

National SDG Advisory Bodies — Joint Call to Action

We, as a network of National SDG Advisory Bodies,¹ call for all governments and national stakeholder groups to support the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres’s proposals in “Our Common Agenda”.²

In September 2022, SDG advisory bodies from more than 20 countries gathered in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss the role of institutionalised SDG multi-stakeholder advisory bodies in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving sustainable transformation. The representatives of the advisory bodies reflected on the various strategic topics raised by Secretary-General António Guterres in his report “Our Common Agenda”. As suggested in his report, we would like to call on all respective national governments and other stakeholders to take bold action, by taking concrete steps at both national and local level and bridging them with international tools and mechanisms.

We call on all governments and national stakeholder groups to focus specifically on the following topics that are relevant for institutionalised stakeholder processes and platforms:

¹ nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/en/projects/the-global-forum-for-national-sdg-advisory-bodies

² un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report

① Specific steps to account for the interests of future generations

Secretary-General Guterres calls for solidarity with future generations, inclusion of young people and establishment of long-term intergenerational thinking.

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 43 FF

Along these lines, we call for systematic youth engagement in national political decision-making processes as key to safeguarding the interests of future generations and upholding the principle of leaving no one behind, especially focusing on disadvantaged youth groups. We call for all young people to be equipped with the knowledge, financial support and ongoing exchange formats to represent their voices as equals. In national decision-making, youth representatives must fulfil roles where they have true bargaining power for crucial societal transformations for sustainable development.

Hence, we fully support the suggestions for a “youth in politics” index as an indicator of youth involvement, in combination with measures and financial support to remove barriers and enhance political participation of young people. Internationally we welcome the establishment of a United Nations Youth Office and call for regional youth conferences on a continental level, and engagement forums that integrate the perspective of young people and future generations in regional policy processes as well as UN processes.

We commit to working closely together with youth representatives from our countries in the run-up to the 2023 SDG summit and the Summit of the Future in 2024.

② Renew social contract across a scale and rebuild trust by transforming institutions and systems

We are encouraged by the Secretary-General’s call for ‘A vibrant social contract that guarantees the conditions for people to live a decent life, leaving no one behind and enabling all to participate in society, as promised in the 2030 Agenda.’

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 27

The network members support the call for renewed social contracts based on human rights and designed to “leave no one behind” as the foundation of the renewed commitment to institutional transformation across scales and rebuilding trust in international institutions and systems.

We call for a renewed commitment to international agreements and treaties, including the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement.



We understand that achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement will require profound, structural changes across all societal sectors; these transformations are needed to reshape the relationship between nature and people in the context of economies; that requires deep, deliberate, long-term structural changes in resource use, infrastructure, institutions, technologies and social relations that must be undertaken in a short time. This requires transforming the enabling environment that fosters accelerated delivery and commitment to action.

We call for an agenda for action and accelerated delivery based on strengthened means of implementation. Rebuilding trust will require delivering on international agreements and treaties and transforming institutions and systems to be “fit for purpose”.

3 To develop strategies for achieving the “how” of preserving global public goods, such as oceans, atmosphere and rainforests

To protect global commons beyond national jurisdictions, Secretary-General Guterres calls for strengthening the governance for global public goods and global commons.

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 48FF

We call for a paradigm shift in financial efforts to protect global public goods for future generations by behaving as good ancestors to them. To revive multilateralism, we call for global funds established under the principles of global public investment³, allowing all countries to financially contribute to, and politically decide on, the transparent utilisation of funds for global common goods. All contributing countries must have the chance to take part in the fund’s decision-making processes.

3 globalpublicinvestment.org

Moreover, we request to map the areas where we need more and larger-scale protection of ecosystems and global public goods, to activate new and meaningful stakeholder engagement, to sensitise on the need to protect global public goods, to redistribute existing financial investment, to attract additional investment in protection measures, and to create clear incentives for the protection of global public goods.



④ To move beyond profit and growth as a measurement of success and wellbeing and to achieve the transition to green and circular economies

Addressing risks to our planet requires finding complementary measures to GDP, a global economy that works for all

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 53

and transitioning to green economies with significant annual reductions in emissions towards the achievement of net zero by 2050.

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 55

We have witnessed the Millennium Development Goals pass with mixed successes and failures. In 2015, we embraced the universality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs as a sustainable development roadmap for all countries on this planet. We are already witnessing setbacks to multilateralism caused by multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts, posing complex global challenges to sustainable development pathways.

We call for governments to speed up transition to a green and circular economy and to move to sustainable production and consumption tracks that allow us to reduce the exploitation of natural common goods, as well as to combat widening inequalities between and within countries. Human wellbeing must unite us all, and further diminishing of the precious resources of this planet requires the industrialised countries and societies to shift to green and circular economies in order to reduce their ecological footprints, as well as to develop viable solutions for stranded assets.

Nationally, service delivery and public institutions must be adapted to the 2030 Agenda vision. For their wellbeing, the perspective of citizens on the quality of public service delivery must be systematically integrated in national development plans and strategies. We support the idea of strong and adaptive approaches to measure sustainability performance that our members already implement.

We support the reallocation of subsidies for fossil fuel to clean technologies, and a renewable energy decade of action. We urgently call for governments to strive for a new level of support for renewable energy to drastically reduce emissions and end energy poverty, thereby tackling multiple SDG targets, in accordance with their capabilities and responsibilities. It is time to remove barriers to a decentralised and small-scale renewables revolution around the globe, in order to spur collective action for a decentralised renewable century for all. Becoming a climate-just planet requires large investments, also including commitments to alleviate energy poverty and enhanced support for local solutions.



⑤ Inclusive participation of stakeholders to deliver just transitions across all the SDGs

1. food systems
2. energy systems
3. sustainable building and transportation
4. circular economies
5. human wellbeing and capabilities
6. pollution-free environment

Secretary-General Guterres calls for member states to consult with other stakeholders for commitments and governance improvements.

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 65

He also calls for member states and stakeholders to reflect on his suggestions.

OUR COMMON AGENDA, PAGE 82

We call for a transformation that is based on good governance and honest political decision-making. A transformation that considers the needs of all and leaves no one behind must be accountable and inclusive to all, especially considering vulnerable groups. The needs of future generations, and a healthy life on a healthy planet, must guide this decision-making process towards an honest and just sustainability transition. To this extent, we also call for strengthening and safeguarding the civic space at local, national and international level.

Moreover, we support Secretary-General António Guterres in his plea to end the criticism against science and establish a consensus around facts, science and data as sources of knowledge and the basis for decision-making. In doing so we call for an integrated approach that considers local solutions and traditional knowledge. The transformation to sustainability requires a joint effort to map all types and kinds of solutions and connect them to scientific knowledge around the globe to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs in this Decade of Action.



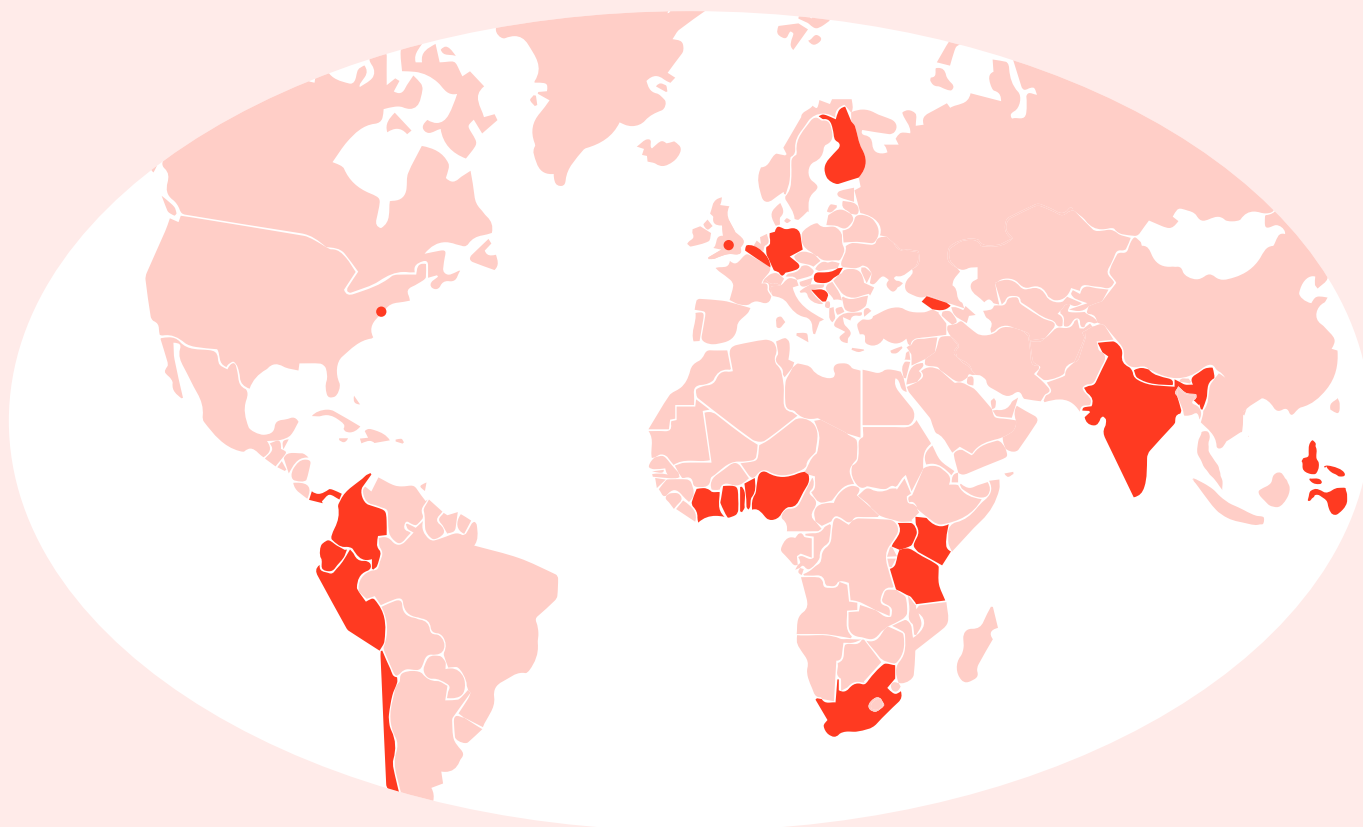
Furthermore, we call for the rollout of local and regional sustainable development roadmaps for the 2030 Agenda, including enhancing the capacities of local and regional governments to scale up localisation of the SDGs. This must go along with budget planning taking into consideration the SDGs, better data to improve monitoring, and open, reliable, science-based and honest reporting. Disaggregated data plays an important role in developing specific activities for the most urgent topics and most vulnerable groups.

We call for global solidarity in promoting sustainable agri-food systems in response to the current food insecurity and hunger in Africa and other parts of the Global South due to climate change, the effects of COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We call for a structural transformation to create sustainable and resilient food systems in the face of future such shocks and stresses.

We are a global network of multi-stakeholder advisory bodies, sustainable development commissions and councils that are actively taking part in national sustainable development policy processes such as the drafting of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We create spaces for action, provide marketplaces of ideas, and aim to mediate conflicting interests to foster social acceptance of transformation. We call for a strategic involvement of multi-stakeholder platforms in all strategic policy processes, for sustainable development at local, national and international level, as well as the strengthening of partnerships to achieve the common goal. We can provide a compass function across stakeholder groups for the necessary transition processes, a space to mediate existing resistances and develop ways forward. We support the idea of an annual civil society caucus that our members (for example, Kenya) already organise on a regular basis, and the idea of high-level engagement weeks like the European Sustainable Development week that has taken place annually since 2014. We are very much encouraging other countries to go the same way. Our member organisations are there to support.



Signatures of the Joint Call



Gabór Bartus
 Ana Patricia Muñoz
 Armando Espino
 Arjun Bhattacharai
 Nana Janashia
 Richard Kimbowa
 Augustin Kola Manzama-Esso
 María Rosario R. Lopez
 Carlos Miranda-Rodríguez
 Beauty Emeffa Narteh
 Roshni Nuggehalli
 Georgette Brou
 Jan Mertens
 Ankica Todorović
 Mile Pejčić
 Irena Zubcevic
 Darian Stibbe
 Jean Patrice Ngoyi Kasongo
 Marc-Oliver Pahl

Hungary
 Ecuador
 Panama
 Nepal
 Georgia
 Uganda
 Togo
 Philippines
 Chile
 Ghana
 India
 Ivory Coast
 Belgium
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 International
 International
 Nigeria
 Germany

Hannah Janetschek
 Felix Meyerhoff
 Yared Tsegay
 Florence Syevuo
 Carmen Mollo
 David Horan
 Armand Vignon
 Technical Secretariat
 of the SDG Commission
 Reynald Maeda
 Stephen Chacha
 Eeva Furman
 Tom Harrison

Germany
 Germany
 South Africa
 Kenya
 Peru
 International
 Benin
 Colombia
 Tanzania
 Tanzania
 Finland
 International

