

GLOBAL COUNCILS ON SDGS 2021/23

PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2022

Accelerating the global implementation
of the 2030 Agenda

Abstract

The progress report provides a high-level overview of the proposed work plans of the Global Councils on SDGs 2021/2023. Work plans are being finalized in collaboration with members to the respective Councils. The respective Council Chairpersons are diverse, and presents multiple sectors including the public- and private sector, international organizations, and NGO's.





The second term of the Global Councils on SDGs will divert from a singular SDG approach to a nexus approach. Giving the complexity and interlinkages of the SDGs, the Councils will galvanize and accelerate the implementation of the goals through innovative partnerships, inspiring projects, and informative white papers that will advance our understanding of one another as well as the challenges we face as a society today.

Her Excellency Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashimy

Minister of State for International Cooperation
Director General of Expo 2020 - Dubai

President of the Global Councils on SDGs
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs

The Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals

The Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established during the 2018 World Government Summit held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals is a unique interdisciplinary network of decision makers from governments, international organizations, academia, charitable organizations, and the private sector, which will work together to oversee innovative projects and discuss creative ideas towards the implementation of the 17 SDGs at national and global levels. The Councils will create global partnerships to build back better in response to the COVID19- pandemic and in line with the Decade of Action. The Councils will each contribute to the SDG Acceleration Actions to inspire action around the world towards promoting the implementation of the SDGs. The Councils will analyze, conceptualize, implement, measure impact, and report on progress, at the World Government Summit - SDGs in Action on an annual basis.

The 'Decade of Action' necessitates transformation. The implementation of a new 'nexus model' that supports the Councils to better interconnect their work programs, will accelerate actions towards achieving the SDGs. In this term, the focus will move to a nexus model ensuring an impact-driven approach that will support the Global Councils to address different Global Goals in a single project, with the exception of a selection of Councils who are continuing first term projects and endeavors.

A soft launch of the Global Councils on SDGs 2023/2021 took place in September 2021. Since the soft launch, Council Chairpersons has been working towards appointing high profile members to their respective Councils. The Councils aim to work on creating new partnerships between countries, organizations, and sustainable development advocates for the implementation of SDGs through the discussion of innovative solutions, and integration of their findings into the United Nations and other global fora on SDGs.

The second term of the Global Councils on SDGs (2023-2021) will have 18 Councils drive impact towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through innovative projects, whitepapers, or initiatives to rebuild sustainably in a post COVID19- world.

The objective of the progress report is to centralize all efforts from the Global Councils on SDGs 23/2021, whilst providing a high-level overview of the respective focus areas, objectives, milestones, potential impact and measures.





Her Excellency
Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation,
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs
President of the Global Councils on SDGs



His Excellency
Omar bin Sultan Al Olama
Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence,
Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications,
Managing Director of the World Government
Summit Organization



His Excellency
Abdulla Nasser Lootah
Director General of the UAE Prime Minister's Office,
Vice-President of the Global Councils on SDGs



The Global Councils on SDGs 2021 to 2023 Chairpersons:



HE Suhail bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure
United Arab Emirates



Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin
Executive Director,
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
and Special Envoy (UN)



Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate
Julio Frenk Professor of the Practice
of Public Health Leadership
Harvard



Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab
Deputy Director-General
World Health Organization



HE Dr. Tariq Al Gurg
Chief Executive Officer and
Vice-Chairman of Dubai Cares



HE Mona Al Marri
Vice President of the
UAE Gender Balance Council
and Director General
of the Dubai Media Office



HE Francesco La Camera
Director General of International
Renewable Energy Agency
(IRENA)



Ibrahim N. Al-Zu'bi
Chief Sustainability Officer
Majid Al Futtaim Holding



Hon. Rt. Helen Clark
The 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand,
and former Administrator of the
United Nations Development
Programme



Dr. Tatyana Teplova
Head of Division, Policy Coherence
for SDGs, Senior Counsellor for
Gender Equality, Justice and
Inclusiveness, OECD



Marie Aimee Boury
Head of Impact Based Finance
at Societe Generale
Corporate and Investment
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Isobel Abulhoul
Chief Executive Officer and Trustee
of The Emirates Literature
Foundation



Dr. Manal Taryam
Chief Executive Officer
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Noor Dubai Foundation



Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar
Chief Executive Officer of the
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation
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Dr. Elizabeth Cousens
President and Chief Executive Officer
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Luc Remont
Executive Vice-President -
International Operations,
Schneider Electric



Mohammad Al Hashimy
Deputy Group General Counsel
and Company Secretary,
DP World



Hana Al Rostamani
Group Chief Executive Officer,
First Abu Dhabi Bank



Clint Brown
Director of Product Engineering,
Esri





Global Council on SDG 1

No Poverty



Today we are at critical crossroads as the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major setbacks for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). With the SDGs already off-track even prior to the pandemic, the road to recovery is steeper than ever. We are now facing critical diversions as Advanced Economies were in a better position to respond to the pandemic compared to Emerging Market and Developing Economies who were fiscally constrained. To bring the SDGs back on track, national budgets need to include SDGs priorities while, at the same time, consistent and coordinated efforts to foster partnerships to achieve the SDGs should be intensified.

Mahmoud Mohieldin

Executive Director, IMF, and UN Special Envoy on Financing SDGs, UN

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The Global Council on SDG1 will aim in its second term to produce two brief policy notes with specific focus and policy-oriented recommendations on:

- Economic implications of climate change, managing the transition, and ending poverty: This policy note will be linked with COP27 and COP28
- Maximizing the economic benefits of digital transformation to end poverty

The two policy notes will have a global, regional and national focus, and will be expected to cover different areas of data analysis, policy recommendations and partnerships.

The notes will not only serve as deliverables of the Global Council on SDG1 for this term, but will also provide important background papers that can be presented during COP27 in November this year and during the Annual Meetings in Marrakesh.

Milestones

- The council will aim to produce two preliminary policy notes by April, 2022
- Final drafts to be presented during the Annual Meetings in Marrakesh (October) and during COP27 in Egypt (November)

Potential impact and measures

The Global Council on SDG1 will focus on providing solutions to end poverty that build on two important areas: climate change and digitalization. On the former, helping countries that are vulnerable to climate change build climate resilience, including through mitigation and adaptation policies, can lead to significant economic benefits and help in ending poverty. On the latter, digitalization can serve as a tool to reduce disparities between the rich and the poor, hence the second policy note will aim to propose focused policy recommendations to help countries maximize the economic benefits of digitalization through investing in ICT infrastructure, digital education, supporting financial innovation and financial literacy as means to reduce the digital divide and eradicate poverty.



Global Council on SDG 3

Good Health and Wellbeing (Co-Chair)



The SDG3 Global Council is poised as a platform to catalyze innovations to reach scale for impact in countries and empowering individuals and their families

Dr Muhammad Pate

Julio Frenk Professor of Public Health Leadership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



Health is a fundamental human right and Universal Health Coverage is fundamental in achieving that right. Unfortunately, even before COVID19, the world was off track to achieving UHC and SDG 3 overall, which is even more the case today. Strengthening health systems, based on strong PHC with essential public health functions is our main solution for recovery and building forward: to accelerate progress towards UHC; to build resilience for health systems and health security; and to access quality services for health and wellbeing in an integrated way in our everyday environment. The SDG 3 Council will add momentum with global advocacy to these efforts and therefore we are delighted to launch the work plan today for the next 2 years.

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab

Deputy Director General, World Health Organization



High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

In this term, the council will focus on expanding the scope and scale of the innovations to reach those left furthest behind to put health and well-being in the hands of communities, evaluating progress, and encouraging course-corrections and promoting policy, regulatory and financial enablers for their adoption at scale. In addition, to share the insights and lessons learned from the work of our council through a white paper at the end of our term. This will happen through the focus on the three areas stated below:

- Global advocacy and building momentum
 - Universal Health Coverage, service coverage, quality and financial protection
 - Resilient health systems based on PHC, with stronger public health functions and improved preparedness
 - Population health (with all the prevention, promotion, protection elements).
- Catalyzing the uptake and scale up of innovations
 - Relieving structural constraints for governments and public institutions to buy-in and take innovations to scale.
 - Adopting & sustaining innovations (Health In Your Hands – HIYH – and beyond).
- Knowledge and learning
 - Generating insights and sharing knowledge to mobilize political commitment and action in countries

Milestones

- Working group on identifying and relieving structural constraints (politics, policies, laws and regulations, procurement procedures, financing, or other) to scaling innovations, with the aim to make progress in alignment with the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Action Plan (GAP) and its Accelerators.
- Align GC SDG3 members participation at key events on the roadmap to the United Nations High Level Meetings for Universal Health Coverage 2023 – 2021.
- Target public and private fora connected with World Global Summit hosted by UAE.
- Assist to make HIYH and other innovations financially sustainable and scaled up.
- Gather good practice and develop white paper based on Implementation of HIYH and other complementary efforts.

Potential impact and measures

Hastening the development and expansion of the reach and depth of innovations to increase access and quality of services by those left furthest behind to improve their health and well-being.



Global Council on SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



History will remember us as the generation that had the choice to reclaim education's role in shaping a human-centric future. This Decade of Action is an opportunity for us to enable the disruptive change we need to be remembered as the generation that had that choice and exercised it as well.

HE Dr. Tariq Al Gurg

Chief Executive Officer and
Vice Chairman of Dubai Cares

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The RewirEd Summit brought the global education community together to scale and jumpstart the positive transformation needed in education that can achieve SDG4 with a focus on 3 key pressing areas of Youth, Skills and the Future of Work; Innovation in Education; and Education Financing. Recognizing the centrality of education to all other SDGs, the RewirEd Summit convened stakeholders from across actors and sectors including new and unlikely allies, ranging from high-level decision makers to policy leaders, as well as youth, the private sector, international organizations, and foundations to identify collective pathways for impact going forward.

In that light, the focus of the Global Council for SDG4 will be carrying this legacy forward, in alignment with the UN Secretary-General's landmark Our Common Agenda report and the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the Transforming Education Summit, and operationalizing of this legacy through advocacy, policy, evidence and programming through a new education ecosystem that harnesses connectivity, technology, and partnerships to enable all children and youth to become architects of a future that is truly human.

Milestones

The full details of the milestones will take shape in the first Quarter of 2022 as the Council convenes for its first round of consultations. However, at a high level, the milestones will centre around the various components of operationalization of the RewirEd Summit outcomes beginning with the RewirEd Outcomes Report, advancing and leveraging the emerging partnerships among new and unlikely allies, collaborative consultations around a unified education agenda as expressed in the strong alignment with the aforementioned UN SG reports and the UN Education Transformation Summit, as well as advocacy for and implementation of the newly proposed education ecosystem.

Potential impact and measures

At the core of the Council's focus is advancing human development via accelerated progress towards SDG4 in the Decade of Action with stronger urgency given the challenges of the global pandemic that is threatening to undo hard-earned gains. Through the legacy of RewirEd and the aforementioned objectives, the Council will set the stage to ensure that future generations of young people are prepared for the challenges ahead, by ensuring that they are in the centre of the conversation about transforming education, skills training and lifelong learning, and that the strategic partnerships across sectors and with public education systems, will enable the implementation of a new education ecosystem that puts the human back at the centre of the thinking and doing around education so that the realization of SDG4 paves the way for a future that is truly human.



Global Council on SDG 5

Gender Equality



The second term of the Global Councils on SDGs is exciting, as it supports gender balance through a nexus model, bringing together diverse leaders to address complex challenges. Advancing Gender Balance must be a local and global priority, and this model of partnership is sure to inspire meaningful and integrated global action.

HE Mona al Marri

Vice President, UAE Gender Balance Council

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Pending final confirmation from new council members, the intention is for Global Council on SDG 5 to focus on SDG 5 Target 5.5: “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life”, including the indicators to increase women in political/government positions and in managerial positions. Additionally, the objective is for the Council to emphasize the advancement of women into leadership positions into future-oriented sectors such as government, healthcare, and innovation. Evidence shows women are less likely to hold leadership roles in these areas, and given their current global strategic importance, a work focus on this area will be of international value.

Milestones

- Election of Council members with knowledge and strategic foresight of gender equality in future-oriented sectors (Q1)
- Identification of council priorities by membership (Q2)
- Brainstorming/planning meeting (Q2)
- Project proposal and development (Q4 + onwards)

Potential impact and measures

Success will be measured based on the practical use, global applicability, and interdisciplinary perspective of the Council's project.



Global Council on Enabling Youth Action for SDG 7



I am honoured to Chair the Global Council on SDG 7, as part of the innovative Global Councils on SDGs initiative established by the UAE. I will use this opportunity to elevate the role of young people in achieving a sustainable energy future as has also been mandated by the IRENA Youth Forum. I look forward to working with all of our distinguished Council members to develop and implement concrete solutions that will enable youth action for SDG 7.

HE Francesco La Camera

Director-General, IRENA

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Given the vital role of young people in achieving the SDGs, this Council will have a particular focus on Enabling Youth Action for Achieving SDG 7. The intersection of youth and SDG 7 is often overlooked despite the fact that young people under the age of 25 represent around 40% of the world's population. Their future is under threat if we do not achieve the SDGs. At the same time youth are powerful agents for change and with the right support policies and measures in place can play a crucial role in achieving all of the SDGs, particularly when it comes to SDG 7. Recent years have seen youth play a prominent role in global and local climate and energy agendas.

For example, youth-led advocacy has raised awareness of the need for urgent action while youth-led entrepreneurship has contributed to innovations in energy technologies and services. With additional support in place to facilitate youth-led action we can greatly scale-up the contributions of young people towards achieving SDG 7.

This Council brings together youth leaders and key global thinkers, practitioners and advocates to drive forward youth action for the energy, development and climate agendas. Together they will identify catalytic solutions and initiatives that can contribute to accelerating the realisation of SDG 7.

Milestones

While the work programme is still to be finalised based on inputs from all Council members initial ideas for activities and achievements centre on:

- The launch of training programmes and activities that will build the capacity of young people to contribute to achieving SDG 7.
- The development of peer education toolkits that can be used by youth leaders to build the capacity of young people within their networks and constituencies. This activity follows from a need identified during the Youth 4 Climate pre-COP in Milan 2021 and will be launched in time for COP 27.
- The creation of resources that can help young innovators and entrepreneurs develop and finance their renewable energy projects.

Potential impact and measures

Successful realization of this Council will lead to:

- The elevation of Youth voices and concerns within the international energy agenda
- The strengthening of the skills and capacity of Youth to contribute to the scaling up of renewable energy use
- An increase in youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship in the renewable energy sector

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11

Sustainable Cities and Communities, with impact on SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy



With global systems undergoing changes of unprecedented proportions, and as the world emerges from one of the largest challenges, we must ask ourselves, how do we build back better? The SDGs offer a comprehensive framework to build future-readiness to ensure our cities provide safety, prosperity, and accessibility to all. Through the global council on SDG 11, we are calling for collective action to accelerate the scaling and deployment of sustainable solutions to build resilient and sustainable cities around the world and drive progress towards this goal. I look forward to the tangible and actionable insights that will result from this upcoming term.

**HE Suhail bin Mohamed Al
Mazrouei**

Minister of Energy and Infrastructure,
United Arab Emirates

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The council will work through its second term to build on the success of the first, specifically focusing on targets -11A, -11B, -11C. The council has already put together a proposal for its roadmap through the two years, mapping out three main pillars.

Firstly, the council is proposing to focus on access to finance by collaboratively designing a toolkit that will provide tailor-made recommendations to help better package SDG11 solutions to attract better and more sustainable finance. Additionally, the council aims to map a worldwide network of financing vehicles and offer support to all startups and solutions in communicating with these. Secondly, the council intends to work on thought leadership through policy-driven white papers, case studies and reports. One of the main deliverables of this pillar is expected to be a City Insights Report, that provides current state analyses of successful models of various global cities in building sustainable cities and communities, future state vision of cities that are designed to be resilient to pandemics, and a showcase of new streams of urban solutions, painting a picture of cities post-COVID-19.

The final pillar is proposing a focus on capacity building, by leveraging local and regional success stories, and through identifying platforms through which the council will facilitate training and awareness sessions.

Milestones (Key Deliverables and Events:)



Potential impact and measures

- One report on Sustainable Cities and Communities post-covid, two policy-driven white papers on topics to be nominated by members, and three data-driven use cases for SDG11
- Facilitate access to financing for one Sustainable Cities and Communities project either locally or globally
- Creating a repository of success stories and best practices from all around the UAE (and potentially GCC), Upscaling the existing SDG11 High-level Implementation Framework, and building capacity in the region (and potentially globally)
- Showcasing UAE's effort to mobilizing resources for the SDGs through participation in global platforms, creating meaningful partnerships, and knowledge sharing



Global Council on SDG 13

Further identify climate-related risks and understand and promote for climate modelling and risk assessments



With 2030 less than a decade away, the climate crisis will become a real emergency if we do not act, immediately and together. I am honoured and humbled to chair the Global Council on SDG 13, as we marshal our efforts from around the world to save our planet and sustain its liveability. I look forward to working with the council members on creating climate resilience and adaptability.

Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi

Chief Sustainability Officer, Majid Al Futtaim

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

- Become the resource for net zero and climate resilience
- Spread awareness and know-how for public and private sectors as they embark on their climate action and net zero journeys
- Work with the UAE government and other stakeholders on the strategic objective of becoming net zero by 2050
- Lay the foundation for UAE's climate action efforts
- Work with the UAE and other stakeholders in addressing the climate crisis and creating investment opportunities before, during, and post COP28

Milestones

Ongoing private-private and public-private partnerships have showcased various successes and case studies that bring us a step closer to shifting economies towards net zero and carbon resilience. This includes producing a guide on How to Net Zero for the private and public sector which will raise awareness on the climate crisis. Through sustainable and climate finance, SDG13 council members and other organisations are witnessing tangible returns on investments and an increase in brand value and investor interest.

Potential impact and measures

- Setting ambitious net zero commitments
- Encouraging member companies and stakeholders to adopt climate-risk modelling and carbon neutrality measures
- Build regional capacity to respond to climate challenges
- Design initiatives that will mobilize societies towards innovating for climate
- An increase in the knowledge transfer and level of awareness in regard to net zero and how it can be achieved



Global Council on SDG 16

With a focus on strong institutions for all sectors, leadership, policies & education



Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, countries have been confronted with even more complex challenges. To achieve the SDGs, there needs to be serious investment in building the capacity of countries' public administrations. Members of the Global Council on SDG 16 have expertise on different aspects of leadership and governance. Building on the Leadership4SDGs initiative, we will strive to develop a high quality offer to help country leadership succeed.

Right Honorable Helen Clark

The 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand, and former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The achievement of SDG16 is a prerequisite for the achievement of all the other SDGs, including SDG13 and the climate agenda and touches upon all of the 5 Ps (Peace, People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships). Only with people-centred, competent and effective leadership for the common good, supported by well-governed and well-functioning institutions can we expect a more peaceful, secure, just, equitable and sustainable world. This implies a Nexus between the GC on SDG 16 and all other Global Councils. Therefore, the GC on SDG16 will establish contacts with all other GCs in 2022, but will start with the Nexus Peace, People and Planet SDG 16 – SDGs 5-1 – SDG 15-12 and will discuss with the respective GCs:

- The relationship between capacitated and effective leadership and governance and the success on their agendas
- Supporting the achievement of their goals by capacity building as to leadership and governance
- Partnerships with relevant other organizations – ecosystems

Possible outcomes of the Global Council on SDG 16

- Pilot Leadership program directed to Government and civil servants for leadership and capacity development
- Pilot program for civil servants on leadership and capacity development (Ref. concept note on L4SDGs & L4SDGs+); in the process an analysis will be made of specific issues of importance to address
- An initial ecosystem & coordination mechanism in place (a mutually reinforcing group of involved / implementing organizations) geared towards supporting countries to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.
- Communication strategy directed at awareness building among governments of the importance of achieving SDG16 as a precondition for positive peace, and inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development – SDG+16

Milestones

- Laying foundations of inclusive & sustainable socioeconomic development by leadership & capacity building initiatives for public service thru Leadership4SDGs
- 1 pilot co-created & implemented with participating government(s) on Leadership 4 SDG's
- Innovative online tools developed and implemented for trainings and workshops
- Design leadership for SDG's competencies framework

Potential impact and measures

To establish strong & well-functioning institutions, cohesive & peaceful societies, inclusive & sustainable economic growth by acting on leadership 4 SDG's. SDG 16 is an engine for progress and an enabling tool for all other Goals. Examples of how we can measure impact through increasing awareness in societies:

- 10 leadership talks
- 2 forums
- 3 round table discussion
- 1 leadership framework
- 100 champions



Global Council on SDG 17

Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships to enhance PCSD in SDG implementation



In the spirit of SDG 17, I see policy coherence for sustainable development – PCSD – as a particularly important lever for success. Harnessing synergies and avoiding costly trade-offs, both at home and abroad, will be critical for driving change and accelerating progress on the SDGs

Tatyana Teplova

Head of Division, Policy Coherence for the SDGs, Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The Council has a vision to strengthen the means of implementation, notably SDG target 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development PCSD, and to revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

The Council's work plan has five main objectives:

- Promoting integrated and coherent solutions to global challenges and ensuring that short-term recovery measures are aligned with long-term sustainability commitments
- Identifying areas where innovative solutions can accelerate progress and have the greatest impact not only domestically but also in other countries, particularly in developing countries
- Monitoring and evaluation of PCSD and SDG governance linked with SDG implementation outcomes
- Building civil service capacity for the SDGs to ensure that governments are equipped with “fit-for-purpose” skills
- Building partnerships and digital tools to facilitate peer-learning and policy dialogue, including between the Global Councils

Milestones

To achieve its objectives, the Council will aim to develop a number of knowledge products. These may include: analytical input on governance tools and institutional capacity for PCSD in line with the OECD Recommendation on PCSD; capacity building modules to strengthen civil service skills for the SDGs; and partnerships and online platforms to accelerate coherent SDG implementation, including through the launch of a PCSD Observatory and the creation of data-driven dashboards and performance measures to track the impact of policy measures driven by the Council.

Potential impact and measures

The desired impact of the Council includes: greater application by countries of governance tools for the SDGs together with stronger national mandates, structures and processes for PCSD; improved data accessibility and interpretability to assess policy coherence; strengthened civil service skills for SDG implementation; an increased evidence base and improved channels for peer-learning on PCSD.

SDG Finance Advisory Board



As Chair of the SDG Finance Advisory Board, I am pleased to gather a group of highly experienced and passionate professionals from different parts of the investing and financing ecosystem to pool our knowledge and networks and maximise funding access for the initiatives of the SDG Global Councils. Financing the SDGs requires collaborative effort from all sectors in order to meet the financing gaps and achieve Agenda 2030 in this Decade of Action.

Marie-Aimee Boury

Head of Impact Based Finance,
Societe Generale

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

For any initiative submitted by any of the SDG Councils, the SDG Finance Advisory Board proposes to assess its financing needs and make recommendations in terms of:

- The structuring of the value proposition of the projects to ensure that the key concerns of early stage finance providers are addressed;
- Identification of potential funding sources including Blended Finance facilities providing catalytic funding from Technical Assistance budgets, Foundations, and/or companies' CSR budgets.
- Identification of relevant precedents in the market, if any, and possible financing structures to optimize investors' appetite;
- Identification of relevant existing collaborative initiatives that could provide support to the proposed project and possibly offer a partnership approach to combine resources and optimize outcomes;
- Introduction to the SDG Fin AB members' wider networks to advise on ways of support to the initiative development and kick start the funding sought

Milestones

Milestones will be determined once the FinAB has a more comprehensive view of the requests and needs from the other Councils.

The first work stream has been launched with the SDG 3 Global Council with a focus on the selection of 10 Health In Your Hands (HIYH) innovations that are looking for funding support, with a goal to demonstrate examples of a hybrid approach to financing the SDGs across the spectrum of capital, over the course of the 2-year period with a select number of these innovations, and in particular countries of implementation.

Potential impact and measures

To be determined once the FinAB has a more comprehensive view of the requests and needs from the other Councils. The impact and measures are likely to be linked to the outcomes targeted by the other Councils supported by the FinAB (e.g. number of HIYH innovations advised on their fundraising strategies, and resultant outcomes)

NOTE: The SDG Finance Advisory Board consists of a panel of experts and practitioners from different sectors of the philanthropy, investment and finance ecosystem who will work together to advise and support access to funding for the initiatives launched by the SDG Global Councils. This support will comprise advice and guidance on investment and financing readiness, assessment of suitable funding opportunities and direct introductions to the relevant parties as well as other support that may be deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis, to assist in the implementation of, and/or scale-up of the initiatives. The Finance Advisory Board members will not be providing direct funding to the initiatives from within their own resources unless it is of particular interest to their respective organisations.



SDG Nexus – Cataract and refractive error services part of the Katsina Eye Care Program in Nigeria

(a nexus model for SDGs 1, 3, 4 and 5)

Cataract and refractive error are the two major causes of blindness and visual impairment globally responsible for vision loss in over 2.2 billion people in the world.



We are delighted to take part in the official launch of the second term Global Council on SDGs. In line with the UN resolution acknowledging eye care services as part of the Universal Health Coverage relevant to achieving SDG goals 3 and 4, in addition to the global WHO indicators recognized by the UN, our Council will showcase the cataract outreach services and school eye-health components of our comprehensive eye care program in the Katsina state of Nigeria targeting SDG 3 with cross linkages to SDGs 1 ,4 and 5.

Dr. Manal Taryam

Chief Executive Officer & Board Member
Noor Dubai Foundation,

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The Katsina Eye Care Program aims at improving the quality of life and the socioeconomic status of the people of Katsina state and will contribute to reducing blindness and visual impairment in the state by at least 30% - 40%.

- Raise the effective cataract surgical coverage in Katsina state by at least 50%, taking into consideration gender equality, within 4 years.
- Improve refractive error services among school children in parts of Katsina state by at least 50%, with an increase in effective refractive error coverage among the students screened in selected schools within 2 years.

Milestones

- Conduct 11,000 cataract surgery in the state in 4 years
- Ensure more than 80% of operated cases achieve good surgical outcomes
- Ensure gender equality in the cataract surgery delivery such that at least 50% of recipients are women
- Eye Screening of 160,000 elementary school pupils across 160 elementary schools in the state
- Eye screening of 3,000 teachers in the 160 schools
- Provide refractive error corrections to at least 1,500 pupils and 1,500 teachers

Potential impact and measures

Potential Impact:

- Reduction in people and children with blindness or visual impairment
- Improved productivity and socioeconomic status of treated people
- Improve learning, academic and psychological development of children with visual impairment
- Bridging of gender inequality in access to eye care services.

Main indicators:

- Effective cataract surgical coverage by gender
- Cataract surgical rate by gender
- Percentage of good surgical outcome
- Effective refractive error coverage by gender among school children
- % of treated children with improved academic performance

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG Nexus – Nomu, a new national youth development initiative

(a nexus model for SDGs 4, 8 and 17)



Harmonizing the talent ecosystem through multi sector partnerships is essential to support UAE youth in achieving their aspirations and building a sustainable future. Nomu, meaning “growth” in Arabic, is an AGFE initiative that will serve as a scalable model where youth are recognized, valued, and supported by industry as critical actors in the sustainable development of the UAE and internationally.

Dr Sonia Ben Jaafar

Chief Executive Officer,
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar's council plan will implement Nomu, a new national youth development initiative in response to the UAE's commitment to sustainable development and in support of the country's vision for the future.

- Nomu will upskill and reskill 25,000 Emirati youth by 2025 to meet the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- Nomu shows commitment to Emirati talent development, workplace preparation, and upskilling opportunities in partnership with leading industry actors to increase the competitiveness of the nation's youth.
- Nomu meaning 'growth' is in line with the goals of the 'Projects of the 50' agenda and will support UAE citizens to remain competitive and meet the growing needs of future labor market.

Milestones

- Q2021 4: Launch Nomu Initiative
- Q2021 4: Establish partnership with University Leadership Council
- Q2022 1: Launch first project: Digital upskilling project to equip youth in being work ready and lead UAE digital future
- Q2022 1: Launch first phase of Co-operative education model in the UAE in partnership with universities and corporate sector
- Q2022 2: Establish Youth Council for AGFE (advisory function)
- Q2022 2: Launch second project: partnership project focused on specialized skills in different sectors for Emirati youth
- Q2022 3: Establish Advisory Council for Nomu
- Q2023 4: Share Knowledge Product
- Q2025 4: Upskill 25,000 Emiratis into elevated livelihoods

Potential impact and measures

- Q2025 4: Upskill 25,000 Emiratis to be more employable
- Q2025 4: Equip 20,000 Emirati youth with digital foundational skills
- Q2025 4: Provide 5,000 Emirati youth with workplace learning and experiential learning experiences in partnership with industry partners
- Q2025 4: Share a model with knowledge products to replicate and adapt the model in the region



SDG Nexus – Energy Efficiency

(a nexus model for SDGs 7, 11 and 12 to impact 13)



Energy efficiency is fundamental to ensuring we meet our global climate goals and hitting net zero carbon emission goals by 2050. The work the Global Council will do in this space will guide both governments and organizations to put in place energy efficiency standards and technologies that are best-in-class. I am honored to be able to drive this forward along with esteemed industry peers and colleagues.

Luc Remont

Executive Vice-President, International Operations, Schneider Electric

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Energy efficiency and renewable energy are the main pillars of the energy transition. While different paths can mitigate climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency provide the optimal pathway to deliver the majority of the emission cuts needed at the necessary speed. Together they can provide over 90% of the energy-related CO₂ emission reductions that are required according to research from IRENA, using technologies that are safe, reliable, affordable and widely available. To meet the human resource requirements of renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors in rapid expansion, education and training policies would need to meet the skill needs of these sectors and maximising local value creation. A transition that generates fair and just socioeconomic outcomes will avoid resistances that could otherwise derail or halt it. Transforming the socioeconomic system is one of the most important potential benefits.

The questions the Council ask are:

- How do we accelerate energy efficiency projects?
- What role can governments play in promoting energy efficiency?
- How can we promote financing for energy efficiency?
- Where should we innovate in the energy efficiency space?

Milestones

- Definition of the best areas for energy efficiency improvements.
- Review of the latest technologies in the energy efficiency space.
- Understanding of means and ways to finance energy efficiency projects.
- Sharing of leading legislation that will promote and spur energy efficiency projects.
- A study into non-technical/financial barriers to energy efficiency, focusing on emerging markets.

Potential impact and measures

A toolkit designed to support both governments on policy changes they can make, as well as guidance for organizations to educate them on what energy efficiency is, how they can implement energy efficiency and the benefits they will see. This toolkit will include advice on how to finance energy efficiency projects, as well as communications methodology on how to garner support for energy efficiency projects.

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



SDG Nexus – Energy – Climate – Innovation

(a nexus model for SDGs 7, 9, 13)



I am proud to bring together a strong group of leaders dedicated to prosperity, innovation and sustainability to develop future fuel opportunities in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Hana Al Rostamani

Group Chief Executive Officer,
First Abu Dhabi Bank

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

The Global Council will focus on the topic of Future Fuels and their role in the net zero transition. The scope will investigate data, technologies, infrastructure and policies necessary to innovate, adopt and scale production and utilization in line with net zero transition goals.

We aim to act as a platform that enables collaboration to happen – focusing on both knowledge sharing and catalyzing innovative tangible projects. The council's program will illustrate thought leadership on how future fuels can contribute and accelerate the rate of progress on achieving SDG 7 ,9 and 13 at a national and international level.

Milestones

- Council agree on desired outcomes, working methods, project plan and success measures,
- Report: Gap analysis on future fuels in UAE and priority regions,
- Implementation progress on “Light-house project” against project plan milestones,
- White paper on future fuels opportunities, barriers, and the Global Council's recommendations to encourage and scale future fuels in the UAE and priority regions.

Potential impact and measures

- # Bilateral and/or multilateral partnerships established,
- # Projects or MoUs initiated by the Global Council across priority areas,
- % of lighthouse project's contribution to energy mix in the UAE by 2050,
- Amount of financial commitments attributed to new research or projects future fuels in the UAE or in partnership with the UAE.



SDG Nexus – Food System Innovation and Climate Change

(a nexus model for SDGs 2 and 13, with relevance for SDGs 1, 3 and 15)



A healthy planet and healthy people demand transformation of our critical life support systems, starting with food and climate. We need new imagination, investments, and innovations to ensure that our global food system can feed billions while contributing to a healthy climate and healthy, equitable societies. Our Global Council will work at the intersection of these issues to increase strategic attention to critical food systems innovations and practices with the greatest potential to advance the SDGs.

Dr Elizabeth Cousens

President and CEO, United Nations Foundation

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

We cannot solve the climate crisis or achieve the SDGs without transforming agriculture and food systems. Food and nutritional security are inextricably linked to a predictable climate and healthy ecosystems. Farmers and rural communities can build resilience against future climate shocks by adopting more sustainable practices and technologies, many of which will also offer climate mitigation and adaptation opportunities. It is also widely acknowledged that agri-food system transformation relies on research and development to fuel innovation in national and sectoral strategies and to empower agri-food system actors. Research investments contribute to multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals, but they are especially significant for combatting climate change impacts (SDG 13) on food production (SDG 2) and using food systems innovations to contribute to climate mitigation and resilience.

The main goal for this Global Council is to advance food systems innovation to help solve climate change and accelerate the social, economic, and environmental transformations needed in this Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs. This Council will shape a positive, inclusive narrative for agrifood system innovation and facilitate convergence on investment priorities, with particular interest in areas of innovation that have historically been underappreciated, including expanded participation in establishing research priorities.

Milestones

- Regular engagement by the Global Council with key moments on the international climate change and food systems calendar
- Op-eds and other written pieces on the food systems innovation-climate change nexus
- By COP27 (November 2022): Global Council white paper on food systems innovation and climate change highlighting key policy priorities.

Potential impact and measures

- Strengthened connections on the nexus of food systems innovation and climate change
 - **Measures:** elevated political discourse on food system innovation and climate change at the highest levels and across sectors
- Increased global attention to underappreciated pieces of the innovation agenda
 - **Measures:** new global coalitions and policy priorities, including to advance outcomes for smallholder farmers, on agroecology, and on methane emissions from food systems
- Increased investment in a diversified and balanced portfolio of agricultural research and development, especially in ways that enhance equity.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG Nexus – Reading for Pleasure Project

(a nexus model for SDGs 4, 10 and 17)



50 years of research has proven that children who have access to books at home and whose parents read to them regularly from a very early age, will do better at school and have a much higher chance of becoming literate. We are introducing a pilot scheme and working with teachers, parents, and young children, to bring back the joy of reading, storytelling, and fun. Giving a child the precious gift of reading, will last them a lifetime and break the cycle of learning poverty.

Isobel Abulhoul

Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of
The Emirates Literature Foundation

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Giving each child the precious lifelong gift of reading will break the cycle of learning poverty.

A crisis of learning poverty exists across the world, despite governments' financial investment in education.

More than 50 years of scientific research has proven that a high percentage of children who have access to books at home and whose parents read to them regularly from a very early age, will perform well at school across all subjects, be more empathetic, tolerant and have good mental wellbeing.

59% of MENA's children are unable to read and understand an age-appropriate text by age 10. Our council will work with the Ministry of Education and researchers, to introduce a pilot scheme into two schools (KG and Primary), allowing us to work closely with teachers and parents to embed a culture of reading amongst our community.

We will be able to visit on a regular basis, discover from teachers what does and doesn't work, provide classroom libraries, bring in storytellers, hold meetings with parents, and discover reading ambassadors who will support our mission.

This will act as a future educational model that has been researched, verified, and is proven to work. This model can be up scaled across the country as a key tool underpinning a quality education that will eventually eradicate learning poverty.

Milestones

- 2022 - 2023 build-up strong relationships with the two pilot schools, teaching staff and the surrounding communities
- Document progress following each visit, film teachers, students, and parents in action
- Encourage lively and informal discussions about books students have read.
- Invite researchers to design and deliver a research project that meets international standards
- Sign meaningful partnerships that will aid our mission
- Run media campaigns to publicise the benefits of reading for pleasure, parents' roles, and responsibilities. (Month of Reading will be a key target time)
- Speak to the authorities about the Reading Law and some of the clauses that have yet to be implemented (gifting all babies born in the UAE a set of books, no VAT on books are examples)

Potential impact and measures

The two pilot schools become beacons of reading excellence, teachers become passionate about their key role in providing quality education, parents of students become enthusiastic about the benefits of reading, and importantly, students enjoy reading, perform well on assessments, and become more confident.

We will then be able to present the most favourable model for replication across other schools, backed up by research results. The wheel will turn slowly, page by page, book by book, student by student, but the wheel will turn, and the results will be creating lifelong readers and all the advantages that entails.



SDG Nexus – Partnerships for the Goals through three unique initiatives

(a nexus model for SDGs 4, 5, 6, 8 and 17)



As an enabler for global trade DP World recognizes it has a role to play in achieving the SDGs. We are mindful that 2020 - 2030 is the Decade of Action, and therefore a crucial accelerator period to ensure a more sustainable and inclusive future for all. The DP World 'Our World Our Future' sustainability strategy is not only aligned with the SDG's, but takes a data and target driven approach to ensure continuous progress. We will spend the next decade leveraging our business strengths, building stakeholder partnerships, and keeping society at the forefront to do our part in creating a world where no one is left behind.

Mohammad Al Hashimy

Deputy Group General Counsel and Company Secretary, DP World

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Initiative 1: The launch of an 'Inter - SDG' Incubator Fund to drive and scale innovative SDG solutions. The fund will encourage creative applicants to pitch a product/business idea that addresses the SDG's, targeting the major global changes we face today. We intend to collaborate with peers, including asset management firms such as BlackRock, to form the judging panel and fund the winning start-up.

Initiative 2: Create an interactive education digital platform for teachers. Apart from housing content from our educational partners such as Maiden Voyage and United for Wildlife, we will add content from our peers (15 participants of the council) to make it a repository for STEAM and emotional learning focused on young girls. Through the platform, we can find synergies and build on the memorandum of understanding DP World has signed with HH Sheikha Latifa, the Patron of Hope along with educational content being shared at the DP World pavilion as a part of its education programming. Thousands of students have enjoyed the immersive learning experience that the pavilion has to offer located at Expo Dubai 2020.

Initiative 3: A Global Pledge for clean water and sanitation through building wells. Access to water and sanitation are recognized by the UN as human rights, reflecting the fundamental nature of these basics in every person's life. Lack of access to safe, sufficient and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities has a devastating effect on the health of billions of people, and has significant consequences for the realization of other human rights.

Milestones

- Competition: Hosting an annual competition for the 'SDG Incubator' that lasts until 2030.
- Boosting access to STEAM & SEL education: Establish an online resource platform that emphasizes how STEAM & SEL is changing traditional education for students and making sure the content has reach and is accessible in as many countries as possible.
- Improving health: Safe water, clean hands, healthy bodies. Time lost to sickness is reduced and people can get back to the work of lifting themselves out of poverty. It reduces disparities since girls spend up to 6 hours a day collecting water.

Potential impact and measures

- The 'inter-SDG' start-up, with its pillars of inclusivity, sustainability, and scalability, aims to promote interdisciplinary solutions. To accelerate achieving the SDGs by 2030, the pitches will transcend the silos and concentrate on their intersectionality to cover any blind spots.
- We want to maximize access to our education digital platform, focusing on the Global South, and its impact will be assessed by tracking the number of teachers accessing the content and their geographies.
- The impact of the global pledge on clean water will be measured by monitoring: school attendance (education), work sickness absence (health) and women's labor force participation (gender inequality). The council's work plan will extensively share the measurable outcomes of the three initiatives.



SDG Nexus – Education

(This nexus approach will provide a strong guidance for applying geographic information coupled with the Geographic Approach across all SDGs worldwide.

This will incorporate global implementations as well as local applications enabling citizens everywhere the opportunity to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

We intend to support and enable the UAE community to lead through the strong implementation for real-world problem-solving examples and instructions.)



The SDGs are a remarkable compilation of key objectives for our planet. In turn GIS provides intelligent online content management that enables us to create and share useful maps and apps and provides a universal tool for mapping, measuring, managing, and communicating our progress and status on the SDGs.

Clint Brown

Director, Esri

High-level ideation and objectives of the Council's work plan

Almost everything we've ever known, done, and loved has taken place somewhere on Planet Earth ... our home. It's where we learned to provide, nurture, protect, and thrive. Today, our greatest challenge is to learn how to grow within our means, while sustaining what sustains us. We need GIS to achieve this.

Geography now matters more than ever. Using GIS, we have the power to see patterns and relationships that illuminate for us what we must do – to enable us to better understand how everything and everyone are interconnected. The Geographic Approach, combining essential information from hundreds of thousands of GIS organizations worldwide, supplies power to the generation of millions of SDG-based maps and apps at both local extents and global scales. Meanwhile, there is a continuing and growing interest in the GIS community's extraordinary work and accomplishments that has provided leadership in a transformative role for GIS and the expanding use of the geographic approach throughout our world.

The planet's best GIS content from across our user base has been synthesized into an amazing, worldwide information collection containing millions of related items. Many communities are springing up and putting this information to work in extraordinary ways.

Milestones

We intend to generate, maintain, and evolve an educational catalog of many lesson items and learning pathways. Every new and updated lesson will be managed as part of an evolving course catalog and a milestone.

Potential impact and measures

We want to articulate and implement an approach that can reach every citizen of the planet and enable them to apply GIS to this great unified mission.



المركز الاتحادي
للتنافسية والإحصاء
FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND STATISTICS CENTRE

The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) is a government center affiliated with the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs in the United Arab Emirates. FCSC was established according to federal decree number 2020/2, with the aim to develop and enhance the UAE's performance in the areas of global competitiveness, statistics and data, and to support the country's journey in achieving UAE's Centennial Plan 2071. FCSC is actively engaged in building an integrated national statistical system, raising the UAE's competitiveness across various sectors, enhancing the country's position within global competitiveness reports and indicators, and is engaged in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its capacity as the Secretariat of the National Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals. FCSC ideates and recommends policies, strategies, legislations, and plans related to competitiveness and statistics to different stakeholders and decision makers in the UAE.

FCSC is actively involved in raising awareness on the culture of competitiveness and the importance of providing quality and accurate data and statistical information at a national level. FCSC further serve as the Secretariat to the Global Councils on SDGs.



The World Government Summit Organization is a global, neutral, non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments.

The WGS is the largest global platform dedicated to exploring the future of governments driven by technological advances and evolving citizen expectations, and highlights future trends in government services, leadership, and innovation. The summit brings together over 4,000 leaders, policy makers, academics, and key representatives from international organizations from over 125 countries, thereby creating an exciting opportunity to exchange innovations and experiences, and build strong networks for collaboration.

Following the adoption of the SDGs in 2015 and as part of the UAE's commitment to their implementation, the World Government Summit in its fourth edition in 2016, introduced a special track to focus on the SDGs and their implementation. The inaugural SDGs in Action at the World Government Summit event focused on the role of monitoring & reporting and financing in implementing the SDGs, which later became the platform to launch the Global Councils on SDGs.

GLOBAL COUNCILS ON SDGS 2021/23
PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2022