

# Join the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

## *The benefits of membership*

29 October 2013

### Why join the SDSN?

Our mission is to accelerate practical problem solving for sustainable development. As described in the [Action Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), we define sustainable development as the pursuit of four societal objectives: (i) economic development, including the end to extreme poverty in all its forms; (ii) social inclusion; (iii) environmental sustainability; and (iv) good public and private sector governance, including peace and security.

To realize our mission, we are building a global network of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions focusing on:

- Supporting the international discussions on framing the Sustainable Development Goals for the world;
- Promoting practical Solutions Initiatives for sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development; and
- Supporting governments in better understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

By joining the SDSN you will join a unique network of problem solvers and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development. Membership in the SDSN is free.

### What can we do together?

Joining the SDSN creates opportunities to collaborate as described below. We invite members to help us develop other shared activities and expect this list to expand.

#### **1. Global Discussions on Sustainable Development**

The SDSN is deeply engaged in the global discussions on framing Sustainable Development Goals for the period after the Millennium Development Goals expire in 2015. We will support members' engagement in these important debates at global, regional, and national levels. SDSN members will:

- **Engage with the global SDSN through SDSN Assembly:** Every SDSN member will nominate one senior representative to the SDSN Assembly, which will convene twice a year through teleconference and 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. Interested

members will be considered for participation in the SDSN Academic Committee, which sets the educational strategy for the SDSN.

- **Contribute to and receive the Members' Bulletin** highlighting recent developments with regards to the post-2015 processes and other strategic developments relating to sustainable development. The Bulletin will also highlight initiatives by SDSN members and flag upcoming events of interest.
- **Access a dedicated webpage for SDSN members:** By the end of 2013 the SDSN will create dedicated webpages for its members as well as the Regional and National SDSNs. These webpages will provide an opportunity for members to showcase their work on sustainable development, share news, and to identify partners for research and other collaborations.

## **2. Local, National, and Regional Problem Solving for Sustainable Development**

We seek to accelerate problem solving and therefore focus on promoting practical solutions to the pressing challenges of sustainable development. All SDSN members can:

- **Participate in National and Regional SDSNs:** SDSN members can participate in one or more 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. Many networks are already under way and many more will be launched in the near future.
- **Get involved in existing SDSN Solution Initiatives:** SDSN members are invited participate hands-on in the implementation of existing SDSN Solution Initiatives. Moreover, the SDSN will present findings from Solution Initiatives and share lessons through education materials and virtual meetings. In this way SDSN members can integrate lessons from the initiatives into their own projects, research, and teaching. Many initiatives are already under way; others will be launched in the near future.
- **Pursue joint fundraising:** Through affiliation with the SDSN and connections to other organizations, SDSN members will be able to mobilize additional resources locally and internationally. The SDSN team will support members as best as possible in mobilizing resources for Solution Initiatives, National or Regional SDSNs, and other efforts.

## **3. Educational Initiatives for Sustainable Development**

Tackling the profound challenges of sustainable development requires outstanding education. We are working with partners to promote high-quality, integrated, and low cost educational initiatives for sustainable development for university and high school students. In particular, we will make online teaching materials available globally. With our members, we will:

- **Design and share online educational materials and courses:** All SDSN members are invited to contribute online educational material and use the online resources developed by the SDSN and its members. Members of the SDSN Academic Committee will help shape the network's strategy for online education, with a view towards eventually creating an online university for sustainable development.
- **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.
- **Promote high school education for sustainable development:** The SDSN is partnering with the [University of Lund](#) and other SDSN members to make high-quality educational content and programs available for high school students around the world.

#### 4. Applied Research and Communication for Sustainable Development

Problem solving for sustainable development will require more and better applied research. To this end, we invite SDSN members to:

- **Publish in our working paper series:** In collaboration with the [Masters of Development Practice Consortium](#) and other partners, the SDSN will create working paper series to provide publication opportunities for applied work on sustainable development.
- **Engage with SDSN Thematic Groups:** SDSN members are invited to contribute actively to the [Thematic Groups](#) of the SDSN. This will provide access to world-leading technical expertise and opportunities to help shape the technical work of the SDSN.
- **Participate in the annual conference on Sustainable Development Practice:** The SDSN will help organize regular academic conferences on sustainable development for SDSN members. One annual conference will be held each year in September before the opening of the UN General Assembly to present leading academic and programmatic work on sustainable development. Opportunities will be created to connect this work to the General Assembly.
- **Engage with the media:** The SDSN and its members are regularly approached by media outlets to provide contributions and viewpoints on sustainable development. We will work with SDSN members to showcase their work.

#### Who can join the SDSN?

Membership in the SDSN 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 and want to join a global problem solving network. 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.

The SDSN is deeply committed to working with businesses who contribute to the design and implementation of Solution Initiatives, participate in Thematic Groups, and contribute to National and Regional SDSNs. Formal membership in the SDSN is currently limited to non-profit organizations, but this should not limit the contribution interested businesses can make to the work of the SDSN. Companies interested in working with the SDSN are invited to reach out to National and Regional SDSNs or to contact our secretariat at [info@unsdsn.org](mailto:info@unsdsn.org).

### **How can your organization join the SDSN?**

Applying for SDSN membership is simple and free! Please just fill in the membership application form (<http://unsdsn.org/membership/become-a-member>) and email it to us. Our Executive Committee reviews applications quarterly, and will notify members promptly.