



## Integrating SDGs and Delivering a Sustainable Future: 2030 and Beyond

**A Virtual Side Event during the 2024 United Nations Summit of the Future  
Action Days**

**Organized by Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future in Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme in New York and co-sponsored by the Dominican Republic, Norway, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**A Zoom Webinar on Saturday, 21 September 2024 from 8:30 – 10:00 AM**

**Register [here](#) to attend**

Effective multilateral responses to current and emerging crises require a comprehensive approach that accounts for interlinkages across all dimensions of sustainable development, in particular the environment. The universal, integrated, and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals can support multilateral efforts to manage interconnected challenges. However, integrating the environmental dimension is hampered by persistent siloes across processes and communities.

[IntegrateSDGs](#), a project of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future supported by the United Nations Environmental Programme and the European Commission, was launched at the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The initiative's express purpose is the forging of integrated approaches that could help accelerate and sustain progress towards the SDGs in the remaining years to 2030. Nature-based solutions and just transition pathways are conceived as integrated approaches to address major challenges - nature degradation and climate change - on the way to achieving the SDGs by 2030. The IntegrateSDGs [Communities of Practice](#) launched in July of this year act as impact coalitions encompassing multiple stakeholders, including academics, policymakers, and practitioners, to share knowledge and experience about integrated strategies, identify good practices, and forge new partnerships to accelerate and sustain SDG progress.

This side event will highlight why SDG progress has been too so slow and uneven to date, and flag actions needed to remedy this situation with a specific emphasis on the power and effectiveness of integrated approaches to SDG implementation, drawing, among other things, on the experience with the Communities of Practice we have established. The event will also flag new and emerging issues and challenges not fully addressed in the SDGs that may need to be considered in any post-2030 sustainable development agenda (e.g., artificial intelligence and various new technologies that offer huge potential but also pose significant risks).



Regarding the framing of a post-2030 agenda, some argue that given the unlikelihood of reaching most goals in many parts of the world, the SDGs should be extended to 2050, with updated targets and indicators as appropriate. Others may call for a more radical approach, e.g., trimming back the number of goals, or returning to a Millennium Development Goals-like agenda. There may be other options to be considered. As we look ahead to 2050, we should bear in mind that the world must achieve or get very close to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by that date, also that children born today will be reaching young adulthood at that time, inheriting from us the Earth, society, and economy with their problems and possibilities. We have an intergenerational responsibility to them not to compromise their ability to lead lives of dignity and sufficiency.

Arguably, one of the main factors holding back SDG implementation is that they are still largely being implemented in a siloed approach, hampering the potential to leverage synergies across actions and mitigate negative trade-offs.

Looking ahead to 2050, the international community needs to strengthen global governance of the Earth and its systems for sustainable development, if we want to leave a safe planet to future generations. Strengthening global governance will be a challenge in the current situation, but a good start would be reinforcing the implementation of the three Rio Conventions (on climate, biodiversity, and desertification) and relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Despite the geopolitical challenges, there are elements of an emerging international consensus among experts and policymakers concerned with sustainable development that the international financial architecture should be steered away from investments in planet-damaging operations and all economic transactions need to account for the true cost of planetary damage. This will require stronger multilateral political and business leadership in the face of opposition from status quo advocates, as well as enhanced financial commitments and resource transfers. Governments need to put in place flexible and dedicated systems that will work on sustainable development and design tools, institutions, and partnerships to maximize public value, engage citizens, and build and manage digital and other infrastructures that serve the common good. A new economics of the common good is needed for setting shared goals and working out how to achieve them. This needs to involve cross-cultural respect and cooperation, the cultivation of civic virtues, and defending the dignity of the socially, politically, and economically marginalized. Not with just words, but also policies and collaborations involving government, business, workers, civil society and other stakeholders, including diverse voices and sources of knowledge.

The intergenerational panel at this side event will discuss the issues above and more, focusing on how to advance integrated actions towards the SDGs and beyond, through collaboration among multiple communities with their respective specialties,



knowledge, and experiences. Particular concerns are to bolster the environmental dimension in SDG implementation, building on the latest science and benefiting from stakeholder engagement.

The event will be fully virtual and will include all parts of the world. There will be an interactive session with the audience to hear their comments and answer questions if time allows. We also aim for this side event to contribute to the further development of the #IntegrateSDGs project.

### The Side Event Programme

**08:30 - Opening of the meeting: Charles Nouhan, Moderator and Member of the Board of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future**

**08:35 - Welcoming remarks by:**

**Irena Zubcevic, Director, Stakeholder Forum**

**H.E. Mr. Pavel Isa Contreras, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development, the Dominican Republic**

**Meena Syed, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations**

**Jamil Ahmad, Director, New York Office, the United Nations Environment Programme**

**Juwang Zhu, Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government and Acting Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA**

**08:50 - Keynote Addresses**

**Mr. David Donoghue, Fellow of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and former Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, and**

**Elenita 'Neth' Daño, Asia Director, ETC Group (Erosion, Technology and Concentration), Philippines**

**09:00 - Intergenerational panel on integrating the SDGs and delivering a sustainable future, looking at 2030 and beyond, Moderated by Dr. David O'Connor, Stakeholder Forum**

**09:40 - Interaction with the audience including Q&A and comments, Moderated by Charles Nouhan, Stakeholder Forum**

**09:55 - Closing of the meeting  
Charles Nouhan, Stakeholder Forum**