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SDGs IN  
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GLOBAL COUNCILS  
أهداف التنمية المستدامة  
Sustainable Development Goals

المركز الاتحادي  
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FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS  
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GLOBAL COUNCILS  
ON SDGS 2023/24

XDGs 2045:

Navigating the Future  
of Our World

OUTCOMES REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

# The Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals

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

The Global Councils on SDGs is a unique interdisciplinary network of decision makers from governments, international organizations, academia, charitable organizations, and the private sector, working together to oversee innovative projects and discuss creative ideas towards the implementation of the 17 SDGs at national, regional, and international levels. The Councils have created global partnerships to build back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with the Decade of Action. Each council contributed to the SDG Acceleration Actions to inspire action around the world towards promoting the implementation of the SDGs. The Councils analyze, conceptualize, implement, measure impact, and report on progress at the World Governments Summit - SDGs in Action on an annual basis. The «Decade of Action» necessitates transformation. During the second cohort, the focus shifted to a nexus model, ensuring an impact-driven approach that supported the Global Councils in addressing multiple Global Goals within a single project, with the exception of a selection of Councils who continued first term projects and endeavors. The implementation of the «nexus model» supported the Councils in interlinking their work programs and accelerating actions towards achieving the SDGs.

A soft launch of the Global Councils on SDGs 2021/2023 took place in September 2021. Since the soft launch, Council Chairpersons appointed high-profile members from around the world to serve on their respective Councils. The Councils successfully worked on forging new partnerships among nations, organizations, and advocates of sustainable development to advance SDG implementation. This was achieved through discussions of innovative solutions and the integration of findings into the United Nations and other global forums on SDGs.

The second cohort of the Global Councils on SDGs (2021-2023) included 17 Councils driving impact towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through innovative projects, whitepapers, and initiatives to scale action towards 2030 and beyond.

The objective of the report is to centralize all efforts from the Global Councils on SDGs 2021/23, while detailing the respective focus areas, objectives, milestones, outcome, impact, and measures. The content of the report reflects the respective Global Councils work programs and outcomes.





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,  
Director General of the UAE Prime Minister's Office,  
Managing Director of the World Government Summit Organization



His Excellency  
**Abdulla Nasser Lootah**  
Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness  
and Experience Exchange,  
Chairman of the Competitiveness Council  
Vice-President of the Global Councils on SDGs



**The Global Councils on SDGs 2021 to 2023 Chairpersons:**



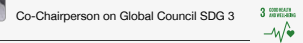
**HE Suhail bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei**  
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure  
United Arab Emirates



**Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**  
Executive Director,  
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**Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate**  
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**HE Dr. Tariq Al Gurg**  
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**HE Mona Al Marri**  
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**Clint Brown**  
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\*Disclaimer: The report is published based on the content developed by the Global Councils on SDGs Chairpersons, in collaboration with the Vice Chairpersons, Youth Members, and Members. We thank the Global Councils on SDGs for their continued support and commitment to accelerate the implementation of the Decade of Action.



# Global Council on SDG 1

End Poverty in all its forms everywhere



The work of the SDG Council on Poverty has been instrumental in guiding priorities for policy action on climate and development. The team presented their findings and contributions to a variety of stakeholders and supported the initiatives prioritized during the preparation of COP27 in Sharm Al-Sheikh and COP28 in Dubai. For developing economies and emerging markets, it is well-established by evidence that we cannot fight climate change at the expense of development and increasing the challenges of poverty. The good news is, as established by the work of the team, tackling climate change can address priorities of development through better articulation of public policies, adapting a toolkit of instruments to national and local needs, and enhancing the role of public-private, philanthropies partnerships.

**Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**

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

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

The council enjoyed an exceptional membership with deep knowledge and variety of backgrounds. From the very beginning, we identified areas of action to deal with extreme poverty and meet the targets of SDG1 as identified by the UN. Representation from multilateral institutions, top scholars, and experienced practitioners in public and private sectors had been very beneficial to provide practical solutions and develop case studies. Internal discussions highlighted the important engagements at the global, regional, national, and local levels. It identified the different roles of investment in human capital, infrastructure (including digital infrastructure), and investment in resilience. While the role of digital transformation has been identified, the major contribution of this group capitalized on the opportunities which were made available by having two countries in one region (Egypt and UAE) hosting, with great efforts and significant success, COP27 and COP28. The Chairperson was Climate Champion for COP27, and he worked closely with the presidencies of COP27 and COP28 and the Climate Champions Team in a way that enabled disbursement of the work to a wider audience. A sub-group of members were active in developing essential reports and presentations which were shared widely, including during COP meetings in Sharm Al-Sheikh and Dubai, with many events taking place to share recommendations in partnership with Gates Foundation, Islamic Development Bank, with full support of the presidencies and organizers of COP27 and COP28.



## Objectives of the Council's work plan

- To identify the interlinkages between fighting extreme poverty, sustainable development, climate action and provide practical solutions to deal with development challenges in partnership between government, private sector, and philanthropies.
- To share different country experience and experiments to help countries achieve SDG1 within better understanding of the ecosystem and the political economy dynamics.

# Key Milestones Achieved

The report 'A transition approach to poverty reduction and climate finance: The missing link to implementation,' published in February 2023, was authored by Susanna Gable, Fiona Bayat-Renoux, Maria Alejandra Gonzalez Perez, Jamal Saghir, Kevin Chika Urama, and Bambang Widiyanto. It was a collaborative effort under the guidance of Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, and United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt.

The report discusses the transition approach, which refers to a comprehensive strategy that integrates poverty reduction and climate finance within the broader context of sustainable development. It emphasizes the need for fundamental social and economic changes to meet the goal of eliminating poverty while ensuring that global development remains within planetary boundaries.

## Key Milestones:

The report addresses the missing link to implementation in tackling poverty and climate change. It provides a comprehensive analysis and practical solutions for sustainable development, focusing on the transition approach to poverty reduction and climate finance.

## Policy Recommendations:

The report provides several policy recommendations at both domestic and international levels to address the intertwined challenges of poverty reduction and climate change. Some of the key policy recommendations include:

1. Improving the underlying investment climate, including education and government institutions.
2. Ensuring that price signals and incentives are aligned with societal perspectives.
3. Improving the management of natural resources.
4. Stemming illicit financial flows.
5. Digitizing for improved public financial management.
6. Removing government inefficiencies.
7. Developing country investment platforms and project pipelines.
8. Getting prices right at the international level.
9. Developing standards for climate finance at the international level.
10. Moving from voluntary to mandatory reporting at the international level.
11. Formulating a methodology for credit ratings at the international level.

These recommendations aim to create an enabling policy environment for investment, address market failures, avoid distorting markets, and encourage productive investments while considering the specific contexts and challenges faced by different income groups and countries.





### Way Forward:

The report emphasizes the need for unprecedented capital mobilization to transition to a green and resilient economy. It also highlights the increasing financing gaps for the 2030 Agenda and SDG 1 on poverty reduction, and the limited climate financing flows to low-income countries. The report also highlights some key elements of the transition approach:

1. The transition approach requires innovative policy reforms, increased financing flows, and the alignment of global, regional, and national financial architectures to support inclusive and green development.
2. Addressing market failures, improving the investment climate, and mobilizing climate finance are essential to ensure a just energy transition and poverty alleviation.
3. The transition approach must be tailored to the specific contexts and challenges faced by different income groups and countries.
4. The role of different stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, and the private sector, is critical in driving the transition approach forward.
5. Urgent and coordinated action is needed to address the financing gaps for the 2030 Agenda and SDG 1 on poverty reduction, and to increase climate financing flows to low-income countries.
6. The report emphasizes the importance of country ownership, political trust, and the role of different stakeholders in driving the transition approach forward.

For more information: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/transition-approach-towards-poverty-reduction-climate-finance#:~:text=It%20proposes%20principles%20and%20a,while%20achieving%20poverty%20reduction%20goals>

Another blogpost titled 'Poverty reduction and climate finance: pieces of the same development puzzle' was published in March 2023.

The post from the Global Council on SDG1 emphasizes the interconnectedness of economic growth, poverty reduction, and climate action, pointing to the absence of 'transition thinking' in policy and financing as a hindrance to progress. It advocates for a just green transition tailored to each country's development context and economic transition stage. Five guiding principles for an inclusive green transition are outlined, emphasizing the importance of economic development, adaptation, sustainable mitigation strategies, a just transition, and climate justice. The report suggests an income-group-based approach for countries, addressing unique challenges and responsibilities related to emissions. It underscores the need for a transition-focused financing approach, involving Official Development Assistance (ODA) to support poverty reduction and catalyze green transformation. The private sector is identified as crucial for bridging investment gaps, creating jobs, and generating income. The report encourages leveraging public climate finance and ODA to attract private investments while emphasizing tailored policy and financial tools. Ultimately, the report calls for coordinated international efforts, highlighting the role of the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Community of Practice in fostering discussions on addressing challenges and advancing global development within planetary boundaries. This post can be viewed on the OECD website [here](#).

## Impact and Measurements

The reports, presentations, and involvement of the members of the Global Council were supportive to the efforts towards achieving the SDGs. The team members participated in major events at the UN, MDBs, NGOs, and in the various stages of preparations of COP27 and COP28.

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

The team produced a report, variety of blogs and contributions (please see attached), participated in number of events and sessions, and they tackled the false dichotomy between climate action and sustainable development in practice.

## Media Engagements

Climate, Poverty and Finance: The Role of the Private Sector, COP28:

<https://youtu.be/TSIKOHEBL7o?si=K3eIRmgP3NnU9wqg>

Poverty, Climate and Finance Session, COP28:

<https://youtu.be/a6oUcbpa0OY?si=RAhDar5xhaDzRVsZ>

Catalyzing Adaptation Finance and Bridging Policy Gaps, COP28:

<https://youtu.be/cJmTOH335-k?si=ltAZZxM6V5h7ujZ>

Climate and Development Finance, COP28:

<https://youtu.be/3EiSsw8tj5E?si=4HQDMLTuqaGb4q5n>

SDG Stimulus, Financing the Sustainability Transition, COP28:

<https://youtu.be/1X200cHwLPQ?si=uMG4EPe10EXFXcrr>

Climate Finance is Development Finance, COP27:

<https://youtu.be/sDBPnUboI9g?si=PK2Ol1xgxWmYnhF>

Finance Day, COP27:

<https://youtu.be/5FVsBISaJGI?si=ZYKmjLUVprupMIGY>

Development and Climate Action, COP27:

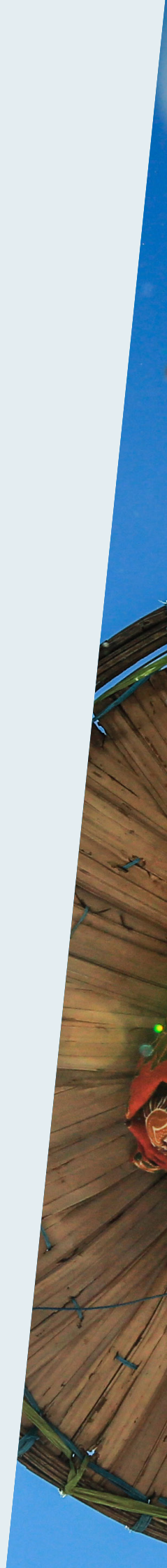
<https://youtu.be/kYOewFu54KA?si=M1maAy5dT15bb1Zy>

Link between Climate Action and Food Security:

<https://youtu.be/PMLPxLS7Q?si=u733vuI4Zy-pSLEI>

More can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MahmoudMohieldin-yw2hz>





## Global Council on SDG 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



“

The platform enabled a unique space to consider unique progress and challenges for regaining momentum towards SDG3, especially by looking at the structural constraints to scaling innovations. The constraints may not only be finance, but other policy, regulatory, and technical barriers.

**Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate**

Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Nigeria, co-chairperson of the SDG 3 Global Council

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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. We are delighted that our work over two years in the SDG 3 Council added momentum with global advocacy to address these efforts and advance the achievement of the goal.

**Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab**

Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organization, co-chairperson of the SDG 3 Global Council



# Background of the Council's Work Plan

Throughout the recently concluded term, the Council was resolute in its mission to broaden the scope and amplify the scale of innovations, with a particular focus on reaching historically underserved communities. Its primary objective centered on empowering innovators to enable these communities to take charge of their health and well-being, thereby reinforcing the fragile infrastructure of the healthcare ecosystem. The Council actively engaged in expanding the reach and impact of innovations, subjecting its progress to rigorous evaluation. This evaluative process allowed for dynamic adjustments, ensuring that initiatives remained finely tuned to the evolving needs of the communities.

In addition, the Council embarked on strategic initiatives aimed at creating an enabling environment conducive to the widespread adoption of innovations. These endeavors encompassed advocacy for supportive policy frameworks, addressing regulatory challenges, and exploring financial mechanisms conducive to large-scale implementation.

In unwavering commitment to transparency and knowledge-sharing, the Council meticulously documented its journey and outcomes. At the conclusion of this term, it proudly presented a comprehensive white paper that encapsulated the insights gained, lessons learned, and best practices discovered throughout its work. By generously sharing this wealth of information, the Council aspired to make a meaningful contribution to the collective knowledge base and to inspire further advancements in the realm of health and well-being.

The Council's work plan also successfully undertook a major project, culminating in the production of a significant volume titled "Resilient Health: Leveraging Technology and Social Innovations to Transform Healthcare for COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond." This volume, comprised of 105 chapters contributed by experts from diverse health fields across all regions of the world, was published by the prestigious Elsevier company.

# Objectives of the Council's work plan

## Global advocacy and building momentum, about:

- Universal Health Coverage, service coverage, quality, and financial protection.
- Resilient health systems based on Primary Health Care (PHC), with stronger public health functions, and improved pandemic preparedness, prevention, and recovery (PPPR) aligned with the United Nations Agenda.
- A comprehensive overview of technological and social innovations.
- Population health, including all elements related to prevention, promotion, and protection.

## Catalyze the uptake and scale up of innovations:

- Relieve structural constraints for governments and public institutions to buy-in and take innovations to scale.
- Adopt & sustain innovations (through the platform Health In Your Hands (HIYH) and beyond).

## Knowledge and learnin:

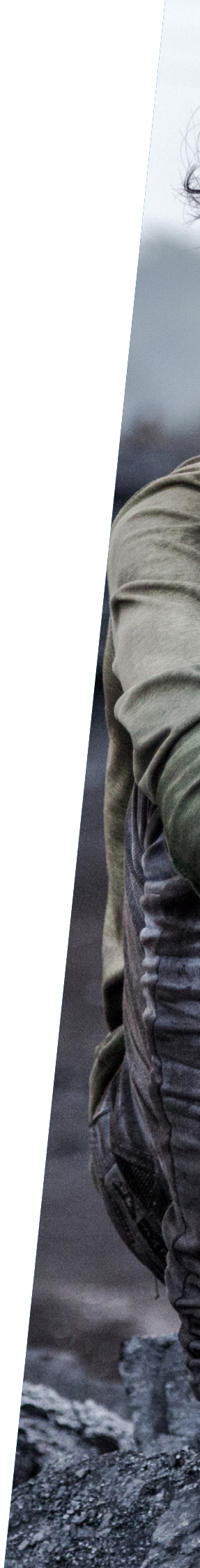
- Generated insights and share knowledge to mobilize political commitment and action in countries.
- Produced a comprehensive documentation of resilient health systems for PPPR.

## Key Milestones Achieved

- Finalized a comprehensive report addressing constraints to scaling innovation in African primary healthcare systems.
- Participated in five international events: World Health Promotion Conference Dec 2021, Dubai Health Forum 2022, World Governments Summit 2022 and 2023; World Health Assembly, 2023. These aligned GC SDG3 members' participation at key events on the roadmap to the United Nations High-Level Meetings for Universal Health Coverage 2021 – 2023.
- Targeted public and private fora connected with the World Global Summit hosted by UAE.
- Assisted to make HIYH and other innovations financially sustainable and scaled up.
- Finalized a volume entitled, “Resilient Health: Leveraging Technology and Social Innovations to Transform Healthcare for COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond,” a major accomplishment with 105 chapters addressing diverse aspects of resilient health, critical in present times and to advance healthcare access and delivery in countries worldwide for the future.
- Contributing Authors/Members from GC SDG3:
  - Judy Kuriansky: co-editor and several chapters.
  - Pradeep Kakkattil: co-editor and several chapters.
  - Dr. Mohammed Pate, Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab: “State of the World in Health Today”.
  - Mariam Claeson et al.: Cities RISE: A transdisciplinary, youth-centered approach to scale social innovations in mental health and well-being locally and globally.
  - Roopa Dhatt et al.: Women, Health and Innovation.
  - Annie Theriault, co-author: (1) Models to Scale Healthcare Technologies for Low- and Middle-Income Countries and (2) Financing Instruments for Innovators to Scale Health Innovations in Low- and Middle-Income Countries for LMICs.
  - Feng Zhao et al: Investing in Resilient Health Systems: A Framework for Prioritizing Integrated Investments in Preparedness, Response, and Service Delivery.
  - Amref: Waruguru Wanjau et. al: Digital health as an enabler of Universal Health Coverage in the African Region; Contributions of Amref Health Africa.

## Impact and Measurements

Accelerating the development and expanding the reach and depth of innovations has resulted in tangible impacts, specifically in enhancing access to and the quality of services for those who are historically marginalized and left furthest behind. This concerted effort has contributed significantly to improving the health and well-being of these communities. Showcasing innovations by stakeholders worldwide has raised awareness of possibilities for resilient health and the achievement of SDG 3, and provided unique opportunities for networking.





## Location Data for Analysis and Mapping

Southern and Eastern Africa through scaling up the following innovations and more:

- **VILLAGEREACH:** transforming public health supply chains to remote areas for better PHC services and products: Last mile delivery – Drones for health – Health Centre by phone – Vaccine deliveries – Transitioning to government.  
[Impact: Over 70 million people have improved access to healthcare.]
- **LAST MILE HEALTH:** Networks of digitally empowered community and frontline health workers bringing primary health services to people living far from care.  
[Impact: support, training, information systems and digital tools provided to 8,300 remote frontline primary health workers.]
- **HEALTHY ENTREPRENEURS:** Last mile distribution models for quality medicines and other services through a community health entrepreneurs franchise model. Currently mapping new markets to fit the model.  
[Impact: there are now 5,000 community health entrepreneurs who are reaching 6.2 million people, in remote areas, with primary health care services and products.]
- Innovations presented in the volume on Resilient Health cover all world regions, especially from the underreported MENA and South and Central America, and features profiles of the governments of UAE, Kenya, Estonia, Mexico, Sierra Leone.  
[Impact: potential tens of thousands]

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

The Global Council on SDG 3, SCSII Working Group, and Springfield Centre successfully concluded the comprehensive report addressing constraints to scaling innovation in African primary healthcare systems. This report is a pivotal exploration into the essential domain of scaling innovation, a key element in realizing the ambitious goal of SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all. Delving into barriers, presenting compelling case studies, and offering strategic recommendations, the report serves as a testament to the collaborative endeavors spanning diverse sectors. It highlights the transformative potential embedded in the scaling of innovation, aligning seamlessly with the broader framework of SDGs. This collective effort underscores the commitment to healthcare transformation and underscores the importance of collaborative, cross-sectoral initiatives in achieving sustainable development goals.

Also, the Global Council members successfully produced a first-of-its kind comprehensive volume of contributions from health experts worldwide, documenting technological and social innovations, models and frameworks for policy, programming, and financing, to transform healthcare, addressing inequities, close the treatment gap, “build back better” and leave “no one behind” especially for under-resourced communities and fragile health systems. The anthology includes a toolbox of innovations covering diverse populations and interest groups, reports of forums, conferences and networks, financial models, showcase of UHC, overviews from multiple stakeholders (government, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector), extensive resources, and the way forward for a resilient health ecosystem and advancing achievement of SDG 3.

## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

- 1- Importance of Collaboration:** The formation of the Global Council on SDG 3 highlights the vital importance of collaboration within the healthcare sector, uniting a spectrum of stakeholders, including healthcare experts, policymakers, governments, and organizations. All are collectively dedicated to enhancing global health outcomes and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- 2- Holistic Approach to Health:** The outlined objectives, such as promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and building resilient health systems, highlight the importance of taking a holistic approach to health, considering not only medical aspects but also policy, regulation, and finance, and also affirming the definition of health as physical and mental health consistent with international agreements .
- 3- Documentation and Knowledge Sharing:** The white paper indicate the importance of documenting experiences, insights, and knowledge gained during the Council's term, and the major volume entitled "Resilient Health: Leveraging Technology and Social Innovations to Transform Healthcare for COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond," with 105 chapters communicates an exceptionally wide spectrum of knowledge about policy programming and financial frameworks for the future of healthcare.
- 4- Measurable Impact:** The inclusion of impact and measurement data, such as the number of beneficiaries reached and the impact of specific innovations, suggests a lesson in the importance of quantifying and assessing the impact of initiatives for effective decision-making, planning and implementing resilient and holistic health.



## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

- 1- Streamlined Communication and Coordination:** Enhance communication channels and coordination mechanisms to ensure efficient information flow among Council members, stakeholders, and the Secretariat. Regular updates, clear directives, and a collaborative platform can facilitate effective teamwork.
- 2- Robust Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the progress and impact of the Councils' initiatives. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms will help in identifying successful strategies and areas for improvement.
- 3- Facilitate Stakeholder Engagement:** Support the Councils in developing and executing a well-defined stakeholder engagement strategy. Facilitate connections with key partners, organizations, and government entities to expand the reach and influence of the Councils' activities.
- 4- Facilitate Funding Access:** Facilitate access to seed funding and connect the Councils with other potential funding sources to enable them to efficiently implement their initiatives.



## Global Council on SDG 4

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



To empower children and youth globally through education as a catalyst for human development, it is crucial to rewire existing education systems at the highest levels of leadership and decision-making. In 2023, aligned with the Council's commitment to accelerate progress in transforming education systems, Dubai Cares launched the 'Global Education Solutions Accelerator (GESA)' with a target of transforming education for 2.1 billion people across 10 countries. Additionally, the organization made history by hosting the second edition of RewirEd Summit 2023 at COP28 UAE. The Council also witnessed the spin-off of RewirEd Summit as an independent standalone global platform.

**HE Dr. Tariq Al Gurg**

Chief Executive Officer and  
Vice Chairman of Dubai Cares

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

Realizing a prosperous and sustainable future necessitates a complete transformation in how we think about progress for people and planet. Education lies at the heart of this transformation and is a central force in shaping thinking, doing and acting. Yet, for education to reclaim its place as a critical enabler for humanity's future, a complete rewiring of education and its position at the heart of ambitions for people and planet needs to take place. The Global Council on SDG4's workplan in 2023 set out to address the need for rewiring education and its global positioning as a driver for global human development, through showcasing and championing win-win solutions that advance education outcomes while addressing global development challenges, and through continuing the legacy of RewirEd Summit as a pioneering convener of new and unlikely allies to rethink, disrupt and rewire education for people and planet.



## Objectives of the Council's work plan

The Global Council on SDG4 aims to accelerate progress towards the transformation of education systems in countries and on a global scale through 1) highlighting the critical role of education transformation in driving progress and addressing global and interconnected development challenges, 2) bringing together new and unlikely allies across diverse sectors to generate strategies and solutions for education transformation, 3) showcasing and championing innovative solutions for education transformation for people and planet, and 4) designing agile mechanisms to fast-track education transformation solutions.

# Key Milestones Achieved

To date, the SDG4 council has achieved critical milestones contributing to education transformation for people and planet:

- Announcing partnership between Dubai Cares and COP28 UAE Presidency to place education at the heart of climate action at COP28. January 2023.
- Uniting education and climate stakeholders at the 78<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly through a joint Dubai Cares and COP28 Presidency event. September 2023.
- Partnering with SEEK Development to generate a comprehensive, policy-oriented RewirEd Summit 2023 Outcomes Report outlining recommendations for transforming education to achieve education goals and climate ambitions. September 2023.
- Bringing education into the highest level of climate discussions through a co-hosted segment on Youth and Education held during COP28's World Climate Action Summit in the Blue Zone, in the presence of heads of state. 2 December 2023.
- Launching the "Global Education Solutions Accelerator" (GESA) in strategic partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation, with the aim of fast-tracking progress towards transforming education for 2.1 billion people across 10 countries. 2 December 2023.
- Hosting the second edition of the RewirEd Summit at COP28. The Summit made history as the only COP28 flagship education event, bringing education to the forefront of climate action. 8 December 2023.





## Impact and Measurements

- RewirEd Summit at COP28 brought together over 1,000 participants, including 2 heads of state, 22 ministers, 28 CEOs, with 260 speakers, representing 76 countries. Key announcements from the summit:
  - The Social Investment Program, the first ever global social impact bond that will scale up sustainable homegrown school feeding programs in Senegal.
  - Launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Online Training and Mentoring Program by BKMC.
  - Launch of an online portal of over 100 teacher-led, teacher-tested, and teacher-approved climate action solutions for education by AKF.
  - Dubai Cares' partnership with The Global Centre on Adaptation.
  - UNICEF and Generation Unlimited's 'Green Rising' global initiative.
  - The Malawian Government and Kyrgyz Republic Government in collaboration with ECDAN plans to link early childhood development and foundational learning with climate resilience.
  - The African Union Commission's theme for the year 2024 on Education.
  - The spin-off of the RewirEd Summit as an independent global platform led by a global board.
  - Policy recommendations the RewirEd Summit 2023 Outcomes Report will be presented to UNFCCC and COP28 UAE Presidency for their endorsement and action.
  - The Global Education Solutions Accelerator will serve as an innovative mechanism to help fast track progress towards transforming education for 2.1 billion people across 10 countries.

## Location Data for Analysis and Mapping

In 2023, the Global Council on SDG4 contributed to global education transformation through the launch of critical tools and resources, including the Launch of Global Education Solutions Accelerator and the convening of the RewirEd Summit 2023. Furthermore, strategic speaking engagements and bilateral meetings ensured the uptake of these resources by a diverse set of audiences around the world including:

- Speaking engagements, Strategic events, and meetings to discuss plans for the RewirEd Summit 2023 and the SDG 4 council's progress during the World Governments Summit. Dubai, UAE – February 2023.
- Speaking engagements, strategic events, and meetings during the Education World Forum to champion for education as a solution for advancing climate ambitions. London, United Kingdom – May 2023.
- Speaking engagements, strategic events, meetings, to advocate for global education transformation as a win-win solution for people and planet at the UN General Assembly in New York, USA – September 2023.
- Speaking engagements, strategic events, meetings, and global launches at COP28 in the Blue Zone and the Green Zone. Dubai, UAE – December 2023.

## Outcomes Achieved Throughout the Second Cohort Term

- Education and climate actors united at COP28 through the alignment of commitments and actions for advancing progress towards global goals through rewired education systems.
- Win-win solutions for rewiring education for people and planet identified and showcased at RewirEd Summit 2023 at COP28.
- Innovative mechanism to fast track progress towards transforming education developed and launched at COP28 as the Global Education Solutions Accelerator.

## Media Engagements

[World Governments Summit 2023](#)

[UNGA78](#)

[Launch of the Global Education Solutions Accelerator](#)

[RewirEd Summit](#)





# Global Council on SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

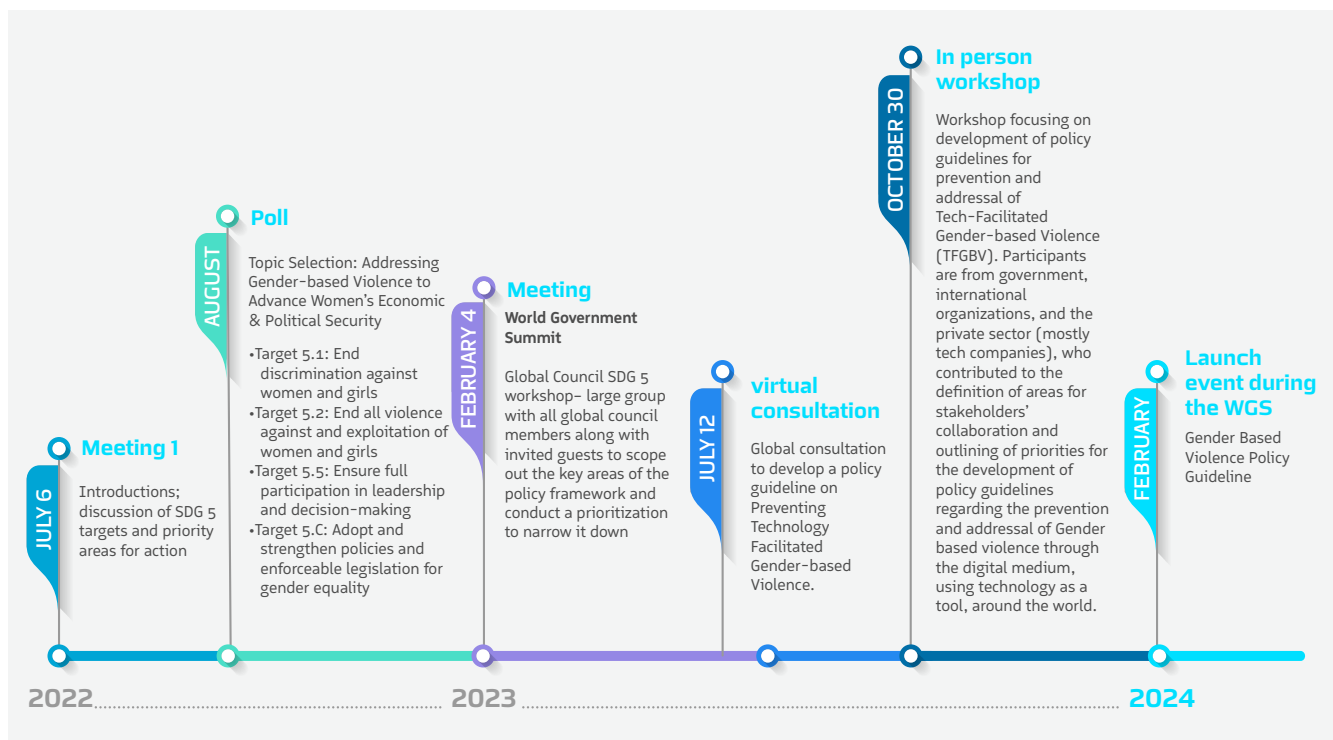


By championing women's participation in leadership, economic empowerment, education, and health, the UAE Gender Balance Council, since its founding in 2015, has made remarkable contributions towards the 5th UN Sustainable Development Goal. Under the visionary leadership of HH Sheikha Manal Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, the Council is aligned with the fifth Sustainable Development Goal, aiming to ensure equal opportunities for all. This is just the beginning of our journey. Achieving the vision where gender equality is not just a goal but a reality for all is a part of our commitment.

**HE Mona al Marri**

Vice President, UAE Gender Balance Council

# Background of the Council's Work Plan



# Objectives of the Council's work plan

Addressing Gender-based Violence to Advance Women's Economic & Political Security

## Summary

A universal, globally applicable tool focused on reducing incidence of gender-based violence, which in turn supports and advances women's economic and political security.

Particular attention will be given to preventing and reducing violence, and removing legal barriers, that restrict women's access to the economy.

We will partner with international organization to create policy guidelines that are aligned with, and support the implementation of, the Convention.

## Benefits

Leverages significant expertise, networks, and resources IPU and private sector membership.

The tool would contribute to the increasing of women's representation in parliaments and the political sphere.



## Key Milestones Achieved

Launch of GENDER BASED VIOLENCE POLICY GUIDELINE that will be published during the WGS2024.

## Impact and Measurements

1. Engagement Poll (July 6th): Initial opinions gathered, providing a starting point for interest and concerns.
2. SDG 5 Meeting (August): Foundation laid for the council's focus, identifying key issues related to gender equality.
3. Virtual Consultation (Feb, 2023): Engaged a global audience, expanding perspectives on gender-based violence policies.
4. Global Council SDG 5 Workshop: Defined policy framework and priorities for addressing gender-based violence under SDG 5.
5. In-Person Workshop (Oct 30th, 2023): Facilitated collaboration among stakeholders to define key policy areas. Global Consultation on TFGBV Policy: Gathered input globally for policy guidelines on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.
6. Launch Event (Feb, 2024): Set the stage for policy development and implementation in a guideline format.

## Media Engagements

- [Discussing initiatives to prevent gender-based violence](#)
- [The “Global Council” discusses initiatives to prevent gender-based violence](#)
- [The Global Council for Development Goal 5 reviews the priorities for the next phase of work](#)
- [The SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Gender Balance in the UAE Private Sector reaches 64 Local and • Multinational Company signatories](#)
- [A guide on “Principles and policies for preventing gender-based violence through digital applications](#)

## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

1. Collaborative Teamwork: Highlighting the collaborative nature of team members as a positive aspect.
2. Relevance to Global Needs: Ensuring topics align with the world's needs, addressing demands and global expansion.
3. Specific and Targeted Agendas: Focusing on more specific topics for in-depth exploration and actionable outcomes.
4. Adaptability and Expansion: Recognizing the dynamic global landscape and the importance of scalable solutions.
5. Diversity of Perspectives: Emphasizing the inclusion of diverse voices for well-rounded insights.
6. Stakeholder Engagement: Actively engaging with a variety of stakeholders for comprehensive ideation of new projects.
7. Continuous Learning and Adaptation: Commitment to staying informed about emerging issues and adapting focus accordingly.



## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

- We can continue on Strategic Topic Selection that align with the most pressing SDG challenges, ensuring relevance and impact on a global scale.
- Global Advocacy: Actively engage in global advocacy efforts to promote the Councils' recommendations and encourage the adoption of SDG-aligned policies at national and international levels.



# Global Council on SDG 7

## Focusing on Enabling Youth Action for SDG 7



The world is not on track to realise the SDG 7 target of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all. We need urgent action and radical solutions. One of our greatest, yet under-utilised, assets is the ingenuity and drive of young people.

**HE Francesco La Camera**

Director-General, IRENA

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

The Global Council on SDG7 has dedicated its work plan to driving youth action for SDG7.

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.

With an intergenerational membership, the Global Council on Youth for SDG7 convenes on a regular basis young leaders, government representatives, expert practitioners and delegates from different multilateral institutions and regions to ideate, plan and execute concrete initiatives that drive forward youth-led action on energy access and the just transition to a renewable energy future.



## Objectives of the Council's work plan

The Global Council on SDG7 is focused on Enabling Youth Action for SDG7, and its work plan, inspired by discussion and demands from the IRENA Youth Forum, is shaped by three main objectives:

- Elevating youth voices within the international energy and climate agenda.
- Increasing youth-led action, innovation, entrepreneurship, and advocacy for SDG7.
- Building the renewable energy skills and capacities of youth.

## Key Milestones Achieved

During its term, the Global Council on SDG 7 has ensured that youth voices are an integral part of the global energy action agenda. The Council has led a series of high-profile convenings, workshops, and dialogues at key global fora. The insights gathered will feed into a forthcoming recommendations document targeting decision makers.

### Key Milestones:

1. IRENA Youth Forum: The New Generation of Decision Makers.  
IRENA Assembly; 12–18 January 2023; Abu Dhabi, UAE.  
Collaboration with IRENA on the IRENA Youth Forum which engaged more than 130 youth from 45 countries with global energy decision makers.
2. Energy Transition Solutions Capacity Building Workshop.  
Sustainable Energy for All Forum; 17 May 2022; Kigali, Rwanda.  
Capacity building workshop to strengthen the problem-solving skills of youth leaders.
3. Workshop on The Role of Governments in Unlocking Private Finance for Youth Actions on SDG 7.  
Contribution to the 2022 NDC Partnership Youth Engagement Forum; 27 June 2022; Virtual Workshop to demystify private and public climate and energy finance for youth-led actions.
4. COP 27 Workshop on Youth Leadership for the Energy Transition.  
9 November 2022, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.  
Dialogue on strengthening youth leadership for the energy transition.
5. Intergenerational Dialogue on Enabling Meaningful African Youth Action on SDG 7.  
Africa Climate Summit/ Africa Climate Week; 5 September 2023, Nairobi, Kenya  
Dialogue on scaling-up the engagement of African youth in addressing SDG 7.
6. COP28 Intergenerational Fishbowl on Enabling Youth Action on SDG7.  
8 December 2023, Dubai, UAE.  
Showcase of impactful youth actions on SDG7 and exploration of how to create an enabling environment for youth to actively participate in energy policymaking and implementation.

## Impact and Measurements

The Global Council on SDG 7 has convened important intergenerational workshops and dialogues that have elevated youth voices during key global energy and climate events. These activities have served to connect young leaders with global experts for both capacity building and an exchange of ideas to drive collective action. The activities of this Council have drawn attention to the integral role of young people in accelerating the global energy transition and achieving SDG 7. The lessons learned from the convenings will feed into a set of recommendations advising governments, private sector and other key stakeholders on how best to support youth action for SDG 7.



## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

The Global Council on SDG 7 has achieved the following outcomes during its term:

- Elevated the voices of youth in the international energy and climate agenda by creating spaces for young people at the most important global fora including the IRENA Assembly, COP 27 and 28, Regional Climate Weeks and the SEforAll Forum.
- Facilitated intergenerational dialogue between youth and decision makers, experts and key global stakeholders in order to drive collective action for SDG 7 including through youth-led innovation, entrepreneurship, and advocacy.
- Built the renewable energy skills of young people through capacity building workshops.

## Media Engagements

- [Global Council on SDG 7 Sets Youth-focused Agenda](#)
- [IRENA Youth Events Give Voice to Next Generation of Decision Makers](#)
- [Financing Youth Actions](#)



## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

Young people under 30 represent half of the global population. Their active engagement, innovation, skills and passion will be key for accelerating the energy transition and achieving our targets for SDG 7.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

The first and second cohorts of the Global Councils on SDGs have proven to be an incredible platform for collective intelligence and intergenerational action towards the global ambitions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. As we approach the third cohort of the same, regular inter Global Councils meetings for learnings and exchange among cohort members will be useful. The SDGs are greatly intertwined and a more collaboration between the Global Councils might prove to be more impactful.







## Global Council on SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



“

With 2030 drawing near, every effort counts in our journey towards achieving the SDGs and creating a sustainable future for generations to come. In these times of unprecedented global changes, the role of sustainable development accelerators, such as the Global Councils on SDGs, becomes ever more crucial.

As we emerge from major global challenges, our focus is on leveraging opportunities, presented by the SDG11 to build cities that are resilient, sustainable, and inclusive. The Global Council on SDG11 has dedicated its 2nd term to collective action, aiming to accelerate the implementation of sustainable solutions and build cities that ensure safety, prosperity, and accessibility for all.

As the world is rapidly urbanizing, the urgency to act and mobilize resources for sustainable development becomes paramount, emphasizing the importance of using advanced and innovative technologies to create sustainable cities and communities.

Let us act now for sustainable cities: Embrace innovation, champion inclusivity, and drive collective action for a sustainable future.

**HE Suhail bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei**

Minister of Energy and Infrastructure,  
United Arab Emirates

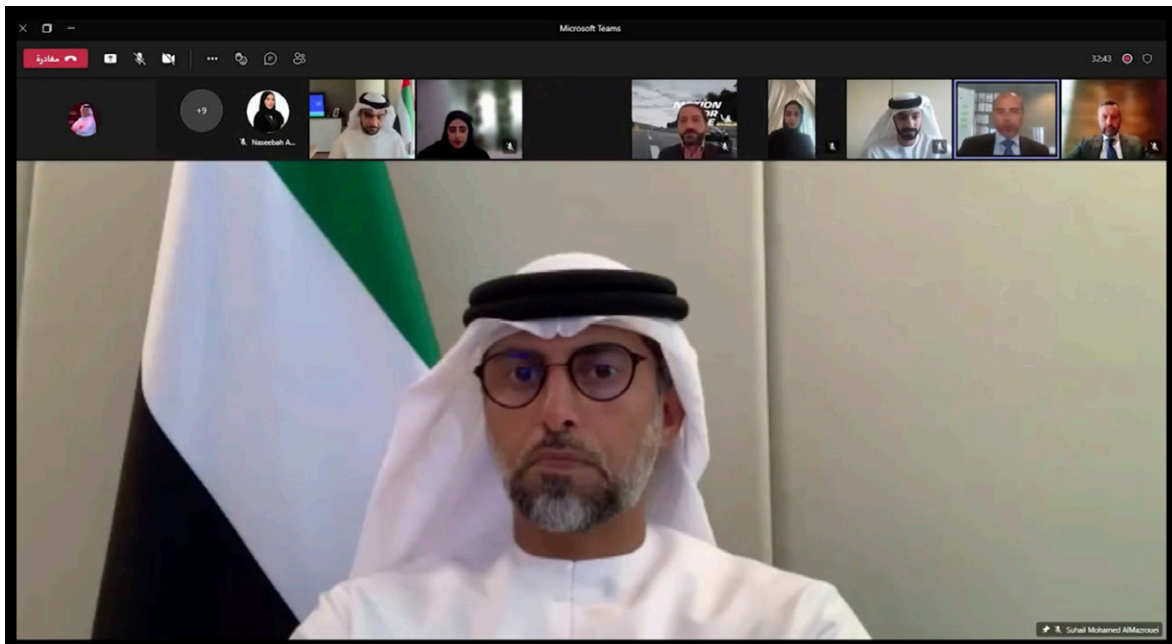
## Background of the Council's Work Plan

The Global Council on SDG11 outlines a clear mission to design and scale pragmatic SDG11 solutions that showcase that rethink and reimagine future urban areas as hubs of resilient, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

The council endeavored to understand the latest updates on the progress of the SDG11 indicators globally, as outlined by the special report of the UN Secretary General, and reverse engineered some of the transformations that are needed to achieve the sustainable development goals, such as the Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development. This has allowed the council to formulate a roadmap for the council during its 2022-2023 term.

The council's roadmap is built around 3 main focus areas, namely, Access to Finance, Thought Leadership, and Capacity Building. These areas are further detailed into 6 projects, with more than 15 deliverables in a timespan of 18 months.

Through this roadmap the council is able to provide actionable insights, propose policies, develop technological solutions, and mobilize resources to drive progress towards the goal.



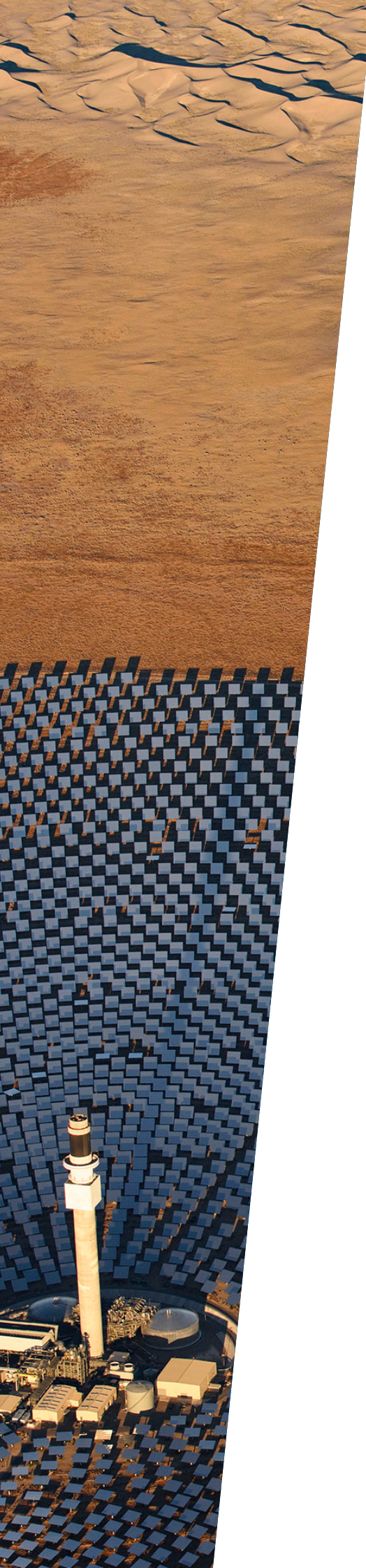
## Objectives of the Council's work plan

Seek innovative solutions for SDG11 implementation. The aim is to provide actionable insights, propose policies, develop technological solutions, and mobilize resources to drive progress towards the goal.

# Key Milestones Achieved

All key milestones can be found on [www.sdg11gc.com](http://www.sdg11gc.com)

- 1- Updated the SDG11 High Level Implementation Framework to reflect the impacts of COVID-19 on the future of Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- 2- Actioned a series of capacity building effort with a wide array of partnerships, to prepare the next wave of leaders, specialized in areas of sustainable cities and communities. These efforts include:
  - a. Hosting a session during the events of the World Green Economy Organization in Dubai, named, SDG11: Future of Cities.
  - b. Conducted 2 workshops during the 11th International Envirocities Conference, hosted under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, and directed by H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Al Mehairi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and the Environment.
  - c. Hosted a full day training, in collaboration with several partners, to build capacity on key issues related to sustainable cities and communities.
- 3- Launched a report, named the City Insights Report, that represents a UAE-led effort in showcasing the true potential of disruptive technologies for cities that are at heart of intrinsic global shifts, and hopefully, a driver of change for cities towards SDG11 targets, and voluntary local reviews.
- 4- Signed a Letter of Intent with UN Habitat, aimed at collaborating to accelerate efforts towards SDG11, which have accelerated bilateral collaborations and mobilized resources to advance the progress on targets of the goal. This collaboration yielded many outcomes, including the presentation of the work of the Global Councils, and specifically the Global Council on SDG11, in the UN Habitat World Cities Day in Istanbul Turkey.
- 5- Developed a series of white papers with topics urgent to sustainable cities and communities, such as Inclusive Mobility, and 20-minutes cities. The white papers aim to propose solutions, and trigger policy effort to solve for problems driven by future foresight, such as bridging the digital divide, which was led by the Digital Future Society and United Nations University.
- 6- Launched the Sustainable Finance Catalyst, an initiative led by DIFC, which aims to represent a step in bridging the climate finance gap, and it targets a capital flow of \$100 Bn via Dubai by 2030. The \$100 Bn target will indicate a 600% rise in capital flow over the coming years, recording a significant rise from the \$17.1 billion raised from Nasdaq Dubai between 2018 and 2022.



## Location data for analysis and mapping

All key data can be found on [www.sdg11gc.com](http://www.sdg11gc.com). Additionally, we highly recommend reviewing the City Insights Report, which has all data the council has collected.


## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

### Key Achievements

1. Launched the new council website [www.sdg11gc.com](http://www.sdg11gc.com)
2. Updated SDG11 High Level Implementation Framework.
3. Sustainable Finance Catalyst, with over 100Bn AED of finance by 2030.
4. Estimated over 500 hours of trainings and capacity building efforts.
5. The City Insights Report.
6. 3 white papers.
7. Mobilized the work on Voluntary Local Reviews, with Dubai expected to issue its first report in 2024.

## Media Engagements

- [Suhail Al Mazrouei chairs 1st first meeting of Global Council for Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [SDG11 Global Council](#)
- [Fujairah Ruler receives participants of International Envirocities Conference 2022](#)
- [UAE adds more councils for UN sustainable development goals target](#)
- [Key media video](#)



## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

1. Vehicles of change, such as the Global Councils on SDGs, are extremely important to mobilize resources and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.
2. More collaboration and coordination needed with UN agencies.
3. More official channels of communication and execution of projects needed (example: if a framework were to be established in another country other than the UAE, what are communication channels? What is the official process of execution? Etc).
4. Clear budget allocation needed for the work of the council, either through the secretariat or the council.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

1. More solidified and scheduled opportunities for showcasing the work of the council.
2. Facilitating closer coordination between the council and other stakeholders in reach of the secretariat.
3. Closer coordination with UN agencies.
4. More structured approach for media relations, and support in the development of media content.
5. Closer coordination with the UAE National Committee on SDGs.





## Global Council on SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



SDG13 global council played a pivotal role to raise awareness on climate action in the UAE and the region, it created a platform for subject matter experts to share knowledge and actions from a regional and global view. It also launched a long-term regional partnership towards achieving climate targets by 2030.

**Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi**

Senior Vice President of Sustainability & Climate Change, ADNOC

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

The council recognised the significant role it will play through its term in 2021 – 2023 given the unique opportunity of having two regional COPs, the second of which was hosted in the UAE – COP28. Thus, the council's work plan was strategically developed to align with the global sustainability agenda but more importantly with COP28. This included the development of awareness and educational programmes, the launch of initiatives to emphasise the commitment of the UAE and the region in tackling climate change, proliferating sustainability, and the engagement of multiple segments of the community. The council also sought to create impactful collaborations with regional and international organisations to exchange knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions to achieve climate goals. Furthermore, the council understood the pivotal role of youth in shaping a sustainable future, and prioritised engaging with youth and building avenues and opportunities for them to effectively contribute to the national and regional climate agendas. Ultimately, the council's work plan in its first term reflected and reiterated the need to build a strong foundational understanding of climate change and sustainability nationally and regionally to drive and catalyse action in this space and materialise a more sustainable future.



## Key Milestones Achieved

- Issue the 50 climate policies report with Apolitical.
- Run and publish the MENA government and public sector climate awareness survey with the League of Arab States.
- Run the “Road to Cop” Experts fireside chat sessions.
- Run the climate weekly video brief.
- Support launching the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change with the Arab Youth Center.
- Launch studio2030 podcast (in Arabic).
- Launch the Introduction to Climate Change and Net Zero virtual course.
- Launch partner of UAE Biodiversity Annual forum.
- Launch partner of Global Sustainability Annual Forum.

## Objectives of the Council’s Work Plan

The council had several core objectives including:

1. Launch comprehensive educational and awareness programmes to build local and regional climate literacy among communities and provide individuals with the necessary information, knowledge, and tools to kickstart their climate action journey.
2. Facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration and establish avenues for collective action from the public and private sectors, youth organisations, intergovernmental entities, and civil society in general.
3. Empower youth and create opportunities for their engagement, ensuring their voices and concerns in the climate and sustainability spaces are amplified.





## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

### **ISSUE THE 50 CLIMATE POLICIES REPORT WITH APOLITICAL**

Launched on World Environment Day, the 50 Breakthrough Climate Policies Report – in collaboration with Apolitical – highlighted 50 of the most impactful climate-related policies around the world, where nations demonstrated leadership and diligence in their combat against climate change. The report also aimed to shed light on ‘best practices’ that could be replicated in other climate-vulnerable regions around the world including the MENA Region.



### **RUN AND PUBLISH THE MENA GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE AWARENESS SURVEY WITH THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**

The State of Arab Green Governemnts, launched with the League of the Arab States, showcased general Public sector sentiment in the MENA Region on sustainability, climate change, and climate action. More notably, the report emphasised the need for increased awareness and government tools across the entire region within the sustainability and climate action based on data collected from over space 1600 public sector employees from 7 Arab States to effectively overcome the looming threat of climate change in the region.

### **RUN THE “ROAD TO COP” EXPERTS FIRESIDE CHAT SESSIONS**

The Road to COP Expert Fireside Chat Series, joined the series’ host Ibrahim Al Zu’bi – Chair of the Global Council on SDG13 – with various experts across a wide range of diverse fields under the sustainability umbrella including sustainable finance and banking, green and circular economies, the proliferation of nature- based solutions, redefining infrastructure through a sustainable lens, and the road to net-zero and net-positive. The series provided the audience with unique expert insights and gave them the opportunity to engage with the experts in the Q&A segments.

## LAUNCH PARTNER OF GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL FORUM

The annual Global Sustainability Forum, in partnership with the New York Stock Exchange and the Chief Sustainability Officers Network, is a platform for private sector sustainability leaders (CSOs or equivalent) to discuss themes and topics in the corporate sustainability sector. The inaugural forum highlighted trends in decarbonisation, data reporting and management, and even featured insights from the UAE Sustainability Fellowship – a programme that trains and upskills young UAE nationals in the private sector to kickstart their journey as the next generation of CSOs.



## RUN THE CLIMATE WEEKLY VIDEO BRIEF

The Weekly Climate Update videos, running from pre-COP27 to post-COP28, provided the audience with the top 8 headlines in the climate action space. This included the launch of initiatives, policies, and strategies on a global scale. The series also featured weekly roundups of COP27 and COP28, as well as annual roundups containing the most impactful climate stories of the year.

## SUPPORT LAUNCHING THE ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE WITH THE ARAB YOUTH CENTER

The Arab Youth Council for Climate Change, an initiative under the Arab Youth Center aimed to create meaningful pathways for youth contribution and integration into national and regional climate agendas, ensuring they are given the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively participate in this space.



## LAUNCH PARTNER OF UAE BIODIVERSITY ANNUAL FORUM

The annual UAE Biodiversity Forum was launched to identify, highlight, and celebrate biodiversity conservation efforts across the UAE. In its inaugural year, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, the forum tackled several topics under the biodiversity umbrella including conservation projects, preservation of national identity, and the growth of the nature-based economy. The forum also saw the launch of the 52 Biodiversity Cases Report, to reflect the 52 years of Union.



## LAUNCH STUDIO2030 PODCAST (IN ARABIC)

The Studio2030 Podcast is the first of its kind, in Arabic, that discusses the execution of the SDGs through the MENA Region's lens. The podcast, hosted by Ibrahim Al Zu'bi – Chair of the Council – welcomed guests who have spearheaded initiatives to achieve the SDGs in the region and to discuss the path forward to ensure the entire region transitions towards sustainability. In its first episode, the podcast welcomed HE Ohood Al Roumi, UAE Minister of Government Development and the Future.

## LAUNCH THE INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NET ZERO VIRTUAL COURSE

The Introduction to Climate Change and Net Zero course is a virtual course distributed through WhatsApp in the Arabic language. The course provides learners with fundamentals in climate change and net-zero, and highlights the roles of the public and private sectors in achieving this ambitious goal. The course features text messages, videos, infographics, and activities that learners can complete at their own pace – and the average duration of the course is 5 weeks.





## Media Engagements

- Press releases, social media coverage, LinkedIn, other
- The Weekly Climate Updates are uploaded on LinkedIn, Instagram, and X.
- The Studio2030 Podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Podo, Spotify, and Anghami Podcasts.
- The Road to COP Webinar series is available on YouTube.
- All report and initiative launches are uploaded on LinkedIn, Instagram, and X.

## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

- Lack of awareness of SDGs among public sector.
- More work needs to be done to talk about SDGs.
- Lack of inclusive partnership towards climate action.
- The absence of incentives towards SDGs.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

- A full and comprehensive national engagement plan.
- An outreach awareness campaign.
- Quarterly councils meetings.
- A national SDGs annual summit.

## Global Council on SDG 16

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



Effective action to promote human development and a healthy environment, biodiversity and climate are interdependent & require cross-sectoral, cross-departmental policies and implementation. We need integral, innovative approaches directed at transformational change. The public sector must lead.

Achieving results, changing systems requires a long-term view, resilience, and a really good understanding of the complexity of government; the need to realize commitments to multi-level governance and to ensure a whole of government approach to achieving the SDGs.

Striving to accelerate progress, it is crucial to look at public sector leadership and its catalyst role to faster progress, and to provide national and local leaders the support needed through impactful programs to ensure that they have the relevant skills, knowledge, confidence, and courage to take decisive action.

This is what our Global Council focuses on.

### **Right Honorable Helen Clark**

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



# Background of the Council's Work Plan

## Covid aftermath

In 2022, our Global Council formulated and committed to ambitious results, in the expectation that COVID would finish, and the world would refocus on achieving sustainable results on the global agendas. Unfortunately, in quite some parts of the world, we have seen that the restrictions linked to the pandemic stretched into the second semester of 2022.

COVID delivered a terrible blow to human development around the world and negatively affected the most vulnerable and marginalized people everywhere. Apart from the death toll of the pandemic, poverty and hunger have gone up and, in some parts, reached levels not seen since the 1980s, inequalities, including gender inequality, have increased and many people lost their incomes. Already vulnerable health systems collapsed. On top of this, the world witnesses a triple planetary crisis: climate, environment, and biodiversity.

## Interdependence: climate agenda - SDGs

There is a strong causality between the achievement of the SDGs and the climate agenda, formally acknowledged by the UN. As the 'wedding cake' clearly shows, we have to urgently acknowledge that isolated solutions don't work and that to achieve a sustainable future we must work on the basics, that is our biosphere, our natural environment. If we do not work within our planetary boundaries, we undermine the essential preconditions for survival of humankind.

We cannot preserve the environment, biodiversity, and our climate by just focusing on them. There is no way to address the triple planetary crisis effectively and sustainably without tackling all other SDGs, among others food production, health systems, energy, and water scarcity. Sustainable and flourishing economies require stability, peace and well-functioning institutions, and a rule of law. Large investors seldom take the risk of investing in environments without a properly functioning judiciary and access to due process.

The interdependence between our biosphere, society and the economy become clear from the visual below by the Stockholm Resilience Center.

## SDG 16 and SDG17 crucial to build the enabling environment

Another, albeit a bit messier picture (author unknown), shows the interlinkages between the different SDGs and it makes perfectly clear that integral approaches are essential. This implies working across silos. Transformational change requires cross-sectoral, cross-departmental collaboration. Although a start has been made and there is a broad acknowledgement of the importance thereof, in practice we need much more of it. We need much more partnership for the Global Goals, to engage people: and that's where SDG17 plays an essential role.



The leadership to achieve the right levels of cross-sectoral and cross-departmental engagement and cooperation has to come from the public sector. Civil society and the private sector are necessary to get things done, but it is the public sector, governments and institutions, that must serve as the catalyst and the pillars, underpinning SDG17 by effective, inclusive leadership and good governance as the motor for implementation.

SDG 16 aims to improve people's lives by reducing violence, improving access to justice, and promoting effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, the fundamental building blocks for sustainable development. The importance of achieving SDG16 – peaceful societies, well-functioning institutions, and independent quality rule of law – as a prerequisite of sustainable realization of the other SDGs, incl. SDG13 on climate change has become even more pressing.

Countries are working to deliver the SDGs against multiple and multi-dimensional challenges and against a backdrop of conflict, the impact of climate change, pandemics, and weakening democracy at all levels of government. The world is also urbanizing very quickly and SDG16 plays a key role in sustainable urban development ensuring that people are at the center of decisions affecting their lives.

We hoped that after Covid, the international community and world leaders would set a definite course to take transformative approaches leading to sustainable, positive systemic change. Without proper leadership and good governance, there is no way to implement the global agendas.

## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

- A better understanding of the needs of government in leading a whole of government approach to delivering the SDGs.
- Capacity building of civil servants and young leaders in UAE's key partnership countries with a view to reinforcing government and governance.
- Elaborate proposal, secure funding and start piloting the Leadership4SDGs initiative, directed at government leadership at national and local levels, through one or two pilots. Goal: proof of concept.
- An initial ecosystem & coordination mechanism in place (a mutually reinforcing group of involved / supporting / implementing organizations) geared towards helping countries to accelerate the interlinked achievement of the SDGs and environment, biodiversity and climate goals.
- Communication strategy directed at awareness building among governments of the importance of achieving SDG16 and SDG17 (partnership) as a precondition for positive peace, and inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development.



## Key Milestones Achieved

### Training of civil servants and young leaders

The training of civil servants and a first batch of young leaders was delivered and led mainly by the UAE Government Leadership Programme through the Government Experience Exchange Programme. Targeted were the UAE international strategic partners in the government development capacity building pillar. These projects and initiatives aimed to contribute to achieving the objectives of SDG16 as to leadership development for government and governance, and institutional strength.

Main international strategic partners who were part of the 2022 journey: Republic of Uzbekistan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Serbia. From these countries, in total 4200 civil servants participated throughout the year 2022.

### Leadership4SDGs (L4SDGs) program

L4SDGs is an innovative, comprehensive and multi-faceted program:

- Involving top government leaders at all levels.
- Directed to boost integral approaches with cross-sectoral and cross-departmental involvement and cooperation.
- Focused on long-term, sustained, structured support.

Further development, improving the approach and building support has been a continuous process, greatly impeded by Covid and its aftermath. In 2022, we:

- Broadened outreach, confirming promising (such as Commonwealth, Global Leadership Foundation, Club de Madrid, Egon Zehnder) and finding additional partnerships.
- Based on feedback, strengthened the concept. The updated proposal has been submitted to the Advisory Board on Finance, led by Ms. Marie Aimee Boury.
- Improved communication.
- Developed ideas as to potential pilot countries / municipalities-cities, in cooperation with Commonwealth.

Leadership4SDGs requires funding to pilot and get to a proof of concept. Once this has been achieved, interest might quickly grow especially in view of the urgent need to accelerate actions and find transformative pathways to help achieve sustainable and inclusive development. I am fully aware that Leadership4SDGs does not represent a traditional project which can be easily captured in log frames and fixed KPIs, but I am confident it has real potential to contribute to sustained and transformative development. Slide deck and written proposal can be shared on request.

## Impacts and Measurement

### **Outcomes from capacity building of civil servants:**

- Increasing attendance and participation from different international strategic partners for government development.
- Good quality of discussion in the online trainings.
- Public servants engagement and knowledge exchange.
- Latest trends in various topics and the best out of networking experienced with the elite leaders across all industries.
- Cross sector engagement, regional and global collaborations, and economic development for strong institutions.

### **The outcomes from the leadership program:**

- Improved quality of people, prepared and ready to lead in government.
- 20 projects ready to be implemented for government development and enhancement of government services.
- First-hand knowledge experienced from meeting experts and decision makers.
- Leading pioneer entities visited as benchmarking experience.





## Expected Outcomes and Impact by End of Term (targets)

### Linked to goals / objectives described above:

1. The Leadership Programme trained more than 4,000 civil servants. This includes the Maldivian Executive Leadership Programme, who graduated during the World Governments Summit 2024.
2. The second batch of the Young Leadership Programme completed their training successfully, equipping youth with leadership capabilities and skills. The Uzbekistan delegation graduated during the World Governments Summit 2024.
3. Leadership4SDGs commenced in its first batch of government and local leaders, while establishing partnerships around L4SDGs through a network of 'ambassadors'.
4. Leadership4SDGs have been announced as an acceleration of sustainable realization for SDGs and Climate Agendas.

## Expectations towards COP 28

If Leadership4SDGs would be funded and able to start piloting, the aim is to announce this innovative initiative during COP28 with a compelling presentation.

## Global Council on SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



“

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, OECD

# Background of the Council's Work Plan

Designing, implementing and monitoring policies that are coherent across sectors and levels of government is one of the main challenges facing governments in implementing the SDGs. Ensuring that these policies also align short- and long-term objectives and do not impact negatively beyond national borders or on global public commons, such as the climate and the ocean, amplifies this challenge further. This is why the Global Council on SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals aims at strengthening countries' ability to achieve SDG Target 17.14 Enhance Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), a key means of implementation for all Goals.

# Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

The Global Council on SDG 17 has five main objectives. Each objective contributes both individually and collectively with the other objectives to enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development:

1. Promoting integrated and coherent solutions to global challenges and ensuring that short-term recovery measures are aligned with long-term sustainability commitments.
2. 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.
3. Monitoring and evaluation of PCSD and SDG governance linked with SDG implementation outcomes.
4. Building civil service capacity for the SDGs to ensure that governments are equipped with “fit-for-purpose” skills.
5. Building partnerships and digital tools to facilitate peer-learning and policy dialogue, including between the Global Councils.



## Key Milestones Achieved

Launch of the OECD report “Driving Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development” during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023: The report highlights countries’ practices in implementing the OECD Council Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). It illustrates how governments can use institutional mechanisms for PCSD to address complex international problems through whole-of-government approaches. The report also applies a PCSD lens to the ocean – one of Earth’s largest global public commons and an obvious cross-border policy challenge.

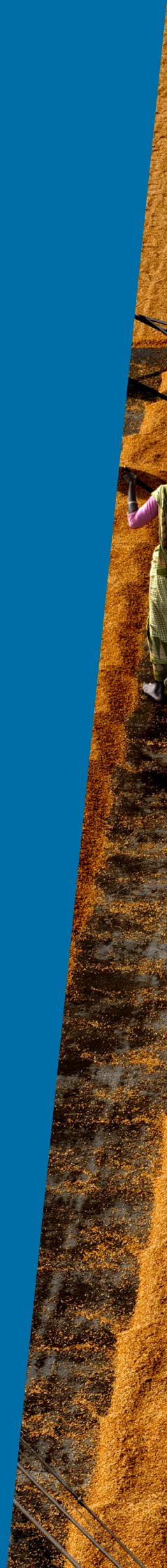
Implementation of the OECD-APRM Regional Initiative on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: The initiative aims to strengthen the application of the OECD framework for PCSD in Africa in alignment with National Development Plans in Africa. In 2023, South Africa, Namibia, and Ghana benefited from a self-assessment exercise on PCSD followed by a national-led dialogue on issues pertinent to PCSD.

2023 HLPF Side Event on Building policy coherence solutions for accelerating progress on the SDGs: What challenges do governments face in addressing transboundary impacts of policies and in connecting sectoral silos?: The governments of Slovakia, Belgium, Italy, Romania and Ghana in partnership with the OECD co-hosted this high-level event during the 2023 HLPF. Discussions highlighted a broad recognition of the need to enhance capacities of countries to implement long-term strategic agendas while addressing immediate domestic and global pressures.

VNR Lab in the context of the 2023 HLPF: “Principles of effective governance in VNRs: Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development”: This VNR Lab, co-organized by UNDESA, APRM and OECD, aimed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning on how to enhance policy coherence for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Chile, Ghana, and Portugal shared examples of measures undertaken to foster and track policy coherence. A call was made to activate the SDG 17.14 indicator on PCSD to enable measuring progress and increase political visibility of PCSD.

Advancing a Dashboard for SDG 17 Global Council 17, led by DEWA, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Global Councils on SDGs (The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre): The dashboard is intended to serve as a one-stop shop that will provide a visual representation for the performance of the Councils performance through partnerships. It will help monitor, report, and measure the progress and effectiveness of the partnership for the councils. The dashboard should be able to visually display key results by November 2023.

Additional information on individual Council members’ work can be provided upon request.





## Impact and Measurements

The overall impact of the Global Council on SDG 17 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.

## Location Data for Analysis and Mapping

The Council's activities contribute to supporting data collection efforts towards the monitoring of global SDG indicator 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance PCSD.

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

The expected outcomes and impact of the Global Council on SDG 17 is enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development at both national and global level. This entails increased government capacities to: identify synergistic and integrated policy solutions; align domestic objectives with global sustainability commitments; and avoid negative spillovers on other countries and future generations.

## Media Engagements

Web: <https://www.oecd.org/governance/pcsd/toolkit/>

LinkedIn: PCSD OECD

Twitter: @OECD\_PCSD



# SDG Global Council Finance Advisory Board “SDG FinAB”



The SDG Finance Advisory Board members are proud to have brought their experience and impact focus to serve select initiatives launched by the other SDG Global Councils that targeted under-served communities or under-addressed markets. Combining our expertise and networks, we were able to provide capacity building, knowledge sharing, and connections to capital sources and impact-driven partners. We truly enjoyed being part of this active and collaborative SDGs In Action community

**Marie-Aimee Boury**

Head of Impact Based Finance,  
Societe Generale

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

The SDG Finance Advisory Board assessed the financing needs of select initiatives submitted by the SDG Councils and made recommendations in terms of:

- The structuring of the value proposition of the projects to ensure that the key concerns of early-stage finance providers were 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, and possible financing structures to optimize fundraising.
- Identification of relevant existing collaborative initiatives that could provide support to the proposed projects and possibly offer a partnership approach to combine resources, synergize and optimize outcomes.
- Introduction to the SDG FinAB members' wider networks to advise on ways to support the initiative development and kick start the funding applications.

## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

Our objectives were derived from the requests presented to us by our fellow Global Councils and we have also set our own to share awareness and knowledge around the financing solutions for the SDGs.

**Objective #1:** having identified and mapped the resources that can be brought by the SDG FinAB members around 3 pillars of work (technical assistance and capacity building, ecosystem strengthening through knowledge platforms, capital connections), we have set an objective to share our knowledge on topics relevant to other SDG Councils in the design and implementation of the funding strategy necessary to support their initiatives.

**Objective #2:** reach out to all other SDG Global Councils to offer our assistance by organizing dedicated "task forces" gathering the FinAB members most relevant to support the precise needs expressed by the SDG Councils.

**Objective #3:** independently from the request made by other SDG Councils, the SDG FinAB members were invited to share within our own group any SDG financing opportunity that they would like to offer and support, and which could benefit from the knowledge and/or network from any of the other SDG FinAB members.

# Key Milestones Achieved

## Internal milestones within the SDG Finance Advisory Board:

- Starting Jan 2022, the Finance Advisory Board successfully conducted over 30 meetings. These meetings were either meetings attended by all SDG FinAB members or preparatory calls attended by the secretariat to discuss the progress and agree on the action plan, as well as “task force” meetings to address a specific SDG Council’s request.
- The SDG FinAB also created a questionnaire that was circulated internally to learn more about the areas of expertise within the council, and create focus groups to advise, guide and support the SDG councils in their initiatives. We identified focus areas, resources and desired impact and created working groups “task forces” matched to the relevant council’s initiatives to accelerate our inter-council collaboration. The identification of 3 pillars of work was a key step to decide on our 3 pillars of outcomes.
- The Chairperson of the SDG FinAB participated in the World Governments Summit SDGs in Action session, held at EXPO2020 in Dubai in March 2022 together with 3 other Council members and held multiple bilateral discussions with other attending SDG Council members.
- The FinAB Secretariat appointed two youth members as part of their program to support the Secretariat and the FinAB members in their objectives and work plans.
- As per Objective #3 above, teasers of impactful investment opportunities were circulated amongst the members of the SDG FinAB, and ongoing discussions and due diligence exercises were conducted.

## External milestones with other councils and stakeholders:

- Starting Jan 2022, the Finance Advisory Board reached out to and arranged for one-on-one meetings with 14 out of the 16 SDG Councils.
- Identified 10 key SDG Global Councils with impactful and viable projects and initiatives that the FinAB could potentially support depending on their level of readiness (SDG1, SDG3, SDG4, SDG Youth Nexus (Al Ghurair), SDG Data Nexus (ESRI), Energy Efficiency, SDG13, SDG16, SDG17. Successfully conducted approximately 50 meetings in total with these identified SDG Global Councils to explore inter-council collaboration and readiness, and eventually selected 2 councils for collaboration (SDG1, SDG3), and through which, the task forces which were established. These included reviewing the Project Pipeline Compendium of the COP27 Climate Champions & SDG1 Council Chair, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, as well as assessing a shortlist of 10 innovations from SDG3 Council’s Health In Your Hands. Established the Climate and Health Financing Working Group with SDG3 which held monthly meetings to build strategic areas of work, and assess proposals submitted (see below).
- Dr. Shariha Khalid and Youth Member, Khalid Hussain established a Health Financing Working Group (“HFWG”) which is an inter-council collaboration between the SDG FinAB & SDG3 Council and included members from the FinAB, SDG3 Council and external expert members as well collaborators. Several objectives were met that included:
  - Identified and shortlisted a priority list of countries in which to focus efforts through deep dive analysis, feedback surveys and discussions with internal and external stakeholders.
  - Identified and shortlisted proposals to scale health innovations and capital mobilization initiatives which also touch on thematic climate and gender elements; through several meetings, due diligence and exploratory sessions. Strengthened their proposals and connected to potential catalytic funders.

- Collaborated and explored opportunities for building relationships and cooperation potential with leading global organizations that focus on the climate and health nexus (two examples under the Capital Connection pillar are collaborations with Lifelong Investors in People's Health, LIPH - a global alliance of Asset Managers managing USD7 trillion in AUM (Assets Under Management) and 2X Global, a global network of gender-focused investors that have committed USD30 billion for gender-lens investments).
- Explored the possibility of working with the WHO ATACH (Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate & Health) - to support their work with members states, by mobilizing the private sector for achieving climate resilient/net-zero health systems targets.
- SDG FinAB Council Chair Marie-Aimee Boury contributed to the summary of the Financing section in the white paper issued by the Energy Efficiency Council, released at COP28 in Dubai.
- Launched the "Office Hours" Program championed by the SDG FinAB Council members, including the following Fireside Chats:
  - 1 "The Importance of Sustainable Finance and Impact Investing" in collaboration with SDG 13, featuring the Chairs of SDG FinAB and SDG13, Marie Aimee Boury and Dr. Ibrahim AlZoubi respectively.
  - 2 "Measuring Sustainable Development Impact", a fireside chat jointly presented by two SDG FinAB members, Dr. Mohamed AlYami and Mariam AlHebshi.  
The two fireside chats were well attended and socialized on social media channels. All other SDG Councils were invited to attend.
- Youth Member, Mariam AlHebshi participated in COP27 in the Youth Thematic Day at Sharm El Sheikh, by sharing a video on the role of youth in promoting ESG ([https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mariam-alhabshi-54097788\\_youth-cop27-cop27egypt-activity-6996716876919631872-E-Mo?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mariam-alhabshi-54097788_youth-cop27-cop27egypt-activity-6996716876919631872-E-Mo?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)).
- SDG FinAB Member, Dr. Shariha Khalid participated in COP27 on the invitation of the High Level Climate Champion and also Chair of SDG1 Global Council, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin as an Impact Champion, and actively participated in bilateral discussions on financing and opportunities to connect COP27 to COP28. The discussion is ongoing with SDG13 Chair, Ibrahim Al-Zubi and with the Climate Champions Team on finance mobilisation for the Just Transition and Indigenous Peoples Agenda.
- SDG FinAB Member, Dr. Shariha Khalid contributed a chapter to the upcoming Elsevier publication: "Resilient Health: Leveraging Technology and Social Innovations to Transform Healthcare for COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond" on the role of the private sector in delivering Universal Health Coverage and illustrated the SDG Finance Advisory Board as an example of multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Youth Member, Mariam AlHebshi participated as a speaker hosted by the SDGs in Action special edition at COP28, in a fireside chat titled: "Financial Literacy and Sustainable Investments for Youth."
- Dr. Shariha Khalid participated in the Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum at COP28 on the invitation of HE Sultan Al Jabbar and contributed as a speaker and judge at the Government Accelerator & Cybersecurity Moonshots Lab during COP28.
- SDG FinAB Council Chair Marie-Aimee Boury introduced SDG Youth Nexus Council's NOMU Regional Initiative to local partners in Lebanon and Tunisia to support the development of new programs in these two countries.

# Impact and Measurements

The SDG FinAB council has chosen 3 KPIs to set targets and monitor output and outcomes, and where possible impacts, resulting from our actions:

## **1. Ecosystem Strengthening Through Knowledge Platforms (Education and Awareness Events):**

Number of uniquely organised virtual events: 3, number of attendees and speakers: 100+ at each event.

## **2. Capital Connections:**

Number of connections made and quality of the connection: >10 connections, to capital sources worth more than USD7 trillion AUM in total.

Amount of capital raised thanks to our connections (ongoing process).

Identification of funding needs thanks to intervention from FinAB members: 2 initiatives selected through the SDG3-FinAB Task Force on Climate & Health Financing.

## **3. Technical Assistance:**

Number of calls and meetings with other SDG Councils: ~50.

Feedback received / actions taken as a result of our support (ongoing).

# Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

As explained above, the outcomes and impacts from our actions depended on the targets set by the other SDG Councils we support. However we have set ourselves targets to hold at least 3 events during the term and to have at least one impactful project funded as a result of the capital connection made via the FinAB. We were happy that we surpassed these targets.

# Media Engagements

## **LinkedIn:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:6982645665956802560/>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mariam-alhabshi-54097788\\_youth-cop27-cop27egypt-activity-6996716876919631872-E-MO?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mariam-alhabshi-54097788_youth-cop27-cop27egypt-activity-6996716876919631872-E-MO?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

## **Post | Feed | LinkedIn**

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/edf-middleeast-energy-efficiency-whitepaper-activity-7140265425992417281-SEwb?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/edf-middleeast-energy-efficiency-whitepaper-activity-7140265425992417281-SEwb?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)



## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

1. From all the interactions with the other councils, agreeing on collaboration was not straightforward as many of the councils either did not have an initiative ready in the first year, or the initiative was too early stage, or they were not interested in collaborating or members of the finance council could not find a direct relevance to their existing work to be able to help advise or mobilize capital.
2. Without the commitment of catalytic early stage funding from the UAE, and as some of the initiatives of the other councils required such catalytic funding, because they were in the early stages, it was very challenging for members of the finance council to support unlocking other capital connections. The Council members were all highly experienced executives for whom it was difficult to allocate time or their staff resources to explore financing solutions available for the other SDG Councils. To truly deliver impact, the Finance Council should be entrusted with an envelope of capital it can deploy towards funding technical assistance to support the other councils and/or catalytic funding to de-risk financing and crowd in other donors and/or private investors in blended finance mechanisms.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

1. Dedicated funding pool needs to be made available for each council, as part of catalytic funding for the work plans to be mobilized and the initiatives to commence.
2. The change of Secretariat team members at short notice left a gap for follow up of approximately 6 months and a further 3 months of lack of clarity from new team members such as the connection to the COP28 Presidency or the end of the term of the council. It is advised that future councils set the terms of engagement from the beginning, with signed Terms of Reference documents for each council member, and for the Secretariat to have dedicated team members who do not also need to attend to daily work duties.
3. Provide more information on what the other councils are doing and what their needs are in terms of financial advisory/ assistance early on in the beginning of the term.



## Global Council on SDG 3

Noor Dubai Foundation Eye Care Programs focus on SDG 3 while cross-linking to SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10 & 17.



As a Foundation primarily focused on preventing blindness, Noor Dubai's programs have been designed to treat individuals, empower them after the devastating impact of blindness on their lives, and create a more sustainable developmental impact in their communities.

In the 75th session of UN on accelerating action for SDGS it was acknowledged that eye care services as part of universal health coverage are relevant to achieving SDG Goal 3, noting that vision loss leads to an increased risk of mortality and affects mental health and well-being which further drives us to ensure access to quality standard eye care services. Furthermore, access to eye health care is essential to achieving SDG 4 and has a positive impact on school enrollment and educational attainment.

As we enter 2024, we plan strategically to demonstrate the impact of advanced technology in healthcare on global issues such as climate change. Through AI and Telemedicine, Noor Dubai leads the change against global blindness, leaving a lasting legacy in global health and well-being.

### **Dr. Manal Taryam**

Chief Executive Officer & Board Member  
Noor Dubai Foundation



## Background of the Council's Work Plan

The Comprehensive Eye Care Program in Katsina State, Nigeria in West Africa was a 4-year program aimed to achieve universal health coverage through cataract and refractive error services in Katsina State, Nigeria whilst relating to SDGs, 1, 4, 5 & 17. The program included service provision, infrastructure and equipment development, human resource development, health awareness, education, and system building and partnerships. The program aimed to improve refractive error services among school children and increase cataract surgery services by 50%, resulting in positive economic impacts, and gender equality within the Katsina state.

## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

The Council aims were to implement the program with 2 major objectives, increasing cataract surgery coverage and improving refractive error services both by 50% within the Katsina state of Nigeria. To increase cataract surgery coverage, Noor Dubai Foundation performed 11,000 surgeries ensuring an 80% optimal/good surgical outcomes whilst ensuring 50% of operated cases are women. To improve refractive error services within the state, Noor Dubai Foundation aims to screen 160,000 elementary school pupils and 3000 teachers across 160 schools. As well as, providing refractive error services to at least 1,500 pupils and 1,500 teachers. Both objectives include indicators to help the improvement of gender equality, quality of life and education within the state.

## Key Milestones Achieved

The program report is available on the Noor Dubai Foundation's official website. While updates within the year are usually updated on the foundation's social media channels.

### Website

<https://www.noordubai.ae/>

<https://noordubai.ae/MediaCenter/en/AnnualReport?csrt=1508190878209372541>

### Facebook

@Noordubaifoundation

<https://www.facebook.com/noordubaifoundation/>

Instagram . Twitter . Youtube

@noordubai

<https://www.instagram.com/noordubai/?hl=en>

<https://twitter.com/noordubai?lang=en>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsmaZQAb25PZDfzh3tNp9g>

# Impact and measurements to date

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

### 1) Mobile Eye Camps (2008 – 2023)



**310,426**

Screenings



**32,054**

Surgeries Performed



**72,422**

Glasses



**18**

Countries



**35**

Cities



**41**

Volunteers

No	Country	Beneficiaries	No	Country	Beneficiaries
1	Sudan	<b>37,936</b>	10	Somalia	<b>4,888</b>
2	Pakistan	<b>45,639</b>	11	Ethiopia	<b>19,059</b>
3	Sri Lanka	<b>16,553</b>	12	Togo	<b>6,893</b>
4	Yemen	<b>38,400</b>	13	Morocco	<b>8,800</b>
5	Bangladesh	<b>64,514</b>	14	Philippines	<b>4,700</b>
6	Chad	<b>11,000</b>	15	Nepal	<b>10,522</b>
7	Niger	<b>21,030</b>	16	Senegal	<b>8,500</b>
8	Burkina Faso	<b>5,000</b>	17	Eritrea	<b>3,197</b>
9	Ghana	<b>26,402</b>	18	Nigeria	<b>5266</b>

### 2) Comprehensive Eye Care Program in Katsina State, Nigeria in West Africa

**27,554** | Total Screenings  
Katsina Eye Care Program

**355** | People Trained

**11,873** | Surgeries Performed  
Katsina Eye Care Program  
(51% women, and >80% Good outcome)

**2,538** | Glasses Distributed

**281,103** | School Children Screened  
Katsina School Health Program

**128** | Ophthalmic Equipment Supplied  
(supplied to 3 clinics)

**3,996** | Teachers Screened  
Katsina School Health Program

**250** | Primary Health Centers supplied  
with basic eye screening tools

### 3) Barishal Program (2021 – H1 2023)



**26,510**

Patients Screened for Refractive Error



**8,217**

Patients Screened for Diabetic Retinopathy



**235**

Laser surgeries for Diabetic Retinopathy



**2,381**

Glasses Distributed



**2,381**

Health Centers Supplied with Retinal Cameras & Laser Machines

### 4) Trachoma Elimination Program in Amhara, Ethiopia (2013 – 2022)



**111 Million**

Doses of Medicine Distributed



**14,888,217**

Patients Receiving Medication



**356,620**

Surgeries



**139,059**

Individuals Trained



**117 (29%)**

Districts Covered

## NATIONAL PROGRAMS

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### 5) Mobile Eye Clinic (The Noor Dubai Eye Bus) – 2014 – 2023



**39,070**

Beneficiaries (Patients Screened)

### 6) UAE Patient Program – 2016 – 2023



**367**

Beneficiaries (Patients Treated)

## Location data for analysis and mapping

<https://noordubai.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1ff15230b5c44e1fb93f46035bfa0f1e>

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

Upon completing the objectives of the Katsina Eye Care Program in Nigeria, Noor Dubai Foundation conducted a study that outlines the economic impacts of preventing blindness and providing cataract surgery interventions to the beneficiaries. As a result, Noor Dubai proved that by preventing blindness we can improve economic benefits and quality of life for our beneficiaries. The results are as follows:

### Economic Improvements:

- 96.2% improvement on productivity
- 99.6% improvement on income
- 99% improvement on employability
- 90% have improved their sense of dignity
- 97% of improvement on the skills of beneficiaries

The survey also helped the foundation prove the reduction of poverty when beneficiaries receive the healthcare they need, particularly eye care. Beneficiaries with an initial monthly income of < \$11.3/month reported an increase in income up to \$113.4/month

### Social Improvements:

- 98% depend less on an escort
- 98% participate more in social functions
- 99% have control over quality of life
- 96% face less visual discrimination (a decrease)
- 96% see life as more sustainable.
- 51% of cataract beneficiaries were women

Academic Improvement through eye school screenings also showed positive results on the education of school children; 86.3% of students reported more academic productivity and 86% improved understanding in class in addition to 49% of beneficiaries for eye screenings conducted in schools were female students.

As a result, Noor Dubai managed to support SDG 3 highly, whilst cross-linking with the other sustainable goals.

The program makes deliberate efforts to improve access to eye care for women and girl children. School eye screening has positive effect on the education of school children, while cataract services improve the employability and productivity of adults. Overall the program improves the quality of life and socioeconomic status of beneficiaries and their families as the family caregivers of the visually impaired persons can return to their productive lives or return to school once sight is restored to the person they are taking care of.



# Media Engagements

<https://www.noordubai.ae/>

## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

Noor Dubai Foundation has learned that there are 3 important aspects when it comes to the global councils.

### 1) Partnerships

Developing and maintaining partnerships is highly important when it comes to supporting the SDG's. The Katsina Eye Care program highlighted this aspect. Without the partnership of the government of Katsina, Noor Dubai would not have been able to provide eye care services and conduct the research and studies developed.

### 2) Measuring impacts

Measuring the impacts of programs like the Katsina eye care program can be important as it creates the outline of how good eye health within the population results in high economic turnover, improvement of social capabilities among the beneficiaries, as well as improvement in education. Noor Dubai was able to conclude this result after conducting surveys and collecting data from their eye care services.

### 3) Publications

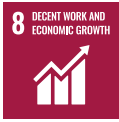
Publications created by Noor Dubai from its programs provide credibility for the Foundation as well as help it be more recognized in the eye health research world. Many international entities focused on eye health and the prevention of blindness can use our research and results when it comes to future program developments on an international scale. It also results in future potential partnerships in different parts of the world as entities will be able to see our successes and program framework from our publications.





## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

Noor Dubai Foundation SDG Council strongly believes when it comes to impacting the SDG's connections and networking are key factors. Through networking, other entities, and organizations can familiarize themselves with others to understand how their actions and goals can help accelerate the SDGs. We suggest that we connect more and have more meetings to update other councils on our work and to help connect one another so that we can interlink. Seeing as how SDG 3 has many interlinks with other SDGs within our programs, we can develop programs with SDG councils within the country to help reach the goals.



## Nexus model: SDGs 4, 8 and 17

Addition of SDG 5 in the second half of 2023



“

As we bid farewell to a transformative chapter, the UAE Global Council for SDGs celebrates the impact and collaborative efforts achieved over the past two years, particularly advancing SDGs 4, 5, 8, and 17, through the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation's Nomu initiative. Nomu has transformed over 21,000 learners' lives, advancing our commitment to upskill 25,000 Emirati youth. We now look ahead to a future where these young people are global leaders, equipped with the skills to excel.

**Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

Research indicates a mismatch between the skills youth possess, and labour market requirements in the Arab region. Youth often find themselves lacking the skills sought after by employers, particularly the crucial transferable skills needed for the workplace, hindering their ability to engage in decent work opportunities.

Challenges persist as many statistics highlight the need for reskilling and upskilling of the UAE workforce, the lack of business-relevant skills among university graduates, and the shortage of specialized skills and relatively low technology proficiency levels and data science skills. ([KPMG](#), 2011; [WEF](#), 2020; [PwC](#), 2022; Global Skills Report, 2022). Gender disparities also persist as unemployment rates among females with advanced education are higher than their male counterparts ([UN Women](#) data hub).

To address these gaps, the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation (AGF) launched the Nomu Initiative in 2021. Nomu, meaning 'growth', is in line with the 'Projects of the 50' goals and supports UAE citizens in becoming competitive and meeting the evolving needs of the labour market. AGF has also launched a women-focused pathway to address the unique challenges faced by young female professionals and women returning to the workplace after a career break.

Please refer here to access a spotlight on [Nomu](#)

## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

Through Nomu, AGF partners with industry leaders to:

- Upskill and reskill 25,000 Emirati youth by 2025 to meet the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the UAE "Projects of the 50".
- Increase employability through high-quality upskilling training.
- Enhance technical and transferable skills through workplace learning opportunities.
- Provide access to market-driven technical degrees.

The Council supports the scaling and advancement of the Nomu initiative pioneered by the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation to accelerate the achievement of SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 17 in the UAE, by:

- Building on the experience of the Council Members to better align to the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.
- Leveraging the network of the Council Members to engage stakeholders and increase visibility of Nomu within different industries.

# Key Milestones Achieved

## Launch of six Nomu Initiative pathway projects

- [TechUp](#): In partnership with [Udacity](#), this project aims to digitally empower youth in the UAE to become ready for the digital economy through various levels of digital fluency and advanced nano degree specializations. The project was launched in March 2022.
- [Siraj](#): In partnership with [CNN Arabic](#), this project aims to provide youth with WEF transferable skills to prepare them to be competitive candidates in the job market. The project was launched in August 2022.
- [Project Hama](#): under the leadership of the UAE Prime Minister's Office, this project aims to enhance professional and transferable skills of Emirati female military recruits to improve their employability. The project was launched in August 2022.
- Leap: In partnership with [Project You](#), this project aims to provide youth with Mckinsey Global Institute future job skills and industry experience for employment pathways, in the creative sectors. The project was launched in March 2023.
- Nomu Cyber: In partnership with [Sprints](#), this project aims to upskill youth in the strategic sector of Cyber Security to be employed as Cyber Security and Networks Engineers and Technical practitioners. The project was launched in July 2023.
- Nomu Women: In partnership with [Skyrize Partners](#), this project aims to upskill Emirati females with industry recognized management trainings and provide them with career guidance and access to the private sector for internships and career opportunities. The project was launched in November 2023.

## Partnerships with Hiring Partners:

- Mashreq Bank: was the first hiring partner to offer 7 internships for Techup graduates. The collaboration continued as Mashreq revamped their internship program, in 2024 they are offering 10 internship opportunities to Nomu graduates.
- Dubai Government Human Resource Department: Signed a Memorandum of Agreement to match graduates with jobs in the private sector in Dubai.
- Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Ministry of Health and Prevention: sent direct request for support in recruitment from our graduates.
- In 2023, AGF expanded the network of corporate hiring partners: companies like CAFU, Petrofac, RAKEZ and GRG: GCC Recruitment and Executive Search Agency, opened opportunities for Nomu graduates.
- Collectively, these partners offered over 50 employment opportunities to Nomu graduates.
- Nomu implementing partners continuously cultivate partnerships with private sector companies to support with job attainment and facilitate job matching:
  - Nomu Women: Galaxy/Mars, Danfoss, General Motors and Arla.
  - Nomu Cyber: Webville, Test Crew, Sonicwall, Jadeer, Great Place to Work, Jobs for Nationals, and Al Ghurair Investments.

## Scaling Nomu: An Emirati Homegrown Initiative Going Regional

- Following the success of the Nomu Initiative in the UAE, AGF drew on the model and approach used in the UAE to create a tailored version for the Arab region.

- Nomu Regional will support Arab youth accessing upskilling opportunities in relevant field.
- The foundation launched its first 3 pathway projects in Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan, catering to different needs and levels of specializations, including:
  - Bridge Programs.
  - Upskilling programs in different specializations.
  - Business and entrepreneurial-skills support.

## Engagements

### • **November 3, 2022: SDG Luncheon**

AGF held an SDG networking event under the theme of getting together, building relationships for sustainability, and uniting for better solutions. The aim of the event was to connect council members from the Global Council of SDGs 2021 – 2023 to exchange thoughts and ideas, discuss current SDG projects and how council members can support each other as well as connect with a community of professionals.

### • **February 12-14, 2023: World Governments Summit**

AGF and the council members participated in panels and engagements at the World Governments Summit. Most notably, the members were actively engaged during the SDGs in Action activities.

### • **November 20, 2023: Nomu Regional Launch Event**

- The event was also an opportunity to announce the first three regional partners and brought together over 130 stakeholders representing different organizations.
- It was marked by:
  - A keynote speech by H.E. Dr. Eman Ahmad Al Salami, Ambassador of the UAE to Tunisia.
  - A video message by H.E. Abdulla Lootah, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Knowledge Exchange.

### • **November 30 – December 14, 2023: COP28**

AGF and the Council Members were part of over 21 speaking engagements at COP28, where Nomu was part of the key messages shared with attendees. In particular, Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar, CEO of the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation and Chairperson of the Council on Nexus Model 4, 5, 8 and 17 participated in panel discussion entitled “SDGs in Action special edition at COP28 – Education for Sustainable Development: Redefining Curricula”, which was Organized by the UAE National Committee on SDGs.

## SDG Mapping for the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation

AGF engaged with the council members to map the entire programs portfolio managed by the Foundation team to the SDGs, in an effort to provide a means to assess the impact of the organizational program and their contribution to the Goals and targets of each of the relevant SDGs.

- Phase 1: which took place in 2022, the SDG experts helped the AGF team to understand how the programs are linked to the relevant SDGs and targets through a mapping process, and created a framework for the incorporation of future programs into the mapping process.
- Phase 2: which took place in 2023, the SDG experts turned the SDG framework into an actionable matrix that would enable the team to understand the direct and indirect contributions to the SDGs, map the differences between AGF’s contributions to the SDGs with relevant metrics collected and reported by the UAE and the UN Global Compact, map the direct benefits of AGF’s programs to its recipients by using a benefit-to-stakeholder model, and create a practical framework for evaluating future AGF programs.

# Impact and measurements

By expanding the impact of the Nomu initiative based on reliable data, the SDG Council fulfilled its mission to support the implementation of action towards, and accelerate the achievements of the SDGs, by doing the following:

- Presenting the Nomu Initiative at different platforms and panels, highlighting the model and approach of implementation, as well as results of engagement with partners, which led to the scaling of the initiative beyond the UAE.
- Engaging their networks and leveraging their knowledge of different sectors to involve additional stakeholders in the implementation and scaling of Nomu.
- Developing the SDG framework and mapping for the entire Foundation to help better alignment with Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, as well as better measurement of the contribution made towards the SDGs at the national level. Below is the result of this mapping.





## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

Nomu have 3 main outcomes to be met by 2025. Progress towards these outcomes are shown below:

### 1. Upskill 25,000 Emirati youth by 2025

As of December 2023, AGF have benefitted 21,357 learners through the different pathway projects launched under Nomu. 61% of which are Emiratis, and 57% of which are Females.

### 2. Create a globally competitive talent pipeline

- All Nomu partners are committed to 80% completion rate.
- 1000 Tech up Learners will acquire a nano degree in on of 3 STEM specializations. By December 2023, 343 learners acquired their Nano Degrees.

### 3. Provide high quality training and work-integrated learning opportunities in UAE priority sectors

- Six pathway projects were launched in the UAE that focused on sectors including digital skills, media, creative industries and Cyber Security.
- Three pathway projects were launched in the Region that focused on digital skills, engineering and computing, business and entrepreneurship and soft skills needed for success in the job market.

# Media Engagements

## Nomu

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2022

### PR Coverage:

- [Press Release: Al Ghurair Investment partners with Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation](#) – English.
- [Press Release: Al Ghurair Investment partners with Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation](#) – Arabic.

### Social Media

- [Instagram](#)

## Nomu Women

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2023

### Social media:

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Instagram](#)

## Nomu Cyber

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2023

### Social media:

- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [X](#)
- [X](#)

## Siraj

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2022

### PR coverage:

- [Press Release: SDG Young Leaders Program signs MOU with Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education to support initiatives to equip UAE youth with leadership skills](#) – English.
- [Press Release: CNN Arabic and the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education embark on storytelling and youth development partnership](#) – English.

### Social media:

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Spotlight](#)

2023

### Social media:

- [X](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

## Nomu Region

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2023

### PR coverage:

- [Press Release: MOU to prepare 2030 Tunisian Youth for work](#) – Arabic.
- [Press Release: Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation expands its Emirati youth initiative “Nomu” for capacity building across the region.](#)
- [Press Release: Joint programs to build Diplomacy Skills in the UAE](#) – Arabic.
- [Press Release: MOU to prepare 2030 Tunisian Youth for work](#) – Arabic.

### Social media:

- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

## Project Hama

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2022

### PR coverage:

- [Press Release: 'Hama' enhances future readiness of female national service recruits](#) – English.

### Social media:

- [LinkedIn](#)

## TechUP

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2022

### PR coverage:

- [Press Release: AGFE, Udacity launch TechUp programme to crack the ‘train to hire’ code and boost Emirati talent](#) – English.
- [Press Release: Zayed University & Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education](#) – English.
- [Op-Ed: Arab youth unemployment is staggering – but there is a way forward](#) – English.

### Social media:

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Spotlight](#)

2023

### Social media:

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [X](#)





# Global Council on Energy Efficiency

SDGs 11, 7, and 12 to impact 13



“

My deepest thanks to the Vice Chair, Her Excellency Dr. Al Hosany and every council member for their unwavering dedication over the past two years. Together, we have made significant strides through our meetings and actions, but the journey continues. Our Whitepaper on Energy Efficiency that was successfully launched at COP 28 in Dubai serves as a roadmap, and we are committed to seeing the whitepaper's recommendations translated into action. The future demands bold leadership in energy efficiency, and I'm confident that this council, powered by collaboration and vision, will rise to the challenge.

**Luc Remont**

Chairman and CEO, Electricite de France

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

Energy efficiency is all too often lacking in visibility when discussing the energy transition. While different paths can mitigate climate change, electrification, increased generation of decarbonized electricity and energy efficiency are critical to deliver the emission cuts needed at the necessary speed.

To meet the human resource requirements for this transition to happen, education and training policies would need to meet the skill needs of these sectors and maximizing 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.



## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

1. Boost the knowledge transfer and contribute to the global intellectual capital on the topic of Energy Efficiency.
2. Engage in global forums on sustainability, decarbonation and energy efficiency and engage in various conversations with business, policy makers and academia.
3. Spread awareness on the importance of the energy efficiency topic on mainstream media and digital channels.

## Key milestones achieved

- Produced a special Whitepaper on Energy Efficiency created by 2 global leaders on energy (Schneider Electric and EDF) [Objective one].
- Launched the Whitepaper during COP 28, the world's most prominent global summit on climate change [Objective two].
- Involved various segments of the industry, society, academia, and youth in the development of the whitepaper [Objective two].
- Launched the paper in the presence of COP 28 delegates and local, regional, and global media and generated wide media coverage in print, broadcast, and online media [Objective three].

[Link to the whitepaper](#)

[Link to the media coverage report](#)

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

- Production of the Whitepaper on Energy Efficiency.
- Collaboration with other Global Councils (Sustainably Finance) in the production of the whitepaper.
- Whitepaper produced utilizing talent/resources by council members.

## Media engagements

- Media coverage: 32 daily, monthly, and online portals in both Arabic and English.
- Press release: 1
- Media interviews: 3
- Reach: 24,275,311 readers
- Social Media Engagement: +1000 SM posts, reports, likes, shares.



## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

We have made very comprehensive recommendations in the report that has been made public, and we believe that the most appropriate thing for the next cohort will be to monitor their implementation on a regional scale.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

- We suggest the implementation of more engagements/touch points between council members.
- We suggest the General Secretary support each Global Council in suggesting council members candidacy and in the selection process – for example by providing Global Council letterhead pre-signed by Chair/Vice Chair of the Global Council.





# SDG Nexus – Energy – Climate – Innovation

(Nexus model: SDG 7, 9, 13)



“

When the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed by all 193 members of the UN General Assembly in 2015, a 2030 deadline was set. We are now almost halfway through that time, but nowhere near halfway there in terms of progress towards achieving the SDGs – it is crucial that we accelerate the pace of change.

**Hana Al Rostamani**

Group Chief Executive Officer,  
First Abu Dhabi Bank

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

- The council has prioritized future fuels and particularly sustainable aviation fuel as the topic of choice to deliver this sought progress towards the SDG nexus.
- In year one of the council's term, 2022, a whitepaper was delivered to exploring the enablers of the SAF market in the UAE and globally. The SDG Council on Future Fuels put out five recommendations to accelerate the development of the SAF market in the UAE and globally:
  1. Mobilise SAF "buyers of first resort".
  2. Firm up commitments to achieve 10% SAF by 2030.
  3. Use COP28 as an opportunity to put SAF on the map.
  4. Catalyse cross-industry collaboration to build the SAF value chain in the UAE.
  5. Enable coordination between finance providers, value chain actors and policymakers to develop national policies to incentivise SAF production and use in the UAE.
- In year two of the council's agenda, we worked with multiple stakeholders to mobilise SAF buyers of first resort. This started with making corporates aware of the opportunity sustainable aviation fuel can play in their decarbonization plans.
  1. Multiple panel discussion SAF and financing of SAF and engagements were held during COP28.
  2. A whitepaper was published during COP28 that gives guidance on usage of SAFs. The whitepaper launch was complemented by a series of thought leadership engagements on SAF.

## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

The Global Council on Future Fuels was established at the start of 2022. Its remit is to support research, thought leadership and action on developing a Future Fuels economy capable of helping the world make progress on the SDGs – particularly those related to clean energy (SDG 7), climate action (SDG 13) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9).

## Key Milestones Achieved

In 2023, the council has:

1. Launched a whitepaper during COP 28 (to access the whitepaper [click here](#)).
2. Launched the council website ([click here](#)).
3. FAB joined the UAE SAF taskforce.
4. Led thought leadership discussions on SAF, for example:
  - FAB and the UK-UAE business council co-hosted an event.
  - FAB and Masdar hosted a workshop on the UAE's pathway to leadership in the SAF industry.
  - FAB hosted a working session during the WGS on 'Plugging the SAF skills gap'.
  - Hosted a roundtable discussion on SAF during FAB's aviation summit in May 15th.

In 2024, the council is planning on signing a pledge by large corporations to support the global demand for SAF.

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

- Enhanced focus on SAF within UAE.
- Delivered two white papers to support understanding of SAF. Both white papers were well received by the industry players but also non-industry actors engaging in the topic of SAF.

## Media engagements

Linkedin:

- [The Usage of Sustainable Aviation Fuel \(SAF\)](#)
- [Decarbonisation and Net Zero pathways](#)
- [How can corporates and banks partner to accelerate the transition to Net Zero?](#)
- [Aviation: What are the challenges and the opportunities in reaching Net Zero?](#)



## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

Overall, we have been satisfied with the collaboration and support received by the Secretariat. One potential improvement could be to have a yearly plan over the central engagements to prepare and involve council members accordingly.

## Global Councils on SDGs Story Maps:

SDG Global Council on Future Fuels:  
[www.arcgis.com](http://www.arcgis.com)



# SDG Nexus – Reading for Pleasure Project

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



“

Seeing the Reading for Pleasure initiative really take wings has been inspiring, emotional and incredibly fulfilling. Watching children’s eyes light up, not being able to put books down, and immersed in their book of choice, is priceless. We have delivered thousands of books across the six pilot schools, engaged students with inspiring author visits and reached hundreds of parents through different events. Teachers have had the opportunity to interact with their students in new and enlightening ways, experienced different PD sessions in both Arabic and English and seen the immediate and positive impact of having books available and time to read them. We have much work to do in changing mindsets and, indeed, the face of education, but our first steps have been fascinating, revealing and encouraging. We look forward to our next steps of embedding the love of reading amongst children and working with schools, teachers and parents to create a holistic environment around reading and books. We also look forward to the formalized research with our university partners that will add credence to the initiative, giving invaluable insight that will be used to influence education policies moving forward.

**Isobel Abulhoul**

Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of  
The Emirates Literature Foundation

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

Extensive studies have demonstrated the importance of reading amongst children, not only for academic improvement, but for a host of positive physical and mental well-being outcomes. Embedding a culture of reading for pleasure in small children, utilizing the triangle of education – students, parents and teachers, creates the foundations for a love of reading without the pressure of being tested or examined. The Reading for Pleasure initiative focuses on supporting the key stakeholders in the education triangle with equal focus on providing encouragement and interest for children, development and support for teachers and involvement and inspiration for parents.

Initial ideas developed into a comprehensive plan for a pilot scheme within six primary or kindergarten schools within Dubai, with the aim of creating centres of excellence which can then be scaled upwards in the future. In order to effectively study the impact of the pilot scheme, which will run over five years, the initiative will be supported by research by PhD students of Zayed, UAE and Birmingham universities. The background studies, input from education authorities and ongoing data will guide us to fine tune and enhance the initiative over time.

A selection of relevant research documents found here:

[2006\\_11\\_01\\_free\\_research\\_-\\_reading\\_pleasure\\_2006\\_MuUyZjh.docx \(live.com\)](#)

[\(PDF\) Reading for pleasure: A research overview | Naveed Afza - Academia.edu](#)

[Reading For Pleasure - Reading for Pleasure \(ourfp.org\)](#)





## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

1. Embed a culture of reading for pleasure, not testing.
2. Work initially within a pilot scheme spread over 6 primary and kindergarten schools in Dubai, one with 28% children of determination.
3. Pilot scheme to span 5 years.
4. Focus on the triangle of education with three key stakeholder involvement – students, parents, teachers.
5. Work with schools to enhance and create libraries that are inviting, fun, educational and dynamic.
6. Develop in-classroom libraries and schedule time each day for the class to be read to in both Arabic and English.
7. Provide extensive ranges of books in both Arabic and English to enable children to have a choice.
8. Develop comprehensive book lists and guidelines to give structure for librarians to select culturally appropriate books.
9. Actively engage with parents via dedicated feedback and education sessions.
10. Support teachers with focused professional development and feedback sessions.
11. Foster a love of reading and books for children by scheduling author visits, trips to book fairs, cross-curricular activities and play.
12. Work on three key areas for children – motivation, interest and attitudes towards reading (ref. Clark and Rumbold, National Literacy Trust UK research paper – as above).
13. Give children the opportunity to make mistakes and develop their own interests by providing a wide range of books on different topics.
14. Collect data via collaborations with leading universities to obtain data demonstrating the effectivity of the pilot schemes.
15. Upscale the Reading for Pleasure initiatives across all of Dubai and UAE.

## Key milestones achieved

1. Achieved sponsorship from DP World.
2. Officially launched the initiative at MBRL with KOL's in attendance and signing of MOU's.
3. Signed MOU's with our three research partners – Zayed University, UAE University, Birmingham University Dubai and UK.
4. Reviewed thousands of books in both Arabic and English to build comprehensive lists of books across 8 grades – KG1 to grade 6 inclusively. Books are socially and culturally acceptable.
5. Delivered 40 books to each classroom library for each of the six schools – 20 Arabic (10 fiction, 10 non-fiction) and 20 English (10 fiction, 10 non-fiction). More books will be selected each term to add to the classroom libraries.
6. Developed apps to register the activities for the initiative, including all school visits, interactions with parents, professional development sessions, author visits and any other activities.
7. Organized an event around Oceans at MBRL providing an opportunity for students to enjoy authors, speakers, create a large joint art installation and have the opportunity to purchase books. Attended by HH Sheikha Hissa bint Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Goodwill Ambassador for Voices of Future Generations initiative (UNESCO). It included PD for teachers and speakers and workshops for parents to encourage them to read to their children and help them in this.
8. Developed independent Reading for Pleasure website.
9. Made plans to develop gardens in each of the schools to allow children to see the development of seeds/plants with the aim of harvesting the produce and using it for cooking.
10. Selected gardening appropriate books to be delivered in term 2.
11. Developed plan for a Reading for Pleasure conference (proposed April 2024).
12. Subscribed to Majid comic for all grades 1-4, and National Geographic for grades 5 and 6.
13. Proceeded with research teams to help develop their research foci and proposals. Zayed University will commence February 2024.

## Impact and Measurements to Date

1. Over 5000 books delivered across the 6 schools in both Arabic and English.
2. Reached over 3500 students across the 6 schools.
3. Hosted 18 author visits in Term 1 across the 6 schools with a mix of Arabic and English.
4. Parental engagement sessions across 6 schools and development of parents groups.
5. Professional development sessions in Arabic and English and collated feedback through forms and interaction with teachers.
6. Teacher competitions to develop effective, engaging and interactive classroom libraries for each classroom.
7. Reached over 300 students with the Oceans event at MBRL.

## Location data for analysis and mapping

Please note that the research teams will be collecting data from February 2024. As part of our internal dialogue, we have developed a running summary of every school visit with updates of how the visit went, what we observed and our opinions. This will form part of the information shared with the research teams.

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

1. Built relationships with the school teams as we work together to embed a culture of reading for pleasure, not testing.
2. We started the pilot scheme in earnest from September 2023, with a programme of support for the students, teachers and parents.
3. Worked with school librarians to enhance and create libraries that are inviting, fun, educational and dynamic.
4. Developed in-classroom libraries and ensured that time-tables allow time each day for the class to be read to in both Arabic and English.
5. Provided extensive ranges of books in both Arabic and English to enable children to have a choice. We will develop these collections every term and add books in both languages.
6. Developed comprehensive book lists and guidelines to give structure for librarians to select culturally appropriate books. We have spoken to librarians at length and understood their restrictions and found pathways around the concerns.
7. Actively engaged with parents via dedicated feedback and education sessions. We had very positive feedback and we are looking at ways of reaching more parents, including fathers.
8. Supported teachers with focused professional development and feedback sessions in both languages. We want to support the teachers more as it takes a lot of time and resources to be able to effectively provide support especially within their framework of lessons and planning time.
9. Started on the path to fostering a love of reading and books for children by scheduling author visits, trips to book fairs, cross-curricular activities and play.

## Media engagements

- [Emirates Literature Foundation Celebrating the Ocean With Hundreds of Students](#)
- [Emirates Literature Foundation and Zayed University Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Support Scientific Research on Reading for Pleasure](#)
- [Partnership between Emirates Literature Foundation and DP World to underscore importance of reading for pleasure](#)



## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

The importance of Global councils in working on very important matters, but with a longer term focus. The vital work that members can do, but not all members are active or supportive. Starting a global council and putting together a working plan on the key goals is a huge task. Finances remain the biggest challenge, as many unexpected obstacles are faced and need resolving to move forward.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

Advising and assisting the councils to obtain funding for their work would be of great value. Regular meetings, perhaps every quarter for the Chairs and Vice Chairs would help as well.



## We have positioned this work as a nexus between SDG Goal 4: Quality Education and the collection of all other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our goal is to provide Education and Instruction materials worldwide for applying GIS to each individual SDG goal.



We recognize that all goals relate to SDG Goal 4: Quality Education. The focus of our SDG Council will continue to raise awareness about the power and capacity of geospatial technology to support efforts to report on, understand, and achieve the SDGs.

GIS is widely recognized as an essential tool for implementing and tracking progress on the SDGs and their targets and indicators. GIS and location enable people everywhere to track progress in their own countries, at all levels of geography worldwide, providing a kind of dashboard to track progress and to share innovative ideas with one another.

The SDG Global Councils have delivered a coordinated approach, with a global and cross-sector collaboration at the heart.

**Clint Brown**

Director, Esri

## Background of the Council's Work Plan

Since the establishment of the SDGs by the UN, Esri has focused on implementing a framework for measuring and supporting GIS-based indicators across all goals by GIS organizations worldwide. Early on, we implemented and organized geographic information in a unified portal. The Federated Information System for the SDGs research exercise (known as [FIS4SDGs](#)) demonstrated the value of an open, GIS-backed, country-owned and country-led, approach to monitoring and reporting on the SDGs.

This effort has now expanded to the [SDG Data Alliance](#) which encourages collaboration and geospatial planning through the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), backed by leading GIS technology with a broader goal of accelerating achievement of the SDGs by creating 20 additional SDG Data Hubs across countries in need.

Meanwhile, within the United Arab Emirates, the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) has recognized that GIS is essential for creating a sustainable, community-based approach for achieving the SDGs. FCSC's extraordinary work provides compelling examples of multi-stakeholder initiatives that drive progress and offer innovative solutions across the Emirates and the region.

At Esri, we have adopted many lessons learned from these experiences, and have been implementing an SDG framework in countries worldwide to establish GIS as an effective tool for SDG implementation and reporting.

## Objectives of the Council's Work Plan

Develop a series of open capacity development materials, organized around the theme of geography and GIS, aligned with each of the 17 goals. These will contain learning content learning about and addressing progress on the SDGs along with instructions for how the UAE and other countries can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs worldwide. These will be delivered as collections of hands-on tutorials in websites such as: [www.sdg.org](http://www.sdg.org) , [UAE SDGs Data Hub \(arcgis.com\)](http://uae.sdg.org) , and [SDG Geospatial Learning Lab \(arcgis.com\)](#) plus promoted via Esri's global networks.

As a previous example of what can be enabled, here is a StoryMap that represents FCSC's wonderful progress on SDGs in the UAE:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/28c6cd812d23461292cd34feec0a8b2e>

## Key milestones achieved

- Launch of [Sustainable Development Goals Solution](#). This delivers a set of capabilities that help governments share progress made on SDGs, encourages community engagement, and combats misinformation.
- Release of [Storytelling for a Sustainable World](#). This StoryMaps collection includes one story for each of the UN's SDGs, provides sample stories, data sets and applications, and learning resources for getting started with place-based storytelling.
- Release of [SDG Geospatial Learning Lab](#).
- National Geographic Partnership resulting in the launch of [MapMaker 2.0](#)
- Documented examples of calculating SDGs with Esri's Living Atlas of the World with how to guides.
- Launch of Climate Resilience and Sustainability focused education enablement materials and MOOC.

## Impact and Measurements to Date

Here is an example of the content in the SDG Geospatial Learning Lab:

- SDG 1 – No Poverty
  - Tutorials: 5
  - Related Content: 13

In the associated SDG Council [StoryMap](#), you can find the latest information on impact with metrics on solution adoption and learners from across the world. Via the different programs, these solutions and educational materials have been accessed and viewed by thousands of people globally, they remain open and free for ongoing access.

## Location data for analysis and mapping

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9959c67136554701b98d387e63e34cdc>

## Outcomes achieved throughout the second cohort term

- 1) Broad understanding at both national and local levels of how GIS can be applied to better report, measure and monitor progress on the goals.
- 2) Increase in the number of overall SDG portals established.
- 3) Adoption of use of learn lessons at local level to teach and inspire action toward achieving the goals.
- 4) Creation and release of 100+ of hours of capacity development materials to support wide adoption of GIS in SDGs work.
- 5) Collaboration between SDG Council's to maximise reach and impact of outputs.



# Media Engagements

## General Coverage

- [Honoring Global Leadership And Resolve.](#)
- [Cameroon SDG Data Alliance Workshop Accelerates Progress on Its Country-Level Action Plan](#)
- [Geospatial Could Revolutionize the SDG Agenda Beyond 2030](#)
- [How are countries and cities using geospatial data to monitor their SDGs?](#)

## Media for SDG Solution

- Esri announcement: Sustainable Development Goals Solution Released.
- ArcUser article: Geospatial Could Revolutionize the SDG Agenda Beyond 2030.
- Solution Documentation (How to deploy and configure the solution).
- Video walkthrough introducing the solution.
- StoryMap overview of the solution (Spanish).
- SDG Data Alliance Posts.

## Media for SDG Geospatial Learning Lab

- Highlighted in the SDGs Today education resources.
- Highlighted by the SDG Data Alliance (sdg.org).
- ArcWatch article: Tackling the World's Shared Challenges, One Map at a Time.
- Esri community announcement.
- X (Twitter) post from Esri Nonprofit and NGO.
- LinkedIn post 1 | LinkedIn post 2

## Media for National Geographic MapMaker

- Esri press release: Esri and National Geographic Society Launch National Geographic MapMaker.
- National Geographic launch guide.
- App background & documentation.
- Tutorial StoryMap.
- BusinessWire article.
- MapMaker Webinar.
- National Geographic Blog Post: Take Your Classroom to the Next Level of Interactive Learning.

## Media for SDG indicator calculations

- StoryMap on the work group for 14.1 methodology.
- UN SALB: Learning how to use mapping for monitoring malaria eradication.

## What are the key lessons learned from the second cohort of the Global Councils?

The upmost take away for this council is that with partnership, great things can be achieved, especially when we allow Youth to lead our thinking. There is huge will, capability and need that when focused around a topic can make huge strides towards solving big challenges. Through the councils work, we believe it fully endorsed that education, of al engaged but especially youth, is fundamental to achieve the SDGs and a broader sustainable future for society. Beyond this, other key lessons include the need to bridge the gap between funding and the need, both demand the other but do not always meet. Plus, technology, especially geography, proved itself as a common language around which topics and goals such as the SDGs, and their future incarnations can be measured, analysed and reported on fairly and openly.

## How can the Secretariat improve the works of the Global Councils on SDGs in the third cohort?

- Foster more collaboration between SDG Global Councils.
- Increase communication flows between key annual events.

## Global Councils on SDGs Story Maps:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9959c67136554701b98d387e63e34cdc>



**A special thank you!** to the chairpersons of the councils, vice chairpersons, members of the councils, and youth members for driving efforts, leading discussions, and mobilizing partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

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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 Governments 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 Governments 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 Governments 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 2023/24  
OUTCOMES REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024