Draft 16 June 2023

UN DESA Global Policy Dialogues to Turbocharge SDG Implementation

"Accelerating Clean Water and Energy for All: Exploring SDGs 6 and 7"

Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 9-10:15 a.m. EDT

"Innovations for Sustainable Cities and Communities: Exploring SDGs 9 and 11"

Thursday, 22 June 2023, 9-10:15 a.m. EDT

Concept note

Introduction

Halfway into the mandate of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world continues to face challenges including the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic, the climate crisis and global conflicts, that are together exposing and exacerbating global inequalities and setting back hard-earned development progress. Our collective aim of realizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is at risk.

It is under these circumstances that the United Nations will hold the SDG Summit this September aiming to revitalize SDG implementation. Additionally, the annual review of SDG progress at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), to be held from 10 to 19 July, will serve as a pre-summit for the September event. Sessions at the HLPF will identify policies, strategies and actions to overcome these multidimensional challenges and their impacts while triggering the deep changes and transitions needed to accelerate the realization of the SDGs. In particular, five goals will be reviewed in detail during HLPF: Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 17 on partnerships. These sessions will review progress made and the interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs among that SDG and with the rest of the 2030 Agenda and practical ways to leverage these to accelerate progress.

To complement these discussions, UN DESA will host two Global Policy Dialogues in June to discuss ways to strengthen the interlinkages between the Goals under review and present the information in an interactive format for a wide audience. Both events will feature speakers from UN leadership, Member States, the UN High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, and the Independent Group of Scientists preparing the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2023*. Each discussion will include ways to build and scale partnerships to reach our targets.

With these two dialogues, UN DESA hopes to enhance the preparedness of Member States and the UN system to respond to multi-dimensional, systemic risks in today's interconnected world. These dialogues are made possible by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

Format

Each event will be 75 minutes in length and hybrid in format, with an in-person moderator and speakers joining in person and virtually.

The discussions will be interactive and led by the moderator. Time will be reserved during the event for audience questions and polls. The audience will also be invited to submit questions in advance when completing the Zoom registration. A short highlights video will be produced after the event.

Platform

The event will be held in a hybrid format in the SDG Studio managed by the Department of Global Communications. The audience can watch via Zoom or LinkedIn/Facebook Live (tbc). They can also access the Slido platform (via QR code or provided link) to enhance engagement by audience members who wish to participate in the polls, submit their own questions or upvote questions posed by others.

Language

The event will be held in English with multilingual captioning available. There will also be live interpretation in American Sign Language.

Host/moderator

A professional moderator, Shakuntala Santhiran, will guide the discussions.

Draft programme for "Accelerating Clean Water and Energy for All: Exploring SDGs 6 and 7" (20 June)

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Moderator welcome remarks/logistical information
- Moderator to launch interactive poll 1

Opening video (45 seconds)

- UN DESA SDG Progress Report teaser

Discussion 1: Partnerships and Co-beneficial Innovations for Clean Water and Energy for All (30 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Mr. Jonibek Hikmat,** Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations and co-host of UN Water Conference (in-person)
- **Mr. Navid Hanif,** UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN DESA (in-person)
- **Mr. Ambuj Sagar (India),** Professor of Policy Studies and the founding Head of the School of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, and member of the

Independent Group of Scientists preparing the *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report* (virtual)
- **Ms. Maria A. Gwynn (Paraguay),** member of the Governing Council, ITAIPU Binacional, co-organizer with UN DESA of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Partnership Initiative (virtual)

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 2
- Moderator to ask each panelist 2-3 guiding questions:
  - What is the latest progress on SDG 6 and SDG 7? (Brief preview of forthcoming SDG Progress Report)
  - How is clean water and energy an economic development opportunity?
  - What are some examples from your region/organization of partnerships or innovations in clean water and sanitation and sustainable energy that show how progress on one issue can benefit the other?
  - How can innovations in water and energy support global climate goals?
  - How can we build capacity in developing countries with regard to innovating in clean water and energy for all?
- Moderator to take 1-2 questions from the audience

Video: (2:35)
- UN DESA HLPF teaser

Discussion 2: Solutions for Inclusive Clean Water and Energy (25 minutes)

Speakers (tbc):
- **MGCY representative** (tbc, in person)
- **Ms. Elysa Vaillancourt (Canada),** Youth Project Manager, International Secretariat for Water (virtual)
- **Ms. Rose Chemiat (Kenya),** Regional Business Manager at Grundfos SafeWater and member of SEforALL's 2022 Open Africa Power cohort (virtual)
- **Ms. Farai Tunhuma,** Senior Advisor on WASH, UNICEF (virtual)

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 3
- Moderator to ask each panelist 2-3 guiding questions:
  - What are the special challenges and opportunities for vulnerable groups when it comes to achieving clean water and sanitation, and clean energy?
  - Can you share a good example of how water and energy services have been extended to women, youth, Indigenous people or persons with disabilities?
  - How can we ensure that progress made on these two SDGs is inclusive and that the benefits reach everyone?
  - How can young people be activated and engaged in the work around these goals?
- Moderator to ask 1-2 questions from the audience

Wrap-up and closing (5 minutes)
- Moderator final remarks

- Exit survey will launch upon end of Zoom

Draft programme for "Innovations for Sustainable Cities and Communities: Exploring SDGs 9 and 11" (22 June)

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Moderator welcome remarks/logistical information
- Moderator to launch interactive poll 1

Opening video (45 seconds)

- UN DESA SDG Progress Report teaser

Discussion 1: Building Better Partnerships in Infrastructure and Innovation for Sustainable Cities and Communities (30 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano,** UN Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-agency Affairs (in person)
- **TBC,** Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations (in person)
- **Ms. Isabel Wetzel**, Innovation Officer, UN-Habitat (virtual)
- **MGCY representative** (tbc)

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 2
- Moderator to ask each panelist 2-3 guiding questions
  - What is the role of innovation, industry and infrastructure in building sustainable cities and communities?
  - Can you please share an example of a good partnership related to building sustainable cities and communities?
  - How can we ensure that progress made on these two SDGs is inclusive and that the benefits reach everyone?
  - How can we build capacity in developing countries with regard to planning and managing sustainable cities and communities?
  - How can we ensure that rural areas are included in these digital transformations?
- Moderator to ask 1-2 questions from the audience

Video: (2:35)

- UN DESA HLPF teaser

Discussion 2: Innovations for Sustainable Cities and Communities (30 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Mr. John Agard (Trinidad and Tobago),** Director of the University of West Indies, St. Augustine Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and member of the Independent Group of Scientists preparing the *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report* (virtual)
- **Mr. Yan Herreras (Brazil),** Vice President, High Trend Brazil, and smart city expert and **Mr. Jimmy Taylor (USA),** Chief Financial Officer, High Trend Brazil, and smart city expert (virtual, same screen)
- **Ms. Yongyi Min,** Chief, SDG Monitoring Section, Statistical Division, UN DESA (in person)

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 3
- Moderator to ask each panelist 2-3 guiding questions
  - What is the latest progress on SDG 9 and SDG 11? (Brief preview of forthcoming SDG Progress Report)
  - What are some examples from your region/organization of innovations in sustainable cities and communities?
  - How can innovations in sustainable cities support global climate goals?
  - How is investment in sustainable cities an economic development opportunity?
  - What kinds of policies would better support sustainable cities and communities?
- Moderator to take 1-2 questions from the audience

Wrap-up and closing (5 minutes)

- Moderator final remarks
- Exit survey will launch upon end of Zoom