



# **GLOBALGOALS2024**

## **The Future of the SDGs**

**AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS**

**29-30 AUGUST 2024**

**Conference Programme**

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## About the Conference

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The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was welcomed by practitioners and academics alike as a momentous step forward in global sustainability governance. And yet, an increasing body of studies suggests that the SDGs have failed to transform political and economic systems. Moreover, most SDGs are found to be not on track to be achieved by 2030. This sober assessment of the academic community is shared by many policymakers; the United Nations Secretary-General has even called upon governments ‘to rescue’ the SDGs. 2024 is the halfway point in SDG implementation and a crucial moment to adjust and transform the SDG agenda. Concurrently, the United Nations will host in September 2024 a Summit of the Future, aiming to strengthen global sustainability governance by adopting further bold reforms.

Given these crucial developments, the global scientific community is called upon to develop and synthesize the much-needed knowledge and evidence-based insights about the factors that explain the limited success of the SDGs, the many barriers that block their achievement, and the key reforms to be taken. Academic research is also needed to assess the effectiveness of ‘governance by global goals’ more broadly and to point towards global institutional reforms after 2030, when the current SDGs expire.

The international research conference GLOBALGOALS2024—*The Future of the SDGs*, to be held 29-30 August 2024 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, is designed as the much-needed forum to advance theoretical reflection and empirical, actionable knowledge on the success of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The conference will offer a broad global platform to share and discuss new ideas for the future of the SDGs and global sustainability governance. Importantly, the conference will offer ample space for transdisciplinarity and contributions by non-academic experts, aiming to combine academic and non-academic policy proposals. Overall, GLOBALGOALS2024 will be a critical academic steppingstone in preparing for the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024.

GLOBALGOALS2024 presents two types of contributions, Research Papers and Transformative Ideas. Research Papers are traditional academic research contributions; they offer new theoretical insights and frameworks, new empirical research findings, or broader systematic reviews of the literature. Transformative Ideas are non-traditional contributions that lay out novel ideas about the manifold transformations needed to achieve the SDGs en route to 2030 as well as how a future, post-2030 agenda should look like.

All papers relate to one or more of the five conference streams:

1.) *Acceleration of SDG Implementation*: Despite the disappointing results of the mid-term review of the SDGs, there are still six years to accelerate their implementation and to shift gears towards a transformative implementation process. Yet what policies and instruments are likely to be effective in achieving this? GLOBALGOALS2024 presents cutting-edge studies that point to novel policies or measures that can help to achieve the SDGs and other promises of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some papers also address the role of SDGs in legal systems and how civil society uses the SDGs to hold actors to account.

2.) *Differentiation and Dynamization of the SDGs:* The SDGs are framed as a global, universal normative vision that needs to be implemented in national and local contexts. GLOBALGOALS2024 features important studies to focus on this adaptive process that the SDGs undergo during their implementation at diverse levels of governance, reflecting on specific local and national challenges and capacities, and different political economies, institutions, and aspirations. Studies also discuss the crucial factors of differentiation and dynamization and whether and how such processes contribute to greater overall effectiveness of sustainability governance.

3.) *Reforming the SDGs:* GLOBALGOALS2024 presents numerous studies that more broadly investigate possible avenues to transform global sustainability governance and the SDG process. Papers discuss for instance changes of the global financial institutions, reforms of the United Nations, or the further legalization and institutionalization of the SDGs. Papers also question the framework of multilateral cooperation in a context of geopolitical tensions that threaten sustainability policies, and discuss innovative and novel governance arrangements adopted by governments, civil society, social movements, international organizations, or the private sector.

4.) *The Future of Sustainability:* GLOBALGOALS2024 features many papers that discuss the link between sustainability governance and futures thinking. GLOBALGOALS2024 takes stock of multiple perspectives and research findings about future generations, strategic foresight, scenarios of SDG implementation, the power of youth engagement, and global sustainability governance post-2030.

5.) *The Role of Science and Knowledge:* Finally, GLOBALGOALS2024 is a forum to present studies on the development, use and integration of knowledge and expertise in sustainability policymaking and how the science-policy interface can better support the success of the SDGs. The conference also features papers on how Indigenous and local knowledge has been used in designing and reviewing progress of the SDGs, as well as critical perspectives on the interlinkages between knowledge and power imbalances in sustainability governance. Finally, GLOBALGOALS2024 features numerous papers on innovations in research on the SDGs and global sustainability governance, from studies that present major methodological advancement to new forms of relationship between scientific and non-academic communities.

In addition to scientific debates and paper presentations, GLOBALGOALS2024 offers a variety of side events, workshops, and get-togethers. The Utrecht Summer School on the Future of Sustainability provides a platform for early-career researchers to engage with each other and learn from senior scholars about academic processes, research skills, and first-hand experiences in sustainability research and practice. On 28 August, the Taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals of the Earth System Governance research alliance will convene to discuss new research ideas and funding proposals. Throughout the summer, participants will collaborate on drafting a Conference Statement titled ‘The Future of the SDGs’, which will be presented during the final conference plenary session on 30 August. Various social programmes, from a sunny reception in the historic garden of Utrecht’s old monastery to a splendid conference dinner in the famous former warehouse *Winkel van Sinkel* will round off a few days of academic collaboration, exchange and future planning.

## Hosts and Co-Hosts

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### Hosts

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
GLOBALGOALS Project, European Research Council (Advanced Grant)

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### Conference Endorsement

International Science Council, Paris, France

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### Co-hosting Institutions

Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath, United Kingdom  
Earth System Governance Project, Taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals  
German Institute of Development and Sustainability, Bonn, Germany  
Department of Political Science, Lund University, Sweden  
Oslo SDG Initiative, University of Oslo, Norway  
Southern Voice, Mexico  
Utrecht University, Platform 'Longtermism' under the Strategic Programme 'Institutions for Open Societies', The Netherlands  
Utrecht University, Strategic Programme 'Pathways to Sustainability', The Netherlands



## Conference Team

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### Conference Co-Chairs

Frank Biermann, director, GLOBALGOALS Project, Utrecht University  
Guilherme de Queiroz Stein, Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos, Govt. of Brazil  
Mara Wendebourg, GLOBALGOALS Project, Utrecht University  
Fronika de Wit, GLOBALGOALS Project, Utrecht University

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### Scientific Steering Committee

Dan Banik, Oslo SDG Initiative, University of Oslo, Norway  
Marianne Beisheim, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany  
Steven Bernstein, University of Toronto, Canada  
Pamela Chasek, Manhattan College, United States of America  
Ines Dombrowsky, German Institute of Development and Sustainability, Germany  
Boniface Dulani, University of Malawi, Malawi  
Thomas Hickmann, Department of Political Science, Lund University, Sweden  
Louis J. Kotzé, North-West University, South Africa  
Shirin Malekpour, Monash University, Australia  
Andrea Ordóñez Llanos, Southern Voice, Ecuador  
Åsa Persson, Stockholm Environment Institute and Linköping University, Sweden  
Prajal Pradhan, University of Groningen, The Netherlands  
Johan Schot, Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
Michelle Scobie, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago  
Carole-Anne S nit, Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
Yixian Sun, University of Bath, United Kingdom

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### Conference Organization and Media Contacts

Blake Harvey, Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
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## Student Volunteers

Sophia Biermann

Ricardo de Bruijne

Peter Gødde

Yu-Hsiang Huang

I-Ying Hsu

Po-Hsun Lu

Yuxi Luo

Laura Martinez Ramos

Maryam Mirzaloo (van der Lubbe)

Michele Joie Prawiromaruto

Deren Sanıvar

Hanna Steinkamp

Ema Vrînceanu

## Keynote Speakers and Conference Chairs

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*Dan Banik* is Professor of Political Science, Director of the Oslo SDG Initiative at the Centre for Development and the Environment, and Affiliate Professor at Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Norway. He is also Academic Director of the Democracy Hub at Circle U. European University Alliance and Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria. His books include *Political Transition, Poverty, and Inclusive Development in Malawi: The Democratic Dividend*, *Poverty and Elusive Development*, and *Starvation and India's Democracy*. Banik was a Visiting Professor and Consulting Scholar at Stanford University (2010-2017) and a Visiting Professor at China Agricultural University (2012-2017). He is the host of the *In Pursuit of Development* podcast with listeners in 160 countries.

*Marianne Beisheim* is Senior Associate at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany. Her focus is on sustainable development governance, in particular the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. She is a member of the UN-Political Advisory Board of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Leadership Council of SDSN Germany, and the Research Council of the UN Association Germany. Previously, she was Assistant Professor of International Relations at Freie Universität Berlin, where she led a German Research Council-funded research project on multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.

*Steven Bernstein* is Distinguished Professor of Global Environmental and Sustainability Governance and Co-Director of the Environmental Governance Lab at University of Toronto, Canada. His research spans the areas of global governance and institutions, global environmental politics, international political economy, and policy studies. His publications include several authored or edited books and over 85 scholarly articles and book chapters. His current research projects investigate coherence and incoherence in global sustainability governance, transformative policies and initiatives to achieve decarbonization, and change at the intersection of International Relations and Global Environmental Politics theory and research. He also holds an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Copenhagen.

*Frank Biermann* is the co-chair of the GLOBALGOALS2024 conference. He is a Professor of Global Sustainability Governance at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, where he directs the GLOBALGOALS Project, a €2.5 million research programme on the Sustainable Development Goals, funded by an European Research Council Advanced Grant. Previously, he was the founding chair of the Earth System Governance Project, a global research network. Biermann has authored or edited 20 books and published over 200 articles and book chapters on global governance and sustainability. He edits the *Earth System Governance* journal and two book series with MIT Press and Cambridge University Press. Biermann has received numerous awards, including the 2021 Distinguished Scholar Award in Environmental Studies of the International Studies Association.

*Emily Boyd* is Professor in Sustainability Studies at Lund University, Sweden. She is a leading social scientist with a specialist focus on environment and climate change. Her unique focus has been on the interdisciplinary nexus of poverty, livelihoods and resilience in

relation to global environmental change, focusing on issues pertaining to cities, sustainable land use, water and deforestation in Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia and Europe. Her work has been published across the social and sustainability sciences with notable publications on resilience, adaptation and the politics and practice of community participation in the new carbon economy.

*Pamela Chasek* is a Professor of Political Science at Manhattan College, United States, and the co-founder and executive editor of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, a reporting service on UN environment and development negotiations. She has written about and followed UN environment and sustainable development negotiations for over 32 years. Chasek is the author and editor of numerous articles and books, including *Transforming Multilateral Diplomacy: The Inside Story of the Sustainable Development Goals*, *Earth Negotiations*, and *Global Environmental Politics*. She has served as a consultant to the UNCCD, the UN Environment Management Group, UNEP, UNDP, UN Forum on Forests, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

*Ines Dombrowsky* heads the Research Programme ‘Environmental Governance’ at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS). She is also a Honorary Professor at Leuphana University, Germany. Her research is grounded in institutional economics and political sciences and focuses on coordination and cooperation in environmental governance across levels, sectors, actor types and scales. She has widely published on water governance issues cross scales. She has prior work experience with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ (2001-2010), the World Bank (1997-2001) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) (1995-1997). She holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in Environmental Engineering.

*Boniface Dulani* is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the Department of Politics and Government at the University of Malawi and Director of Surveys for the Afrobarometer, the pan-African network of researchers who conduct surveys on governance, economy, livelihoods and other topics. He is also a co-founder of the Institute of Public Opinion and Research, Malawi’s leading firm in survey research. Dulani holds a PhD in Comparative Politics with minors in International Relations from Michigan State University. As Afrobarometer’s Director of Surveys, Dulani leads a team of researchers from more than 40 countries across Africa to collect data that reflects the views of citizens across the continent. These data are then passed on to policy-makers and other decision makers so that the voices of ordinary citizens are reflected in key policy decisions.

*Margarita Gómez* is the Executive Director of Southern Voice, a network of 70 thinktanks from Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Asia. Previously, Gómez founded and led two policy-impact innovation centres, the People in Government Lab at the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University, United Kingdom, and the Behavioural Unit at CIDE in Mexico. She was also an advisor to Mexico’s Public Security and Defence Ministers. Gómez has more than 15 years of experience working with governments, international organizations and world-class universities, delivering context and policy-relevant research. Her research focuses on financial and gender inclusion, integrity and ethics in governments, public security, and public sector transformation. She is a Visiting Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford, a Senior Research Fellow at the Public Management and Innovation Lab, and a Behavioural Advisor at the Asian Development Bank.

*Thomas Hickmann* is an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science of Lund University in Sweden. His research is concerned with the question of how societies can adequately deal with global common goods and which institutions need to be in place to overcome problems such as biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. Hickmann has published in prestigious academic journals including *Ambio*, *International Studies Review* and *Nature Sustainability*. His most recent co-edited book published with Cambridge University Press brought together 61 experts from all over the world to assess the political impact of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Anna-Katharina Hornidge* is the Director of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS, former Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, DIE) and Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn, Germany. The development and knowledge sociologist holds a habilitation in development research from the University of Bonn, a PhD in Sociology from the Technical University of Berlin and the National University of Singapore and a Master's degree in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Bonn, Germany. Before joining IDOS/DIE in March 2020, she was Professor of Social Sciences in the Marine Tropics at the University of Bremen and Head of Department of Social Sciences and of the research group 'Development and Knowledge Sociology' at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen. From 2006 to 2015 she worked as Senior Researcher for the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, where she held the position of Professor and Director in the Department of Social and Cultural Change from 2014 to 2015.

*Shirin Malekpour* is Associate Professor and a member of the Executive at Monash Sustainable Development Institute in Australia, where she oversees the Institute's Graduate Research Programme. As a social scientist, Malekpour's work is dedicated to improving strategic planning and governance for sustainable development, and in recent years, in the context of the SDGs. She has published in renowned journals, including *Nature* and *Nature Sustainability*. Malekpour has been one of 15 members of the Independent Group of Scientists, appointed by the UN Secretary-General, to draft the 2023 *Global Sustainable Development Report*. She has an interdisciplinary background and has previously worked as a civil engineer on large infrastructure projects in Africa and the Middle East.

*David Obura* is the chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a member of the Earth Commission and a Founding Director of the Kenyan coral reef research and conservation organization CORDIO East Africa. Obura has 30 years of experience researching coral reefs, their vulnerability to climate change and importance to coastal communities and economies, and highlighting these issues across local to global scales. To motivate the societal changes needed, he is pivoting to a new focus on sustainability and equity, linking challenges and solutions across scales, and working with diverse teams to identify pathways to a safe and just world for present and future generations.

*Åsa Persson* is Research Director and Deputy Director at the Stockholm Environment Institute, and Adjunct Professor at the Department for Thematic Studies, Environmental Change, Linköping University, Sweden. Her research focuses on the interaction between global and national policy and governance, including the implementation of the SDGs. In 2020, she was appointed by the UN Secretary-General to the Independent Group of

Scientists to draft the 2023 UN Global Sustainable Development Report. She is a member of several further scientific committees, including the Swedish National Committee on Global Environmental Change (Royal Academy of Sciences), the Lead Faculty of the Earth System Governance network, the research committee of the Royal Swedish Agricultural Academy, the External Advisory Board of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute, and the editorial board of the journal *Earth System Governance*. Since 2023, she is Chair of the Swedish Climate Policy Council.

*Prajal Pradhan* is an Assistant Professor at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. He is the recipient of a prestigious ‘Starting Grant’ of the European Research Council for the project BeyondSDGs. Pradhan was also a lead author of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land and a contributing author of the AR6 IPCC WG III Report and the AR6 IPCC WG II Report. Pradhan is an expert in food systems, climate change, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). His current research focuses on understanding the necessary conditions for long-term sustainability, including achieving SDGs, urban transformations, and climate resilience. He is also a Visiting Scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

*Guilherme de Queiroz Stein* is a Strategic Analyst of Science, Technology and Innovation at FINEP Innovation and Research, Brazil. Before, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, investigating processes of differentiation and the dynamization of the SDGs. He holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil, where he has been a researcher associated with the group Participative Processes in Public Management. In 2020-2023, Queiroz-Stein was part of the project ‘Transformations and Governance of Sustainability in South American Bioeconomies’ at the University of Münster, Germany. His work has been published in *Earth System Governance*, *Forest Policy and Economics*, and the *Brazilian Political Science Review*. In 2024, he was nominated for the prize for best doctoral thesis in Political Science and International Relations, awarded by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES).

*Carole-Anne S nit* is Assistant Professor of Inclusive Sustainability Governance with the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. She is a political scientist by training, with a career spanning both research on and practice in the civil society sector. Her research explores the integration of the Global South within global change science, global civil society, and global institutions. She is a senior research fellow of the Earth System Governance Project, co-convenor of the Project’s taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals, and managing editor of the *Earth System Governance* journal.

*Yixian Sun* is an Associate Professor in International Development at the University of Bath, United Kingdom and a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow. He studies transnational governance, environmental politics and sustainable development, with a focus on emerging economies. His work explains the changing role of China in global environmental governance. He is the author of *Certifying China* (MIT Press, 2022) and has published over 20 articles in high-impact scientific journals including *Science*, *Nature Sustainability*, *Nature Food*, and *Global Environmental Change*. He is an associate editor of *Global Environmental Politics* and *World Development Perspectives* and a member of the Expert Peer Review Group for the UN-supported Race to Zero campaign.

*Mara Wendebourg* is a postdoctoral researcher at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. For her PhD at King's College London, she examined the role of scientific advisory bodies in law-making through the study of norm diffusion. During her doctoral research, Wendebourg also volunteered at the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea, following meetings of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization. Prior to that, she was a trainee at the European Commission and interned at the International Seabed Authority. Wendebourg holds an LLM in Public International Law from Utrecht University and an MSc in Marine Systems and Policies from the University of Edinburgh.

*Fronika de Wit* is a postdoctoral researcher at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, conducting research on (global) sustainability governance and the future of the SDGs. She has vast experience working on the science-policy-society interface in various countries, which have provided her with a transdisciplinary and intercultural perspective on sustainability governance. Amongst others, she worked at the Portuguese Centre of Government, coordinating Science for Policy projects and working with participatory futures thinking. She holds a PhD in climate change and sustainable development policies from the University of Lisbon, Portugal. In July 2022, she defended her PhD thesis on climate governance in the Amazon with honours. In 2023, she was awarded the *Oran R. Young Prize*, which rewards cutting-edge research on earth system governance by early-career scholars.

## Conference Statement

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The international research conference GLOBALGOALS2024 will launch a Conference Statement ‘The Future of the SDGs’, which will be agreed during the conference and widely published afterwards, pointing the way towards reforms that governments and other actors might take during the UN Summit of the Future and policy processes in the following years.

All registered authors of papers presented at the GLOBALGOALS2024 conference are invited to join the drafting process of this Conference Statement and to be listed in any further publication of this statement, if they so wish.

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## Drafting Process

The drafting of the Conference Statement ‘The Future of the SDGs’ will kick off in May 2024 and extend throughout the summer months. This collaborative process will engage all registered conference participants through the solicitation of Input Statements, online discussions, and co-writing events, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to crafting the statement.

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## Coordinating Lead Authors

The Conference Statement will be developed by a group of coordinating lead authors, including: Frank Biermann, Netherlands; Dan Banik, Norway and India; Marianne Beisheim, Germany; Steven Bernstein, Canada; Pamela Chasek, USA; Ines Dombrowsky, Germany; Boniface Dulani, Malawi; Margarita Gómez, Mexico; Thomas Hickmann, Sweden; Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Germany; Louis J. Kotzé, South Africa; Shirin Malekpour, Australia; Åsa Persson, Sweden; Prajal Pradhan, Netherlands and Nepal; Guilherme de Queiroz Stein, Brazil; Johan Schot, Netherlands; Michelle Scobie, Trinidad and Tobago; Carole-Anne Sénit, Netherlands; Yixian Sun, United Kingdom and China; Mara Wendebourg, Netherlands; and Fronika de Wit, Netherlands.



## Practical Information

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### Registration

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Below are the times and locations for onsite registration (for the main conference):

**28 August:** Janskerkhof 3 (Janskerkhof 3, 3512 BK Utrecht, The Netherlands), from 14.00pm to 18.00pm.

**29 August:**

- Academiegebouw (Domplein 29, 3512 JE Utrecht) from 8.00am to 9.30am.
- Janskerkhof 3 (Janskerkhof 3, 3512 BK Utrecht, The Netherlands), from 10.00 to 18.45.

**30 August:** Janskerkhof 3 (Janskerkhof 3, 3512 BK Utrecht, The Netherlands), from 8.00am to 18.00pm.

Please note that an information desk will be in place at Janskerkhof 3 from Monday 26 August onwards.

### Conference Venue

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GLOBALGOALS2024 will mainly take place at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Governance of Utrecht University in its main building at **Janskerkhof 3**, in the historic city centre of Utrecht. The closest bus stop is 'Janskerkhof', which is serviced by several bus lines.

Some events – such as the Opening and Closing Plenary sessions, the Evening Reception and the Conference Dinner – are held at different locations.

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## Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions



The opening and closing plenary sessions will take place in the Aula, the oldest part of Utrecht University Hall ('Academigebouw'), which has existed since 1462. This historic auditorium is located on the ground floor of Utrecht University Hall, in the city centre of Utrecht. The venue is a 7-minute walk from the conference venue (Janskerkhof 3).

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## Evening Reception



Venue: Pandhof

Thursday, 29 August 2024

Time: 19:00-20:30

We welcome you to a special reception on the first evening of the conference in the lovely monastery garden of the Dom Church. The reception is co-hosted by the University of Bath and the University of Lund.

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## Conference Dinner



Venue: Oudegracht 158, Utrecht

Friday, 30 August 2024

Time: 19:00-21:30

The conference dinner will take place at the *Winkel van Sinkel*, an iconic venue nestled in the heart of Utrecht. Originally erected as a grand warehouse between 1837 and 1839, it still stands proudly at Oudegracht 158. Over time, *Winkel van Sinkel* has become synonymous in the Netherlands with stores that offer a diverse array of goods. Today, this historic

building is home to one of Utrecht's most beloved restaurants, preserving its legacy as a cornerstone of the city's unique cultural heritage.

The conference dinner is co-hosted by Southern Voices, the SDG Initiative of the University of Oslo, and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability. It will be fully vegetarian and is covered by the registration fee – we look forward to enjoying with you a festive evening after a successful conference!

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## Transportation

### Bicycle

If you cannot walk from your hotel to the conference venue, the easiest, most common and eco-friendly way of getting around in Utrecht is by bike. You can rent a bike for €8.- per day at [Willemstraatbike](#) (Willemstraat 22) or for €18.- per day at Black Bikes (Vredenburg 29). See also: [Bike rental in Utrecht](#).

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### Public Transport

For visitors to the Netherlands, [OVpay](#) is the best way to check in and out when travelling by public transport. One only needs a debit or credit card to easily travel throughout the country by train, tram, bus or metro. OVpay offers a direct connection between your ride and your bank account. It works just like cashless payments in the supermarket, with the difference that you also have to check out to calculate the fare. With the OVpay app you can monitor whether you have checked in during the trip and you can check your travel history. If you are visiting the conference, this is the cheapest and most practical solution because you do not need a separate card and are not tied to an [OV-chipkaart](#) (€7,50). It is not possible to buy tickets using cash on the buses, you can only buy a ticket using a debit card or a credit card. A single run ticket is €3,10. Alternatively, single tickets can be bought with cash and any card at Utrecht Central Station, at the automatic vending machines or at the 'OV Service and Tickets' desk.

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### Travel to Utrecht

We encourage all participants to travel to Utrecht by train. Utrecht Central Station serves as a key railway junction in the Netherlands, offering frequent high-speed train connections to numerous European capitals, with some routes passing through Amsterdam Central Station. For those traveling from further afield, Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam is the closest international airport. Direct train services are available from Schiphol Airport to Utrecht Central Station. Travel information and timetables are available at the [Dutch Railway Services website](http://www.ns.nl/en/) ([www.ns.nl/en/](http://www.ns.nl/en/))

## Sustainability

The GLOBALGOALS2024 conference is vegetarian and plastic-free. We encourage all participants to bring their own coffee cup and water bottle.

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## Accommodation

Participants are requested to arrange their own accommodation for the duration of the event. With a variety of hotels near the conference venue, attendees have several options to choose from. Please note, however, that hotels and hostels tend to fill up rapidly during the busy summer season.

## PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

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### The Utrecht Summer School on the Future of Sustainability

Venue: Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

26-28 August 2024

The Utrecht Summer School on the Future of Sustainability, hosted by the GLOBALGOALS Project at Utrecht University, assembles a diverse team of eminent scholars committed to advancing research, teaching and action in sustainability governance. This three-day programme delivers academic lectures, fosters practical research skills, and provides hands-on experiences in local SDG implementation, cultivating a deep understanding of the ongoing sustainable development discourse.

Participation is possible only for early-career scholars who have applied, and been selected, for the summer school. Participation in the GLOBALGOALS2024 conference on 29-30 August is integral part of the summer school.

The Utrecht Summer School on the Future of Sustainability is organized by Guilherme de Queiroz Stein, Mara Wendebourg and Fronika de Wit.

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### Meeting of the Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals

Venue: Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

28 August 2024, 14:00-17:30

On Wednesday, 28 August, the Taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals of the Earth System Governance Project will meet in Utrecht.

Programme and Contact: Carole-Anne S nit at [c.a.senit@uu.nl](mailto:c.a.senit@uu.nl).

## Plenary and Semi-Plenary Sessions

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### Opening Plenary – ‘The Scope of the Challenge’

Venue: Aula, Academiegebouw

Thursday, 29 August 2024

Time: 9:00-10:30

#### Opening

#### Words of Welcome

*Henk Kummeling*, Rector of Utrecht University, The Netherlands

#### The Sustainable Development Goals: State of Research and Future Directions

*Frank Biermann*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

#### International Sustainability Politics in a Time of Global (Dis-)Order

*Anna-Katharina Hornidge*, director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Germany

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### Semi-Plenary I – ‘Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs’

Venue: Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

29 August 2024

Time: 13:30-15:00

Chair: *Fronika de Wit*, co-chair, GLOBALGOALS2024 Conference, Utrecht University

#### Exploring African Attitudes toward Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change

*Boniface Dulani*, University of Malawi, Malawi

#### Strengthening Accountability Ecosystems for the Sustainable Development Goals

*Thomas Hickmann*, Lund University, Sweden

## **Politics Matters! Political Will as a Critical Condition for Implementing the SDGs**

*Marianne Beisheim*, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany

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## **Semi-Plenary II – ‘Differentiation and Dynamization of the SDGs’**

Venue: Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

29 August 2024

Time: 13:30-15:00

Chair: *Ines Dombrowsky*, German Institute of Development and Sustainability, Germany

## **Beyond Words: Tackling the Politics, Power, and Financial Challenges to Realize Sustainable Development**

*Dan Banik*, University of Oslo, Norway

## **Coherence, Global Goals and The Post-2030 Agenda: A Failing or Misguided Ambition?**

*Steven Bernstein*, University of Toronto, Canada

## **A Threefold Approach for Acceleration of SDG Implementation**

*Prajal Pradhan*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

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## **Semi-Plenary III – ‘Reforming the SDGs’**

Venue: Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

30 August 2024

Time: 11:00-12:30

Chair: *Yi hyun Kang*, Lund University, Sweden

## **Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs**

*Pamela Chasek*, Manhattan College, United States of America

## **Preventing Backsliding and Accelerating Implementation: Lessons from the Global Sustainable Development Report**

*Åsa Persson*, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden

## **100 Key Questions for the Post-2030 Global Development Agenda**

*Emily Boyd* – LUCSUS, Lund University, Sweden

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## **Semi-Plenary IV – ‘The Role of Science and Knowledge’**

Venue: Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

30 August 2024

Time: 11:00-12:30

Chair: *Mara Wendebourg*, co-chair, GLOBALGOALS2024 Conference, Utrecht University

## **Science-Policy Interaction for Sustainable Development**

*Yixian Sun*, University of Bath, United Kingdom

## **Evidence to Action: Innovative Methodologies and Insights from the Global South**

*Margarita Gómez*, Southern Voice, Mexico

## **Balancing Benefits from Nature through Economy to People**

*David Obura*, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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## **Closing Plenary – ‘The Future of Sustainability’**

Venue: Aula, Academieggebouw

Friday, 30 August 2024

Time: 17:00-18:00

## **Presentation and Acceptance of Conference Statement**

*Frank Biermann*, conference co-chair and director, GLOBALGOALS Project

## **Roundtable on the Future of Sustainability**

Co-convened by *Mara Wendebourg*, co-chair, GLOBALGOALS2024 Conference

## **Closing Address and Vote of Thanks**

*Frank Biermann*, conference co-chair and director, GLOBALGOALS Project



## PARALLEL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

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### Parallel Sessions Block I

Venue: Janskerkhof 3

29 August 2024

Time: 11:00-12:30

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### Panel ACCELERATION I : ‘Approaches to SDG Acceleration – I’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Sbirin Malekpour – Monash University, Australia*

#### **Accelerating Progress on SDGs Requires Greater Focus on SDG Implementation Policies and Budgets in Specific Goal and Target Areas**

*Mark Elder* – Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan

SDGs are off track, but the HLPF’s follow-up and review (FUR) process, especially reviews of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), do not systematically examine the reasons. This paper recommends that SDG progress reviews should focus more on analysing national SDG implementation policies and budgets. Regarding the environment, for example, this includes policies on renewable energy, resource efficiency, air and water pollution standards, and initiatives for cleaner production, and circular economy, etc. More concrete policy analysis would also help to develop policy trackers to monitor SDG implementation more systematically. Recommendations to accelerate SDG progress should focus more on concrete measures to strengthen policies, implementation, and budgets in specific areas. However, most existing VNR studies do not assess countries’ implementation policies and budgets. Instead, they focus on other issues such as achievement levels, topics discussed in the VNRs, and VNR preparation processes. This leads to recommendations to improve VNRs and their preparation, but this has limited potential to stimulate more transformative actions. Of course, analysing policy effectiveness in many policy areas in many countries is very complex, and mobilizing sufficient analytical capacity is not easy. However, getting the SDGs back on track requires more substantial recommendations for more ambitious policies and effective implementation.

#### **Silent or Silenced? The Role of Intermediaries in Silencing the Conformity of Social Enterprises to the SDGs**

*Simon Meert* – University Liège, Belgium

The relationship between social enterprises (SEs)—as enterprises giving primacy to their social mission instead of financial returns—and the United Nations’ (UN) Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) has been conceptualized as potentially highly synergetic. However, evidence indicates that SEs are not integrating the SDGs norm in their reporting practices. Internally, this is particularly puzzling given that the need for SEs to advance their legitimacy from moral to pragmatic and consequential has been identified for almost two decades as one of the biggest impediments to their development. Externally, such reporting silence represents a threat to the effectiveness of the UN sustainability framework and ultimately the realization the paradigm shift it calls upon, for three main reasons. Firstly, the current absence of SDGs signals in SEs' reporting activities combined with recurrent SDGs decoupling from traditional capitalist firms concomitantly work to sabotage the detective purpose of those very signals. As a result, public and private investors with an SDGs interest cannot rely on such cues to orient their sustainable investment decisions. Secondly, as SEs fail to engage in SDGs reporting, they miss the opportunity to diffuse their organizational practices so as to bring less sustainable actors towards higher standards of sustainability commitment. Finally, this also implies that SEs forego the possibility to contribute to the next global goals conceptualization through their alternative framing and understanding of corporate sustainability. Hence, in this qualitative phenomenon-driven research, we explore SEs' SDGs reporting silence through the lens of their field intermediaries (i.e.: federations with different geographical, organizational and sectoral scopes), as they typically play a role in managing responses to institutional pressures. Primary findings reveal that what appears at first glance as a case of 'silent conformity' could be requalified as a 'silenced' one, when discussing the relationship between SEs and the SDGs. Our study will contribute to intermediary literature by reinvestigating their downward and upward intermediation roles in the SE field and will complement institutional and voluntary standard literatures by providing further explanations as to why normative pressures (fail to) transmit across institutional levels.

### **The Effectiveness of Voluntary National Review Mechanisms in Promoting Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals**

*Ting Guan* – Beijing Normal University, China

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were introduced in the 2030 Agenda in 2015, and since then, countries' progress towards achieving these goals has been a crucial topic in global governance research. However, recent studies have shown that the current governance system for setting goals may not be effective in driving goal achievement. To evaluate the effectiveness of the annual review mechanism on countries' SDG progress, this study analysed 284 voluntary national reviews submitted by 126 countries to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) from 2016 to 2023. Text mining and sentiment analysis methods were applied to analyse the data. It was found that the timing of review submission and sentiment orientation of different countries had an impact on their progress towards achieving the SDGs. Specifically, countries that submitted their reviews later and had a more positive sentiment orientation had better progress in reaching their SDG targets. However, there was no significant correlation between a nation's willingness to participate in HLPF, attention to implementation, and SDG improvement. This study contributes to the understanding of global governance effectiveness by shedding light on the role and impact of HLPF on SDG progress.

It is hoped that this understanding will help in the scientific formulation and effective implementation of global public policies.

### **The Technical Craft and Professional Norms of Policy Professionals Related to Ecological Sustainability**

*Lennart Stam & Sebastiaan Steenman* – School of Governance, Utrecht University, Netherlands

When the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were introduced in 2015, the aim was to create a unifying framework that would help international and national policies to address multiple goals in an integrated manner, this has however, proven difficult to develop and implement (Bogers et al., 2023). They are tasked with formulating, implementing and evaluating policies to address these complex sustainability challenges. These wicked problems are inherently multifaceted, with an ambiguous nature, lacking both clear definitions and straightforward solutions (Head & Alford, 2015). This exploratory paper seeks to delineate the specific craft and professional norms that policy professionals require to effectively engage with these issues. Drawing on the professionalisation literature (e.g. Noordegraaf, 2007; Wilensky, 1964), the study divides professionalism into two components: the technical ‘body of knowledge and skills’ (craft) and the adherence to a set of professional norms. Using the policy cycle (Howlett et al., 2009) as a structured analytical lens (recognizing the less structured nature of the reality of policy processes), the paper investigates the roles and demands of policy professionals at each of the stages in the cycle, through multiple perspectives. The interaction between these professionals and what they need specifically to contribute in a meaningful way to these complex challenges (wickedness), is studied through 50 interviews, informed by literature from environmental governance, as well as from a general public policy perspective. The paper results in a theoretically and empirically informed set of what policy professionals need, both in terms of technical expertise and moral guidance, to contribute meaningfully towards the SDG’s, specifically ecological sustainability.

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### **Panel DIFFERENTIATION I: ‘Participation and Inclusion’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

Chair: *Lisa-Maria Glass* – Utrecht University, The Netherlands

### **The Role of Inclusiveness in the Acceleration of SDGs Implementation through MSPs in Nigeria: The Need for a New Research Agenda (online)**

*Okechukwu Enechi & Philipp Pattberg* – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Achieving the global goals in Nigeria faces challenges due to limited stakeholder inclusion, among others, heightening concerns over the country’s successful SDG implementation. Yet, multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP), is promoted as a governance instrument that

advances inclusiveness through stakeholder participation. MSPs, as an inclusive governance mechanism, are expected to improve inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs. However, studies show little evidence of MSPs steering inclusiveness, particularly in local context. In the Nigerian context, for example, stakeholder participation in MSP is contested, with limited participation of key stakeholders in partnership arrangements. This poses a challenge in the quest for advancing inclusiveness through MSPs in the implementation of the SDG in Nigeria. What is also missing is evidence and understanding of the hindrances to stakeholder participation in MSPs in local context. This could partly be explained by limitations of MSPs research agenda that has not addressed local specific context as regards stakeholder participation. Therefore, this paper proposes a new direction in the study of MSPs in local context using Nigeria as a case study. On this account, the paper suggest that research should develop a framework to interrogate the perceived hindrances to stakeholder participation in MSPs, the design and facilitation of MSPs, and how stakeholders are selected for participation in MSPs in local context. Charting a new research direction could provide clarity about the drivers for limited inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDG through MSPs in local context, and as well suggest pathways to overcome them.

### **SDG Localization through Participatory Governance: How the Quality of Municipal Participation Processes Enhances Sustainable Development and the Achievement of the Agenda 2030**

*Leonie Grob* – Cities Alliance/UNOPS, Belgium

Cities are contributors to multiple sustainability challenges, yet at the same time enablers of change. The global shift towards sustainable development therefore heavily relies on local, particularly urban, action, as also emphasized by the Agenda 2030. The remaining six years of SDG implementation require immense progress on localizing the SDGs and tailoring SDG-action to context-specific sustainability challenges and local governance needs. Drawing upon the principles outlined in the Agenda 2030, which stress the importance of contextualizing SDGs at the local level through participatory governance, this paper explores how such participatory processes can enhance the quality and effectiveness of sustainability decisions and their implementation. Through an extensive literature review, I first identify critical variables and introduce an indicator framework, which allows to determine the quality of participatory processes. Using a multi-method empirical analysis, including semi-structured interviews, observations, document analyses and surveys, this framework is then applied to seven municipalities/cities in Germany, which have developed their urban sustainability strategies in a participatory way. This approach facilitates assessing the quality of various participatory processes, and evaluating the extent to which the developed strategies and their subsequent implementation will derive benefits from the applied participatory governance approach. The paper identifies primary barriers and drivers that influence the quality of participatory processes. Alongside the promotion of sustainable development through enhanced participatory processes, the research also examines normative impacts of participation, namely enhanced democratic capacity of societies. This research contributes to understanding the role of participatory governance in accelerating SDG implementation, offering insights into effective policies and measures at the local level. The developed indicator framework can serve as a practical guide for

policymakers and practitioners seeking to enhance the quality of participatory processes, ultimately fostering accelerated progress towards the SDGs and broader sustainable development objectives.

### **Is It Possible to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Marginal Frontiers? Weaving Alternatives in the Pacific Frontiers of Mexico- Guatemala and Costa Rica-Nicaragua**

*Víctor Manuel Velázquez Durán and Celia Ruiz de Oña Plaza* – The Southern Frontier College (ECOSUR), México; Center for Multidisciplinary Research on Chiapas and the Southern Border (CIMSUR), UNAM, México

This paper documents the challenges and opportunities that implementation of the SDGs related to the seas and oceans (SDG 14, Submarine Life) confronts in the Pacific frontier regions of Mexico-Guatemala and Costa Rica-Nicaragua. Despite the desolate scenario that local fishers face due to the neglect of governmental institutions, the increasing violence associated with organized crime, and the expansion of the frontiers of extractivist projects (e.g., industrial fishing, marine mining), local communitarian organizations are being constituted in crucial spaces to mobilize and take collective action in defence of their territories. These organizations have not only constructed distinct forms of ‘agency’ through their historical processes of organization and clientelist relations with government actors, but also weave social innovations in collaboration with national and international conservationist NGOs to detonate forms of sustainable development better adjusted to their uses and customs, preserve their fishing resources, increase the benefits they receive from regional and national fishing value chains, and, finally, but no less important, strengthen the empowerment of women to generate fairer communitarian decision-making processes and more diversified, equitable local economies. The study concludes that these SDGs must take into account socioenvironmental innovations produced in local geographic contexts in order to attend more effectively to the broad diversity of problems that today affect the state of conservation of marine-coastal ecosystems.

### **It’s the Process, Stupid: Searching for clues to the SDGs’ failures inside the process that birthed them**

*S. Beth Fascitelli* – University of Massachusetts Boston, United States

This paper is based on the premise that ‘the processes we use to negotiate global agreements are as important as the technical capabilities and the scientific understanding that the negotiators bring to the bargaining table’ (Susskind and Ali 2015, 7). As such, an understanding of the SDGs’ failures necessitates a look at the process by which they were formulated. While the three years of post-2015 consultations and negotiations may have constituted ‘an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process...open to all stakeholders’ (UNGA 2012, 47), a more critical investigation reveals that it failed to address the embedded structures that drive and shape global development governance. A number of authors (Klingebiel 1999; Weiss 2005; Stokke 2009; Murphy and Browne 2014) have argued that reform of these structures is of greater consequence to the success of a global development agenda than is the much-debated form and substance of global goals. Using

empirical research and applying an analytical framework grounded in both theory and practice, I scrutinize the political structures that governed participation, knowledge production and decision-making in the post-2015 process. Whereas other studies have focused on the global-level process, I dive into what was happening at a national and sub-national level using India as a case study. Through this investigation, I argue that systemic transformation must begin, first and foremost, with a deliberately transformative approach to the processes for deliberation and decision-making at all levels of sustainability governance.

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## Panel REFORMS I: ‘Reforms for Just Transitions’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

Chair: *Sabine Weiland* – *Université Catholique de Lille, France*

### **Prosocial Governance, a New Horizon in Building Resilient Societies to Prepare for Future Crises**

*Carlos Cortés Zea* – Senior Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Promoting just, peaceful, and inclusive societies (SDG16) requires more than strong institutions. Societies need to revamp them based on renegotiating the social contract binding citizens with their governments. Yet, we face a widespread distrust in government, about 40% of citizens trusted their governments in 2022 on average across countries (only 30% in Latin America). In a context of scarcity, cooperation is more efficient than competition. Still, 85% of the world’s population lived under austerity measures in 2023 (75% by 2025). Policymakers could acknowledge prosocial behaviours (e.g., mutual aid, solidarity, altruism, collaboration) as major assets of a novel understanding of governance. This research paper will focus on the emergence of prosocial governance as an evolution of the role of the state. In contrast to the long-lasting efforts to foster an enabling environment for business, a prosocial government opposes the necessity to organize society as a robust cooperation system relying on subjective and objective elements of social cohesion. The purpose is to reflect on the implications of a prosocial state that sets resilience as its primary responsibility and ultimate goal, and its qualities to harness the potential of radical interdependence. With the study of initiatives in different regional contexts, this research will build up on the preliminary findings of the 2022 UNDP Development Futures Series policy paper on ‘Prosocial Governance for peacebuilding and community resilience’, which studied two case studies in Mexico. The work will systematize, compare, monitor, and evaluate similar experiences to learn lessons and knowledge sharing; but also, question the extent to which prosocial governance could be a means to reconstruct trust and legitimacy in political, economic, and social actors. The challenge is to discuss ways in which social contracts under pressure would benefit from a state willing to overcome the limitless growth paradigm and establish a new prosocial horizon.

## **Just Transition Views at COP28: Forging New Pathways for Climate and Sustainable Development**

*Alexia Faus Onbargi* – German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Germany

Just Transition (JT) features prominently in international climate change policy and negotiations, however is interpreted and conceptualized differently across actors. JT notions range from sectoral ones focused on energy and labour, to transformative ones founded on global (economic) structural reform and climate justice. Moreover, while discourse on JT has predominantly focused on the energy sector, JT is also intimately linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with JTs often posited as a bridge between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. For example, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) frames JT as a way of greening the economy within the rubric of sustainable development. Despite such diverse JT notions, no exercise to date has properly explored the views of different stakeholders on the concept nor on its governance. This is a surprising gap given the acknowledged role of individual views and perceptions in influencing organisations, institutions, policy and politics. To address this, we issued a survey to Blue Zone attendees at COP28 in Dubai, where JT was set to be a key priority area. Responses from around 140 participants from a range of roles and organizations clearly indicate a preference to expand the concept beyond energy and labour; almost two thirds see JTs as encompassing the whole 2030 Agenda, while even more see equal opportunities (in line with the SDG principle of leaving no one behind) as crucial. Given that most respondents prefer cross-sectoral JTs – that is, JTs that consider many sectors beyond energy – policy coherence (in SDG 17) is indicated as a priority to govern them. As discussions grow on the implementation of the SDGs, the post-2030 Agenda and JTs, this study provides timely insights into the individual views and preferences of stakeholders to devise future governance of climate and sustainable development.

## **Empowering Sustainable Futures: Energy Justice and Attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Pakistan**

*Muhammad Faisal Sharif & Yixian Sun* – University of Bath, United Kingdom

As a large developing country highly vulnerable to climate change, Pakistan faces enormous challenges to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all). Heavy reliance on imported energy sources, weak infrastructure, and governance issues grappling the energy sector over decades has made Pakistan an energy-poor country in terms of energy access, affordability, and reliability. To address these issues and ultimately achieve SDG7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG13 (climate action), the Government of Pakistani has adopted a Clean Energy Transition plan with the targets of achieving 60% of renewable energy in the energy mix and 50% of emission reductions by 2030. To what extent do the existing policy interventions in the country align with pathways to achieving SDG7, especially with respect to energy justice? To answer this question, we draw on a framework of energy justice, which includes three tenets of distributive, recognition, and procedural justice to examine Pakistan's energy policies and their progress towards SDG7. Our analysis is two-fold. We first consider the implications of Pakistan's energy policies

and relevant institutional arrangements for each of the three tenets of energy justice. We then use national statistical data to investigate the distribution of burden and benefits of energy policies amongst different segments of the population, including energy access, affordability, and reliability. Through the lens of energy justice, our study sheds novel light on challenges to clean energy transition in the process of SDG implementation in the global south. It also makes policy recommendations for Pakistan to ensure a just, fair, and equitable energy transition in line with SDG7.

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## Panel SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE I ‘The Science-Policy Interface-I’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.17

Chair: *Fronika de Wit – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

### **Navigating the Complexity of the 2030 Agenda: A Methodological Approach for SDG Implementation**

*Fabricio Silveira, João Prates Romero, Elton Freitas, Gustavo Britto & Rômulo Paes-Sousa – Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – FIOCRUZ, Brazil, Federal University of Minas Gerais – UFMG, Brazil*

Translating the ambitious ideals of the 2030 Agenda into actionable policies presents a formidable task for policymakers. While existing literature has extensively studied development determinants in several SDG topics, understanding the broader relationships between the 17 goals and the 169 targets remains largely unexplored, potentially impeding progress across multiple goals. This study aims to bridge this gap by offering a transparent and reproducible methodology to navigate the multifaceted nature of the SDGs, contributing to the development of practical implementation mechanisms. To achieve this objective, the study adapts the ‘economic complexity’ methodology pioneered by Hidalgo and Hausman (2011). This methodology was developed to reduce a vast universe of variables into a smaller set of basic elements, uncovering potential evolutionary trajectories that can inform policymaking strategies to accelerate progress. A comprehensive dataset comprising 1817 indicators for all 17 goals in up to 185 countries from 2015 to 2019 is employed to demonstrate the application of the theory and rank countries and targets by level of complexity. The approach entails mapping local capabilities, assessing target complexity, and prioritizing actions based on opportunity and feasibility. Additionally, the SDG Space framework elucidates the interconnectedness of SDG targets, facilitating the identification of priority areas. The results and discussion sections delve into the nuanced challenges of target prioritization in regions with varying SDG Space densities and target complexities. Through a case study of three countries in different development levels, it illustrates how the methodology guides policymakers towards impactful interventions. By providing policymakers with tools to evaluate progress, prioritize targets, and coordinate actions across sectors, the study enables policymakers to strategically allocate resources, maximize impact, address urgent needs, engage stakeholders, and ensure accountability and transparency.



## **Strategies for Enhancing Science-Policy Interfaces for Sustainable Development in Portugal**

*Susana Sobral* – University of Lisbon, Portugal

The incorporation of science into policymaking faces multifaceted challenges related to the interconnectedness of wicked problems. These challenges require robust scientific knowledge but also the establishment of a science-policy interface that involves various levels of governance and different stakeholders. The complexity of these problems and their multi-sectoral nature are evident in the challenges associated with sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda further introduces a greater emphasis on the involvement of multiple actors, including scientists, with the introduction of a goal related to partnerships and collaboration: ‘Partnerships for Development’ (Goal 17). In this context, this study aims to understand how Portugal is promoting activities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, focusing on two main strategies to increase the institutionalization of a science-policy interface. These strategies include: engaging regional and local actors through a lens of collaborative governance; knowledge brokerage activities, including information management, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building, aiming to understand if they contribute to enhancing the dialogue between the scientific and policymaking communities. To achieve this, a qualitative methodology is employed, utilizing documentary analysis of legal frameworks and activity plans of the collaborative efforts undertaken to implement the SDGs in Portugal. This includes examining, for example, the process behind the production of the National Voluntary Report or the activities developed by the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development. The findings indicate that several collaborative initiatives meet the criteria for Collaborative Governance, highlighting the necessity for investments in arrangements initiated by public entities to allow participation in decision-making and consensus-building. Moreover, the analysis reveals that there is work to be done for the joint use of the three aspects of knowledge brokerage, particularly in the realms of knowledge sharing and capacity building, which demand more substantial time and resources.

## **The Changing Role of Science as a Lever for Transformation: Identifying Different Phases and Paths of Engagement with the German National Sustainability Strategy by Scientific Advisory Councils**

*Anne Ellersiek & Julius Rathgens* – Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, Germany

This study starts out from the assumption that at halfway point through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, the role of science as a lever for transformation has changed. This change should be reflected in the positionings of scientific advisory councils towards the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as towards Germany’s National Sustainability Strategy (NSDS). To prove our assumption and identify different paths of engagement, we systematically reviewed a total number of 725 publications by a selected number of scientific advisory councils to the German government in the time from 2016 to 2023, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. We use quantitative and qualitative tools of a systematic document analysis to identify different phases of engagement with the strategy across councils over time and to delineate different pathways of engagement by different councils. Our preliminary

results from this analysis show that science is not a monolithic lever for transformation. Instead, different scientific advisory councils develop and adapt their own individual modes of engagement with the 2030 Agenda and the German NSDS over time.

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## Panel ACCELERATION II: 'Accelerating the Energy Transition'

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.22

Chair: *Mara Wendebourg* – *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

### **Indonesia's Sustainable Green Economy in the Energy Sector: Challenges and Expectations**

*Dinda Keumala & Ahmad Sabirin* – Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia

This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and expectations for achieving a sustainable green economy in the energy sector in Indonesia. Indonesia aims to achieve net zero emission by 2035 and beyond by 2060 or earlier. The transformation of the energy sector in Indonesia, which is a source of emissions with the dominance of fossil energy in domestic energy supply of around 90.4 percent, to renewable energy is a crucial effort to reduce emissions. On the other hand, the trend of renewable energy development tends to slow down, reaching only 0.97 GW of the 3.4 GW target in the fourth quarter of 2023. Other challenges, in the development of a green economy in the energy sector, include the absence of sufficient financing to carry out new innovations related to technology in the environmental field, and the need for long-term environmental policies. An interesting finding of this study is that Indonesia has potential economic and environmental benefits from renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and waste management, making coordinated efforts, policy coherence, and financial support essential to overcome these challenges and achieve a sustainable green economy in the energy sector. The government must also prepare infrastructure in the legal field as part of an integrated policy foundation and cannot be separated from various other policies to answer the challenges so that the sustainable green economy development program in the energy sector has aspects of certainty, justice and also benefits. Therefore, it is necessary to transition to renewable energy sources, infrastructure development, policy coherence, financing, technological innovation, provision of legal infrastructure and renewable energy capacity building to support the transition to a green economy. In addition, solutions are needed to address climate change/environmental damage such as deforestation, air and water pollution, and degradation through the adoption of renewable energy.

## **Unpacking the Institutional Complex of Energy-Focused Cooperative Climate Initiatives for Governing the Sustainable Development Goals**

*Yichen Shen* – Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

In the face of escalating global warming, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the role of global partnerships for collective action, yet the path to their achievement, particularly in the energy sector, demands a more nuanced understanding of various innovative governance arrangements on multilateral cooperation. In particular, the proliferation of formal and informal arrangements, on the other hand, increases the institutional complexities and the challenges of understanding and researching the efficacy of various collaborative arrangements. In such context, this study aims to unpack the role of energy-focused Cooperative Climate Initiatives (CCIs) listed on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Global Climate Action Portal as pivotal elements within the institutional complex of SDG implementation. Through a social network analysis of approximately 50 CCIs, this study intends to scrutinize the interactions between diverse actors and CCIs and unveil how actor dynamics within those institutional arrangements are organized and driven by what factors. Through this lens, this research seeks to identify the key patterns and drivers vital for the CCIs' effectiveness in advancing their agenda, thereby informing further strategies for SDG reform. It also underscores the necessity for adaptive governance frameworks that embrace actor diversity and foster synergies across different levels of climate action. This is particularly imperative for understanding the contribution of global partnerships to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and broader objectives under the UNFCCC's framework. In so doing, the research seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on SDG reform and climate governance, offering a blueprint for employing transnational initiatives to strengthen the global sustainability agenda.

## **Mainstreaming SDGs into Energy Transition: An Analysis of State Solar Policies in India**

*Bhavya Jyoti Batra* – TERI School of Advanced Studies, India

India has a twin objective of expanding its energy system to tackle energy poverty and other developmental goals as well as transitioning to a low-carbon energy economy to tackle climate change. Policymakers have historically treated the development and climate agendas separately. However, with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), policymakers have begun to recognize the potential synergies between the two. The SDGs serve as the foundation for various developmental goals, with SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) functioning as a bridge between the two agendas. The literature also recognizes both synergies and trade-offs between climate mitigation and SDGs and the net impact depends on the design and implementation of policies. We argue that to accelerate the implementation of SDGs, they must be mainstreamed into the climate policies as well. There is a lack of a framework that integrates SDGs into the energy transition. This paper aims to propose a novel Just Transition-SDG framework that argues the importance of 'reducing inequality' as a crucial aspect of both the SDG and climate agenda. This paper will undertake both explicit and interpretive content analysis of the state solar policies of India, using the framework developed to understand the extent of SDG

integration. This analysis would contribute to the literature on integrating development and climate agenda. It will also provide information on barriers and opportunities that exist in different states that will assist policymakers in designing sustainable and ‘just’ transition policies that can help in synergistic implementation and acceleration of both agendas.

### **Modelling Energy Consumption in Public vs. Private Spaces of Refugee Camps Using Artificial Intelligence: A Gender Analysis**

*Isna Absan* – Coventry University, United Kingdom

In alignment with SDG 7, the findings of this research challenges current energy practices in refugee settlements by validating that existing energy interventions in refugee camps often fall short of meeting refugee energy needs, especially for women and young girls as they are disproportionately impacted by unequal access to energy. Particularly significant is the endeavour to uplift marginalized groups of refugee women, thereby advancing the overarching mission of Sustainable Development Goal 5, which centres on fostering gender equality and empowering all women and girls. This research aims to demonstrate how low-cost sensors and artificial intelligence methods that enable real-time data collection and predictive modelling, empower stakeholders to design energy products that can effectively sustain refugee lives over extended periods. Using the case scenario of solar mobile lanterns which is the most common lighting resource in refugee camps, this research draws insights into the energy consumption behaviour of refugees to disrupts the conventional narrative about mobile lanterns meant to ensure women’s safety. The methodology is a mixed-methods approach, leveraging the strengths of both remote sensor monitoring via equipped lanterns and open-ended survey questions. This approach is designed to gain a holistic perspective of refugee energy patterns in a socio-technical scenario. In doing so, it will argue the goal for sustainable energy access within refugee settings is not merely a technical endeavour; rather, it embodies a profound aim for social justice, empowerment, and inclusivity for vulnerable refugee communities. Through a holistic approach that integrates technical innovation with socio-economic empowerment in a local context, this research will facilitate the attainment of the dynamic objectives of Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 7, thereby highlighting how reflecting on specific local challenges and capacities contribute meaningfully to global pursuits.

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## Parallel Sessions Block II

Venue: Janskerkhof 3

29 August 2024

Time: 15:30-17:00

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### Panel ACCELERATION III: 'Social Sustainability & Just Transitions'

Janskerkhof 3, room 1.10

Chair: *Magdalena Bexell – Lund University, Sweden*

#### **Making Social Sustainability Operative: Prospects for the 2030 Agenda**

*Giuseppe Rainieri, Anna Richiedi, Michele Pezzagno – Università degli Studi di Brescia, Italy*

Social Sustainability, as articulated in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for the sustainable development, lacks precise definition and assessment method. It was described as a vague concept lacking standardised conceptualisation and assessment methods. This research seeks to redefine the concept of social sustainability, explore its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), assess methodologies for measurement, and pinpoint crucial stakeholders for effective implementation. To achieve these goals a systematic review was performed. The authors chose Scopus, Web of Science and AccessEngineering as their reference databases. The final sample counts 60 peer-reviewed articles. The analysis reveals that social sustainability is intricately linked to all SDGs, but few targets and indicators were operatively included. Furthermore, the review identifies additional dimensions relevant to social sustainability, than inspected thorough clustering analysis. The discussion section proposes a comprehensive definition of social sustainability and delineates the interconnectedness among the identified social sustainability dimensions. The assessment method for social sustainability were presented and discussed as well. Additionally, the paper delves into the interactions among the three pillars of sustainability and highlights the benefits and key participants involved in social sustainability assessments.

#### **Neighbourhood Manifesto for Informal Habitat Dignity**

*Elkin Vargas López, Bladimir Basabe, Michelle Castro, Luis Vergara – Buro DAP Foundation; Secretary of the Environment of Cartagena; Neighborhood Action Committee of Policarpa, Cartagena, Colombia*

The current climatic crisis makes us aware about the importance to focus actions on urban world since 55% of the world's population lives in cities (United Nations, 2022). In this order, it is essential for the sustainable urban development to be inclusive with all social players from different sectors and economic levels, but specially with whom lacking adequate housing, infrastructure and access to basic public services and goods. One billion of urban dwellers are living in informal settlements in the entire world (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Therefore, it is imperative to formulate regulations and plans that promote decent housing by recognizing the importance of prioritizing actions on informal settlements highly vulnerable because climate impacts and increasing and unhealthy urban density. In this context, at the beginning of 2024, 6 neighbourhoods of Cartagena, Colombia (approximately 20,000 people) drafted a Manifesto for the dignity of informal Habitat with the support of an NGO (Buro DAP), local leaders and institutional allies. This Manifesto is the result of participatory community work over the last 7 years through exercises, workshops and implementation of neighbourhood improvement projects. This work allows to collect 5 five key points coming from two imperative principles: the right to the city (decent habitat) and accelerated climate action. The manifesto through its five points or statements responds to core demands in the field of socioenvironmental, economic, community, education, governance, and legal aspects with the purpose to accelerate the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, especially goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities). Accordingly, the legal tenure or right land property becomes essential for the fulfilment of the other demands. The Manifesto also highlights the interrelationship of Sustainable Development Goal No. 11 with the others of the 2030 Agenda, diving into new methodological approaches to increase local governance and facilitate relationships between scientific and non-academic communities, local people, and public and private sectors.

### **Drivers and Nuances of Sustainable Development Goals: Transcending Corporate Social Responsibility in Family Firms**

*Alessia Patuelli* – Northumbria University, Amsterdam Campus, The Netherlands

In 2015, the United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be reached by 2030. They are aimed at all members of society, including businesses, which could integrate SDGs within their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies. As family firms constitute the most widespread form of business, understanding the factors that drive the decisions to pursue SDGs is essential. Thus, this research aims to understand why a family firm complies with SDGs. Additionally, it examines how SDGs enter, at the strategic level, activities and management practices. Following the case study method, the paper focuses on a family firm based in Italy, by means of documentary analysis, semi-structured interviews, and online data. In line with the Socioemotional Wealth (SEW) theory, family and personal values are crucial. While SDGs are only now entering the strategic level, their rationale has always been part of the family values, and the firm's culture. The selected firm is pursuing ten Goals. SDGs serve as a further motivator for family firms to behave more responsibly, meaning that they help to align the firm's strategy with the global challenges, building on existing family and firm's values. Our paper brings several contributions to the family business, CSR and SDGs literature, providing a representation of the reasons why a family firm pursues SDGs and the first reaction phases to SDGs. It brings practical implications for policymakers, highlighting the role of family values as the main drivers of the choice to invest in SDGs. By providing unique evidence, it is the first to connect the family business literature, CSR and SDGs.

## **Accelerating the SDGs in the Public Arena: On the Possibilities of Political Protest and Legal Assistance**

*Petra Dobner & Dirk Hanschel* – Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

As ambitious as the goals of the SDGs are, it is also unclear how these goals could actually be achieved. Even more so than with the MDGs, the focus here is on data and the hope that better data can also lead to better policies. The implementation of the SDGs thus relies to a large extent on elements of target management that have been transferred from commercial enterprises to public sectors as part of new public governance, regardless of completely different management conditions. Using the example of SDG 6 and India, we have investigated in recent years whether this mechanism is possibly supported by both legal and political demands for the realization of the SDGs (<https://systemanalyse.politik.uni-halle.de/systemanalyse/forschungsprojekte/widpal/?lang=en>). The findings are surprisingly clear: neither the country's (once) strong environmental judicature, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), nor the Supreme Court, nor the political environmental movements refer to this SDG's water-related goals and targets in a striking way. Conversely, however, it can be concluded from this finding that greater politicization and use of the improvements promised in the SDGs in legal disputes could be expedient in order to effectuate better SDG implementation. In the remaining six years, this would open up two corridors that have so far remained largely unused in order to push for greater progress.

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### **Panel ACCELERATION IV: 'Institutional Dimensions'**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Pamela Chasek* – *Manhattan College, United States of America*

### **Deciphering Institutional Interactions – The Role of the SDGs in International Law**

*Niamh Guiry* – University College Cork, Ireland

At more than halfway to the 2030 deadline, the progress of the SDGs is under severe threat with many of these critical objectives said to be off-track or even regressing. To support and accelerate SDG implementation, one must theorise the functionality of the Global Goals and decipher the normative interactivity that may be taking place between the goals and related subfields of international law. Building upon Oran R. Young's theory of institutional linkages in international society [1], this paper presents six types of institutional interactions that allow this interrelationship to be examined in more depth: 1) Embedded institutions, 2) Nested institutions, 3) Clustered institutions, 4) Overlapping institutions, 5) Negating institutions, and 6) Sectional institutions. This paper will provide practical examples related to each type of interaction (such as insights into the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework indicators) primarily in the context of international environmental law. Young has remarked that 'institutional linkages are destined to loom larger in the future as interdependencies among functionally distinct activities rise in international society and the

density of international regimes increases' [2]. With 2030 fast approaching, insights into the ongoing and emerging (quantified and unquantified) impacts of the SDG-international law relationship must be acquired so as to discern if and how the SDGs are shaping related subfields of international law (and vice versa) and our broader understanding of the international field overall. While this exploration does not exhaustively represent all types of interactions that may be taking place, it seeks to assist in the characterisation and visualisation of the types of existing interlinkages and the degree of correlation between SDG commitments and corresponding international norms, altogether providing a conceptual pathway between the theoretical understanding and practical implementation of the SDGs and international law.

### **Realising 'Leaving No one Behind' under the Sustainable Development Goals: Exploring Institutional Preconditions**

*Eileen de Jong* – Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Through the 'Leaving No One Behind' (LNOB) principle, which lies at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, countries have pledged to reach sustainable development for all and prioritize the furthest behind. Due to its intersectionality and integrated nature, the LNOB principle presents a novel and potentially transformative approach to dealing with inequalities. At the same time, LNOB is politically and institutionally challenging, which makes its implementation questionable and progress uncertain. Research on how (combinations of) institutional elements can form enabling or hindering conditions for realising LNOB is lacking. To start filling these gaps, we studied cross-country patterns in the institutionalisation of LNOB and identified how these might point to preconditions for the implementation of a cross-sectoral LNOB approach through Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). The QCA included 42 countries and was based on data from Voluntary National Reviews (2016-2021) and other open databases (such as from WHO and the World Bank). We used six output variables to represent 'successful' implementation of LNOB in the areas of social protection, health and education; and five independent variables to represent institutionalisation of LNOB. The contribution of our research is threefold: 1) it further builds a theoretical understanding of LNOB and (the interplay between) institutionalisation and implementation 2) it provides an innovative methodological framework to investigate institutional conditions for LNOB, and 3) it provides policy-relevant insights into how countries might best realise LNOB. The results indicate that some independent variables seem to play a bigger role in explaining LNOB implementation, namely policy coherence and inclusive participation. At the same time, the results point to much variance which empirically validates that there is no one-size-fits all solution to institutionalising LNOB. Overall, our research reveals how complex the interplay between institutionalisation and implementation actually is, providing new and important directions for future research.



## **Ambitions and Gaps in Governing by Goals: Options to Strengthen the Review of Sustainable Development Goals by the High-level Political Forum**

*Mara Wendebourg* – Utrecht University, The Netherlands

The ambitious character of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets has been celebrated as a remarkable achievement for the governance of sustainable development globally. The SDGs give rise to both collective and individual state objectives, which are quantified through indicators and reviewed at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), where states demonstrate progression of the implementation of SDGs through voluntary national reviews. However, since the replacement of the Commission on Sustainable Development by the HLPF in 2013, the latter has received criticism for being a mere orchestrator, providing a platform for states to share their voluntary national reviews, yet lacking the mandate to assessing progress. Review mechanisms are necessary to measure the implementation of and compliance with various goal-based instruments. This paper argues that ambition in goal-based governance requires strong review and compliance mechanisms and that the HLPF may learn from both legally-binding and non-legally binding instruments to enhance its review mechanism so as to make it reflexive, participative, and legitimate. To do so, the paper provides a comparative study of five review mechanisms from both legally-binding and non-legally binding instruments: the review mechanism of the Millennium Development Goals that operated under the Commission for Sustainable Development; the voluntary national reviews under the HLPF; the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council; and the compliance procedures under the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, respectively. Building on this comparative analysis of review mechanisms, the paper proposes reform options to strengthen the review mechanism of the HLPF.

## **The Role of Indicators and Targets in the Law about Sustainable Development**

*Birgit Peters* – University of Trier, Germany

The SDG framework is a framework based on targets and indicators. Although its legal framing has been confronted with much critique, especially concerning its soft law and if at all principled character, its too diffuse and all-encompassing framework, and continued adherence to economic considerations, which is considered as weak sustainability, the framework nevertheless establishes concrete, measurable features and accounts for 2030. This contribution explores those qualitative and quantitative targets and indicators, their role and their effectiveness in environmental law and sustainability governance. Although some have argued that the indicators do not themselves address legal issues, and they should, in order to assess the environmental performance of states in the area sustainable development, this contribution takes a step back and argues that the indicator framework provided by the SDG's could be taken more seriously in international (environmental) law and governance. In order to make that argument, the contribution assesses examples, where the national, supranational or international (environmental) law has successfully drawn on indicators and targets to achieve common aims and explores, how those examples could be transferred to the law on sustainable development of today.

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## Panel DIFFERENTIATION II: ‘Sustainability and Security’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

Chair: *Michele Joie Prawiromaruto* – *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

### **Unclosing Transformations to Sustainability in Conflictual Areas: The Case of Western Bahia in the Cerrado**

*Taís Sonetti-González; María Mancilla García; Mairon G. Bastos Lima; Ana Paula Dutra de Aguiar* – Free University of Brussels, Belgium; Stockholm University, Sweden; Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden; National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil

The Cerrado, one of Brazil’s primary agricultural frontiers, confronts significant sustainability challenges, including deforestation, land and water disputes, and infrastructure deficiencies. These issues stir debates on the strategies necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussions around sustainability narratives, often resulting in two broad, opposing perspectives. In this contested territory, the clarification of concepts such as transformation and adaptation—crucial for realizing sustainability—is imperative. While adaptation entails adjustments to bolster a system’s resilience in response to external and internal changes, transformation indicates a fundamental overhaul, shifting the system’s foundational dynamics. Our research made use of participatory dialogues in the Barreiras region, dubbed the ‘Capital of Soy,’ employing the innovative Three Horizons with Casual Loop Diagrams (3H-CLD) methodology. This approach facilitated engagement with local multi-stakeholders in co-creating discussions to pinpoint challenges and their root causes related to the SDGs and to devise actionable solutions. Through a mixed-methods approach combining thematic and geospatial analysis, the study examines landscape change and socio-environmental conflicts in conjunction with local sustainability narratives. It aims to distinguish between multi-stakeholder-driven ‘adaptive’ and ‘transformative’ actions, critically assessing the adequacy of current sustainability efforts and defining these actions’ roles in advancing towards sustainability. By delving into the sustainability disputes in one of Cerrado’s most conflict-ridden areas, our research provides valuable insights for policymakers, communities, and scholars aiming to achieve the SDGs.

### **Effects of Resource Security Priorities on Directionality of Circular Transformation and Achievement of SDG 12 (online)**

*Eugène Petelin* – Lund University, Sweden

A transformative change brought about by the circular economy concept envisioned to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 for responsible consumption and production and address the challenges of the Anthropocene era, including resource scarcity, biochemical flow disruption, climate change and biodiversity loss. Several countries have introduced national circular strategies and policy instruments targeting specific aspects of production-consumption systems. Over the last decade, export restrictions,

the pandemic, and military conflicts have pushed the issues of security into the centre of the circular economy debate. Security implications attributed to the circular economy can influence policy through prioritisation, which can shape the expected transformative change. Meanwhile, the effects of the resource security concerns on prioritisation among circular policies and targets of SDG 12 are underexplored. This qualitative case study aims to explore these effects and develop recommendations for academia and policy on an inclusive and balanced approach. The discursive framework is applied to policy documents to distinguish between targets of SDG 12 and circular solutions addressing the security concerns of different stakeholders (e.g. business, people, environment). The results can be applied to inform political debates on circular strategies through the security lens, adjust policy instruments and initiatives, and advise how marginalised circular solutions can enter the political agenda. Illuminating different security perspectives and enabling dialogue can provide the political balance needed to achieve SDG 12.

### **SDG Change Agents under Threat: The Case of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Colombia**

*Torsten Krause, Fariborz Zelli, Britta Sjöstedt, Juan A. Samper, Ana Maria Vargas Falla* – Lund University and Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy, Sweden

Human rights defenders, environmental and indigenous activists often fight simultaneously for political, cultural, social, economic and environmental rights. They in parallel advance major Sustainable Development Goals on no poverty (no. 1), gender equality (no. 5), biodiversity protection (no. 15) and peace (no. 16). Due to their multiple engagement, however, these defenders often face intimidation and violence. Colombia is a case in point for SDG change agents living at risk. The implementation of the 2016 peace agreement between the government and the FARC-EP guerrilla group led to an increase in levels of violence against Environment and Human Rights Defenders (EHRD) – with Colombia becoming the country with the most EHRD killings annually on a global scale. We seek to explain and understand this counter-intuitive development through Fraser's theory of social justice. The theory stresses the need for integrated measures to address economic, political and cultural injustices in parallel, much akin to the holistic vision of the SDGs. Following Fraser, we argue that a focus on correcting cultural misrecognition and political misrepresentation of vulnerable groups may, paradoxically, mask or facilitate further injustices, if that focus is not matched by efforts to address economic maldistribution. The fate of EHRD since the Colombian peace agreement reflects such an imbalance in justice priorities in an SDG-relevant transition process – and may provide lessons for post-conflict implementation of SDGs in other countries. Drawing on data from secondary sources, ethnographic interviews, and an analysis of policies and laws, we find that new forms of maldistribution have emerged and solidified in Colombia after the peace agreement, including land grabbing, displacement of local populations, resource extraction and illicit economies. EHRD as multiple SDG agents are, thus, caught in a precarious situation between cultural recognition on the one hand, and economic injustice and political abandonment by state institutions on the other.

## **Beyond the Battlefield: Unmasking the Climate Footprint of Military Emissions (online)**

*Md Tariqul Hasan Rifat* – Practical Action, Bangladesh

This research paper delves into the often-overlooked aspect of military emissions and their significant contribution to climate change. While international efforts to combat climate change have gained momentum, militaries worldwide remain exempt from emission calculations, citing national security concerns. This exemption leaves a substantial source of greenhouse gas emissions unaccounted for, hindering comprehensive strategies for mitigation and adaptation. Through a review of existing literature and analysis of case studies, this paper highlights the extent of military emissions, their ecological impacts, and the challenges associated with measuring and disclosing such data. Furthermore, it explores the implications of climate insecurity on national security and emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to address both issues. Drawing on examples from various nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and Russia, this paper suggests avenues for increasing transparency and accountability regarding military emissions. By quantifying their contribution to climate change and proposing adaptive strategies, including the adoption of clean technologies, this paper advocates for integrating military emissions into global greenhouse gas calculations. Ultimately, it underscores the imperative of addressing military emissions to achieve sustainable development goals and ensure a secure future for all nations.

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### **Panel DIFFERENTIATION III: ‘Implementing Sustainability at the Urban Level’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.17

Chair: *Thomas Hickmann* – Lund University, Sweden

When Urban Sustainability Fails: Drawbacks to a Collaborative Governance Approach as Illustrated by the Case of Norilsk, Russia

*Miriam Pollock* – University College London, United Kingdom

Scholars, policy practitioners, and global institutions alike tend to champion collaborative governance approaches for ensuring sustainable development and urban sustainability. The importance ascribed to collaboration is evidenced by its inclusion as one of the 17 UN SDGs, ‘Partnerships for the Goals’ (SDG 17). Business is treated as a core component of such partnerships, representing an opportunity for advancing sustainability rather than a cause for concern. In contrast, work on collaborative governance at large has noted the need to consider the way power asymmetries can distort the collaborative process, resulting in undesirable outcomes. Business, given its disproportionate financial resources, is likely to hold more power than local governments. As such, scholars of collaborative governance have increasingly called for more studies on business power. Both the sustainability and collaborative governance literatures, however, tend to neglect the way non-democratic contexts can affect collaborative governance approaches. This paper provides a conceptual contribution, arguing that the concerns presented by scholars of collaborative governance relating to power asymmetries and the role of business ought to be integrated into research on urban sustainability and considered by the UN SDGs. It additionally calls for

consideration of non-democratic contexts. The paper also includes an indicative empirical section examining urban sustainability failures in Norilsk, Russia, considered one of the ‘least sustainable’ cities in the world (Laruelle 2020). Despite this unfortunate epithet, Norilsk has invested in a robust collaborative governance approach, working closely with Nor Nickel, the largest metallurgical company in Russia, on sustainability projects. If such an approach were as universally effective as the literature claims, we would expect the city to have a much better record on sustainability than it does. As such, this case study illustrates some of the potential flaws with a one-size-fits-all, non-contingent promotion of collaborative governance for urban sustainability.

### **Monitoring Urban and Territorial Ecosystems Restoration: Enhancing harmonisation to the SDGs framework**

*Sara Bianchi, Marialaura Giuliani & Anna Richiedi* – University of Brescia, Italy

In the Ecosystem Restoration (ER) decade (2021-2030), as announced by the United Nations, a great commitment is going to be devoted to the identification of degraded or destroyed areas and the assessment of ecosystems condition through standardised measures. The ER stands for a pivotal strategy in achieving different objectives at the basis of the United Nations’ Agenda 2030, directly linked to the quality status of agroecosystems (Goal 2), urban communities (Goal 11), terrestrial and under-water life (Goals 14 and 15). In line with the requirements to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in local contexts and at diverse levels of governance, increasing efforts are requested to local authorities for monitoring the ecosystems condition, through specific local measures and capacities consistently declined with supralocal official frameworks. However, this ‘localisation’ should be meant not only as a rigid alignment: it implies the adoption of subsets of descriptors and targets of local concern, together with local data and knowledge to better accommodate the territorial heterogeneity. In our reasoning, we questioned on: how to monitor ecosystems conditions at the local level; and how to simultaneously ensure comparability and peculiarity of these measures with the SDGs framework. Our studies will focus on potential indicators suggested to assess ecosystem conditions at the local scale on a double perspective that looks at both urban and territorial contexts. More than one hundred indicators and three main ecosystem types (i.e., urban ecosystem, agroecosystem, and forest ecosystem) will be considered in the analysis. To cluster these indicators, a reading grid coherent with international frameworks will be adopted, e.g., that of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA).

### **Sustainable Smart Cities in Germany: Analysis of strategies with a focus on social sustainability**

*Helene von Schwichow* – Technical University of Munich, Germany

So far, there is controversial evidence on the contribution of current smart city practice to sustainability targets (Weil et al., 2023; Yigitcanlar et al., 2019). Bouzguenda et al. therefore call for smart city concepts that go beyond technological fascination and invest in human, social and environmental capital to enable a transformation towards sustainable smart cities (2019). However, it is currently unclear in how far aligning digitalization with

sustainability goals in the sense of Sustainable Smart Cities is already in practice in German cities. The goal of the paper is to comparatively examine the Smart City strategies of German cities in terms of their alignment with sustainability goals, focusing on the often-neglected dimension of social sustainability. SDGs that are of particular relevance in this context are: SDG11, SDG 10, SDG 5, and SDG 16, although other goals will be touched upon as well. To this end, a comparative analysis of smart city strategies in German cities will be carried out, building on a theoretical conceptualization of social sustainability (see von Schwichow et al. forthcoming). Based on the assumption that social sustainability is not yet sufficiently in the focus of digitalization strategies and that sustainability is often mentioned in smart city contexts, but still treated superficially, this contribution aims to answer the following question: To what extent do major German cities align their digitalization strategies with social sustainability goals and to what extent are the strategies translated into concrete measures? This contribution aims to create an overview of the existing smart city strategies of the 80 major German cities and to examine them in the form of a qualitative, structuring content analysis. Combined with a quantitative approach the paper will showcase the topic areas of social sustainability and provide insight to current practices in German smart cities.

## **A Systematic Review on the Relationship between Urban Governance and SDG Localization**

*Ji Xu* – Monash University, Australia

Efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have underscored the imperative of localizing global agendas to address diverse challenges at the grassroots level. Within the urban context, where a significant portion of the world's population resides, challenges stem from rapid urbanization, inequalities, environmental degradation, climate change resilience, governance issues, among others. Many cities have embarked on SDG localisation as a way of translating and actioning global goals at the local level. However, not much is understood about how existing urban governance arrangements are shaping these localisation efforts. To this end, this systematic review aims to explore suitable strategies and approaches to foster SDG localization from an urban governance perspective. By synthesizing existing literature and theoretical frameworks, this review will analyze various dimensions of urban governance, including policy formulation, institutional mechanisms, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring frameworks, to understand its intricate relationship with the localization of SDGs. It will shed light on how local governments can play a key role in translating global SDGs into actionable initiatives within their specific contexts. This paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on the conditions for effective SDG localisation by providing insights into the role of urban governance in driving local actions.

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**Panel REFORMS II: ‘Governing by Goals: Synergies, Trade-offs and Effectiveness-I’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.22

Chair: *Carole-Anne S nit – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*
**Bridging Sustainable Development and Racial Equity: Brazil’s Innovations in SDG Governance**

*Ana Luisa Jorge Martins, Thiago Gebre Galv o, Fabricio Silveira, S rgio Godoy & R mulo Paes-Sousa – Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Brazil; University of Brasilia, Brazil*

This study delves into Brazil’s innovative participatory mechanisms for governing the SDGs, with a particular focus on the introduction of a ground-breaking SDG18 addressing racial equality within the framework of the country’s implementation. The Brazilian landscape, marked by historical sustainability challenges exacerbated by previous administrations, underscores an urgent need to intertwine social and racial justice with sustainable development goals. Reconstituted in 2023, the National Commission on Sustainable Development Goals (CNODS) operates as a consultative body under the auspices of the General Secretariat of Brazil’s Presidency. Comprising 84 members with equal representation from government and civil society, the reformed CNODS has expanded its membership to include a diverse array of stakeholders such as civil society organizations, the private sector, indigenous communities, and others through public consultations. It aims to adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach to SDG implementation and monitoring, recognizing diverse perspectives as integral to achieving sustainable development. Its core objectives encompass inclusivity, equity, and collaborative policymaking processes to integrate the 2030 Agenda into national policy frameworks while enhancing transparency and disseminating actions aimed at achieving SDG targets. The Brazilian government’s pursuit of a new development paradigm centred on inclusion, social justice, democracy, and environmental preservation is exemplified by the direct address of racial equality through the establishment of SDG18. This addition not only addresses a notable gap in the SDG framework but also underscores the linkage between racial justice and sustainable progress. CNODS’s proactive approach to addressing racial disparities sets a noteworthy example for other nations confronting similar challenges. Brazil’s strategic endeavours in SDG governance highlight the critical importance of inclusivity, robust accountability mechanisms, and innovative approaches. It is our aspiration that these efforts contribute valuable insights to the global conversation on reconciling sustainable development with racial and social equity, thereby enriching the collective pursuit of SDGs.

**Bottom-up Alternatives to the SDGs: On Communal Sustainable Development, Belonging and Involvement**

*Ta s Sonetti-Gonz lez; Mairon G. Bastos Lima; Mar a Mancilla Garc a; Ana Paula Dutra de Aguiar – Free University of Brussels, Belgium; Stockholm University, Sweden; Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden; National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim for equitable and sustainable development by 2030. However, they have faced criticism for their universal, top-down approach,

which runs the risk of being disconnected from local realities and neglecting the viewpoints of indigenous and traditional communities. This study seeks to bring to the fore the perspectives of some indigenous and traditional communities in the Cerrado, focusing on western Bahia, Brazil, to argue for the importance of connecting the SDGs to marginalized perspectives from across the globe. By developing a conceptual framework that associates Vygotsky's 'adaptation' together with the concept of 'betweenness,' we are able to focus on the dynamics between cultural identities, practices, and the environment and how these are fundamental when considering any pathway to a more sustainable understanding of development. Over three years, our research employed the innovative 3H-CLD methodology alongside focus groups and fieldwork experiences to deeply engage with community perspectives. Our goal is not to define a singular narrative but to present alternative visions within the context of these communities. The communities participating in this research reviewed and evaluated our reflective thematic analysis. In light of post-development theories, our conclusions criticize the SDGs' deficiencies, and propose pathways towards more inclusive and transformative development strategies. This contribution advocates pluriversal thinking, recognizing the diversity of worldviews and the evolving nature of their active agency, thus enriching the dialogue on sustainable development by integrating bottom-up relational insights.

### **Uncovering holes and risks in sustainability strategies: Neglected SDGs in South American bioeconomies**

*Karen M. Siegel, Guilherme de Queiroz Stein, Melisa Deciancio, Daniel Kefeli, Thomas Dietz, Mairon G. Bastos Lima* – University of Münster, Germany

In theory, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are indivisible; however, recent research clearly shows the uneven application of the SDGs through cherry-picking, metonymy, and prioritization. In this paper we uncover a further adaptive process, notably the neglect of some SDGs during implementation. Such neglected SDGs are indicators of holes in strategies that claim to promote sustainability and they may point to substantial risks arising from sustainability strategies. Looking through the lens of neglected SDGs allows us to have a more comprehensive perspective on what is left aside and who are the winners and losers in these processes, shedding light on important questions about fairness and justice in sustainability transitions. We examine these questions in relation to bioeconomy strategies in three South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Bioeconomy is increasingly being promoted as a potential strategy to foster sustainability transitions and address climate change. Key elements are the replacement of fossil-based raw materials with bio-based alternatives, fostering more efficient use of biomass, and promoting innovation in biotechnology. However, the studied countries have high levels of inequality and socio-environmental conflicts related to natural resource governance have increased significantly over the last decades. In this context, understanding the neglected sustainability dimensions and their risks becomes crucial. We have coded the main bioeconomy strategy documents of the three countries for the 17 SDGs to understand which aspects are reflected and which ones are overshadowed. We triangulate this document analysis with over 50 in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and the scientific literature to understand to what extent risks are recognized and approached. This shows that while all SDGs are covered to some extent, some considerable challenges, such



as promoting gender equality, reducing inequalities, and preserving life below water, are neglected in these strategies.

### **A Brazilian challenge: The Urge for Combining Federative Efforts Towards the 2030 Agenda**

*Luis Paulo Bresciani, Victoria Vasconcellos Alonso* – Getúlio Vargas Foundation, Brazil

During the last 9 years, the Brazilian government has taken forward and backward steps concerning the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, at the federal level. The establishment of the National Commission for the Sustainable Global Goals (Comissão Nacional para os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável – CNOODS), via Decree No. 8.892/16, sought to articulate, through a specific collegiate body, different initiatives around the international principles, suitable for the Brazilian reality (BRASIL, 2016). Brazil's decentralized government system, established after the promulgation of the federal Constitution, in 1988, guaranteed full autonomy to state and municipal instances. It became an important decision tool for each state and municipality, since each administration could decide which Goals could be more appropriate to its local reality, and how they would be implemented. The various territorial actions have, therefore, consolidated as a more efficient pathway of appropriation, advancement and localization of different efforts concerning the SDGs. However, the lack of a governance structure and a national integrated system for the Global Goals, between the federative levels, blocks the constitution of coordinated actions, orientation, and evaluation. Governance system here defined as a range of interactions, where different stakeholders work together to find public solutions. Alongside, an evaluation system is created to monitor the actions related to specific goals and identify points of concern among the involved stakeholders (CUSTÓDIO, MARTINS, 2024). The main goal of this research paper is to explore the present scenario of the Brazilian local Agendas, encompassing states and municipalities, to pinpoint the main challenges for the expansion of the territorialization and localization process, brought by the SDGs. Moreover, it is intended to explain the barriers concerning the implementation of a national integrated governance system, able to fulfil the Brazilian commitments related to the 2030 Agenda, with joint efforts from both municipal and state governments.

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**Panel SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE II: ‘Technology and Artificial Intelligence’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

Chair: *Yi Hyun Kang - Lund University, Sweden***The Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries: Reconceptualizing Technology and Intellectual Property for Sustainable Development and Innovation***Felipe de Andrade* – University of Antwerp and KU Leuven, Belgium

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SD) identifies Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as a central means of implementation of the SDGs. Scholars defend that IP and development are prominent elements that should be reinterpreted together as a form of knowledge governance to advance their social justice and welfare goals. This would implicate the participation of various actors in the global IP and technology governance. This study contributes to this literature by considering how international institutions responsible for the governance of the agenda for SD interpret and apply IP to implement STI for SDGs. Despite being an essential ‘regulatory lever’ for STI, IP norms are rarely visible in the SDGs. This is explained by IP’s complexity, and SD agenda’s goal-setting governance model. By delineating how international SD institutions approach IP and technology matters, this study unravels the underlying narratives of IP protection in the SD Agenda and identifies its perceived function in achieving SDGs. This is followed by a case study of a SD institution with an explicit IP mandate. Out of the many STI-related priorities in the SDGs, this paper draws attention to the creation of the Technology Bank for LDCs which became fully operational in 2019. This study charts the Bank’s institutional set-up, governance and implementation of IP-related programmes, including Technology Needs Assessments, Support for IP acquisition and technology transfer and an IP Bank. This study evaluates the aspirations of the Bank by looking into how it conceptualizes IP and how that influences its potential to fulfil its mission to increase LDC’s STI capacity. In conclusion, this study will inform how international SD institutions contribute to technology governance and international law-making in the highly-specialized IP regimes and will highlight the instrumental role of the Bank in shaping an IP and technology agenda for SD.

**The Future of SDGs: Ethical Considerations in AI Implementation***Muhammad Saleem* – OpenGIScience Research, The Netherlands

As the world grapples with complex societal and environmental issues, the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has become increasingly prominent. In the era of AI, it is crucial to understand what the post-2030 landscape would look like with AI in the picture. At OpenGIScience, we train professionals on how to utilize AI responsibly and present industry-specific scenarios. For this session, we will address multiple ethical issues related to the monitoring of the UN SDGs by AI and how we should approach them post-2030. We will present two scenarios, in each of which we will first discuss the ethical issues related to the monitoring of the SDGs and then explore the societal issues that arise from them. We will present ethical

dilemmas surrounding the ‘production’ of synthetic data for SDGs monitoring by AI and discuss how this data can further exacerbate power asymmetries in the Global South. We believe it is crucial to visualize these concerns before moving towards post-2030 and seek better goals for the future that we are heading into with AI.

### **The Role of SDGs Following UN Resolution A/RES/76/162: Insights from Japan’s Digital Culture Communities (online)**

*Yuto Kunitake* – Keio University, Japan

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been conceptualized as a global and universal normative vision, necessitating culturally tailored initiatives for their actualization. This paper investigates the interplay between Japan’s digital culture communities and the SDGs, and, grounded in UN Resolution A/RES/76/162, explores methodologies for broadening the acceptance of SDGs. UN Resolution A/RES/76/162, which addresses human rights and cultural diversity, is a declaration against the homogenization of cultures within the milieu of globalization. It opposes the imposition of a monocultural paradigm and specific socio-cultural systems, advocating for inter-civilizational dialogue. This resolution, by underscoring the importance of freely utilizing media and new information and communication technologies, offers crucial insights into the nature of intercultural initiatives concerning human rights. Japan’s digital culture communities have contributed to the achievement of the SDGs, yet there exists a history where aggressive interpretations and impositions of certain SDG targets have inadvertently stifled creative endeavours. The interaction between UN Resolution A/RES/76/162 and the experiences within Japan’s digital culture communities suggests that the realization of the SDGs necessitates approaches that are adaptable to the specific realities and cultures of each country. This paper delves into the implications of these findings, advocating for a nuanced understanding of the SDGs that respects and incorporates the diversity of global cultures. Through examining the case of Japan’s digital culture, this study illuminates the pathway towards a more inclusive and culturally sensitive implementation of the SDGs, aligning with the principles set forth in UN Resolution A/RES/76/162.

### **Cooperative Intelligence Platform with Primary Health Care (Picaps): Techno-scientific Solutions in Digital Health to Tackle Health Crises**

*Wagner de Jesus Martins, Edward Torres Maia, Letícia Albuquerque de Jesus, Cecília de Faria Sampaio, Isabel Christina Raulino Miranda, Liliana Silva Cabral, Daniel Fernandes Barbosa, Renata Florentino de Faria Santos & Mauro Niskier Sanchez* – Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), Brazil; Research and Statistics Institute of the Federal District, Brazil; University of Brasília, Brazil

Our transformative idea is in relation to the Cooperative Intelligence Platform with Primary Health Care (Picaps) itself, as an intelligence device developed for integration of Primary Health Care (PHC) with Health Surveillance (HS), both in terms of the technical side and popular territorial and inter-sectoral monitoring, able to data linkage info generation between structured data (secondary source) and non-structured data (primary source) for subsidizing policymaking decision processes regarding health crises (Martins et al., 2023; Maia, 2021). This first idea is attached with the following subtitle: ‘Cooperative Intelligence

Platform with Primary Health Care (Picaps): techno-scientific solutions in digital health to tackle health crises.’.

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## Parallel Sessions Block III

Venue: Janskerkhof 3

29 August 2024

Time: 17:15-18:45

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### Panel ACCELERATION V: ‘Partnerships for SDG Acceleration’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Pamela Chasek – Manhattan College, United States of America*

#### **SDG Implementation through Partnerships for the Goals: Mapping and Assessing the Contributions to Sustainability Transformations of 179 Multi-stakeholder Partnerships**

*Montserrat Koloffon Rosas – IVM, VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have not yet had the required impact to fulfil the 2030 Agenda’s ambition to ‘transform our world’, as the mid-point of the implementation timeline was met amid multiple crises, and considerable progress reversal. Given the largely aspirational nature of the SDGs, actors from all sectors beyond national governments are expected to participate in the implementation process by acting in ‘collaborative partnership’. Interestingly, the endorsement of partnerships (not least by the Goal 17 on ‘Partnerships for the Goals’) and their resulting upsurge comes despite lacking understanding and evidence about their transformative potential. This paper looks at governance through goals in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) for SDGs. As a mechanism bringing together actors with different backgrounds in thematic issue areas, societal sectors, and jurisdictions, their potential to integrate and implement SDGs and contribute to sustainability transformations is examined. A systems thinking perspective is adopted to first define sustainability transformations in terms of synergistic progress towards the SDGs, and subsequently conceptualize four percussive phases that enable them: 1) awareness, 2) agreement, 3) analysis, and 4) action. In correspondence, an analytical framework distinguishing and operationalizing four roles that MSPs can fulfil to contribute to each phase is introduced. Fulfilling at least one of these roles (1) educational, 2) coordinating, 3) analytical, and 4) implementing) is understood as contributing towards the required transformations to achieve the SDGs. Applying the theoretical framework, an empirical assessment mapping contributions to sustainability transformations is conducted on a dataset of 179 MSPs for SDGs. Furthermore, a quantitative statistical analysis is performed to determine the relationship between characteristics of the MSPs’ institutional design (e.g. SDG scope, size, members’ configuration) and their transformative roles. Results show that most MSPs fulfil at least one transformative role, but important gaps to realize the expected sustainability transformations exist.

## **Aspirational Politics to Solve the Climate Crisis? Empirical Evidence on the Effects of Lofty Goals**

*Cornelia Fast & Oscar Widerberg* – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a significant example of global governance-by-goals, with potential to mobilize action and foster consensus. However, their efficacy can be problematized through the lens of ‘aspirational politics’, which underscores the lack of clear accountability mechanisms and obstacles to translating ambitious goals into concrete progress. Understanding the impact of aspirational politics necessitates empirical evaluation. In this paper we use the concept to examine steering effects of the SDGs in the context of multi-stakeholder partnership implementation. What types of steering effects do aspirational goals generate? What challenges are associated with navigating aspirational goals? To address this, we conduct an in-depth analysis of four multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate change given their anticipated role in supporting the Paris Agreement and SDG 13 on Climate Action. Through qualitative content analysis and semi-structured interviews, we examine partnership outputs, capturing imaginaries on climate change and the infrastructure established for implementation. Our contribution is mainly empirical, thereby addressing a current gap in the literature. In particular, we demonstrate whether aspirational goals generate aspirational outputs or not, and how this varies across different multi-stakeholder partnerships. In turn, we propose future research directions for assessing steering effects beyond output level and provide insights on current challenges in multi-stakeholder partnerships in relation to accelerating their implementation efforts.

## **Unlocking the Transformative Potential of Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Assessing Perceived Effectiveness and Contributions to Systemic Change**

*Maximilian S.T. Wanner & Matilda Miljanda*, Stockholm University, Sweden

We are past the midpoint of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and far from being on track to achieve the SDGs. Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs), i.e., voluntary, institutionalised collaborations between state and non-state actors, were heralded as pivotal means for realising the SDGs. We revisit this promise consolidated in SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals and investigate how and to what extent MSPs are perceived to be capable of effectively contributing to the transformative change envisioned. We offer a novel conceptualisation of contributions to transformation, differentiating between norm, regulatory, and behavioural changes, which are needed for a sustainable and lasting transformation. Drawing on a triangulation of data from surveys, interviews, and secondary material, we study stakeholder perceptions of MSP effectiveness pertaining to the partnerships’ contribution to transformation. We zoom in on MSPs with explicit aims to reduce deforestation through integrated or landscape approaches. Our findings underscore the perceived importance of behavioural change, which can be anchored in formal or informal institutions. However, MSPs struggle to initiate the wide-ranging shifts in behaviour for systemic change. In pursuit of transformation, MSP contributions build on collaborations with government actors, strong advocacy coalitions, and showcasing sustainable solutions to induce change in the three dimensions. Thus, MSPs can leverage their strength of

convening stakeholders and providing spaces for knowledge exchange. In this way, MSPs play a vital role in driving norm and regulatory change, laying the groundwork for societies to progress towards more sustainable futures. Nevertheless, the efforts of MSPs need to be complemented by committed government action for the needed systemic change, since much more is required to achieve the transformation envisioned in the SDGs.

### **Leadership Frameworks for Corporate Action on the SDGs**

*Joanna Stanberry & Rob van Tulder* – University of Cumbria, United Kingdom; Erasmus University, The Netherlands

This paper uses the context of sustainability leadership frameworks to explore possibilities for corporate action on the SDGs. In this context, it is increasingly understood that collaborative and collective approaches are required to shape leadership interventions, and not only traditional individualistic and leader-centric approaches (Stanberry et al., 2022). Recent research has explored frameworks for principles-based corporate action on the SDGs in an increasingly VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) world faced with interconnected crises (van Tulder & van Mil, 2023). We explore these strategic and operational principles to accelerate corporate action on the SDGs through six intersecting processes that also affect the kind of leadership needed to enable a sophisticated use of the whole SDG agenda. The SDG agenda – not only SDG 17 that makes an explicit reference to ‘partnering for the goals’- calls for the private sector to play a central role in partnering and financing for the SDGs (Balda et al., 2023). The finance gap for the SDGs amounts to more than \$4 trillion annually which are needed to not only mitigate risks, but also seize the opportunities of the SDG agenda that can be served by greater systems change. The dominant practical applications of SDG 17 remain relatively fragmented, contain relatively reactive approaches with skewed partnerships and therefore miss-out on covering the complexities of the present polycrisis (as identified by the World Economic Forum) or the ‘cascade of crises’ (as identified by the UN). Moreover, the focus on SDG17 misses out on the nexus- and spill-over effects that can be leveraged by a more sophisticated usage of the whole SDG framework and only marginally applies the reflexive lens of the Earth System Governance framework which can assist in enhancing the impacts of interventions on the Global South (Stanberry & Balda, 2023).

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**Panel DIFFERENTIATION IV: 'Localization-I'**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

Chair: *Prajal Pradhan – University of Groningen, The Netherlands*
**Localise our Future! India's SDG Indicator Framework and the Norms of Sustainable Development**
*Anica Rossmoeller & Wiegand Koerber – University of Münster, Germany*

The 2030 Agenda adopted by the UN in 2015, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 69 Targets, and 242 Indicators assigned to them for the purpose of measurement, represents an unprecedented definition of how our future should look. It epitomizes the first attempt at a global level to comprehensively normalize the general principle of sustainable development. The ongoing implementation process opens up questions of how sustainable development can be established as a global norm. However, the question remains about how the localization of SDGs will engage with epistemic societal norms and how states will implement them. This paper will look at the implementation of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) in India, asking how the established indicator set on the state and national level reveals the Indian definition of sustainable development, considering the existing local narratives on sustainability and the particular challenges in the field of water and sanitation in India. In analysing and comparing the Global Indicator Framework to the Indian national and state level, the paper offers a perspective on the different accentuation of sustainable development, discussing the power of datafication in norm localization. The adjustments, deviations, and transformations visible in this set of indicators offer hence insights to the political decision on what is defined a priority in sustainable development, opening up questions to how a norm localization perspective can enhance our understanding of the SDG indicator framework and SDG implementation.

**Assessing the Political Impact of SDGs on the Central Government of Taiwan**
*Po-Hsun Lu – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), comprising 17 core goals and 169 targets, with an additional 232 indicators to be established in 2017. As a non-member state of the UN, Taiwan has only limited participation in many global governance venues to track and review the implementation of the SDGs. Nevertheless, Taiwan still follows the UN SDGs by voluntarily compiling two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and developing the Taiwan Sustainable Development Goals (Taiwan SDGs), which include 18 core goals, 143 targets, and 337 corresponding indicators. This paper aims to reveal the adaptive process of localizing the UN SDGs into Taiwan SDGs under Taiwan's national context. In addition, it examines the impact of this process on the political change of sustainable development in Taiwan. This paper expects to contribute to the implementation of the UN SDGs at the national level by analysing the unique case of Taiwan. It reveals the crucial factors of SDGs differentiation and dynamization at the national level and the impact of this process on the effectiveness of SDGs.



## Monitoring SDGs: Localizing Progress at the Municipal Level

*Anna Richiardi, Barbara Maria Frigione & Michele Pezzagno* – University of Brescia, Italy

Achieving global sustainability cannot happen without ensuring that no one is left behind. This interpretation of the Agenda is universal across the world's territories, both horizontally and vertically. The attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be measurable at all levels of governance. While there are international and national entities officially tasked with monitoring the Agenda's indicators, this is not systematically done at the regional and sub-regional levels. Often, local strategies and monitoring diverge significantly from internationally agreed measures, losing sight of the Agenda's unifying logic that helps understand if coordinated progress towards sustainability is being made. However, the authors propose a best practice in Italy for monitoring the SDGs at the municipal level and for homogeneous sub-regional areas, adhering to measures prescribed at the international level. This approach aims to harmonize global sustainability objectives with local initiatives by establishing a standardized monitoring system at the sub-national level. This facilitates better assessment of progress, identification of improvement areas, and alignment of local strategies with international SDG principles. Through enhanced transparency, consistency, and collaboration, countries can strengthen their commitment to sustainable development and serve as a model for others. Ultimately, effective implementation at all governance levels is crucial for achieving the SDGs and ensuring inclusivity.

## Leveraging Sufficiency as an Accelerator of Local SDG Implementation

*Daniel Eckert* – Nachhaltigkeitsforum Hamburg, Germany

The SDG mid-term review in 2023 clearly showed that the incrementalist policies that have been implemented so far are a long way from where we need to be. Equity and justice issues pose major challenge to global sustainable development. Ecological crises are escalating. Transformations towards sustainability require a 'giant leap' (Earth4All 2022). Yet, consistency and efficiency as strategies for sustainable development did not get us on track to reach the SDGs. Thus, bold actions to adjust and transform the SDG agenda are needed. In my work as policy advisor for the Sustainability Forum Hamburg, I mainstream sufficiency as a political strategy to gain considerable traction in achieving the SDGs on a local level. Sufficiency is a concept that refers to meeting needs in a way that is just and sustainable, without overconsumption or excess (Jungell-Michelsson & Heikkurinen 2022). In line with the ESG research programme, sufficiency aims at keeping the planet within parameters that sustain human life on earth, in a way that is just and democratic for all. As local civil society representative lobbying for an ambitious SDG implementation, I operationalize sufficiency as political strategy that establishes governance arrangements that enable sufficient infrastructures on the individual, societal and corporate level. Sufficiency policies offer a comprehensive and transformative approach to sustainable development, contributing to multiple SDGs. Synergies and trade-offs between SDG goals and targets are actively addressed. Hence, sufficiency can increase nexus governance and seize deeper leverage points. Most sufficiency measures do not require the development of technologies and can thus be implemented swiftly. Addressing aspects of social equity and Global North-South injustices is inherent to the design of sufficiency policies. Hence, I'd like to spark further conversations at the GLOBALGOALS2024 conference on the multi-

faceted role of sufficiency as a system change lever to accelerate (local) SDG implementation.

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**Panel ACCELERATION VI : ‘African Perspectives on SDG-Acceleration’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

Chair: *Fronika de Wit – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

**Conceptualising New Loss and Damage Financing as Catalysts and Accelerators for SDGs Implementation in Least Developed Countries: The Case of Malawi**

*Dumisani Chirambo & Araba Amo-Aidoo – Seeds of Opportunity, Malawi*

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.1 suggests that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) should sustain per capita economic growth of 7% Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth per annum to escape economic stagnation. However, most LDCs are unlikely to attain the SDGs due to the impacts of climate change, poor economic growth and mounting sovereign debts (UNCTAD, 2023). Studies show that economic growth in 2022 was 4.5% in LDCs. Similarly, in Malawi, the GDP growth per capita averaged 1.5% per year between 2010 and 2019 (World Bank, 2022), and for every three Malawians that moved out of poverty between 2010 and 2019, four fell back in poverty due to the impact of weather shocks. Fortunately, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the climate change Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund in 2022 as a new modality for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided by mitigation or adaptation due to insufficient resources. This study focused on determining the approaches that can be adopted in LDCs in-order to accelerate SDGs implementation and initiate broad economic and social transformations through L&D financing mechanisms. The study utilised a qualitative research approach focusing on primary data such as key informant interviews, and secondary data sources such as project evaluation data and academic papers. Our study discovered that the potential impact of L&D financing to support transformative SDG 8.1 actions and progress is constrained by the framing of L&D finance as mostly a disaster risk financing mechanism. The study concluded that L&D financing mechanisms can support the acceleration of SDGs policies and programmes when structured to provide financing to de-risk investments in low-carbon development sectors and improve access to finance for green businesses to address the impacts of climate debts and the destruction of natural capital and biodiversity.

**Navigating Sub-Saharan African Just and Low-carbon Transitions through Integrated Paris Agreement-SDG Governance Approaches: The case of Kenya and South Africa**

*Eszter Szedlacsek – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Aligning the implementation of climate efforts for Paris Agreement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may contribute to addressing the social implications of green transitions, thereby contributing to the 2030 Agenda’s transformative potential and

increasing its effectiveness. However, there is little evidence on the extent of Paris Agreement-SDG alignment in Sub-Saharan African countries. This paper explores potential synergies, trade-offs and conflicts in jointly implementing countries' climate and development aspirations particularly in the context of poverty reduction. With the empirical cases of Kenya and South Africa, it investigates two countries aiming to achieve ambitious climate objectives while ensuring that the achievement of their development aspirations is not undermined. To this end, the paper uncovers synergies, trade-offs and conflicts among climate and poverty reduction objectives across three elements: policy objectives and instruments; institutional coordination efforts; and stakeholder collaboration. Methodologically, the paper uses qualitative content analysis of key policy documents, strategies, and semi-structured interviews based on a novel conceptual framework of alignment in governance arrangements between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The paper finds that embeddedness into global climate governance processes, as well as both national and global political economy dynamics influence the adoption of alignment mechanisms, which has significant environmental and social justice implications. Furthermore, it uncovers the most prominent challenges to the joint translation of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs in the disconnect between global aspirations and how these play out in the local realities of Sub-Saharan African countries based on two diverse experiences.

### **Water and Climate Change Governance: Getting SDG 16 Right in South Africa**

*Jobandri Wright* – University of the Western Cape, South Africa

In Africa, the SDGs must be implemented within a developing reality. This means that implementing agents must make difficult choices about economic and physical survival when other SDGs, such as 'life in water' for example are implemented. Many states in Africa also battle with corruption, poor governance, and weak state institutions. These and similar problems impair states' ability to successfully implement their SDG targets. Achieving the SDGs therefore requires effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions as envisaged by SDG 16. The South African government accepted the SDGs with much enthusiasm and adapted many policies to align with them. However, when one investigates South African law and SDG 16, it is notable that the South African Constitution protects many aspects of SDG 16. This is quite significant since all state institutions are bound by these principles – therefore these aspects of SDG 16 must be implemented. The Constitution inter alia, acknowledges the necessity of intergovernmental cooperation, partnerships, and accountability. Since the enactment of the South African Constitution, a lot of legislation and policies have been dedicated to creating 'tools' for improving governance on these fronts. A system of integrated development planning aims to improve cooperation and coordination within government and the public for example. Performance management and monitoring have also been internalised within government operations to facilitate accountability. However, these tools are not without some flaws. This paper aims to critically evaluate how some of these tools play out in practice by looking specifically at implementation tools for SDG 6 'water and sanitation' and 13 'climate change'. This evaluation will also show how or if the developing reality of South Africa impacts the state's priorities to implement the SDGs.

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## Panel SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE III: 'The Science-Policy Interface-II'

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.22

Chair: *Yi Hyun Kang* – *Lund University, Sweden*

### **Global Conceptual Framework and Reporting Standard for the Identification, Localization and Specification of Challenges with Citizen Science and Web3 Technology Tools**

*Miroslav Polzer* – IAAI GloCha – International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges

Our transformative idea for the GLOBALGOALS2024 conference is, to build a global conceptual framework and reporting standard for the identification, localization and specification of challenges with citizen science and web3 technology tools. We have developed a first MVP (minimum viable product) digital tool in the context of the EU INTERREG Central Europe project JETforCE (Just Energy Transition for Central Europe) and we are working with the UNEP Early Warning and Data Analytics department as well as the UNIDO Global Cleantech Innovation Programme on the next generation of the tool, which will include self-sovereign digital identity (Global Challenges Action ID for individuals and private and public organisations), taxonomy and ontology for global challenges data management and analytics, a framework for unique identification of challenges, ChallengesID based challenges community building, a global challenges action registry for the documentation, verification and certification of actions and created impact and an individual SDGs and climate action app on which contributions to global challenges are being managed as digital badges/certificates/Web3 tokens. Based on this challenges mapping citizen science and knowledge collaboration platform, members of challenges communities (including public authorities on different levels of governance) can enter into web3 technology supported give-and-get relations – local pacts for the future, a governance innovation that IAAI has submitted to the UN Global Pact for the Future consultations <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sof-international-association-input-zero-draft-pact-for-future.pdf> and which will also be made available as a digital tool in support of the EU Climate Pact ([https://climate-pact.europa.eu/get-involved/host-group-activity/quick-start-tools-citizen-engagement\\_en](https://climate-pact.europa.eu/get-involved/host-group-activity/quick-start-tools-citizen-engagement_en)).

### **The DNS Lab – An Interactive Format at the Science-policy Interface to Explore and Help Implement Sustainability Transformations**

*Sarah Löpelt* – German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Germany

The DNS Lab is a format developed by the Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpm2030) for generating integrated knowledge at the science-policy interface (SPI) for the German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) in a transdisciplinary, cross-departmental manner and in dialogue with the scientific community. The studies by Di Giulio and Defila (2020a; 2020b) are the scientific and methodological basis for this format. Based on these studies, the Science Platform describes the DNS Lab as an agile format in which different perspectives of stakeholders from science, politics and society on a specific issue are

brought together and are jointly reflected within a short period. The overarching goal is to explore a topic or, in the case of existing knowledge, to drive forward transformations and identify implementation steps. With the Chatham House rule, the format offers a safe space for open discussions. Scientific methods serve as the basis for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the lab (wpm2030, 2021). The process of recruiting participants from scientific and political fields relevant to the discourse and political decision-making as well as the question of content- and discourse-related impact are crucial. Ideally, the latter should always be a gain in knowledge on both sides, which could change the attitude of the participants and lead to a recommendation paper that is considered and implemented in the discourses of politics and science, and in their interaction, and manageable for political practice. Evaluations of the format and its impact are highly relevant in order to refine this format and to prepare it didactically for its users. As a Transformative Idea, the DNS Lab has the potential to inspire interactive dialogues on sustainability strategies and transformation processes in other settings. Likewise, the further development of the format would highly benefit from experiences with similar formats at the SPI in other contexts.

### **Accelerating SDG7 in the Global South: Role of Technology and Knowledge Transfer**

*Arohi Patil* – Council on Energy, Environment, and Water, India

Developing countries such as India are decarbonising their energy systems in line with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Renewable Energy (RE) technologies at the commercial readiness stage are essential for achieving NDCs. However, technology development, transfer and deployment have been concentrated in developed countries. This is directly linked to the progress of SDG7 on affordable and clean energy with targets 7.2: Increasing share of renewable energy and 7.a: Facilitating access to clean energy research and technology. The research paper aims to identify existing initiatives in the last decade which have enabled RE technology and knowledge transfer. These initiatives co-exist with UNFCCC frameworks such as the technology needs assessment. The paper will review existing renewable energy initiatives and shortlist cases with clearly stated components on technology and knowledge transfer. The key parameters of the compiled cases will be assessed on the type of transfer – the technology hardware (that is, the materials and machines) or the software (that is, the know-how or skills). The paper will analyse other parameters such as impact measurement, key stakeholders and the focus on the Global South. The findings of the research paper will help identify the enabling factors, such as public and private investments in R&D, intellectual property rights regimes, and the role of industry and academia. It will also look at the impact of bilateral and multilateral agreements and the adaptation of the technology and knowledge to sub-national or local contexts. Identification of these factors will help determine the successful implementation of existing initiatives and improve the design of future initiatives on RE technology transfer.

## **Sub-National Science, Research and Innovation (SRI) Mechanism to Support SDG Localization: Empowering Local Communities in Knowledge Governance**

*Chol Bunnag, Nuntinee Malanon & Nuttavikhom phanthuwongpakdee* – Thammasat University, Thailand

Thailand's Science Research and Innovation Plan 2023-2027 (SRI Plan) strategically prioritizes sustainable development and strengthening the SRI system. A key aim is to advance Thailand's SDG Index ranking from 43rd to 35th. Effective SDG localization is crucial for success, and science, research, and innovation (SRI) play a vital role in this process. This research supports the Thailand Science Research Innovation Commission (TSRI) in developing sub-national science policy interface mechanisms. Through existing mechanism analysis and workshops involving over 200 stakeholders, this paper highlights the necessity of sub-national science-policy interfaces for successful SDG localization. These mechanisms must act as mediators, fostering collaboration between diverse sub-national stakeholders. They must enable partnerships among SRI bodies (universities, research institutes, etc.) and non-SRI governmental agencies (local policymakers), while also enhancing vertical collaboration. This involves gathering local sustainability issues and identifying knowledge needs to inform future SRI plans, and promoting the local utilization of SRI-produced knowledge. Successful implementation requires four key systems: 1) identification of local sustainability challenges and knowledge needs, 2) a platform for multi-stakeholder solution co-production, 3) curation and communication of relevant SRI knowledge, and 4) monitoring of solution progress and sustainability status. This approach amplifies the voices of local communities and civil society organizations within knowledge governance. It also tackles implementation silos within both the sub-national SRI system and local SDG efforts. The next step is to pilot this mechanism in a sub-national region, assessing the annual costs and resource requirements of these key systems.

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## Parallel Sessions Block IV

Venue: Janskerkhof 3

30 August 2024

Time: 9:00-10:30

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### Panel SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE V: 'Tools, Methods, Education-I'

Janskerkhof 3, room 1.10

Chair: *Mara Wendebourg* – *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

#### **Energy Poverty Policy Evaluation and Governance using Artificial Intelligence Tools**

*Salomé Bessa & João Pedro Gouveia* – NOVA University Lisbon, Caparica, Portugal

Energy poverty is a multidimensional issue that requires a multitude of policies to eradicate the problem in the long term. Considering its urgency, a policy evaluation framework is presented, connecting the issue with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and governance. The evaluation incorporates three aspects: policy mix, energy justice, and econometric analysis. The policy mix analysis will uncover how different policies (energy, social and health) interact and how these interactions affect policy outcomes. Different criteria will be used such as coherency and transparency, considering the timeframe of policies and their connection with other evaluation parts of the framework. In addition, the portuguese policies will be subjected to an energy justice evaluation based on the most recent literature on energy justice tenets. This evaluation aims to confront the outcomes with the fair path to energy transition and its relation to the governance of SDGs. On the econometric analysis part of the framework, we aim to congregate the policy measures associated with energy poverty, the resources allocated and their effect on the energy poverty indicators. With this, we will formulate adequate policy recommendations for energy poverty-related policies. Artificial intelligence (AI) will be explored and applied in different areas of the evaluation framework to enhance transparency and governance. This will consider the already existing AI tools and their possible implementation in the framework. In conclusion, the proposed framework provides a structured approach to evaluating energy policies and their impact on reducing energy poverty and supporting sustainable development. Our goal is to help create more effective and inclusive energy governance solutions by merging policy analysis, energy justice concepts, econometric approaches and AI for governance innovations.

#### **Towards Inclusive Progress: Mainstreaming a more Complex and Nuanced Gender Perspective in the 2030 Agenda to Address All Forms of Gender Violence**

*Juan Betancur & Daniela Maestre* – Stockholm Environment Institute Latin America, Colombia

While the SDGs call for Sustainable Development leaving no one regarding gender in SDG 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' many civil society

organizations have highlighted that the 2030 Agenda has left LGBTIQ+ people behind. While the SDGs advocate for ending discrimination and promoting inclusivity, the gender perspective within the Agenda requires enhancement to effectively combat all forms of gender-based violence experienced by women, LGBTIQ+ people, and men alike. Despite inclusive language, gender indicators across the 17 SDGs fail to comprehensively assess gender equality in its diverse manifestations. Also, the 2030 Agenda lacks Targets and Indicators regarding systemic oppression of LGBTIQ+ people, gender-based discrimination, and the gender violence that affects men. Some organisations and academics have identified ways for mending these gaps for LGBTIQ+ groups. Others have proposed sets of indicators for assessing women's gender equality in the context of the SDGs, while leaving out other forms of gender violence, such as those experienced by other gender identities and sexual orientations, including men. To address these gaps, we propose a set of indicators that can drive the mainstreaming of a more complex and nuanced gender perspective into the 2030 Agenda, address the broader spectrum of gender-based violence, and move the Agenda closer to its promise of leaving no one behind.

### **Policy Mixes for Sustainable Development Pathways: Representation in Integrated Assessment Models**

*Ines Dombrowsky* – German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Germany

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change require unprecedented transformations to sustainability, while maximising synergies and minimising trade-offs between the two agendas. The policy studies and sustainability transition literatures suggest that addressing the complex policy interlinkages of these two agendas requires ambitious, coherent, comprehensive and credible policy mixes supported by synergistic combinations of governance modes. Target-seeking scenarios based on Integrated Assessments Models have modelled sustainable development pathways (SDPs) that enable substantial progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Based on an in-depth scrutiny of modelling protocols and results, we analyse to what extent these modelled SDPs represent specific governance modes and instrument types and purposes explicitly or implicitly, and assess the resulting policy mix characteristics against the backdrop of policy studies literature. As such, we bridge the scenario modelling and social science policy mix literatures. We find that the modelled SDPs can be interpreted as alternative policy mixes for sustainability transformations, but that these policy mixes are only partially spelled out in the model implementations so far. Next to different mixes of a globally increasing carbon price and interventions mimicking regulatory measures that ensure SDG-compatibility of mitigation measures, the modelled scenarios largely build on different combinations of technological innovations, efficiency improvements and lifestyle and infrastructure changes with unspecified policy instruments. The models consider markets and hierarchies as governance modes and – depending on scenario – societal networks are assumed to be important too. The SDPs speak to various policy mix characteristics, in line with assumptions found in the policy studies literature. However, their credibility remains limited due to highly optimistic assumptions on governance and other political factors. Overall, these findings reinforce that sustainability transformations rely on high political and societal ambition and capabilities.



## **How Can Humanitarian and Development Organisations Learn, Grow and Evolve in Fast-changing and Complex Environments? (online)**

*Ekkardt Sonntag* – World Vision Germany

Most or all work on the SDGs means to operate in complex, fast changing environments, frequently marked by fragility, where the ability of humanitarian and development organisations to learn, grow, and evolve is critical. Acknowledging these challenges, the authors of this paper analyse the role of knowledge and learning, grounded in the concerns noted by Yanguas (2021) to the ‘learning hypothesis’, which states that in development agencies, increased knowledge should lead to increased impact. In this context, knowledge management gains significance as it serves as the conduit for utilising both internal and external knowledge to augment organisational performance. At its core, knowledge management can be defined as the process of identifying, organising, storing, and disseminating information within an organisation to improve operational performance and facilitate better decision-making. The findings, based on the analysis of data collected among aid practitioners at prominent organisations from German-speaking areas, reveal that improving resource allocation, diversifying learning options, and integrating knowledge management into the organisational culture are critical for addressing institutional barriers and enhancing adaptive capacity in development and humanitarian and development organisations.

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### **Panel DIFFERENTIATION V: ‘National Level Examples-I’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

Chair: *Sabine Weiland* – Université Catholique de Lille, France

## **Empowering Local Governance for Sustainable Development: Exploring India’s Path to Achieving SDG Localization**

*Kumaraswamy T R & Chetan Singai* – Chanakya University, Bengaluru, India

The involvement of national governments and local state governments is essential in restructuring governance to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recently, the Indian government has been reorganizing its institutional frameworks. However, there is a lack of research in assessing these reforms and how state governments are reacting to changes at the national level. This study employs a transition management approach to examine how India localizes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It systematically evaluates the impact of national-level transformations on sub-national responses. Our research emphasizes that although India’s efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through governance transformation show promise, they have not yet resulted in significant systemic reforms due to being in the early stages. India’s governance system seeks to synchronize cooperative and competitive federalism to facilitate the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the political influence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the governance of states is primarily limited to rhetoric. Moreover, it is possible to demonstrate flexibility and

responsiveness in the systems used to monitor and evaluate governance by capitalizing on the interconnections and cooperative effects between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and current government initiatives. However, depending exclusively on the SDG India Index and evaluation frameworks based on specific schemes has certain limitations and potential risks. This study attempts to provide a detailed analysis of the governance changes during India's localizing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By examining the strategic, tactical, operational, and reflexive aspects of governance, the study offers a comprehensive understanding of India's transition towards a model that prioritizes the SDGs. It highlights the importance of implementing significant changes and strategically using current systems to promote sustainable development throughout the country.

### **Accelerating Change Through Coordination? The Role of Inter-ministerial Coordination in the Governance of Germany's National Sustainable Development Strategy: Empirical Insights from the Transformation Teams**

*Julius Rathgens & Annekathrin Ellersiek* – Science Platform Sustainability 2030; Research Institute for Sustainability – Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (RIFS), Germany

Germany is in dire need for accelerating the implementation of its National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). However, this implementation is also an administrative challenge where different institutional logics may hinder effective implementation. In order to break through the silos the German government follows a 'whole-of-government' approach in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following this approach, launched the German Federal chancellery launched seven so called inter-ministerial Transformation Teams (IT) in November 2022. These teams consist of representatives of different ministries that coordinate a joint report on how to accelerate the implementation of Germany's NSDS in its six key areas of transformation. This study uses 20 semi-structured interviews with team-members to identify factors that have fostered or impeded successful coordination. From these interviews we identify four different categories of factors that influence inter-ministerial coordination: (1) Mode of coordination over time (2) Goal Setting and topical framing (3) Institutional logics (4) Structural conditions. From these findings the study concludes by deriving lessons learned from the case of the transformation-teams for future endeavours of setting-up and implementing inter-ministerial coordination as a means to accelerate strategy implementation.

### **Reporting and Measuring Progress Towards the SDGs: Evidence from Central and Eastern Europe**

*Aneliya Paneva, Hristo Dokov, & Ivaylo Stamenkov* – Carl von Ossietzky University, Germany; Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski', Bulgaria

Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on effectively translating and adapting the global aspirations to domestic contexts. SDG reporting has been established as a valuable tool to help governments better understand the status quo of a country regarding the SDG targets and determine further actions. Yet, the Global Goals and their

metrics have created novel data acquisition and management needs, causing additional load to domestic systems' capacities. While being left largely outside the main academic focus, Central and Eastern Europe represents an interesting case to study countries' reporting and progress towards the SDGs. The region is characterized by development backwardness, post-socialist structural changes, and weak capacities for environmental and sustainability policies. In this connection, the national SDG implementation can be seen as a critical momentum for rethinking underlying development models. Understanding where CEE countries stand in terms of performance, how they report on the SDGs and what challenges they face is important for informing policies and capacity development processes in the region. For this purpose, the study's objective is twofold. First, using data from Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), we analyse and compare what policy approaches, initiatives, and metrics have been adopted in CEE EU and non-EU Member States and how they relate to SDG progress. Second, based on some key indicators and composite indexes, the current development trends are revealed, addressing countries' performance, region-specific trade-offs, and interlinkages between different SDGs. The former is approached based on a qualitative content analysis, benchmarking and identifying best practices, while the latter is carried out by means of quantitative methods using correlation, regression, and comparative analyses. The study delivers new regional insights and data on SDG reporting, country progress and trade-offs that have implications for science-policy interfaces, the 'beyond GDP' initiative, and the post-2030 Agendas.

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### **Panel DIFFERENTIATION VI: 'Localization-II'**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Thomas Hickmann – Lund University, Sweden*

### **Environmental Sustainability in the Local Implementation of Agenda 2030**

*Lena Partzsch – Freie Universität Berlin, Germany*

Humans are dramatically accelerating global environmental change. While some scholars argue that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mask ongoing contestation over sustainable development (e.g., Bengtsson et al, 2018; Sachs, 2017), others see them as an example of development approaches being increasingly 'in tune with the biosphere, of reconnecting development to the biosphere preconditions' (Folke et al, 2016: 5). In particular, countries with a high income in terms of GDP per capita are expected to prioritize environmental over economic goals at the stage of implementation. We use Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to assess the importance of the environment in the implementation of the global goals at the local level. More and more municipalities in Europe and around the world use this new form of local reporting. The paper begins with a categorization of the environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda and the importance of local action for their implementation. Against the backdrop of the scholarly controversy on what defines environmental sustainability, the paper then assesses the full sample of European VLRs to identify the priorities of municipalities in their implementation. We conclude that the

environment takes a back seat to social and, above all, economic goals, but at the same time we identify a range of possible actions at the local level.

### **Differentiation and Dynamization of the SDGs: the SDGs as a mode of local, regional, national and global governance for a resilient economic system**

*Aurelie Charles* – University of Bath, United Kingdom

Group behaviour on consumption and production has led to the Great Acceleration. At the macro-level however, group behaviour makes it impossible to monitor and control the flow of resources between humans to avoid consumption and production bubbles around natural resource use. At the micro-level, Ostrom's rules (1990, 2009) make it possible to harness the power of group norms to protect local socio-ecological systems. The paper shows how group mapping of local social-ecological systems allows an ecological mapping of the SDGs consisting of cultivating local islands of SDG excellence in terms of sustainability, where sustainability is understood as the pursuit of life (Dahlmann 2024). The paper then shows how such framing facilitates local, regional, national and global SDG wheels which can be used as complementary compasses to target finance towards the local islands of SDG excellence, while also promoting the differentiation and dynamization of the SDGs.

### **Strengthening Capacities for Planning the 2030 Agenda in Local Governments in Mexico: Who and How Are We Working?**

*Sergio Ismael Vázquez Meneley* – Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora, Mexico

Institutional capacities are essential for the monitoring, evaluation and/or reporting of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, above all, by governments at their different levels of action, who are responsible for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Although regulatory and institutional capacities have recently been strengthened in the central government of Mexico, this does not necessarily occur in local governments (federal entities and municipalities), among which there are marked asymmetries that make it impossible for all of them to take ownership of this diary. Hence, the mechanisms and instruments to monitor and evaluate compliance with the 2030 Agenda in municipalities depend largely on their context and institutional capacity, as well as the political will and determination that each local government in Mexico has to commit to the SDGs. Some examples of this are evident through the implementation of concrete actions that promote the improvement of the institutional and individual capacities of public officials in terms of monitoring and evaluation, the promotion of multi-actor relationships that contribute to generating governance spaces for implementation. of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the creation of an institutional, regulatory and instrumental framework that eventually allows accountability through the preparation of Voluntary Local Reports (ILV). In this sense, this article aims to explore and understand in greater detail the municipal experiences in the monitoring and reporting of the 2030 Agenda. To do this, the cases of Guadalajara, Mérida and Ciudad Valles will be analysed, which were chosen by be pioneers in the development of their respective SIL. The analysis is based on the argument that the examination and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the local level depends on the institutional

and individual capacities of local governments, as well as collaborative relationships with other non-governmental actors. The review of the cases was carried out in an exploratory manner to identify their main characteristics and define the main attributes that would allow us to distinguish the similarities and differences in the processes of preparing the SLI. In principle, primary sources were reviewed such as the SIL themselves, as well as official documents and videos with the presentations of the reports; In a second moment, secondary sources such as articles, news or opinions about these processes were consulted.

### **Institutional capabilities and governance mechanisms for integrated local level climate adaptation**

*Mathias Eistrup* – University of Lisbon, Portugal

Climate action is encapsulated in SDG 13, but the complex and cross-cutting nature of the challenge implies that most of the SDGs are relevant for the needed climate transition. The IPCC Assessment Report published in 2023 underlines the importance of municipalities-led climate action, but highlights the importance of adequate institutional capacities. There often is a gap between local governments' aspirations and their means and capabilities (Mazzucato & Anderson 2023). This is evident in Portugal, where sustainability transitions' landscape among municipalities is very uneven (Mourato and Iannuzzi, 2021). Why? On a systemic level, 'Sustainability Transitions' (Köhler et al, 2018) research holds that transitions are explained by the ability of actors to build coalitions that break down existing regimes. The systemic dimension of transitions, along with the tension between stability and change are central to this approach. Similarly, Mushtaq Kahn (2018) argues that, to understand the emergence and effectiveness of institutions and policies, one needs to go look at the social context and the historical distribution of power in which the desired change is located. On an institutional level, the complex and interrelated nature of climate action calls for a set of dynamic capabilities and governance systems that go beyond the traditional public bureaucracy. Processes of public and institutional innovation are seen as a necessity for public institutions to play a central role in sustainability transition, setting clear directions and orienting decisions of relevant actors (Kattel and Mazzucato, 2018; Mayne et al, 2020). In my presentation, I intended to (1) present a summary relevant literature review on public innovation, policy integration and planning, on which my above-mentioned hypotheses rest. (2) Outline my PhD research proposal, which intends to analyse in-depth the implementation of climate adaptation plans in a set of selected municipalities in Portugal.

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**Panel REFORMS III: ‘Governing by Goals: Synergies, Trade-offs and Effectiveness-II’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.22

Chair: *Prajal Pradhan – University of Groningen, The Netherlands***Green Hydrogen and Sustainable Development Goals***Drielli Peyrerl & Bob van der Zwaan – University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, TNO, The Netherlands, Johns Hopkins University, Bologna, Italy*

Even as the international community is committed to accelerate attaining progress on all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the remaining six years, a large gap is still to be bridged. The large breadth and coverage of the SDGs has also necessitated the development of new evaluation methodologies that consider the specificities of different geographical scales. When a new global value chain is created, as is currently the case for green hydrogen, an opportunity presents itself to develop joint short-, medium-, and long-term sustainable development strategies at multiple geographical scales simultaneously. We analyze how to align the segments of the green hydrogen value chain with sustainable development. For that, we develop a novel methodology, the Value Chain Assessment (VCA), to guide the sustainable development of entire value chains, using the 2030 Agenda as underlying framework. The VCA methodology can also be applied to a broad range of other possible value chains. As first step, we conduct an in-depth survey of peer-reviewed articles and grey-literature publications. We map the influences of each segment of the green hydrogen value chain (that is, production, transportation, and end-use) on all 17 SDGs and their 169 SDG targets. The process of identifying these influences involves two parts: categorizing the influences on the SDG targets as direct, indirect, or no influence/still unknown, and subsequently assigning them as positive (green flag) or negative (red flag). We expand our analysis by incorporating dimensions of temporality, and identifying the reciprocal interdependences between the respective green hydrogen value chain segments. As a result, we thus present a strategic guide for fostering the sustainable development of green hydrogen. To accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs and, at the same time, promote the sustainable development of the green hydrogen value chain, careful attention to the singularities of each segment is essential.

**The Impact of Silent Conformity on the Effectiveness of Global Goals***Simon Meert – University Liège, Belgium*

In the context of the integration of the SDGs norm into businesses' practices and activities, substantial efforts have been dedicated to detecting and understanding occurrences of SDGs-washing. Understood as a specific form of organizational decoupling adapted to the SDGs context, SDGs-washing broadly refers to instances in which organizations communicate and report to the external environment on the adoption of certain practices aligned with the UN sustainability norm but do not attempt seriously to implement them at the operational level. Considering possible avenues to transform global sustainability governance and the SDGs implementation process, we suggest that next to SDGs-

washers, consideration should also be given to silent conformers. As opposed to SDGs-washers who ‘do not walk their talk’, silent conformers ‘do not talk their walk’, that is, do not send conformity signals to inform their constituencies about their actual operational conformity vis-à-vis the SDGs. While differences in terms of ease of detection and deception type may account for such an unbalanced treatment of these two phenomena from both practice and academia, we argue that the impact of the silent conformity of organizations on the effectiveness of the SDGs has been so far largely overlooked. Indeed, by remaining silent, silent conformers notably forgo the opportunity to endorse the role of regulator by setting sustainability standards that will positively influence others in their actions. Concurrently, they miss the possibility to contribute to the next global goals conceptualization through their alternative framing and understanding of corporate sustainability. Hence, for what concerns the design and implementation of the next global goals, currently silent SDGs-conformers should be provided with a larger political space. Indeed, for the signalling usage of the future UN sustainability norm to work effectively, such norm—and the conformity signalling practice associated to it—should be perceived as legitimate by those actors. This is a necessary condition for them to signal their operational conformity and eventually endorse the role of regulator in the context of global sustainability governance. Be it otherwise, the strength and effectiveness of the future global goals will inevitably be undermined by their silent conformity.

## **Bioenergy Production, Bioenergy Competitions, and Sustainable Development Goals**

*Clément Lasselin* – Sorbonne Université, France

Around the world, many countries are publishing policy plans, programs, and strategies in which they set sector-specific targets to help achieve and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is particularly the case for many energy-related documents, which promote the production of energy value chains that are alternative to fossil fuels. For example, bioenergy production may be promoted in order to achieve goals related to energy production, fossil energy substitution, rural development, etc. These goals may correspond to SDGs and contribute to reducing poverty, mitigating climate change, or providing access to energy. However, other SDGs related to the protection of environmental and social systems may be mentioned in passing or ignored altogether in these types of documents. This can be particularly problematic in the case of complex technologies that may have positive impacts on some SDGs and negative impacts on others, such as bioenergy production technologies. Therefore, using bioenergy as a case study, I aim to identify the SDGs and whether the bioenergy production targets mentioned in various policy texts may be in conflict with these goals. I do this by recalling the potential impacts of bioenergy production and how their production may compete with other activities. Finally, I suggest ways to better implement SDGs in bioenergy-related policy texts and beyond.

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**Panel FUTURES I: ‘Decolonization and Democracy-II’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.17

Chair: *Magdalena Bexell – Lund University, Sweden*
**Planetary Sustainability at Crossroads: Transforming Global Governance through Decolonization and Democracy**
*Asim Zia – University of Vermont, USA*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), like Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before them, have so far failed to bring about planetary sustainability: More than 70% of the biodiversity has been lost; and global community is locked on a path of 3-4 degree centigrade global warming by the end of this century. Worsening climate change will have momentous implications for additional biodiversity loss and pose serious challenges for food and water security. Inequity within and between nations has increased. Despite these poly-crises, the policy and governance responses have been ineffective, and in many cases bordering on green washing and mere affect. In this paper, I argue that enablement of planetary sustainability will require transformative shifts in global governance. Bold structural changes in global governance are needed to bring about a more democratic, coherent and just governance process for our shared global commons. We must immediately act to decolonize global governance by reforming United Nations (UN). Synthesizing over a decade of research on lessons learned from the failures in global environmental policy, the following changes in the structure of the UN must be considered on urgent basis for ensuring planetary sustainability: 1) Institutionalize a new ‘World Parliament’ representing elected members from all communities of the world; 2) Empower ‘World Parliament’ to reconfigure administrative structure and functions of the UN, including but not limited to the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly; 3) Ensure policy coherence, transparency and inter-agency coordination as a fundamental tenet of UN administrative & functional agencies, accountable to the ‘World Parliament’ and its constitutional committees. 4) The social, economic and environmental damage caused to the global commons must be systematically quantified and translated into global financial mechanisms by restructuring financial debt that accounts for social-ecological debt.

**Towards Decolonial and Just Knowledge Production: Unpacking Violence in the Sustainable Development Goals**
*Judith Krauss, Andrea Jiménez Cisneros & Marina Requena-i-Mora – University of York, United Kingdom*

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), their goals and indicators were proposed by the United Nations in 2015 to safeguard ‘Transforming our world’ and advocate for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. However, questions have been raised about whether the SDG framework, and the knowledge it produces, prioritises justice. Through a decolonial conceptual framework which brings together Quijano’s modernity-coloniality, Connell’s and Bhambra’s universality, and Hall’s blindness, we build a lens to interrogate colonisation and coloniality’s direct violence, the slow violence of gradual



destruction, and the epistemic violence of imposing unfit notions on the Majority World. We then apply our lens to the SDGs, specifically looking at SDGs 12 sustainable consumption & production, SDG 10, reducing inequality, SDG 15, life on land, SDG 13, climate action, and SDG 8, decent work and economic growth. We highlight specific examples of slow, epistemic and direct violence in this supposedly transformative paradigm and the knowledge it produces. We equally link these examples to both causes in terms of epistemic roots in wider knowledge paradigms, and highlight their consequences such as concealing urgency and perpetuating considerable environmental footprints. We argue that the SDGs' shortcomings we identify could be addressed and improved upon by taking seriously some core decolonial principles drawing on recent important work by Sultana, Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Mbembe: critical climate coloniality, decolonial love, and recognising each other as fully human, which would be better suited to avoid violence both in process and outcome.

### **Decolonizing the SDGs: (Re-)thinking Global Climate Policy in Global South Perspective**

*Muhammad Manzoor Elahi* – Government College University Lahore, Pakistan

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a global blueprint for addressing a myriad of social, economic, and environmental challenges. The application of SDGs often overlooks the nuanced realities of the Global South, perpetuating a neocolonial power structure that undermines local contexts and knowledge systems. This paper critically examines the concept of decolonizing the SDGs vis-à-vis two of its stated goals i.e., affordable and clean energy as well as climate action and rethinks global climate policy from a Global South perspective. It takes the case of South Asia and argues that a decolonized approach to the SDGs requires recognizing and integrating indigenous knowledge, local governance structures, and socio-cultural aspects into climate policy. The article employs a content analysis of existing climate policy frameworks under a qualitative research methodology and draws conclusions based upon critical discourse analysis. The findings highlight the need for a more inclusive and equitable approach to climate action. By re-centering the voices of the Global South, this paper seeks to contribute to a transformative agenda that not only addresses climate change effectively but also empowers marginalized communities, fostering a more just and sustainable global development paradigm. Overall, this research contributes to the growing body of literature in sustainable studies that calls for a more inclusive and just approach to climate action.

### **Institutions Governing Forest Conservation and Resource Access by Traditional Communities: From Consultation Towards Deliberative Joint Management in Protected Areas of Amazônia**

*Marcelo Inacio da Cunha* – German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Germany

Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) aims to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030, a significant step towards living in harmony with Nature. Yet, protected areas (PAs) do not occur in a vacuum and call for considering

livelihoods of affected Indigenous Peoples and local communities: In this case, quilombolas—Afrodescendants as per ILO Convention 169—who settled in remote areas of Amazônia, where they live in, from and/or with Nature. Given the problem of limited resource access by such marginalized forest-reliant dwellers in rural Brazil: How do institutions govern natural resource access by PA-affected peoples? How can institution-based resource access implications be addressed? Research focuses on the Trombetas River Biological Reserve (TRBR) and the Term of Compromise (TC). The TC is a federal decree-based mechanism written by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) to formalize resource access in PAs under ICMBio's management. TC's institution-based implications on livelihood-relevant access to non-timber forest products (NTFPs, including Brazil nut) are analyzed. Mixed-methods and an own analytical framework combining access, (in)formal institutions and (collective) use rights scholarship are developed. Evidenced is that this formal institution (un)intentionally restricts their resource and market access affecting traditional livelihoods. A first policy option to inclusively address (formalized) limitations to traditional collective use of NTFPs in such PAs overlapping with claimed traditional collective territory (while this right to land is not yet fully recognized): To transform current governance regimes of strict PA management from consultative towards a deliberative council for co-managing the TRBR and also co-deciding on the TC, enabling quilombola Brazil nut gatherers to co-decide and, address institution-based access limitations. Such inclusive governance structure—which could be applied in Amazônia and elsewhere—enable rights- and place-based conservation in Brazil's PAs towards KMGBF implementation, leaving no biodiverse area nor anyone behind.

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## Panel SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE IV: 'Just Knowledge Production and Governance'

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

Chair: *Fronika de Wit* – *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

### When 'Modern Energy for All' Does Not Fit the Local Energy Culture: A Case Study from Southern Chile

*Alejandra Cortés Fuentes* – *Universidad de Chile, Chile*

The SDG 7 establishes the need to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. However, most targets and indicators focus on technical aspects, overlooking the social and cultural ones. How people use energy and how they value it is a human dimension that needs to be addressed by public policies. Most policymaking is based on quantitative data, and qualitative research does not often permeate policy design. This paper presents the findings from qualitative research studying local energy culture and the lived experience of recipients of two energy retrofit programmes within Coyhaique's social housing. Coyhaique is an emblematic case study because it was reported as the most polluted city from fine particulate matter in Latin America and the Caribbean. Given the cold climate and the energy-inefficient housing stock in the city, people have historically developed a culture based on heating and cooking with firewood. The environmental

impacts of residential firewood combustion are cities declared saturated zones by particulate matter, affecting the population's health. The country has made significant investments in implementing two energy retrofit programmes, one to improve the thermal insulation of the housing stock and the other to replace the old heaters with less polluting modern appliances. However, changing the cultural patterns of energy use is not a one-step process, and technological adoption is not straightforward. Interviews with householders and focus groups with policymakers leading the programmes were conducted as research methods. The findings show that energy culture is configured by a persistent attachment to firewood, sustained over time. Even after participation in two energy retrofit programmes and changing firewood, wood burning continued to shape households' energy culture, which is engrained in the historical roots of using firewood. A mismatch between policymaking objectives and the impacts of energy retrofits was revealed, and a fragile energy transition was identified.

### **Whose Voices Shape the Landscape of Sustainability Science and Policymaking Exploring Perspectives from the Tropical Global South**

*Carmen Guadalupe Mallqui Caballero, Gerbrand Korena, Carole-Anne Sénit & Pita Verweija* – Utrecht University, The Netherlands

As the SDGs are framed as a global, universal normative agenda, to be implemented nationally and locally, policymakers need to rely on scientific information that builds on diverse forms of knowledge, tailor-made to national and local contexts. In particular, the distinct climatic conditions in tropical regions, require a local presence and understanding of the local context for effective and just SDG implementation. According to the theory of geographies of knowledge, spatial and context-specific patterns influence the emergence, institutionalization, and dissemination of diverse forms of knowledge. While this theoretical approach has been crucial in reforming the understanding of knowledge production in different contexts, most of the concepts derived from this theory, including the concept of 'situated knowledge', have been developed by scholars from the Global North. In this paper we argue that Western conceptualizations have predominantly dictated the generation of knowledge and expertise that inform sustainability science and policymaking, overshadowing alternative perspectives. We posit that other concepts proposed by scholars from the tropical Global South, such as Aníbal Quijano's 'coloniality of knowledge', offer valuable contributions that could enhance and enrich the analytical framework within the theory of geographies of knowledge. This paper thus examines how various concepts developed by scholars from the tropical Global South can assist in elucidating and interrogating the knowledge underpinning sustainability policymaking. Drawing on a literature review, we critically analyse scholarship dealing with sustainability science in tropical regions. By this means, this paper seeks to enrich the theory of geographies of knowledge with approaches and concepts from the Global South, with an empirical application to sustainability science and SDG policymaking.

## **Popular Surveillance for Healthy and Sustainable Development: A Case Study in Por do Sol and Sol Nascente Territories in the Capital of Brazil Between 2021-2024**

*Wagner de Jesus Martins, Edward Torres Maia; Leticia Albuquerque de Jesus, Cecilia de Faria Sampaio, Lilitiana Silva Cabral, Daniel Fernandes Barbosa, Renata Florentino de Faria Santos & Mauro Niskier Sanchez* – Fiocruz, Brazil; Research and Statistics Institute of the Federal District, Brazil; University of Brasília, Brazil

Our transformative idea is related to an empirical local case study that takes into consideration social vulnerable territories called Sol Nascente (Sunrise) and Por do Sol (Sunset), which became the biggest favela in country in 2022, according to our last national census, with over 83.000 people living in there. We started a governmental project called ‘Territories Radar in Federal District’, in partnership between Fiocruz and a subnational public institution called Research and Statistics Institute of the Federal District (IPEDF), and we have a successful case, providing different social technologies built along with 20 local popular researchers we trained, in order to generate citizen-science basis through doing action-research for monitoring their local indicators in the long term (2030). The transformative idea itself is related to the Operation Indicators created with the population standpoint, in order to complement the 2030 Agenda existing indicators, so they would help the local population to avoid territorial risks and contributes with the territorial governance. This project started on 2021 and finished now in 2024.

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## Parallel Sessions Block V

Venue: Janskerkhof 3

30 August 2024

Time: 13:30-15:00

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### Panel ACCELERATION VIII: 'Inclusive Governance for Acceleration'

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

Chair: *Birgit Peters – University of Trier, Germany*

#### **Transformative Capacity of Partnerships for SDGs: Opening the Black Box of Problem-solving and Intervention-design Processes in Nexus Governance**

*Montserrat Koloffon Rosas & Teresa Deubelli-Hwang – IVM, VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands; International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria*

As windows of opportunity close, the recognition that sustainability transformations are required, rather than slow-paced incremental progress, grows. Partnerships, especially those bringing multiple sectors together and implementing various SDGs simultaneously (nexus governance), are endorsed as promising collaborative governance mechanisms able to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While the effect of some structural characteristics of partnerships have been studied, the problem-solving and intervention-design processes (tools, methods, and practices) they employ to govern SDG nexuses and enable sustainability transformations remain hidden in a black box. This paper suggests that the unique governance environment that partnerships bring by bridging sectors (e.g. science and policy-making) and issue areas (e.g. multiple SDGs) may be a necessary but not sufficient condition to facilitate the required sustainability transformations. In line with the UN 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, we argue that a fitting process, able to manage the challenges that come with wicked problems and the collective action dilemma, is necessary to unlock transformations and thus contribute to achieving the SDGs. Accordingly, an index is advanced to assess the MSPs' transformative capacity as a function of the fit between their operational processes (tools, methods, and practices) and their transformative ambitions. Using data from a survey applied to practitioners involved in partnerships for the SDGs, the landscape of partnerships' operations is mapped to determine gaps and performance variations. Similar partnerships with contrasting levels of transformative capacity are selected for a comparative analysis through case studies, including data from in-depth interviews with partnerships' members. The findings inform meta-governance efforts to effectively nudge partnerships into a transformative governance mode.

## **Watchdog or Underdog? The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Implementation of the SDGs**

*Magdalena Bexell, Thomas Hickmann, Yi Hyun Kang & Carole-Anne Sénit* – Lund University, Sweden; Utrecht University, The Netherlands

During the first half of their application period, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have unfolded only a limited impact on fostering transformations towards sustainability. Several scholars have pointed to severe accountability gaps in the 2030 Agenda that hamper the implementation of the SDGs. They highlight the voluntary nature of the goals and targets, the growing discrepancy between talk and action, and the lack of political will among many national governments to increase their efforts to achieve the SDGs as key reasons for slow goal implementation. In this context, research indicates that civil society organizations increasingly use the SDGs as a reference framework in their initiatives to call for stronger action. Moreover, the aspirational principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ set out in the 2030 Agenda led to expectations for a larger inclusion of civil society in governance for sustainable development over time. This suggests that civil society organizations are crucial actors for enhancing accountability and accelerating goal implementation until 2030 and beyond. Against this backdrop, this paper explores existing knowledge about the role of civil society organizations in the global endeavour to implement the SDGs. What are the main roles and challenges of civil society organizations in relation to goal implementation across the Global North and South? Drawing on a systematic literature review using Scopus as a search engine, we synthesize scholarship dealing with civil society and SDG implementation at multiple governance levels from local to global. By this means, this paper seeks to contribute to the broader debate about whether, how, and when civil society organizations can push for more ambitious SDG implementation, and potentially reform, rebuild, and transform governance by goal-setting for sustainable development.

## **Transforming Future of Sustainability: Role of new age innovations & businesses in accelerating SDGs**

*Radhika Ralhan* – Maastricht School of Management, The Netherlands

As the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development has transcended halfway mark, it has been well realized that the world is distanced from achieving SDGs. The need to instantaneously gear up efforts to explore diverse course of actions and novel solutions are required towards implementation of SDGs. We have entered a critical and crucial decade of sustainability, the 2030 Agenda instils that ‘the opportunity to rethink and redefine our global development pathway comes once in a generation. This is our opportunity, and we must seize it’[i]. It bears two vital principles, firstly, it represents a new era of global participation with multiple stakeholders being included in the process and secondly, to garner global commitments on implementing integrated SDGs. Transformational Governance will re-define the pace of SDGs implementation in respective scenarios; the leadership will be a tri-dimensional one, highlighting the convergence of governmentality with political governance, corporate governance and citizen governance. Of which technology, investments, innovations and collaborations (SDG 17) are proving to be futuristic drivers. This paper examines the transformative idea of a multi -actor platform (MAP) that fosters

unique sustainable systems-based networks. Through core case practices, the paper exemplifies the power of MAP comprising of novel partnerships between innovators, businesses and role of technology as a common solution in accelerating the momentum of SDGs. It enables mapping the progress of outcomes for specific SDGs (11, 12) and its intersectional impact on overarching SDGs (13, 9). These real-time innovations fostered by new age network-based platform are core solutions for businesses, influencing them and redefining their approach and actively engage in achieving priorities SDGs.

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## Panel DIFFERENTIATION VII: ‘General Perspectives’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Aurelie Charles – University of Bath, United Kingdom*

### **Balancing Universalism: Differentiation and Dynamization in the Implementation of the SDGs**

*Guilherme de Queiroz-Stein, Mara Wendebourg, Fronika de Wit & Frank Biermann – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

Global sustainability governance carries a tension between universalism and differentiation. On the one hand, it is necessary to seek global objectives that become a common commitment for all nations. On the other hand, differentiation favours the division of responsibilities and costs and enables linkage between different levels of governance by adopting the required adjustments. This article aims to analyse how this tension permeates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, based on insights from the New Institutional Economics, to propose theoretical foundations for incorporating components of differentiation and dynamization into this governance arrangement. The main argument is that differentiation and dynamization are capable not only of increasing the effectiveness of the SDGs but also of producing adaptive efficiency. Governance arrangements with greater flexibility are better adapted to diverse capacities and learnings that operate at distinct levels (local, regional, and national). They also favour the resolution of political conflicts, local problems, and specific demands. This is expressed by diverse processes, such as increasing the ambition of existing goals and targets, adopting indicators that are more appropriate to the contexts of implementation, creating new objectives, or radicalizing existing ones. These arguments will be illustrated empirically by looking at proposals for creating 18th SDGs, SDG acceleration projects, and success cases of adapting SDG targets and indicators to national and local contexts.

### **Structuring the SDGs: Developing a Common Perspective**

*Paul Lucas – PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Netherlands*

A core principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is integration, with various paragraphs stressing that the goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and

environmental). However, despite this emphasis on integration, the 2030 Agenda does not make clear how the goals and targets are interrelated and what this means for implementation. Most goals focus on specific problems or themes related to specific stakeholders and scientific communities, without referring to other goals. Furthermore, the SDGs are not based on any particular interpretation of how the world functions, nor does it reflect a specific, coherent systemic perspective on sustainable development. Thus, without pursuing an integrated approach in implementation, the 2030 Agenda is not more than a compilation of goals and targets. In this paper, we argue that goal structuring can help dealing with the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs in implementation. With goal structuring we mean classifying and clustering the SDGs and their interactions based on their intended outcomes. This provides insight on how the goals and targets are interrelated, help identifying coherent clusters of targets to be pursued together, and point to ways how these interrelations might be governed. We do so by reflecting on current challenges in implementation. Furthermore, we analyse frameworks for structuring SDGs that emerged in the literature since 2015, discussing the underlying rationales as well as common elements. Based on these insights we draw lessons for the development of a post-2030 sustainable development agenda.

### **Reflexive Governance for the SDGs – or: How to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems**

*Sabine Weiland* – Université Catholique de Lille, France

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the global development agenda for the coming decades, addressing fundamental challenges, such as those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. In order to accelerate its implementation, this paper explores the concept of reflexive governance. As a starting point, I am taking sustainable development as integration of distributed and often conflicting objectives, interests and actors. Governance of sustainable development implies the adjustment of practices of governance along these integrative lines in order to ensure that societal development proceeds along a sustainable trajectory. Reflexive governance, as I understand it, adds a procedural dimension to sustainable development and elaborates instruments and procedures that allow for integration. The SDGs form the empirical field for my analysis of reflexive governance arrangements. In that context, I focus on food-related topics that pose many global challenges and are exemplary to depict the various interlinkages between topics and goals. I conduct a number of case studies on food-related topics in the SDG context with the aim to elaborate the notion of ‘reflexivity’ in different dimensions – knowledge, power, scale and culture – and with regard to different challenges that the SDGs pose.

### **Differentiation and Dynamization of the SDGs: A combined approach may alter the sluggish movement of SDG implementation: An Analysis. (online)**

*Debdas Ray* – Asutosh College, University of Calcutta, India

In Geological parlance Magma generation is a dynamic process, while in magmatic differentiation, a single parent magma is split into compartments to produce different rocks with the advent of crystallization. So, differentiation and dynamization are intermingled.



If we look at the Global Scenario in terms of SDG implementation, you find most of the goals are not achieved by the countries in the same pace because of dynamization. At least, Goals 1 to 6 could have been achieved at the same pace. It could have been possible if the goals as differentiated into smaller targets were properly addressed. We all know smaller targets are easily achievable and even the accumulation of small steps leads us to reach the moon. So, SDG targets should be more accurately targeted to promote dynamization. If we look at targets 3.B it was hugely successful in India during the COVID. On the other hand, targets 2.4, 4.5, 6.2 had not been taken seriously by almost none of the Heads of States. Goal 9 had been largely ignored and accordingly most of the under developed countries and small islands had failed to build resilient infrastructural facilities, which typically suggests lack of dynamization. Goal 13 had been adequately addressed after Paris agreement through multiple COPs. The present author firmly believes that unless all the targets of Goals 15,16 and 17 are not taken care of in terms of dynamization, the entire movement of attaining SDGs by 2030 and even within 2050 would be severely jeopardized. In terms of observations, utmost stress should be given to augment the growth of the concept, 'Loss and Damage Fund' in its true spirit of differentiation and dynamization. Thus, a concerted effort of all the stakeholders should come forward in order to augment both the processes of differentiation and dynamization.

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### **Panel DIFFERENTIATION VIII: 'National Level Examples-II'**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

Chair: *Yixian Sun – University of Bath, United Kingdom*

#### **'We all need the future': African Politicians, Civil Society Actors and the Institutional Challenges of SDGs Implementation in West Africa (online)**

*John Izuchukwu Jonathan – The University of Ibadan, Nigeria*

The unveiling of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations was embraced by most stakeholders at all levels of government because of the hope it inspires for development especially for countries within the Global South axis. With just six years to 2030 the question agitating the minds of most Africans is 'where is the promised development?' owing to the huge amount of money Nation states and international donors have collectively channelled towards SDGs implementation in the sub-region, the outcome has left much to be desired. The study is approached from a qualitative perspective. The study essentially relied on primary data. Primary data was however, collective using In-depth Interview, Focus Group discussion, stakeholder meeting, and Key informant interview. The study engages institutional theory to give anchorage to the work. Hence, the study reveals that lack of political will, weak institutional leadership, compromised civil society, greed, corruption and weak monitoring and evaluation mechanism are the major challenges that stand as barriers to the holistic implementation of SDGs in West Africa. The study therefore recommends that immediate action should be taken in getting all stakeholders to work together in implementing the SDGs in the sub-region. Insecurity will not abate because poverty will be on the rise, Africans will migrate to other climes, therefore,

advocacy against wicked leadership birthing wicked problems will be heightened hence, even the political will eventually become an endangered species if we fail to implement the SDGs.

### **Mapping NDC-SDG connections in Sub-Saharan African countries**

*Eszter Szedlacsek* – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Recent scholarship suggests that establishing governance connections in an integrated manner among the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda and climate efforts for the Paris Agreements could contribute to the successful achievement of both international agendas, thereby raising effectiveness and accelerate their implementation. Despite widespread efforts, no country is on track to meet either poverty objectives under the SDG agenda, or climate goals for the Paris Agreement. Interactions in the double crisis of the climate-poverty nexus are especially pressing in Sub-Saharan African countries with population vulnerable to both poverty and climate impacts. Against this background, this research article contributes to understanding the linkages that exist between the SDGs and Sub-Saharan African countries' voluntary national commitments to the Paris Agreement. NDCs are instrumental in safeguarding the poor amidst the escalating challenges posed by global environmental change and policy transitions. Nonetheless, empirical evidence on engagement with SDGs, and specifically poverty reduction in the NDCs remain notably limited despite notable contributions. The novel dataset analysed in the research article provides a deeper understanding of how NDCs engage with the social SDG goals through an analysis of perceived synergies, trade-offs and conflicts in the context of NDCs. The paper applies a mixed method and the impact of various geopolitical and socio-economic factors is investigated using the SDG engagement score compiled in the dataset through scoring and content analysis. The article contributes to filling a gap on examining poverty reduction references in NDCs in Sub-Saharan African countries by assessing whether references to poverty are mentioned in the context of synergies, trade-offs or conflicts, examining the extent to which they incorporate SDG targets and indicators, and assessing the proposed measures and cross-sectoral nature of these connections.

### **Convergence or Divergence? Comparing the Evolution of SDG Implementation in EU and ASEAN Member States**

*Michele Joie Praniromaruto* – Utrecht University, The Netherlands

This study investigates the trajectory of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation within the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, exploring the potential for convergence or divergence in their strategies. Utilizing a mixed-method approach of analysing Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) aided with interviews of key representatives, the research conducts a multiple case study design to discern patterns and trajectories in SDG implementation within and across the regions. The analysis focuses on longitudinal progress, examining VNRs from five representative EU nations (Netherlands, Greece, Germany, Denmark, Lithuania) and five ASEAN nations (Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos) that have been chosen systematically to maximize difference in a several key factors, such as

population size, economic and political context. By comparing the SDG policies and strategies outlined in these VNRs, the study seeks to provide nuanced insights into regional and global progress towards sustainable development. Furthermore, it aims to illuminate potential factors influencing the paths towards achieving the SDGs that may contribute to the occurrence of convergence or divergence. Through the analysis of the convergence or divergence trends in SDG implementation, the study sheds light on the effectiveness of global development agendas in addressing diverse regional challenges and priorities, offering valuable lessons on how nations from different parts of the world can learn from and collaborate with each other in the pursuit of common SDGs. Additionally, the study reveals that limited data availability poses a challenge for comprehensive analysis, emphasizing the need for continued research in this field to provide more accurate and actionable insights for better policy formulation and implementation.

### **Reflexive Governance for Implementing the UN's Global Goals: Assessing Capacities at the Halfway Point in Bulgaria and Romanian (ONLINE PRESENTATION)**

*Aneliya Paneva* – Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 represent the joint commitment and ambitious vision of UN Heads of State and Government to address the most pressing problems of society and nature over a 15-year period. Yet, midpoint evaluations of SDG progress showed that these high aspirations have largely failed thus far, pointing to substantial governance gaps. In this regard, the role of science and the need for enhancing domestic capacities is being increasingly recognized to increase the effectiveness of national SDG implementation efforts. Prior work in the field suggested a general direction of the governance conditions for enhancing policy coherence and outlined some main cognitive and analytical capacities as well as institutional arrangements that are relevant in the SDG context. So far, however, there has been little discussion on the capacities and conditions needed for generating required knowledge and applying this knowledge in political contexts in domestic systems. By drawing on more recent understandings of social learning and reflexive governance, the paper derives some deeper implications for the necessary conditions and capacities required to improve the interaction between science, policy, and society at the national level. In the empirical part, the paper seeks to collect qualitative data from Bulgaria and Romania on their government responses to the global agenda and the new created capacities in this respect. The findings will be evaluated against the theoretical considerations, in order to support national and international capacity building processes in the region. The study approach will allow for a comparative analysis across the countries in the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union to explain variation in the success of SDG implementation.

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**Panel FUTURES III: ‘Reforming Society through Bottom-up Methods’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.17

Chair: *Fronika de Wit – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*
**Regenerative Cultures: The Transformative Vision to Excel the Sustainable Development Goals**
*Maria del Mar Monti & Massimo Calamassi, CoRegener8, Switzerland*

The international agenda seems to have failed in activating a transformative process of the socio-economic system. We are far from being on track to meet the goals we have set, and struggle with implementation. The premise of this paper is the believe that the reason may be twofold: 1) characteristics of our predominant socio-economic system exert perpetually self-reinforcing barriers to systemic change, and 2) the institutionalisation of the current governance favours a solutionism of symptoms and can only partially account for a holistic approach. The concept of sustainable development, however, poses multifaceted challenges that demand a profound systemic rethinking of our practices and knowledge systems. As such, there is an urge for a far more critical assessment of our current system’s fundamentals and a shift towards new perspectives. In this context, regenerative design emerges as a promising concept. It offers a global vision beyond sustainability, a holistic systemic perspective that acknowledges complexity, basic design principles for place-based implementation, and consequently a tool for transcending the 2030 agenda as a ‘transitory’ framework to a new governance. Regenerative cultures integrate principles of resilience, diversity, and adaptability to address challenges holistically and respond to a continuous paradigm of change. In doing so, the concept urges to (re)focus development towards place-based necessities and promotes an enhanced collaboration and interconnectedness of (local) actors from all spheres. Hence, more diverse and reflexive approaches of systemic design research in local contexts are required. In this sense, our CoRegener8 Collective intends to foster the identification of concrete strategies for implementing projects and policies and aims to generate an enriching dialogue that inspires transformative and collaborative actions towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

**Nature-based solutions for sustainable agriculture: Agroforestry in Peru**
*Norman M. Kearney – University of Bern, Switzerland*

Peru hosts the second largest share of the Amazon Rainforest, providing a variety of ecosystem services, including food and raw materials, carbon sequestration and storage, and microclimate regulation. Despite its many benefits, the Peruvian Amazon is being deforested; between 2001 and 2021, an average of 132,000 acres of forest were lost per year. One of the main drivers of this trend is the expansion of intensive agriculture. In this study, we explore how deforestation of the Peruvian Amazon could be slowed or reversed through agroforestry. We synthesize knowledge about the causal dynamics of agroforestry and related processes in Peru and assemble a dynamic Cross-Impact Balances model. With this model, we simulate the effects of agroforestry on deforested land and intact forest. We link the variables in the model to the Sustainable Development Goals, allowing us to

qualify the simulations in terms of SDG co-benefits and trade-offs. Our study contributes to understanding the potential for, and the challenges to, accelerating the implementation of the SDGs through nature-based solutions such as agroforestry.

### **Reforming the Sustainable Development Goals Through a Zoocentric Lens**

*Elien Verniers* – Ghent University, Belgium

Imagine the reformation of the 17th SDG ‘Partnerships for the goals’ in an 17th SDG on animal protection. In the framework of the negotiating process of the SDGs animal protection achieved the second highest score in the ‘My World survey’. Yet, thereafter the topic of animal protection was long being neglected. A major tipping point in this regard was the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report which identified animal welfare as a key issue missing in the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. In tandem, the idea of the creation of an 18th SDG on animal health, welfare and rights was being proposed in literature (Visseren-Hamakers 2020) and this topic was also the subject of recent discussion (Schapper & Bliss 2023). In the meantime, the adoption in 2022 of the UNEA Resolution on the animal welfare–environment–sustainable development nexus also fuelled the need for renewed attention towards the SDGs and animal protection. A major setback for this discourse was however the 2023 GSDR which completely ignored its 2019 predecessor and omitted the strong animal welfare message altogether. As outlined above, despite various developments putting the relation of animal protection and sustainable development in the spotlights, animal protection is to date still absent from the SDGs discourse. It is true that to some extent the protection of animal species is taken into account with respect to protecting aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 14 & 15), the interests of animals as individuals, on the contrary, is currently not covered. Instead of building on the idea of an 18th animal protection SDG, in view of practical as well as political feasibility, I propose an alternative approach in which I want to explore how current SDGs can be reinterpreted in order to be more normative inclusive and include the intrinsic value of individual animals.

### **Advancing Animal Welfare and One Health in the Post-2030 Agenda: An Exploration of Relevant Goals, Targets, and Indicators**

*Cleo Verkuijl* – Stockholm Environment Institute, United States

Recent years have seen increased attention to the linkages between animal welfare and sustainable development, with a range of academics and civil society organisations highlighting the need to advance animal welfare in the post-2030 development agenda. Indeed, the UN’s 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report highlighted animal welfare as a ‘key missing issue’ in the current development agenda. Similarly, One Health concerns that recognise the significant interlinkages between human, animal and environmental health are afforded little attention in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, despite increasing recognition of the importance of One Health for sustainable development. Summarising findings from a literature review and interdisciplinary workshop on advancing animal welfare and One Health considerations in the post-2030 development agenda, this article discusses how inclusion of these themes can contribute to improved policy coherence;

how animal welfare and One Health considerations can be concretely translated into global goals, targets and indicators, and remaining data and research questions that need to be addressed.

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## Panel ACCELERATION VII: ‘Approaches to SDG Acceleration – II’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Lisa-Maria Glass – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

### **Institutionalizing Systems Thinking in Governance of the 2030 Agenda**

*Linn Järnberg & Nina Weitz* – Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden

The concepts of integrative governance and policy coherence have gained traction in SDG science and policy circles since the adoption in 2015. However, evidence points to limited institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda’s related principles of indivisibility and integration. Literature on systems thinking and governance affirms the importance of integration but also proposes additional governance features to strengthen the capacity to drive systemic change, some of which are currently gaining prominence in the context of Our Common Agenda and related processes. This includes the institutionalization of: 1. Long-term thinking, which is arguably at the core of any sustainable development challenge, and which is put centre stage in the Declaration of Future Generations in calls for future impact assessments that consider intergenerational impacts, embedding future generations and long-term thinking in policy-making, and promoting future-oriented organizational culture; 2. Anticipation, as expressed in Our Common Agenda and Pact for the Future in calls to engage in forecasting and foresight practices to address global systemic risks and support strategic planning. How could member states institutionalize such proposals to support SDG implementation? What are the challenges and opportunities for such changes, given the limited success in institutionalizing integration and indivisibility? What are the political conditions for institutional reform in light of global trends of authoritarian diffusion and polarization? This contribution will discuss prospects for systemic governance reform in relation to proposals put forth in conjunction with the Summit of the Future, and what they may mean for implementing the 2030 Agenda and post-2030 framework(s). It will primarily be based on ongoing research within the project ‘Systemic governance in national SDG implementation: assessing the compatibility with legitimacy and accountability’.

### **Is your pension funding the Goals? A novel approach to accelerating SDG Investments at Scale**

*Stefan Gevaert* – Sustainable Development Investment Asset Owner Platform, The Netherlands

Amidst a growing trend amongst institutional investors towards more sustainable investment, recent academic evidence underscores the significant financing gap that still must be closed to fulfil the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - as well as the

challenge of integrating ESG data to guide private capital allocation decisions towards where finance is most needed. Traditional ESG ratings often fail to provide a comprehensive understanding of a company's alignment with the SDGs, hindering investors' ability to assess the positive and negative contributions of potential investments to these global sustainability targets. In response to this challenge, our consortium of asset owners — APG, AustralianSuper, British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, and PGGM — is currently applying an innovative approach to measuring company alignment with the SDGs. Leveraging both AI and human intelligence, we have developed a methodology for identifying Sustainable Development Investments (SDIs) that enables practical implementation at scale. Our approach goes beyond traditional ESG metrics by focusing on revenue streams from products and services rather than more commonly measured operational impacts such as production emissions. By doing so, we are able to identify the most material activities that investment returns are actually being derived from. Using publicly accessible information and a transparent methodology, we tease out the outputs and outcomes of company activities across vast portfolios, including the geographical distribution of revenues - a critical factor for directing financial flows towards countries where SDG implementation needs the most acceleration. By offering a comprehensive framework for assessing SDG alignment, our approach empowers investors to make informed decisions that shift their capital to where it makes more of a difference. By continuing to innovate and collaborate with academics, we aim to continue the market adoption of SDIs and create an always improving, transparent standard for investment that tackles the challenges of translating SDG Goals into finance for a more sustainable future.

### **Follow-up and Review for Transformation: REI Framework to Accelerate SDG Implementation**

*Nobue Amanuma, Simon Hoiberg Olsen, Shinji Onoda, Fernando Ortis Moya* – Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has dedicated a chapter to follow up and review (FUR) as a key component to ensure accountability of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. Now, almost 10 years into implementation, it is clear that progress on the SDGs has fallen far short of initial ambitions. Among others, this limited progress can be attributed to weak and ineffective FUR arrangements at the national and local levels. FUR is commonly understood to be a part of the cyclical approach to policy, implementation and review. However, in this paper we argue the traditional and incremental approach to policy planning, action, and review is not sufficiently transformative. We combine insights from literature on FUR with empirical research on FUR systems in Finland, Denmark, Germany and Indonesia through document analysis and expert interviews to propose a 'REI Framework'. The framework offers principles and components that can help make SDG implementation architecture and its associated FUR responsive to internal and external shocks from a rapidly changing world, embedded in society, policy and politics, and interactive to build trust, understanding, and knowledge among policy makers and stakeholders. This framework is intended to help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and contribute to the discussion of what may come after the SDGs.

## **Accelerating Progress Toward SDG 10 (inequality) by Supporting Living Wages in Global Supply Chains**

*Elizabeth A. Bennett* – Lewis & Clark College, USA

SDG 10 is ‘reduce inequality within and among countries.’ COVID-19 caused the largest rise in between-country inequality in three decades. Emerging evidence suggests it may have also exacerbated within-country inequality. The 2023 UN SDGs Report focused on the urgency and importance of reversing these trends, in part by expanding social protection and decent jobs (UN Stats, 2023). This research paper argues that one way to accelerate progress toward these goals is by supporting living wages in global supply chains. It shows how several types of actors have recently become uniquely well-positioned to take action on living wages, including the international labor organization (ILO), voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), corporations, and civil society organizations. Earlier this year, the ILO convened a ‘meeting of experts’ on living wages and endorsed the committee’s recommendation that the ILO begin to oversee the development of living wage benchmarks. Over the past five years, VSS such as Fairtrade International have started to develop systems for implementing their living wage standards and roll out pilot projects for living wages. In 2020, Unilever announced that by 2030 its partner companies would pay living wages in global supply chains and nearly 90 corporations have made public commitments to participate. Finally, several civil society organizations and networks, such as the Global Living Wage Coalition, Living Wage Alliance, and Living Wage for US, have been working to support a two-pronged approach that aims to both voluntarily pay a living wage and create an ‘enabling environment’ that supports raising legal minimums and supporting collective bargaining to increase wages. Together, these actors have already started to overcome previous ‘barriers’ to living wages, such as building political will, developing a common methodology for calculation, and improving audit systems.



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## Parallel Sessions Block VI

Venue: Janskerkhof 3

30 August 2024

Time: 15:15-16:45

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### Panel ACCELERATION IX: 'Environment, Circularity and Sustainability

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.13

Chair: *Yi hyun Kang* – Lund University, Sweden

#### Using the Green Economy SDGs to Leverage Economic Transformation

*Mark Elder* – Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan

Discussion of the SDGs' economic dimensions often focus on the resource access targets increasing consumption, especially food (2.1), water (6.1), and energy (7.1) and the targets on economic growth (8.1), infrastructure (9.1) and industrialization (9.2), while SDG interlinkages analysis finds tradeoffs between the SDGs' economic and environmental dimensions, highlighting the dilemma of which targets to prioritize. In contrast, this paper argues that the SDGs also include a set of environment-related "green economy" targets in the so-called economic and social SDGs, which are part of the Open Working Group's integrated approach to create the SDGs. Green economy SDGs include SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and targets on sustainable agriculture (2.4), integrated water management (6.4), energy efficiency (7.2), renewable energy (7.3), sustainable transport (11.2), and sustainable buildings (11.3). Moreover, industrialization and infrastructure (9.1, 9.2) should be "sustainable." Target 8.4 on decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation may be the most important. Decent work (8.2) should focus on green jobs. The green economy targets appear scattered throughout the SDGs. But together, they constitute an integrated approach to reduce poverty and generate economic prosperity while reducing environmental tradeoffs. A more ambitious approach would reinterpret the economic SDG targets to be conditioned on implementing the green economy target measures instead of struggling with tradeoffs. Thus, industrialization and infrastructure should be implemented sustainably or not at all, and economic growth should not be promoted unless it is decoupled from environmental degradation. If decoupling is not physically possible, then economic growth should be restrained. Water access should be provided through integrated water management. To be sure, the green economy targets were based on the concepts of green growth and technological optimism rather than degrowth, and SDG 12 is somewhat outdated, so their transformative potential may be limited, but prioritizing their implementation would still significantly accelerate progress.

## Harmonising Sustainability: Steering Bioeconomy-Sustainable Development Goal Interactions and Influences in Europe

*Anne Warchold & Prajal Pradhan* – University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Despite facing unprecedented challenges, countries around the world are leveraging the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for navigating poly-crisis and building a more resilient and sustainable future. One promising solution in this endeavour is transitioning towards a bioeconomy that utilises renewable resources and low-carbon value chains to meet rising food, energy, and materials demands. Recognising the bioeconomy's potential to catalyse a greener, fairer, and more prosperous future, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) developed a comprehensive blueprint for a sustainable bioeconomy aligned with the SDGs. This indicator framework, comprised of ten principles and twenty-four criteria, provides a monitoring tool for countries to track and guide their transition towards a more sustainable bioeconomy. As a result, a growing number of countries have pledged to endorse this transition, committing to bioeconomy strategies. While not inherently circular nor sustainable, the bioeconomy's interactions with SDGs, and vice versa, are complex. Synthesising insights from recent SDG and bioeconomy research and established frameworks, we employ a holistic approach to navigate this complex nexus. Combining correlation analyses, transfer entropy, and network analyses to reveal interactions, we further draw on literature and content analysis of policy gaps for qualitative insights. Exploring the European context, we updated the unified SDG database, developed a bioeconomy database aligned with the FAO framework, and used relevant bioeconomy policy strategies for the analysis. While initially intended as mutually supportive, the bioeconomy-SDG nexus is characterised by synergies and trade-offs. The bioeconomy framework incorporates the 2030 Agenda to guarantee a sustainable transition; nonetheless, our analysis reveals a balanced influence, with both positive and negative interactions of similar magnitude. However, we observe a significant influence of the SDGs on the bioeconomy, with the positive influence notably outweighing the negative ones. This influence varies significantly across national contexts, shaping diverse network structures, which dilute at the European scale. Given this variation in the significance of interactions across different countries, tailoring bioeconomy transitions and solutions to each national context becomes crucial. Moving beyond broad principles and goals, a granular analysis of BE-SDG interactions, examining individual criteria and target interactions, reveals an intensified and diversified share of directed synergies and trade-offs. Further contributing to this complexity, we observed an unequal prioritization of certain SDGs over others in policy strategies, neither reflecting actual interaction patterns nor urgencies for progress in the respective goals, e.g. emphasis on environmental SDGs in the European strategy, while national strategies lean towards economic SDGs. This selective focus calls for a more balanced approach, ensuring inclusive progress towards all SDGs and unlocking the full potential of the bioeconomy-SDG nexus by leveraging synergies and minimizing trade-offs to harmonize both sustainability initiatives.

## **The Political Effects of Sustainable Development Goal 12 on the United Nations Environment Programme**

*Yuxi Luo* – Utrecht University, The Netherlands

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), renowned for its leadership in global environmental governance, has been actively engaged in promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) initiatives over the years. In 2016, a comprehensive global commitment, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), came into force. Among these 17 SDGs, SDG 12, known as ‘Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,’ stands as one of the pivotal pillars within this framework. Its core mission is to tackle urgent global challenges stemming from unsustainable consumption and production practices by advocating for efficient resource utilization, minimizing waste generation, and nurturing sustainable lifestyles and business models. However, it is not yet clear whether the emergence of the SDGs will enable UNEP to move beyond its original pathways and contribute more strongly to global SCP patterns. Thus, this research endeavours to unravel to what extent and how the launch of SDGs, particularly SDG 12, influence the UNEP’s discourse, norms, and institutions. To accomplish this objective, the study delves into an extensive document analysis and quantitative text analysis of UNEP’s 74 documents, websites, speeches, and resolutions from the United Nations Environment Assembly, aiming to discern evolving trends and shifts in UNEP’s political actions. Additionally, the research conducts approximately 10 semi-structured interviews with both UNEP personnel and external stakeholders to gain deeper insights into the causal mechanism linking SDG 12 with UNEP’s dynamics. By synthesizing empirical evidence and nuanced perspectives, the research findings will enrich the theoretical framework of the field of global governance studies, especially the theoretical framework of the political impact of the SDGs on international organizations. Meanwhile, monitoring the effects of the SDGs is crucial for tracking progress and facilitating the development of alternative tools or political interventions before the 2030 deadline.

## **Analysing Interdependencies in the 2030 Agenda: Reviewing Research Methods**

*Aliya Assubayeva & Jorge Marco Renau* – Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany; University of Andes, Colombia

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the equal importance of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), spanning social, economic, and environmental dimensions. With 169 targets and 230 indicators, achieving these SDGs requires integrated policies rather than fragmented approaches. Recognizing that progress on certain SDG targets can hinder others while advancements in some can positively influence related targets is essential to understanding interdependencies among SDGs and targets. Given the challenge of advancing all SDGs simultaneously, identifying policy priorities within synergistic SDGs and addressing trade-offs among targets could drive forward the Agenda 2030. This study evaluates diverse research methods for exploring SDG interlinkages and identifying synergies and trade-offs. We comprehensively review quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including correlation analysis, network analysis, literature reviews, and expert opinions. Our

focus is on the water-energy-food nexus as a case study. We assess the strengths and limitations of each method and provide recommendations for future research endeavours exploring SDG interlinkages across various contexts, domains, and analytical levels. It is important to clearly state the research objectives, the level of analysis (both geographical and temporal), policy problems, and implications. Research methods should be developed to reveal the directionality of SDG interactions, the strength of interaction, and uncertainties in their models. The current analysis of SDG interactions is based on past data and fails to consider future projections of interlinkages, such as transboundary and intergenerational spill overs. Earlier definitions of sustainable development – intergenerational aspects and the needs of future generations – should be reconsidered, which were later framed to a holistic approach if SDGs mutually support and lead towards sustainable development.

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## Panel DIFFERENTIATION IX: ‘Gender Equality’

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.19

Chair: *Birgit Peters – University of Trier, Germany*

### **Purple Degrowth: An Alternative Framework for Reaching Sustainable Development Goals**

*Burcu Sari – SDG5 Network, Turkey*

This study introduces Purple Degrowth as corrective and holistic theoretical framework of Sustainable Development Goals. Purple Degrowth advocates that it is not possible to keep growth-oriented economy reach social and environmental justice. Grounded in feminist socio-economic principles, Purple Degrowth proposes a care-centric, egalitarian, and environmentally conscious model. It emphasizes the intrinsic interdependence of Sustainable Development Goals, especially gender equality, and the environment. Drawing upon insights from Degrowth and the Purple Economy, this paper presents a holistic vision aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities exacerbated by capitalist policies, especially affecting women in care-deficient and underdeveloped regions. By highlighting the detrimental impacts of exploitative care work and poverty on women, Purple Degrowth offers a compelling alternative to growth-oriented reconstruction. Purple Degrowth offers practical strategies for integrating care-oriented, egalitarian, and environmentally sustainable practices into reconstruction processes foster resilience and inclusivity. This approach not only aligns with Sustainable Development Goals but also contributes to building resilient communities and ensuring environmental sustainability in every day, and especially in post-disaster contexts. Overall, this paper contributes to advancing discussions on degrowth, the care/purple economy, and SDGs by proposing a transformative framework that addresses the intertwined challenges of environmental degradation, care provision, and social inequality.

## Equal Care as a Pathway to reach SDG 5 Gender Equality

*Zühal Yesilyurt Gündüz* – Ted University, Turkey

From life to death and beyond – care is crucial. Practical care refers to housework like cleaning, cooking, laundry. Social care is emotional labour and requires emotional bonding and concern. Without care, human life as we know it is not possible. Care means reproduction and is essential for production: Without reproduction there can't be production. Notwithstanding its significance, the value given to care work is low. Care is either unpaid or underpaid. Care is associated with women in most parts of the world and mostly provided by women and girls and keeps them away from education and working life. According to UNICEF data, 130 million girls worldwide are unable to access basic education due to care obligations. The increasing participation of women in paid labour market has not resulted in a huge decrease in care work of women, as due to gender roles and social pressure, they continue to provide care, which means a double shift for them. This paper declares care as the main obstacle in front of the realization of SDG 5 Gender Equality. Every investment in care work contributes to poverty eradication, gender equality, well-being and development. Therefore, the paper recognizes equal care as the pathway to a caring democracy and the realization of SDG 5 Gender Equality. Equal care means a fair distribution of care work – fair in terms of distribution between sexes, classes, ages, countries. Equal care is a call to public and private beneficiaries of care work not to treat care as a common good and resource for their profit maximization. Equal care demands the rewarding of all care providers and care workers. Equal care requests appreciation, fair distribution, structural support. It puts care work, which is indispensable for human survival, in its rightful place – at the very centre.

## SDG 5: The Critical Role of Data to Drive Gender Equality

*Laura Rahm, Antra Bhatt, Ginette Azcona, & Tara Cookson* – University of British Columbia, Canada; Central European University, Austria

The latest SDG 5 data indicate that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030. The data for monitoring SDG 5 provide a wealth of information on the trajectory of progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, but many gaps remain. Only 55.6 per cent of data required to track progress on SDG 5 is available. Timeliness and frequency of data is also a concern. Important initiatives are ongoing to increase the collection of sex-disaggregated data at the country level, but more efforts are needed. Drawing from latest SDG monitoring data and the annual Gender Snapshot, this chapter reviews the progress and setbacks towards achieving SDG 5. It presents current evidence and data gaps on gender equality across all 17 goals from a gender perspective. It assesses the debates around what types of data are needed to identify and address gender inequalities. Lastly, it offers implications for research and practice on how to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring, and accountability (SDG 17) to advance SDG 5 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In response to GLOBALGOALS2024 conference streams 2 and 5, special attention is placed on the differentiation and dynamization of SDG 5. The paper reflects on the limitations of global indicators and calls for complementary data to advance the SDGs. Examples of complementary data range from community-driven

‘countermapping’ of the lived experiences of women and girls, to nationally adapted indicator frameworks that guide policy-making, to the progress and perils of big data and AI for the advancement of gender equality.

### **The Paths of South America and Brazilian Policies to Reach SDG 5 (online)**

*Daiane Boelbouwer Menezes & Tomás Pinheiro Fiori* – Department of Economics and Statistics/ Secretariat of Planning, Governance and Management / Rio Grande do Sul – Brazil

This paper aims to show the degree of women’s empowerment in South American countries, considering the different paths taken (Women Political Empowerment Index – V-Dem) and to turn the focus to Brazil for analysing its Multi-Year Plan (PPA) 2024-2027, which has a cross-cutting gender agenda. This agenda was made provoking policy makers to think about gender issues while elaborating the current programs – an innovation in the Brazilian planning. An analysis of PPA policies and indicators, and its connections with the index is presented, as well as possibilities of adjustments considering the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 – Gender Equality. Nine indicators compose the women’s empowerment index. The civil liberties index combines freedom of movement within the country, freedom from enforced work, access to justice and property rights. Women’s participation in civil society combines freedom of discussion, participation in civil society organizations and representation among journalists. Finally, women’s political participation is composed of the percentage of women in the lower house and the power distributed by gender assessed by experts. In 2022’s Brazil, only the political participation component has shown any progress, while the other two decreased to 1980s levels, meaning a lot of catching up to do. In this PPA, the policies for women, all with annual goals until 2027, were grouped into four dimensions: Living without violence; Economic autonomy; Equality of decision and power; Health and environment. The civil liberties index is linked to the first and second dimensions. Women’s participation in society and political participation are related to the third dimension – the one Brazil lags behind in South America. Although there are some changes in the country, for instance, concerning political leadership of men and women perceptions (Latino Barometro), changing conditions for women to share power are connected to economic autonomy and the possibility of living without violence.

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**Panel REFORMS IV: ‘Financial Reforms and the SDGs’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.21

Chair: *Lisa-Maria Glass – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*
**Accelerating SDG Implementation in Pakistan through the Establishment of Production-Led Societies: A Model for Local Prosperity and Sustainable Economic Development (online)**
*Asma Fiaz – Quaid-e-Azam University, Pakistan*

The effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals remains a significant challenge, particularly in developing nations like Pakistan, where persistent hurdles such as the lowest per capita income, high inflation rates, and soaring unemployment levels exacerbate social inequalities in South Asia. Merely providing financial assistance, as exemplified by initiatives like the Benazir Income Support Programme, often falls short of addressing the root causes of poverty and unemployment. Despite governmental efforts, such as those through BISP, outcomes frequently fail to meet expectations, highlighting the need for more comprehensive solutions. Therefore, this paper advocates for a production-led approach as fundamental to achieving long-term economic growth and development. By prioritizing SDGs 8 to 10—Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and Reduced Inequalities—policymakers can effectively address these underlying challenges. Through the establishment of production-led societies that foster employment, innovation, and inclusive development, Pakistan can pave the way for sustainable economic prosperity. Moreover, this paper presents empirical evidence drawn from comparative analyses of progress toward SDGs in South Asian countries. Utilizing various economic indicators and employing econometric methodologies, this study offers a comprehensive evaluation of the efficacy of a production-led approach in driving economic growth, prosperity, and societal well-being. Data from reputable sources such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is utilized, encompassing key indicators including GDP growth rates, unemployment rates, poverty levels, inflation rates, infrastructure development indices, and indicators related to industry and innovation. Regression models are then estimated, controlling for relevant covariates such as GDP per capita, education levels, and government expenditure on infrastructure. These variables provide a comprehensive overview of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions relevant to the analysis.

**Understanding Least Developed Countries’ central banks as agents for delivering sustainability transitions and SDGs reforms**
*Dumisani Chirambo & Araba Amo-Aidoo – Seeds of Opportunity, Malawi*

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are in a precarious position in their quest to reduce climate change vulnerability and climate injustice since a lack of adaptation finance and governance challenges are leading to the severe depletion of forest resources, biodiversity and carbon sinks. For example, the 2023 Global Climate Finance Report showed that in 2021/2022 global climate mitigation finance reached US\$1.3 trillion and adaptation

finance reached US\$63 billion. This scenario highlights that the global climate finance goal of achieving a 50/50 split between adaptation and mitigation finance is getting wider rather than reducing, hence the climate finance architecture could be engendering rather than addressing poverty, inequality and injustice in developing countries. The LDC Report 2023 emphasised that central banks rather than development finance institutions could take pioneering roles in fostering climate change related transformative structural changes in LDCs. This exploratory study aims to assess the reforms to policies, mandates and frameworks that LDC central banks can initiate to foster green transformative changes focusing on improving access to climate finance, and the implementation of SDG 8.10 (strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to expand access financial services) and SDG 10.b (encourage financial flows to LDCs). The study research methods included key informant interviews and review of academic literature. The study discovered that most narratives on central bank roles in green transitions have a bias towards Global North priorities of decarbonising energy sectors hence obscuring LDC central bank priorities regarding adaptation. The study concluded that LDC central banks can enhance SDGs reforms and implementation towards just transitions by developing monetary policy frameworks that create pathways for trade policies to align with domestic climate policies and low carbon investment plans.

### **North South Financial Flows for Biodiversity: A Remedy or an Aggravation of Hierarchical Patterns?**

*Morgane Gonon, Jeffrey Althouse & Romain Svartzman – CIRED, France*

Global sustainability policy and discourse increasingly focus on closing a ‘financing gap’ to meet global goals for climate and biodiversity. This has coincided with growing interest in creating and expanding access to new financial instruments, such as payment for ecosystem services, debt-for-nature swaps, green bonds, and biodiversity offsets. The Global Biodiversity Framework (2022) advocates for increased use of these tools to mobilise US\$ 700 billion by 2030, including a specific aim for international support to developing countries of US\$ 30 billion by 2030. The economic literature overwhelmingly assumes that biodiversity losses result predominantly from a lack of financial resources targeted to conservation needs (Brancalion et al., 2019) (Barbier, 2022). Studies of biodiversity finance have thus far primarily focused on the cost-benefit of action (De Groot et al., 2013) and the effectiveness of instruments such as REDD (Groom & Palmer, 2012) (Robinson et al., 2019) and payments for ecosystem services (Jayachandran et al., 2017) (Wunder et al., 2020). This literature assumes that the investment level is the most critical obstacle to halting biodiversity loss. In contrast, a growing body of literature describes how global trade and financial relations structure environmental inequalities between the Global North and South. In particular, the literature on Ecologically Unequal Exchange (EUE) suggests that countries in the Global South are systematically conditioned to depend on exporting pollution- and resource-intensive products to the Global North (Dorninger et al., 2020). Such inequalities, alongside the potential consequences of a change in those patterns, have been almost completely ignored in the literature on ‘green finance’ (Svartzman & Althouse, 2020). Research must therefore clarify whether and how the rush to expand access to new financing measures may need to go with broader institutional and



economic reforms to achieve sustainability goals. Our contribution seeks to determine whether the recent commitment to ‘green’ international financial flows and biodiversity-related aid tends to reinforce or remedy the existing North-South structural unevenness. We analyse the macroeconomic ability of international North-South financial instruments mentioned in the GBF (grant, loans, debt and equity, market-based instruments) to relieve imbalances that could be caused by a ‘Nature Transition’. Our methodology includes vulnerability analysis based on transition scenarios and interviews with representatives of Ministries of Finance in recipient countries. We will use our results to discuss how ‘biodiversity finance’ could be reformed to serve the Global South’s needs while reducing recipient countries’ Balance of payments constraints.

### **Funding the Last Mile: Impact Investing and Blended Finance Vehicles for Inclusive Growth**

*Felicity Jones & Joanna Stanberry* – Money for Madagascar, United Kingdom, and Madagascar; University of Cumbria, United Kingdom

This innovative session offers a knowledge-exchange forum for practitioners working to fund the last mile of inclusive and sustainable growth. Establishing credit methodologies & successful pilot projects is not only about proving concepts but also about laying the groundwork for new markets for ecosystem services to foster environmental regeneration that directly translates into tangible livelihood improvements for local communities. These benefits not only contribute to the well-being of current generations but also ensure that future generations inherit a healthier planet. It is through this lens that impact investing & blended finance vehicles emerge as critical enablers of long-term environmental & socio-economic prosperity. Creating 1600 hectares of natural forest restoration & providing the impetus to bring more land into reforestation & sustainable agro-ecological activities this activity primarily addresses SDG 13 (Climate Action) & addresses SDG 3 (Health of Communities) & SDG16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) building strong community-led partnerships convening universities, NGOs, VOIs & financial actors. Sadabe has been engaging with local communities in the Tsinjoarivo-Ambalalomy area for 20yrs+ in Madagascar. Recent work with ten local community associations (VOIs) has identified the possibility for substantial environmental gains if sustained funding can be leveraged for environmental stewardship. This solution would foster co-production of action-orientated environmental stewardship scheme enabling land-users to access funding in return for acting as environmental stewards. This requires the design & implementation of locally-relevant training & capacity-building schemes which provide communities with effective measures for increasing sustainable yield of subsistence & cash-crops; a robust & well-defined funding mechanism which creates a transparent route for stewardship funding to flow from funders to ecosystem service providers within local communities; verification techniques which provide certainty to both funder & agreement holder that the correct actions are being undertaken; capacity within Sadabe to manage the stewardship scheme & associated partnerships with a view to positioning Sadabe as a future lead partner.

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**Panel FUTURES IV: ‘Innovative Session on the Post-2030 Agenda’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 1.10

Chair: *Johan Schot – Utrecht University, The Netherlands***The Need for a Long-term Deep Transition Perspective on the SDGs***Johan Schot – Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

The stunning failure of short-term thinking in our stewardship of the biosphere around us has made the value and importance of long-term approaches to governance more obvious and urgent than ever before. However, implementing and embedding long-term perspectives into our civilisational design requires more than changing individual minds. Institutions, as a core and critical aspect of our social systems, must be re-oriented towards the long-term, and instilled with the capabilities necessary to act on this. What qualities, capabilities and structures enable an institution to act in the long-term? How can we better equip existing and future institutions to shape the long-term future? How can Long-termism guide institutional design?

**Re-envisioning the SDGs Framework and the Climate Crisis through an Ecocentric Lens: Lessons from the Global South and the Rights of Nature Paradigm***Smit Rajshekhar Patel – Environmental Planner and Independent Researcher, India*

Despite the comprehensive framework outlined by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for achieving global sustainability by 2030, current progress statistics paint a different picture. This paper undertakes a critical analysis of the SDG framework’s inherent anthropocentrism and challenges the prevailing notions of ‘sustainability’. Drawing upon theoretical and philosophical insights from Ecocentrism, Ecosophy, Decoloniality, and Systems Thinking, it delves into the conceptual paradoxes embedded within the SDG framework. It prompts reflection on whether sustainability can be attained solely through energy transitions or if a departure from the ‘growth’ paradigm is imperative, particularly in the global north. The paper employs LULC change mapping, along with tools such as Global Forest Watch, Environmental Justice Atlas, Eco-Jurisprudence Monitor, and Indigenous Navigator, to illustrate how human-environmental relationships are shaped by different worldviews in urban, rural, and indigenous communities. The argument is further reinforced by highlighting the Rights of Nature (RoN) paradigm, not only as a global movement striving to promote alternative conceptualizations of sustainability that prioritize the intrinsic value of ecosystems and communities, but also as an effective litigative tool for adopting ecocentrism and juridical pluralism in policy and governance. The paper further explores the transformative potential of RoN in reshaping policy frameworks and governance systems through case studies from Latin America and South Asia. It showcases the success of RoN community-led initiatives and local governance mechanisms that challenge conventional development models and help rejuvenate the lost harmony between humans and nature. The paper takes a transdisciplinary approach to elucidate the paradoxes and shortcomings inherent in the existing SDG framework, integrating qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and explicates why a shift from egocentrism to

ecocentrism is inevitable, given the limited temporal window remaining for incorporating meaningful transitions.

### **Our Pluriversal Futures: Envisioning just sustainability transitions in the Amazon**

*Fronika de Wit* – Utrecht University, the Netherlands

The field of futures studies is often used as an opportunity to push for sustainability transformations by elaborating a shared vision of the future. This search for common ground, however, presents the idea of sustainable development as the only possible pathway for a sustainable future, cancelling possibilities and imaginaries for what lies beyond its limits. An emerging stream of literature, the Pluriverse, points to a world of many worlds. Contradicting the current hegemonic perspective of sustainable development, it offers a platform for alternative worldviews and practices and enables thought and action beyond the sustainability conventions. This paper combines the field of futures studies with the Pluriverse and studies how to improve the anticipation and imagination of Pluriversal Futures. First, it reviews the literature on participatory futures thinking and the extent to which they take multiple worldviews into consideration. Second, it uses two culturally diverse Amazon regions as its case studies: the State of Acre in Brazil and the department of Ucayali in Peru. Based on a qualitative content analysis of semi-structured interviews it depicts five dissimilar and sometimes conflictual vision-narratives of a safe and just Amazon in 2050. In its discussion, it highlights three critical factors for Pluriversal Futures thinking: 1. Critical reflection on epistemological and ontological differences in Futures thinking; 2. Supporting the articulation of perspectives of excluded groups and removing barriers to indigenous self-determination; and 3. Working with skilled intercultural facilitators. In conclusion, it argues that consensus and common ground are not an endpoint or necessarily desirable; we need knowledge from struggles between multiple worldviews for thinking about sustainability transformations.

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### **Panel SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE VI: ‘Tools, Methods and Education-II’**

Janskerkhof 3, room 0.17

Chair: *Carole-Anne S nit* – Utrecht University

### **Elements for a new Public Policy on Environmental Education in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), from the conservation of a strategic ecosystem with potential for Declaration as a Marine Protected Area: the case of Varadero’s Coral Reef Hope Spot**

*Bladimir Basabe S nchez* – Universidad Nacional Abierta y a Distancia, Colombia

The marine-coastal ecosystem known as Corales de Varadero is the only surviving reef of the polluted Bay of Cartagena, in Colombia: with more than 1.12 km<sup>2</sup>, Varadero is ‘highly diverse in species and habitats, despite being in an area with environmental conditions considered unsuitable for coral development’ (Invemar, 2018). Likewise, Varadero has the global protocol category of Hope Spot for being a site to reverse the damage of negative

human actions, possessing historical-cultural significance, and with economic importance for the surrounding communities (Mission Blue, 2024). While it is true that hope spots are usually marine protected areas in the Earth's oceans, those unprotected marine areas that receive this recognition usually attract the attention of intergovernmental decisionmakers in a State, for their formal conservation. Cartagena de Indias contains settlements of Afro-Caribbean communities located on the island of Tierrabomba (Bocachica, Caño del Oro, Tierrabomba town and Punta Arena), the mouth of the Canal del Dique (Pasacaballos) and the north of the island of Barú (Santa Ana and Ararca), which have historically depended on its environmental goods and services, like the population of the capital city, also. Considering the importance of environmental education with a purpose and contextualized with the environment, 'a society that knows their territory is needed' (Basabe, 2023). In this sense and based on the practice of Sustainable Development Goals 11.4 and 14c from an eventual declaration of the Varadero's Coral Reef Hope Spot as a Marine Protected Area, some conceptual elements are presented for the construction of the first version of the Public Policy on Environmental Education for Cartagena de Indias, with emphasis on the socio-environmental formation of the communities located in influence of this ecosystem.

### **How Can the SDGs be Integrated into In-company and School-based Vocational Training?**

*Michael Scharp* – IZT – Institute for Future Studies and Technology Assessment GmbH, Germany

In German vocational training, 'sustainability' is an overarching position in the training regulations. In future, it is to be taught in an integrative manner in companies when the training regulations are revised. It should then also be integrated into the learning fields of the framework curricula at vocational schools. There are numerous obstacles to achieving this in the German vocational training system. Firstly, sustainability and therefore the SDGs have hardly played a role in regular vocational training to date. There are only isolated projects in this area on a voluntary basis, such as the SDG scouts. There is no systematic examination of the relevance for the professions. On the other hand, there are considerable deficits in the qualification of training and teaching staff, as 'sustainability' is not a training subject for master craftsmen and vocational school teachers. As part of the 'Project Agency for Vocational Education for Sustainable Development' (PA-BBNE), the IZT has therefore produced further training and teaching material for trainers (companies) and teachers. The training regulations (companies) and framework curricula (vocational schools) were analysed for 82 occupational profiles with 128 specialisations and focal points of vocational training. Three materials were created on this basis: 1. Impulse papers for in-company training: A simplified tabular presentation was chosen here. The standard occupational profile item 'Environmental protection and sustainability' was operationalised. For many topics such as energy, materials, water, IT equipment, environment, society or health, explicit competences were named that should be acquired. 2. Background materials for teaching in vocational schools: For each occupational profile, it was examined which SDGs could be particularly relevant. Their importance was explicitly outlined and the connection with the job profile was shown. It is shown how the respective occupations can have a positive impact on the SDGs. 3. Handouts and PowerPoint presentation: A set

of slides was developed for the teaching, focussing on conflicting sustainability goals. The slides will be used to discuss how operational activities can be made more sustainable.

## **Serious Games for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals**

*Feng Mao* – University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Achieving the SDGs requires innovative, people-centred, and engaging tools to drive transformative change. Among these, serious games stand out as promising instruments for fostering education, training, stakeholder involvement, and shifts in behaviour, especially in a sustainable development context. As tools extending beyond mere entertainment, serious games provide immersive experiences that heighten the awareness of stakeholders and policymakers about their immediate challenges, enabling them to envision and strategise for a sustainable future. However, entering this domain poses significant hurdles for newcomers. To mitigate these challenges, we have crafted the ‘Serious Games Cookbook,’ a primer for beginners on applying and creating serious games. This guide delves into vital aspects of serious game utilisation, including setting clear objectives, choosing suitable games for these objectives, and orchestrating engaging game sessions. It also explores the intricacies of serious game design, such as content selection, game mechanics, player involvement, and techniques for influencing perspectives. In this paper, we will introduce the process behind the Cookbook’s development and examine how this guide, alongside the concept of serious games, can act as a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Integrating Global Goals into Higher Education Institutions: Emerging Trends**

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The role of Higher Education Institutions in providing and ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education is central to global goals but the developmental orientation of these institutions has been a subject of scholarly and public debates. The Sustainable Development Goals have renewed those debates by drawing attention to the need to align university missions and strategies with the global goals. This paper draws on case studies from around the world to highlight emerging trends arising from efforts to integrate the global goals into university research strategies. The paper proceeds from the premise that the contributions of universities to Sustainable Development Goals and how this is assessed requires attention to whether and how these goals are embedded into the institutions. The objective of the paper is to contribute towards a framework for assessing the intentional approaches to global goals by Higher Education Institutions. Such an assessment is helpful for understanding the extent to which universities have incorporated global goals into their core business, and how these goals in turn have shaped universities.