lab**

Siena, Italy

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 focuses is innovation and capacity building in the agri-food sector. The network is a partner of the UN Environmental Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan, Union for the Mediterranean and Unimed, three of the most relevant networks acting in the region.

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

PRIMA is the most ambitious Mediterranean-wide program combining science and cultural diplomacy for sustainable development. It was initiated as a partnership among countries thanks to the impetus of SDSN Mediterranean. It funds research and innovation projects in sustainable water, and the agriculture and food value chain. 83 projects were funded in 2018/19 with a budget of over €600 million. An additional €60 million will be allocated in 2020 and 2021.

**POI (Partnership for Research and Innovation)**

POI 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 SDSN members and enterprises and fosters new partnerships among researchers, innovators, businesses, and stakeholders.

**Education for Sustainable Development**

In 2019, over 3000 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.

**Fixing the Business of Food**

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

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

SDSN Mediterranean serves as a science-policy interface providing governments, international organizations, and 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 such actors.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network is launching the “Med Hubs” project, which builds on a transformative approach and proposes to create six thematic hubs in the Mediterranean region. Each hub, coordinated by an SDSN Network in partnership with another organization on an equal footing principle, is expected to promote innovative solutions in their sector and to serve as an interface for science-oriented policies.

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**COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THIS REGIONAL NETWORK**

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Gibraltar, Greece, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Sfria, Tunisia, Turkey

**Regional gaps in SDGs 2 & 6**

The region performs poorly for SDG 14

**Mediterranean countries should enlarge protected areas to meet SDG 14**

**The region performs well for SDGs 2 & 3**

**University of Siena**

Founded in 1240, the University of Siena is one of the world’s oldest universities. With a campus of about 15000 students, it is actively involved in numerous international projects of education, research, mobility and training on sustainable development. In particular, the Santa Chiara Lab serves as an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development, including SDSN Mediterranean, PRIMA, and POI.

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**The shores of the Mediterranean display a great variety of biodiversity and need special environmental protection.**

**SDSN Mediterranean operates from Siena, home to one of the world’s oldest universities.**

**SDSN Mediterranean serves as an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development, including SDSN Mediterranean, PRIMA, and POI.**
SDSN Mexico promotes and strengthens collaboration between academia, the public and private sectors, civil society, and non-governmental organizations while generating innovative and practical solutions to achieve the SDGs that involve young people, harness innovation, and capitalize on the knowledge of national experts in the field of sustainable development.

Banco de Proyectos (Project Bank)
After its launch in March 2019, SDSN Mexico presented its first flagship project in the fall of 2019. The Project Bank was set up to showcase the different initiatives with which Mexican society is addressing the implementation of the SDGs at local, regional, and national level. The first call for proposals received nearly 400 applications and included topics such as sustainable education, environment and food-oriented activities, sustainable communities and social well-being, as well as environment and sustainable technologies. A team of experts selected nearly 100 initiatives which are currently receiving technical and financial advice.

Active Engagement with Key National Partners
SDSN Mexico is strongly committed to collaborate with a wide array of strategic national stakeholders. The network coordinates the participation of the academic sector within the National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as its working Committees. Additionally, SDSN Mexico is part of the Technical Committee for the Chamber of Deputies’ 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.

Looking Ahead
SDSN Mexico will carry on several solutions programs that will enable and empower every sector of the society: ExpertODS honors and connects researchers and professors worldwide to promote sustainability in everyday life; 2030 Leaders will create student 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 challenges regarding the SDGs in their communities; and the Youth Solutions Report – Mexico 2020, an adaptation of the Global Youth Solutions Report, to identify youth-led solutions at a national level and to provide them with a platform to overcome the most common obstacles while connecting them with national allies.

Tecnológico de Monterrey
Tecnológico de Monterrey is a private university system founded in 1943 in Monterrey, Mexico. It holds 26 campuses located across 25 cities in the country, and 18 liaison offices in 15 countries. Its academic programs are recognized by international accreditation agencies, and its research approaches are pursued with open international collaboration: “knowledge-driven creation” and “society-driven innovation”.

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
UNAM was founded in 1551 and is the biggest and most important public university in Mexico and Ibero-America. The fundamental aim of the UNAM is to serve both the country and humanity, to train professionals, to organize and carry out research, mainly on national problems and conditions, and to offer cultural benefits in the broadest sense possible.
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 custodian of science, knowledge, and innovation for the 2030 Agenda.

Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS)
Every August, SDSN Nigeria co-organizes the Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS), the premier academic forum on sustainable development in Nigeria. The summit has recorded remarkable milestones, including the domestication of the SDGs in the Nigerian national context, the development of six local Solutions Initiatives, and the creation of strategic partnerships with members of business, civil society, non-profit organizations, religious bodies, and government departments. Nearly 500 participants from academia, government, civil society, and business from all over Nigeria and the continent come together annually to share their expertise.

Capacity Building in Academia
The network has launched a capacity-building series for academics. The purpose is to teach skills for successful grant proposal writing and to share information on funding opportunities for SDG-related research. Three workshops have been held: two in Abuja, and one at the Federal University of Technology, Minna. Due to the lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining trainings were planned remotely as webinars. The first webinar was held in May on the topic of “Effects of COVID-19 on the attainment of the SDGs in Nigeria.” The second was held in June on “Pathways for Achieving the SDGs in Nigeria despite the odds.”

Partnerships
The Nigerian network has strengthened partnership with strategic stakeholders within and outside the country in a bid to achieve the SDGs. For instance, the network entered into a partnership with the Leadership of the Nigerian Academy of Science, 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 led Coalition Against COVID-19 (CACOVID).

LOOKING AHEAD
Together with the SDSN Thematic Networks on Extractives and Land Resources and on Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems, a joint proposal was developed and submitted on "Promoting Biological disease control methods in staple crops grown in Nigeria." The objective is to develop bio-based, eco-friendly, biodegradable plant derived pesticides or microbial pesticides in order to control fungal pathogens in the production of staple crops grown in Nigeria.

Following the webinars, the network will compose and share a Policy Brief with policy makers at the three tiers (local, state and federal) and three arms (executive, legislative and judiciary) of government, as well as with other SDGs stakeholders.

The University of Ibadan’s Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV)
CESDEV was established in 2010 as a demonstration of the University’s commitment to sustainable development. It was based on the need to provide an intellectual platform for identification of issues germane to sustainable development, to critically analyse them, and provide leadership in finding enduring solutions that will enhance sustainable development. The University of Ibadan is a public research university in Ibadan, Nigeria. The University was founded in 1948 as University College Ibadan, and it became an independent university in 1963. It is the oldest degree-awarding institution in Nigeria.
SDSN Northern Europe is an action-oriented network focusing on mobilizing Nordic scientific 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 link 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 8 million deaths globally every year. To bring forward solutions to this challenge, SDSN Northern Europe and the Gothenburg Air and Climate Network organized the ‘Solutions Initiative Forum (SIF) - Air’ on the 28th of August 2019. SIF Air and the accompanying Air Solutions Report presented 20 solutions for improved air quality, as well as updated 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 in the final stage of preparing its first member conference when the COVID-19 crisis caused societies across the world to go into lockdown and social distancing. The network quickly decided to instead arrange an online mini-version of the conference, which was held on the 26th of March 2020. The conference presented the SDSN Northern Europe strategy, the latest Solution Initiative of the network - The Climate Framework for Higher Education Institutions - and experiences from how to report to 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.

Solution Initiative - The Climate Framework for Higher Education Institutions
The challenge of climate change will require changes from all sectors of society. In Sweden, 37 universities and colleges have signed the Climate Framework for Higher Education Institutions, of which 18 are SDSN Northern Europe members. Thereby, they will set up and implement climate strategies with the aim of contributing to both national and international commitments to reach the 1.5°C target. This means for example, that the participating institutions will allocate a budget, define responsibilities and resources, and report on their emissions and the development to reach this target. SDSN Northern Europe is actively supporting and communicating about this initiative.

LOOKING AHEAD
By June 2020, over 2,400 users were registered worldwide in the free online resource, the SDG Impact Assessment Tool, launched back in February 2019. SDSN Northern Europe now aims to publish a guide for the tool and organise 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 SDG 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. Modelled after the Global Solutions Forum, which brought together some of the best solutions from the SDSN networks around the world, the Philippines Solutions Forum highlighted key challenges, gaps, and solutions initiatives of various member universities and partner institutions. Through short presentations that showcased projects, programs, and partnerships designed to achieve the SDGs, the event sparked discussion, action, and collaboration.

Nine solutions were presented during the Forum, including from member universities (Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University Manila, Far Eastern University, Mapua University, the Philippine School of Business Administration), from partner organizations (Alyansa Agrikultura, an alliance of farmers and fishing communities, Philippine Business for Social Progress) and from the SDSN PH Youth Network.

The solutions presented by the member universities included a framework for partnerships for sustainable development among businesses, academia and local communities in Davao and Cotabato cities, two major cities in the southern island region of Mindanao (Ateneo de Davao University), sustainable transportation solutions in five cities and municipalities in the country (De La Salle University), and partnerships for strengthening capacities of local governments to address climate change (Ateneo de Manila University and the Philippine School for Business Administration). Other solutions focused on water, including improving water quality in the Laguna Lake, one of the major freshwater lakes in the country, (Mapua University), addressing agricultural challenges in the country (Alyansa Agrikultura), and increasing water access among poor communities (Philippine Business for Social Progress). Finally, SDSN PH Youth presented its initiative on addressing reproductive health and livelihood concerns.

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

Strengthening Networking in Sustainable Development

The network continued its 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 in major cities such as Quezon City, Davao, Zamboanga and Cotabato, 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 17 SDGs were organized into five areas for policy and program interventions: Natural Capital, Food Systems, Social Services, Livable 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 local businesses and communities-at-large.
SDSN Russia

Hosted 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 top-notch 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 and conditional convergence for different groups of countries,
- Theoretical and applied approaches to modeling the electric power industry, taking into account the assessment of imputed costs from harmful emissions,
- Identification of important regional socio-economic factors for the creation of new, knowledge-intensive industries in Russia (Ex. 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 many topics related to sustainable development, from ecological and energy efficiency to renewables, decarbonization, and irrigation 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, academia, and students. Courses such as The Concept of Sustainable Development and Energy Efficiency, offered at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration and at the Sergei Witte University of Moscow, are the first ones of their kind in Russia.

Looking Ahead
In 2020, the ECOCUP 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 prepared 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 Eurasia Tech Accelerator, a project of the blockchain-based platform Evercity. 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 Now in Senegal

Data for Now 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 (TReNDS), 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 Rwanda to discuss priority data needs; specifically, the kinds of timely (even real-time) 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 consistency of national and local plans. To this end, the use of municipal data by development actors is an absolute necessity. The general objective 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 into the development debate in Senegal, SDSN Sahel and its partners the ONE Campaign and the Gorée Institute organised a university tour across four campuses. The purpose was to promote and raise awareness of the SDGs in Senegal and to encourage youth to get involved in the key issues pertaining to the country’s development. These key issues include poverty eradication, the demographic dividend, gender equality, girls’ education, agriculture, transparency, and accountability.

New Governance Structure

SDSN Sahel has established a new Leadership Council. The ten members represent academia, civil society, and government, and include high-profile figures such as:

- Michel Sidibé, Minister of Health of Mali and former Executive Director of UNAIDS;
- Keïta Aïda M’Bô, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Mali;
- Ngom Ndoye, Former Minister of the diaspora of Senegal;
- Dr. Djibril Diallo, President of the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network

LOOKING AHEAD

SDSN Sahel will look to establish new partnerships through its Leadership Council, including documenting good practices in implementation, advocating for multi-source financing, and raising awareness of local actors in the Sahel region. In addition, the network is putting in place a fundraising strategy based on advocacy and domestic resource mobilization to finance innovative projects on data.
SDSN South Asia

Hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
New Delhi, India

SDSN South Asia Youth has been very active in the past year. They hosted India’s largest Sustainability Quiz in association with WIPRO, called ‘Earthian,’ in which about 200 students from all over India participated. They also organized two days of the annual technical symposium (Re-topia) 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 Climate Change with the theme of Youth & Climate Action, including a series of events such as, photography competition, quiz and talks by renowned climate experts.

SDSN South Asia Youth also organized workshops and awareness campaigns on trash challenges, solid waste management, SDG 16. They supported the local government on localizing the SDGs by developing a SDG related questionnaire for village profiles.

SDSN South Asia Youth - Proactive 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 Sarvodaya Vidyalaya 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 skit, quiz, and a Snakes and Ladders game on the SDGs.

2019-2020 Initiatives at the Secretariat
The SDSN South Asia secretariat at TERI held a workshop on and launched the FOLU project report with its consortium partners. SDSN South Asia actively participated in the World Sustainable Development Summit held annually in New Delhi, where SDG hub TERISAS students played an active role and volunteered.

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 (WSDS).

Countries in the region that have shown steady progress on Goals 1 & 13
India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka all scored higher than 60 on the SDG index.
Despite SDSN Korea’s persistent effort since 2015 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 21st parliament will hopefully pass such laws early next year.

SDSN-KDI 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 for Pandemics Preparedness: Pillars and Issues” to identify critical elements and pitfalls in reining the current and potential future pandemics. Also the Solutions Forum will go beyond pandemics preparedness to cover other critical contributors to SDGs for developing countries 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 Summer 2020 and continue through the fall.

A Study of How to Launch ‘Six Transformations’ for South Korea’s SDGs Implementation
The Sustainable Development Report 2019 mapped six transformations to implement the SDGs. Undertaken by the KDI Office of Global Economy, this study will examine a number of South Korea’s existing long-term policies and plans to see how they may be modified and coordinated to affect the proposed six transformations for South Korea, underpinned by the principles of leaving no one behind and circularity. The study will include an assessment of South Korea’s current implementation of the SDGs based on the Sustainable Development Report 2020.

Developing Nexus Indices, SDG Indicators, and the Earth Observation Data-Sharing System for The Mid-Latitude Regional Network (MLRN)
The Mid-Latitude Region is broadly defined as a horizontal belt of temperate climate in the northern hemisphere between 30°-60° latitude encompassing 36 countries from Europe, Asia and North America. It is vulnerable to changing environmental conditions and extreme climate challenges such as drought and desertification. As part of the MLRN, OJERI, host of SDSN Korea, will launch a report, “Application of the UN-SDGs Indicators for SDG 2, 6, 7, 12, 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 K-SDGs or Korean SDGs.
SDSN Southeast Asia is working to scale up efforts to promote and implement the SDGs across the ASEAN region. A core principle of this network is to reflect on the roots of the 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 circumstance led to an array of new opportunities explored via the online platform. We are excited to report that the 2020 SDG Happiness Festival successfully conducted more than 30 webinars, attracting over 5000 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) partners held a private dinner dialogue in January 2020 in Davos, focused on “Realising Indonesia’s Potential through Sustainable Development.” The dialogue focused on two priority themes: (1) investing in nature-based solutions (focusing on carbon finance, forest conservation and healthy oceans); and (2) creating innovation hubs for the SDGs, especially for the new capital city.

Participants discussed how resilience can be built through nature-based solutions aided by technology and innovation, with a focus on engaging indigenous communities. The dialogue proposed nature-based solutions, such as Uncarbon, focusing on conservation through the carbon credit market; and Blue Halo’s approach using blended financing mechanisms to mobilize private, public, and philanthropic funding to secure sustainable fisheries.

On the second theme, participants discussed how the new capital can attract major investment interest by creating HIVES hubs or HIVES clusters (HIVES - Harmonious, Innovative, Value Creation, Ecological and Social SDG Hubs & Clusters). The idea of HIVES is to create a favorable ecosystem that encompasses development of world class sustainable infrastructure and value creation enterprises.

The event also saw the MOU signing between World Economic Forum’s Platform for Shaping the Future of Global Public Goods (PGPG) and United In Diversity to support Indonesia through projects such as Development Finance, the National Plastic Action Partnership, the Friends of Ocean Action, and the Tropical Forest Alliance.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The network aims to hold the Tri Hita Karana Forum on Sustainable Development virtually in November 2020. The virtual form will highlight projects scaling nature-positive and SDGs-related solutions with innovative financing models to continue to build momentum for an environmentally and socially inclusive development model.
SDSN Spain, also known as REDS (Red Española para el Desarrollo Sostenible), has been actively engaging different levels of government to promote the implementation of the SDGs.

Mobilizing stakeholders through SDG Awareness
The Spanish network works with various levels of government, academic institutions and the private sector to ensure widespread awareness and action on 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 first-ever ‘Multistakeholder SDG Forum’ in 2019, and also as a response to the COVID-19 crisis, the network has launched the The Day After initiative together with ISGlobal, a leading health organisation in Spain; itdUPM, a leading academic member; and Iberdrola, leading energy provider. The Day After is an innovative platform that gathers science, academia, policy officers, politicians, private sector and civil society in order to accelerate key transformations to achieve the SDGs.

During 2019 and 2020, the network mobilized the private sector around the 2030 Agenda through bimonthly “SDGs Breakfasts”. Over the same period, SDSN Spain published several reports: “Measuring the SDGs in Tourism” (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 leads a working group on Culture and Agenda 2030 which has published the first-ever monograph on this topic in Spanish (April 2020).

Education for Sustainable Development
In 2020, 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 MOOC “Partnerships: an essential vehicle to achieve the SDGs” developed by the SDG Academy and the Inter-American Development Bank. This MOOC, 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” (2020).

LOOKING AHEAD: The Day After Platform is the first meeting point and incubator for the SDGs in the country. Initially born as an online agora, the work of the Day After platform will continue during 2020. The network will also continue delivering on the Sustainable Culture and the Sustainable Tourism initiatives and will seek ways to link them with The Day After.
SDSN Switzerland brings together world-class science, impact-oriented civil society actors and responsible and innovative businesses 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 40 member organizations and several partners, SDSN Switzerland has become a well-known network. In order to explore each other’s projects and activities, members 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. As one of the participants called it, the marketplace provided a valuable space for ‘contextual networking’. Furthermore, at the assembly, the members elected Prof. Dr. Janet Hering (Eawag: Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) to co-Chair the network with Océane Dayer (WWF Switzerland). Urs Wiesmann, 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. The plan will continue to evolve and be shaped by the discussions led with members, partners and stakeholders.

**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 Davos Switzerland, to discuss how the biosphere supports the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The topics of the 6 workshops were: Sustainable construction & housing, Digital innovation for sustainable agriculture, Spillover effects of sustainable behavior, Nudging and voluntary agreement in the private sector, Sustainable food systems, and Environmental monitoring.

The workshop was a success and, together with a group of experts, the network will summarize the most important results into a factsheet for policy- and decision-makers. The network decided to convert the SDSN Switzerland conference - jointly planned with the National Research Programme 73 “Sustainable Economy” (NRP73) - into a series of online workshops held in June and July 2020. The objective of the online workshops was to debate the preliminary research findings of selected projects of the NRP 73 and to elaborate calls to action to facilitate the transition to a sustainable economy and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The topics of the 6 workshops were: Sustainable construction & housing, Digital innovation for sustainable agriculture, Spillover effects of sustainable behavior, Nudging and voluntary agreement in the private sector, Sustainable food systems, and Environmental monitoring.

**Looking ahead**

In 2020 SDSN Switzerland launched a “Call for Solution Initiatives” as a format to engage and support the members and partners to upscale and disseminate innovative solutions for sustainable development. The Network will continue using this format 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 2020 online workshops.
SDSN Thailand

SDSN Thailand is a new network co-hosted by three institutions: the SDG Research and Support Programme (SDG Move) from the Faculty of Economics of Thammasat University, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) from Chulalongkorn University, and the Technology and Informatics Institute for Sustainability (TIIS) of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA). 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 priorities:

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

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

Foresight 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 SDGs Report – The report will be the first national SDGs report produced by an independent body. It will use data and information from Foresight Thailand Project.

University Ranking – SDSN Thailand has planned to launch workshops and provide several universities 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 1934, is known to be one of the leading universities in Thailand. TU has been a part of several social transformations of the country, often dubbed as “the university of the people”. As a co-host of SDSN Thailand, SDG Move offers SDG-related multidisciplinary policy research and training programmes. It also mobilizes an academic network to promote sustainability transformation in Thailand.

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 100 Universities for the Best Academic Reputation” by QS World University Rankings 2020. CPCS, under CU, is a distinguished peace studies centre, specialized in peace studies and conflict resolutions. CPCS has been using its expertise to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues 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, in response to the need of the country’s development. The Technology and Information Institute for Sustainability (TIIS), under NSTDA, aims to serve as a central body to house the database for sustainable development as well as to develop a data management system in accordance with the international criteria.
Convening Stakeholders on SDG Localization in Turkey

In October 2019, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs visited Istanbul to discuss the current state of SDG implementation with different stakeholders on the occasion of the launch event of the Sustainable Development Report at Boğaziçi University. The network facilitated Prof. Sachs’ visits to government officials to discuss Turkey’s approach to the SDGs, zero waste policy, and the country’s economic structure.

Working Towards Sustainable Urban Development

To localize SDGs 11 and 13 and raise awareness, SDSN Turkey initiated action at municipal level and held the “Cities for Climate Workshop”. The representatives of 24 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.

Mobilizing Turkish Society around Sustainable Development

SDSN Turkey mobilizes companies, institutions, and governmental organizations promoting the initiatives of the SDSN to take action on the SDGs. The network was invited to become a member of different organizations such as the Danish Green Growth Network and participated in various events such as the Social Good Summit convened by UNDP. In May 2020, the Network organized its first online Corporate Sustainability Certificate Program in collaboration with REC 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 SDSN’s 24 Hour Webinar and organized the participation of Mustafa Seçkin, CEO of Unilever Turkey, Central Asia and Iran, who delivered a speech on Food and Happiness.

SDSN Youth and Global Schools Pilot Project

SDSN Youth Turkey works with the youth focal points of member universities. SDSN Turkey and SDSN Turkey Youth collaborated with AIESEC Turkey to run a one-day education for 2000 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 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 on organizing the “Great Taste 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.
SDSN Uganda is a new network that has already established a collaborative relationship with the Government of Uganda’s SDGs Coordination Task Force in the Office of the Prime Minister. The Network attends all the SDG coordination meetings and will be assisting the government on reporting on the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda. The network is also in discussions with the UN Resident Coordinator’s office and UNDP Uganda to advise on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uganda 2021-2025.

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

1. **Agriculture** is Uganda’s dominant economic activity, accounting for 22% of the GDP, 46% of export earnings and about 70% of employment. But agricultural productivity is very low and large rainfed, 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 incomes, and reduce poverty.

2. **Good health** is essential in facilitating socio-economic development. In Uganda, access to quality health services is a big challenge, and low life expectancy, high infant mortality and high maternal mortality are still major issues. The country has a high prevalence of malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and non-communicable diseases are on the rise. SDSN Uganda will support the development of policies and practices that promote equitable access to affordable, accountable, appropriate and quality health services for all people in Uganda.

3. **Natural resources management and ecosystem health**; ecosystem and land degradation are widespread challenges in Uganda. The network seeks transformative approaches that will reduce forest, wetland, and water resource degradation, and foster achievement of environmental sustainability.

4. **Renewable energy and energy efficiency**; energy poverty is a challenge in Uganda. The main source of energy being traditional biomass, and access to electricity is only at 20%. SDSN Uganda will work with stakeholders to increase access to clean and affordable energy access in rural and urban areas. Evidence-based solutions for increasing renewable energy in the country’s energy mix (solar, wind, waste to energy etc.) and energy efficiency (efficient cookstoves, bulbs, other home appliances) will be sought.

5. **Sustainable cities** face huge challenges including poor spatial planning, slums, poverty, air and water quality, transport, flooding, and urban ecosystem degradation. Uganda is urbanizing 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 and knowledge, generating research evidence and innovations, and inform climate smart policies and practices.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

SDSN Uganda’s formal launch was planned for May 2020, but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the lockdown in Uganda. The team 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.

**MOOCs**

Uganda is 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 one the ten Constituent Colleges of Makerere University. CAES is a leading training and research institution in agriculture, environment, and natural resource management.
SDSN USA is a dynamic network of more than 135 universities, colleges, and non-profit organizations across 44 states, Washington DC, 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 2018, 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 2019, 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 transition to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Furthermore, the network has issued two regional decarbonization studies to clarify technology choices and investment options, and to identify clean energy opportunities in the US Southeast and Midwest regions. Additionally, the network published a white paper on Spatial Planning for a Low-Carbon Future, highlighting integrated planning tools used in California and the Southwest to improve renewable energy supply. In January 2020, a second phase of the project was launched with the formation of 11 working groups to jointly produce a supporting policy paper to be published in late 2020, coinciding with the presidential election, entitled Deep Decarbonization Action Plan for the United States. Additional working groups are in various stages of formation, on topics including: Zero Hunger; Indigenous Science; Curriculum; and University SDG Monitoring & Reporting. Co-chairs of each working group determine the scope and priorities of engagement, and all SDSN USA members are invited to participate.

**SDG Research**

SDSN USA produces indices assessing US progress on the SDGs at the state, city, and national levels. The team is currently working on a project utilizing disaggregated data to assess disproportionate progress towards the SDGs in the United States across race/ethnicity. All of these projects illustrate the need to take action towards this agenda in the United States, as well as significant data gaps, particularly on the disaggregated data needed to better understand US progress and needs on the Leave No One Behind Agenda.

**Building Network Capacity & Connectivity**

The SDSN USA has held a range of events on topics related to the SDGs. This includes webinars and presentations on the SDG Indices and deep decarbonization pathways project, regional and national networking gatherings, and a panel discussion of university leaders during SDSN’s 24th Webinar.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Throughout 2020 and into 2021, SDSN USA will continue to build out the working groups program 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 topic of University SDG Reporting, networking events, and topic-specific webinars. The DDAP 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 disproportionate impacts across Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous populations is in progress.
Our Thematic Networks

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

Upcoming Networks

**Argentina**
The 3rd largest economy in Latin America and G20 member, Argentina was an active participant in the negotiation process that led to the 2030 Agenda. Its national development priorities are adapted to locally implement and achieve the SDGs. SDSN is in discussions with the Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) and Fundación Bariloche 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 among the top 10 in the world. SDSN is working on establishing a national network with the oldest, largest and best-rated Czech university, Charles University, as well as with the national Academy of Science.

**European Union**
In December 2019, 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, resource-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 cementing its bold commitments towards implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving the SDGs. SDSN will be working on establishing a European SDSN Network to promote and support this vision with academic expertise 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 SDSN’s 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 Advocates. With the help of the Millennium Promise Alliance (MPA), SDSN 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 SDSN 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.
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

Hosted by Wageningen University & Research
> Wageningen, The Netherlands

https://www.unsdsn.org/sustainable-agriculture-and-food-systems

The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems network has been organizing e-conferences since before the COVID-19 pandemic. For all e-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. These fully online conferences address timely and important topics, such as Fall Armyworm, a devastating maize pest native to the Americas which has been introduced to other continents. The first e-conference focused on Africa and was held in October 2018, A follow-up event on Asia was held in July 2019. Over 300 participants attended, of whom 60% were from Asia and 25% from Africa. Topics discussed included Fall Armyworm identification, monitoring of infestations, and challenges in application levels, recommended responses, and future actions to reduce outbreaks.

In February, the network organized another e-conference on Resource Recovery from Sanitation for Food Security and Soil Health. This online event attracted over 350 participants from 80 different countries, mostly from Africa. Speakers and participants discussed various options to recycle sanitation waste, enrich soil, and support the implementation of the SDGs in cities and urban communities. Key activities over the past year include:

- Localising the SDGs for India 2019: Tracking the Changing Urban Context
  This is the first state-level, sub-national report tracking India’s progress on the SDGs.
- Sustainable Cities MOOC
  This online course was revised and updated to include new interviews with global experts, recent developments, and new content on Chinese cities. In partnership with SDG Academy, it has already reached over 22,000 participants from 150 countries.
- City Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Financing Initiative (Ci2FI)
  This is an initiative of the Penn Institute for Urban Research, supported by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and the Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania. Ci2FI will enable municipalities to create inclusive and prosperous cities by locking-in climate-resilient infrastructure investments that yield economic, social, and environmental benefits and contribute to the achievement of nations’ Nationally-Determined Contributions and the Paris Agreement.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

This is an initiative of the Penn Environment Program, supported by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and the Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania. C2IFI will enable universities with probable areas of expertise to join forces with CDRI to provide big ideas and breakthroughs that can quickly be put into practice and be incorporated into education.

LOOKING AHEAD

The network’s ambition is to grow the pool of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers around the world. This will enhance the reach of this global network and translate SDG-related research into policy-relevant tools. This includes peer-reviewed literature as well as wider and more participative forms of engagement like MOOCs and webinars. The Cities Network will also be working closely with the Global Covenant of Mayors in support of Innovate for Cities, a new science-policy-practice urban coalition.

Urban University Network

The network is mapping cities and universities with probable areas of potential intervention for localisation. The database is built on SDSN, IIHS’ and other network partners from the public, private and philanthropic sectors.

Wageningen University & Research

The mission of Wageningen University and Research is to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life. The strength of Wageningen’s dynamism of cities represents the potential of nature to improve the quality of life. The strength of this mission lies in their combination of specialized research institutes with the university, as well as their strong expertise in the natural and social sciences. This union of expertise leads to scientific breakthroughs that can quickly be put into practice and be incorporated into education.

A maize farmer inspecting crops affected by Fall Armyworm
> Juanta with her cocoa in Peru

Sustainable Cities: Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected

Hosted by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and SDSN
> Hyderabad, India

www.unsdsn.org/cities

Urbanization is a defining development trend and the dynamism of cities represents a major sustainable development opportunity. Today, about 55% of the world’s 7.6 billion people live in cities, and, by 2050, this will rise to 70%. Roughly 75% of global economic activity occurs in urban areas. At the same time, cities are home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation, with one billion people living in slums. Cities have also felt the worst impacts of COVID-19, with higher infection and death rates relative to rural areas.

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

- Localising the SDGs for India 2019: Tracking the Changing Urban Context
  This is the first state-level, sub-national report tracking India’s progress on the SDGs.
- Sustainable Cities MOOC
  This online course was revised and updated to include new interviews with global experts, recent developments, and new content on Chinese cities. In partnership with SDG Academy, it has already reached over 22,000 participants from 150 countries.
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Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

IIHS led the design of a global partnership to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

Urban University Network

The network is mapping cities and universities with probable areas of potential intervention for localisation. The database is built on SDSN, IIHS’ and other network partners from the public, private and philanthropic sectors.

Looking Ahead

The network’s ambition is to grow the pool of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers around the world. This will enhance the reach of this global network and translate SDG-related research into policy-relevant tools. This includes peer-reviewed literature as well as wider and more participative forms of engagement like MOOCs and webinars. The Cities Network will also be working closely with the Global Covenant of Mayors in support of Innovate for Cities, a new science-policy-practice urban coalition.

Indian Institute for Human Settlements

IIHS is a research and national education institution committed to the equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of human settlements. IIHS is an SDSN partner institution which has an key role in helping develop, design and negotiate SDGs. The Cities Network Secretariat has been established in IIHS to help support the development of the network and its activities.
Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources

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

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

As stewards of their resources, governments have a responsibility to effectively manage and regulate extractive and land investments, to leverage natural resources to provide sustained prosperity for both current and future generations and protect 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 SDSNs to promote good governance worldwide, with an emphasis on transparent and participatory practices. It comprises an expanded network of experts and practitioners focused on this cross-cutting area, including experts from SDSN’s National and Regional networks. The group has published numerous reports and policy briefs, organized workshops and events, and developed a MOOC on natural resource governance.

LOOKING AHEAD
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 massive open online course (MOOC) through the SDG Academy.

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

Health for All

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

The SDSN Health for All network saw a dramatic uptick in activity in early 2020, as the network leveraged its global expertise to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented health challenge has sickened millions and resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths globally. It has rapidly redefined the ways 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 SDGs, 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 13 experts and stressed the utility of mitigation measures such as social distancing to slow the spread of the virus; the critical importance of adequate equipment, such as ventilators and personal protective equipment (PPE) to treat patients and protect frontline responders; and the need for financial support for health systems, workers, and overall economic recovery. Key interventions were made on the topic of the particular vulnerability of homeless and refugee populations and on the comparative advantages of different vaccine types.

The second 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 looked at the need for good governance and leadership to support a successful response and recovery, the importance of social protection in ensuring COVID-19 responses leave no one behind, macroeconomic 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, particularly in partnership with SDSN Amazonia, to address disparities in health outcomes among Indigenous communities in the region. A number of resources will be developed to help governments craft science-based responses, to help communities and civil society organizations advocate for the social protections they need in these difficult times, and to support a lasting and transformative recovery.

Barcelona Institute of Global Health
The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) was set up in 2010 as a centre of excellence in research and disseminated knowledge and technologies to strengthen and consolidate the Unified Health System and contributed to the promotion of health and quality of life in Brazil. Fiocruz works to reduce social inequalities, support innovation, and defend the right to health.

Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)
For over 100 years, Fiocruz has produced and disseminated knowledge and technologies to strengthen and consolidate the Unified Health System and contributed to the promotion of health and quality of life in Brazil. Fiocruz works to reduce social inequalities, support innovation, and defend the right to health.

Public Health Foundation of India
The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) is a public-private initiative that has collaboratively evolved through consultations with multiple constituencies, including Indian and international academia, state and central governments, multi & bi-lateral agencies, and civil society groups. PHFI is a response to reframe the limited institutional capacity in India for strengthening training, research, and policy development in the area of public health.
SDSN TReNDS

Hosted by the SDSN Secretariat

SDSN’s 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 hail from across the global scientific, development, public, and private sector 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:

› Develop timely, multi-sectoral, policy-relevant research to strengthen local, national, and global statistical systems, focused on themes such as governance, new technologies, SDG monitoring, financing, and data collaboration, thereby helping to ensure countries’ data collection and production strategies capitalize on emerging good practice and partnerships.

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

› Continue to serve as a leading data-oriented think-tank and advisory group, working to facilitate connections between local and global data scientists and innovators, to support countries, projects, and programs with technical expertise, and to produce resources which help to empower and capacitate both local academics and governments representatives on how to navigate and harness new data sources and technologies for social good.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020-21, 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; and (3) Data Sharing and Collaboration. This includes examining countries’ governance arrangements to ascertain how ministries, agencies, and elected bodies 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.
SDSN’s flagship projects

SDG Academy

The SDG Academy is SDSN’s flagship education initiative. We create and curate 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 related interdisciplinary topics; our SDG Academy 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 Response
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 edX Remote Access and Open Campus programs and the UNESCO Global Education Coalition for COVID-19.

Community of Practice
Launched in 2020, the SDG Academy Community of Practice invites 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 thought leadership. Members have the opportunity to engage with the SDG-focused resources offered by the SDG Academy; personalize these resources for their own needs and institutional contexts; and develop their own resources, communities of learning, networks, and dialogues across the wider Community of Practice. Applications are open to all SDSN member universities and NGOs, as well as for-profit businesses.

Course Creation Partnerships
The SDG Academy collaborates with SDSN 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 SDSN Mediterranean and discusses the particular challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean basin. It summarizes global-to-local challenges related to achieving the SDGs; outlines the history and culture of agriculture and its main characteristics with a focus on the “Mediterranean diet”; explains 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 endeavors to present translations of our courses in as many languages as possible and actively seeks collaboration opportunities with Network members.

Master’s in Development Practice
Launched in 2008, the Global Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) is an interdisciplinary, two-year graduate degree program that prepares students to better identify and address the challenges of sustainable development. Its 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 98 academic programs in 26 countries. The Global MDP Secretariat is part of the SDG Academy and serves as the umbrella organization overseeing most of the MDP activities worldwide.

For 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 on how countries can collectively meet associated SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. To design and implement the sustainable transformation of these systems, countries will need to carefully assess the trade-offs between the competing land uses for food production, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation, among others. They will also need to account for their dependency on food imports and the international spillovers 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.

Fortunately, solutions do exist to address these challenges—they are just not widely known or applied at scale. This is why the FABLE Consortium mobilizes top knowledge institutions from more than 20 countries to support the development of decision-support tools and long-term pathways towards sustainable food and land-use systems. Many SDSN national networks contribute their technical expertise to this initiative and are part of the FABLE Country Teams. Overall, a critical focus of the Consortium is to strengthen the Country Teams’ capacity to advise their governments on the design and implementation of these pathways. For more information please visit: foodandlandusecoalition.org/fable/

Map of FABLE country teams and FOLU county platforms

FABLE Consortium meeting in Bogota, Colombia
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 countries towards the SDGs. Since its launch in 2016, 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 unofficial monitoring tool, the SDR is complementary to official efforts to monitor the SDGs.

The report benefits from extensive contributions from the networks. Network and local managers are involved in the collection and validation of data that informs the section on government efforts for the SDGs. They also play an active role in the dissemination of the reports’ findings. SDSN’s networks also lead and contribute to the production of regional editions (Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean) and subnational editions (European Cities, Italy, Spain, U.S. Cities, U.S. States) of the SDG Index and Dashboards.

For more information, visit www.sdgindex.org

SDSN Youth is the global youth program of the SDSN and was established in 2015 to empower young people globally to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth has 140 team members working in more than 35 different countries across 20 Regional and National Networks. Each Regional/National Youth Network is embedded into its corresponding 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 K-12, sustainable campuses, sustainable cities, and entrepreneurship. Each program follows a three-step theory of change: educate and train volunteers; ideate and collaborate in communities; then implement and scale the solution.

Education
The Global Schools Program trains volunteers 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 SDG 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.

Communities
SDSN Youth runs a number of events to bring young leaders together to share their experiences and identify potential opportunities for collaboration, including the Vatican Youth Symposium where 85+ young leaders and experts came together to cultivate solutions and partnerships to further the implementation of the SDGs on national, regional, and international scales.

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 Solutions 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 SDG Students Program Certificate - co-signed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
› 1000 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 focusing on SDG target 4.7 is being piloted in Morocco, Ghana, and Turkey with the mission to reform the national curriculum in each country and align it with the SDGs.
Participation in global initiatives

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

The Global Solutions Forum

Solving 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 SDSN has unique expertise and avant-garde solutions for sustainable development. Through the Global Solutions Forum, we are committed to showcase and highlight our members’ most impactful solutions. This global event intends for them to gain global visibility and recognition, but also serve as an important virtual gathering of experts to learn from one another and make a difference. This initiative offers an opportunity for our Networks to engage their members and work with a variety of stakeholders, including the private sector, in implementing specific locally relevant solutions. Furthermore, it offers the selected Solution Initiatives widespread communication and media coverage, with the aim to promote the upscaling of these Solution Initiatives worldwide.

The 2020 Edition

“In the face of the current global health crisis, we feel it is more important than ever to shine light on the most transformative and scalable solutions—those that will help define the ‘new normal’ and shape the path towards a sustainable future.”

-Jeffrey Sachs, President, SDSN

In 2020, SDSN will take this initiative to the next level, with a state-of-the-art virtual event that will stand out thanks to its inclusivity of global audiences, connections with different stakeholders, and innovative solutions. We aim to make the GSF 2020 a one-of-a-kind happening meant to bridge the gap between avant-garde science and policymakers, between technical solutions and practical implementation. The event will feature creative ways of active engagement for all participants, ensuring a truly interconnected atmosphere that stretches around the globe in real time.

The GSF 2020 will unite civil society, business leaders, policymakers, scientists, and non-governmental actors for an event full of opportunities for action on all scales and with a global scope. The concept of scalable solutions that lies at the heart of the GSF is meant to inspire and connect the diverse and global audience, equipping them with clear-cut messaging and opportunities for action within the framework of the latest available science. For more information, please visit: www.globalsolutionsforum.org/

Participation in global initiatives

Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth: 24 Hour Webinar

On the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020, SDSN hosted its first-ever 24-hour global webinar, Happiness and Sustainability Around the Earth. Over 3,600 global citizens tuned in to listen to Nobel Peace Prize laureates, musicians, researchers, celebrities, and CEOs. Participants and speakers from different cultures, expertise, and backgrounds gathered together virtually to circumnavigate the globe and promote sustainability and happiness during a time where both may seem broken or lost. The concept of happiness was chosen to help unite the efforts of our global network under a unifying banner of solidarity. Happiness and well-being is something all humans share in common, and it is achieved through connecting with one another, an important sentiment in the time of COVID-19.

This event was conceptualized under the leadership of the SDSN Secretariat, SDSN Switzerland, SDSN USA, and SDSN Youth leads. Over the course of six months, 20 of SDSN’s networks from 5 continents participated in defining the theme, messaging, audience, program, and marketing of this event. The collaborative process, substance, and technical execution of this event demonstrated the power and agility of our diverse global network. This was the first time the SDSN networks participated in this kind of virtual event and are hoping to do similar virtual forums in the future.

Partners for Review

Partners for Review (P4R) is a transnational multi-stakeholder network for government representatives and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, and academia involved in the national SDG review processes. Hosted by GIZ, the network brings together members from around the world to facilitate the preparation of appealing and engaging presentations at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and to offer support on integrating recommendations into national level processes.

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

Participation in global initiatives

Participation in global initiatives

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Participation in global initiatives
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 in-person workshops, usually held around the SDSN’s 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 24-hour webinar Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth which was conceived during the September 2019 workshop week in New York.

The 8th 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 redoubled and, together with GIZ, the Secretariat developed a Capacity Building in times of COVID-19 program to support the network managers. This program focuses 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 multi-stakeholder partnerships.

To date, the workshops have trained up to 40 different managers covering a range of topics including SDSN member engagement, fundraising, solution initiatives development, community management and much more. In addition to building capacity and developing skills amongst the diverse global team, these workshops also help facilitate discussions and build rapport between networks.
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. Localizing 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. Vetting 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/for-profit businesses are not eligible for membership but are welcome to join as partners. Universities can join at the level of the university or an individual department/institute.

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. Sign up on our website.

Network benefits

**SDSN Mobilize**

SDSN Mobilize is our exclusive internal communications platform for all 1300+ SDSN member organizations around the world. Our aim is to help turn thoughts 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 our members’ 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 3,200 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 “SDSN Mobilize Member Mondays”. Additionally, the platform features exclusive content like a comprehensive weekly compilation of funding opportunities in sustainable development and a bulletin on COVID-19 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.

### SDSN Networks in Action 2020

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Photo: ©SDSN Youth

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