

Why join the SDSN?

Our mission is to accelerate practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national, and global scales.

To this end, we are building a global network of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focusing on:

- Providing and mobilizing support for the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Promoting practical Solutions Initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

By joining the SDSN, you will join a unique global network of problem solvers and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. SDSN membership is free.

What can we do together?

We work with our members on four sets of activities:

1. Local, National, and Regional Problem Solving for Sustainable Development

Together we will promote practical solutions to the pressing challenges of sustainable development:

- **Participate in National and Regional SDSNs:** SDSN members can participate in one or more of the National or Regional SDSNs depending on their interests and areas of activity. Active participation in these networks will enable SDSN members to propose and participate in the implementation of Solutions Initiatives, education and training efforts (including access to online education material), joint research, and policy work with governments.
- **Get involved in SDSN Solutions Initiatives:** SDSN members are invited to participate hands-on in the implementation of SDSN Solutions Initiatives. Many initiatives are already under way; others will be launched in the near future.
- **Pursue joint fundraising:** SDSN members are better positioned to mobilize resources locally and internationally through SDSN brand recognition and additional networking opportunities. The SDSN team will support member organizations in mobilizing resources for Solutions Initiatives, National or Regional SDSNs, and other efforts done under the SDSN banner.



Accelerating practical
problem solving for
sustainable development

2. Educational Initiatives for Sustainable Development

SDSN's flagship online education initiative, the SDG Academy, is training the largest-ever cohort of students of sustainable development through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

- **Design and share online educational materials and courses:** All SDSN members are invited to use the online resources developed by the SDSN and its members. Members of the SDSN Academic Advisory Committee will also help shape the network's strategy for online education, with a view towards eventually creating an online university for sustainable development.

- **Share teaching solutions for sustainable development**
SDSN seeks to identify best practices, key actors, and to promote the diffusion of good practices. To this end, we will launch a survey on teaching initiatives on sustainable development that are undertaken or planned by SDSN members. The results of the survey will be disseminated to all SDSN members.

- **Partner with the Master of Development Practice (MDP) Consortium:** The MDP Consortium is pioneering integrated education for sustainable development in developed and developing countries. The SDSN and interested members will partner with the MDP to strengthen and scale up integrated education for sustainable development.

3. Applied Research and Communication for Sustainable Development

Problem solving for sustainable development will require more and better-applied research.

- **Engage with SDSN Thematic Networks:**

SDSN members are invited to contribute actively to SDSN's Thematic Networks. This will provide access to world-leading expertise and opportunities to help shape the technical work of the SDSN.

- **Participate in the annual International Conference on Sustainable Development:**

The SDSN's International Conference on Sustainable Development is held in New York each September around the UN General Assembly and showcases leading academic and programmatic work on sustainable development. While the event is free for students, professionals and faculty from SDSN member institutions receive deep discounts. SDSN members are also the first to hear about calls for abstracts and program updates.

- **Engage with the media:** The SDSN and its members are regularly approached by media outlets to provide contributions and viewpoints on sustainable development. We work with SDSN members to showcase their work.

- **Post to the SDSN blog:** The SDSN website features a blog where timely issues relating to sustainable development are discussed in a brief, essay-style format supported by visual aids. SDSN Members are invited to submit entries to the Secretariat for posting. The Secretariat maintains editorial approval and oversight of all blog posts. Due to a large volume of submissions we may not be able to post all submissions.

4. Global Discussions on Sustainable Development

The SDSN is deeply engaged in the global discussions on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets, and indicators. We will support members' engagement in these important debates at global, regional, and national levels.

- **Engage with the global SDSN through the SDSN Assembly:** Every SDSN member will nominate one senior representative to serve on the SDSN Assembly, which will convene twice a year through teleconference and/or virtual meetings. Through participation in the SDSN Assembly, members will receive regular updates on the SDSN and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategy and services offered by the SDSN.
- **Contribute to SDSN publications:** Members receive SDSN publications in advance and are able to submit comments, questions, and recommendations.
- **Exchange with other SDSN members via Mobilize:** SDSN has launched an online communications platform for all SDSN members to engage in discussions, seek advice, and exchange knowledge in an informal way.
- **Work with SDSN Youth:** SDSN Youth is the global youth division of SDSN and they work to amplify the tremendous energy and capabilities of youth in generating broader buy-in for the Sustainable Development Goals. Young people (aged 18-30) from SDSN member organizations are invited to participate in and play leadership roles in this organization.

Who can join the SDSN?

Membership is open to universities (and departments/centers thereof), research centers, civil society organizations, and other knowledge centers that have deep technical expertise in sustainable development. As well as demonstrating a strong track record in projects, teaching, and/or research related to sustainable development, prospective members should share the objectives of the SDSN and be prepared to contribute actively. You may also review the Bylaws for SDSN Members for more detailed information.

The SDSN is committed to working with businesses that contribute to the design and implementation of Solutions Initiatives, participate in Thematic Networks, and contribute to National and Regional SDSNs. Interested businesses may become SDSN Business Partners.

Companies interested in working with the SDSN are invited to contact our Secretariat at info@unsdsn.org.

How can your organization join the SDSN?

Applying for SDSN membership is simple and free! Just complete the online membership application form (available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) and submit. Our Executive Committee reviews applications on a quarterly basis.

unsdsn.org/join