



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK**
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Prosperity People Planet

THE CHALLENGE

The world faces unprecedented challenges as over one billion people continue to live in extreme poverty; social exclusion has widened in most countries; the human impact on the environment has reached dangerous levels; and global cooperation is at an all-time low. At the same time, the world has never been wealthier. Rapid technological change and innovation offer unprecedented opportunities to tackle these complex problems. Yet, there is not enough problem solving for the challenges of sustainable development. The world's combined expertise, capacity for innovation, and resources are not applied systematically to some of the most critical issues we all face.

To this end, SDSN works with partners in academia, government, business, civil society, and the United Nations to promote practical solutions for sustainable development. We mobilize universities and other knowledge institutions around the world for the implementation of the goals and promote the exchange of lessons and learning.

The SDSN is governed by a unique Leadership Council, comprised of some 100 global leaders on sustainable development from science, civil society, business, government, and international organizations.

OUR APPROACH

In 2012, UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following their adoption, we are now committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales.



SDSN PRIORITIES

Support for the SDGs

The SDSN provides analysis and technical recommendations to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda, drawing on our global network and the Leadership Council. In particular our work focuses on integrated sustainable development pathways, data, monitoring and review, financing for development, and the climate change agenda.

A global network of problem solvers

More than 20 National and Regional SDSNs have already been launched, mobilizing and empowering universities and other knowledge institutions in support of the SDGs. With more than 350 member institutions from over 80 countries, we are building a global network of problem solvers. Our technical expertise is organized across Thematic Networks that foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among expert communities. In addition, SDSN Youth mobilizes young people around the world to prioritize the SDGs and to promote practical youth-led solutions.

Solution initiatives and long-term pathways

Our Thematic Networks and National and Regional SDSNs are committed to finding novel solutions — often using modern technologies or new business models.

This includes helping countries chart long-term pathways for achieving the SDGs. One example, the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project, supports countries in mapping out how they can transform their energy systems to promote economic growth and reduce emissions, to keep the rise in global temperatures to less than 2°C, as agreed by all countries.

Education for sustainable development

SDSN's flagship online education initiative, SDSNedu, is training the largest-ever cohort of students of sustainable development through free online courses from the world's leading experts. Uniquely, SDSNedu is operated through a consortium of institutions and works with SDSN members around the world to integrate high-quality online education into universities' curricula.

Join the SDSN

Learn more about SDSN membership benefits and apply at unsdsn.org/join

Promoting solutions for sustainable development



The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was commissioned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012 to mobilize scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector to support practical problem solving for sustainable development at local, national, and global scales. The SDSN operates national and regional networks of knowledge institutions, solution-focused thematic networks, and is building SDSNedu, an online university for sustainable development.

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