



Call for Inputs

Background on the GSDR 2019

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), mandated by the United Nations' Member States in the outcome document of the 2012 Rio + 20 conference, is meant to strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. Following the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, it has become a quadrennial publication, and it will be informing the 2019 High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), the apex body for follow-up and review of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. For the first time, the report is being drafted by an independent group of scientists (IGS), supported by a task team of six UN-system agencies. The IGS was constituted in December 2016 and commenced working immediately.

(Profiles of the 15 IGS members, and the mandate for the group, are found here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport/2019>)

Call for inputs

As part of its outreach efforts, the IGS is soliciting inputs from a diverse group of scientific and non-scientific communities, from developed and developing countries and regions, in the form of publications supported by short abstracts or descriptions of case studies. Currently, we are requesting contributions in four major areas: (1) interactions among SDGs and their targets, (2) transformation pathways towards sustainable development; (3) looking beyond the SDGs (major issues identified by research which are not explicitly taken into account in the SDGs), and (4) the role of science for sustainable development.

We are interested both in peer reviewed scientific publications and other sources of knowledge which are or can be documented in written form, i.e. reports, working papers, 'white' papers, evaluations, etc.

You are welcome to provide input on as many sections as you would like. We do ask that you complete the "About You" section.

If you are not able to complete the Google-supported questionnaire found [here](#), please submit your answers in Word or PDF by attaching to them this form.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>

You may also upload any relevant publications through the same form.

EXTENDED DEADLINE: 2 February 2018

I. About You

Please provide your name, country of residence, institution and area of expertise.

II. Interactions among SDGs and their targets

With integration and inter-connectedness being central principles of the 2030 Agenda, it is clear that the 17 SDGs and their targets are inextricably linked with one another, in complex and sometimes unanticipated ways. Pursuing one SDG and its related targets may lead to co-benefits as well as complex trade-offs for reaching other SDGs, creating winners and losers in terms of development options.

There has already been considerable scholarship on the interactions among the SDGs and their targets, including this recent report (<https://www.icsu.org/current/press/new-report-from-scientific-experts-provides-a-unique-guide-to-translate-sustainable-development-goals-into-reality>) by the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The IGS would like to collect additional knowledge that may guide development actors and policy makers navigating interactions among SDGs. Here we are calling for contributions that provide evidence of how progress towards any one of the SDGs or targets affects the set of options to reach any other Goal or target, and what solutions and/or policies may minimize incoherence in SDGs implementation and maximize positive synergies between them. Please make your contribution by providing information about your knowledge source in section (a) below, and then we kindly ask you to fill in the survey in section (b) or (c), but preferably both sections. Thank you very much!

(a) Source of knowledge

1. Please link or upload your submission here:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>

2. Please describe your analytical approach, including the methodology used. Furthermore, indicate to what spatial scale and geographical region/place your knowledge applies to and at what time span you assume your insights are valid. (3500-character limit)

(b) General insights on systemic interactions

1. Please describe or list the interaction or interactions (between SDGs or between individual targets within a single SDG or between targets across different SDGs) that your publication analyzes.
2. Please provide a summary of your insights regarding these interactions. We invite, in particular, analysis using a systems approach to identify positive and negative feedback loops and their transformative potential for sustainable development pathways. Please describe the reasons why the interactions should be addressed, what stakeholder groups are particularly affected, and how transformation can be achieved. Finally, please mention existing knowledge gaps. Links to further information may be added as well.

(c) *Assessment of interactions between individual targets*

We recognize that interactions occur at many levels, in many different geographical contexts, and over a range of time scales. It is nonetheless useful to compare the relative significance of these interactions, and to this end, we invite respondents to use a 7-point scale (developed by ICSU in the above referenced report) to assign a value to the significance of a given interaction. This scale is relevant to interactions among targets, characterizing positive interactions as: +1 ('enabling'), +2 ('reinforcing') or +3 ('indivisible'), and negative or trade-off interactions as: -1 ('constraining'), -2 ('counteracting'), or -3 ('cancelling'). Interactions seen as neutral are given a 0. For more information on this scale, see here: <https://www.icsu.org/cms/2017/03/SDGs-interactions-framework.pdf>

1. Please highlight up to three pairs of targets and assess each pair with the 7 point ICSU scale described above. After you have made your selections, please provide a narrative explanation for each assessment. Given the comprehensive and universal nature of the Agenda, there are of course countless ways in which the targets can interact with each other, but we ask you to limit your analysis to the three pairs that you find most significant, based on your field of expertise. Kindly also note that your analysis should take into account the direction of the impact--action to advance the first "from" target would exert influence on the second "to" target. For reference, please find the SDGs and their targets here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

II. Transformation pathways

The analysis of interactions among SDGs and their targets underpins the analytical understanding of the transformations—behavioural, institutional and societal changes—needed to help achieve them efficiently and in mutually supportive ways. As the 2017 Secretary-General's SDG Report (found here <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/>) shows, current rates of progress are not adequate to achieve all of the SDGs by 2030, and therefore, society, institutions and individuals must make fundamental changes in order to achieve the Agenda. The global community decided on the 2030 end points, and transformation pathways must be developed in order to get us to that destination—

to take us from where we are now to where we want to be. Transformations will allow for more win-win situations, and help minimize the trade-offs that currently characterize some SDG related policies or solutions. Clear priorities (which may differ according to different regions and countries) for investments, policies and changes aimed at promoting sustainable development must be defined.

The IGS, therefore, invites contributions on key issues, obstacles and opportunities for defining and proceeding along such transformation pathways.

1. Please link your publication(s) or report(s) that describes a transformation (or transformations) that advances the 2030 Agenda, particularly one that is based on interactions among SDGs and/or their targets. The publication(s) or report(s) can address a pathway or roadmap that will achieve the needed transformation and that can guide various stakeholders involved in sustainable development (e.g. researchers, policy makers, professionals, civil society) in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Please link or upload your submission here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>
2. Please describe this transformation and the pathway that will lead to it. Flows between administrative borders—which may shift burdens, create positive externalities and raise issues of subsidiarity—will be of particular interest. Please indicate the relevant geographical areas and whether the transformation occurs at the local, national, regional and/or global levels. Feel free to indicate several levels if appropriate. (

III. Looking beyond the Goals

While the 2030 Agenda was designed as a universal and comprehensive blueprint for the future, there are nonetheless issues and trends not mentioned in the SDGs that have the potential to have a significant impact on the achievement of the Agenda. We are seeking inputs on such issues, with an emphasis on concrete solutions for confronting them. A strong basis in scientific evidence will be critical, and future-oriented creative thinking will be needed as well.

1. Please link your publication(s) or report(s) that analyzes an issue, not explicitly mentioned in the SDGs, that has the potential to undermine the Agenda's overall success if it is not addressed (or that has the potential to have an unexpected positive impact Please link or upload your submission here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>
2. Please provide a short description of this issue, noting that it can be either newly emerging or an old concern on which there are new science-based insights, or an old issue that has been neglected for other reasons.

3. Please outline policy options for addressing this neglected issue.
4. Please indicate whether you would be willing to prepare a background paper on this issue, if requested.

IV. The role of science for sustainable development

The GSDR aims to advance the science-policy interface, in order to promote more effective sustainable development policies and their implementation. We therefore seek inputs that explore the interplay between science, policy making and society, highlighting the roles of different stakeholders in your particular context.

1. Please link a publication(s) or report(s) that analyzes the science-policy interface, with an emphasis on innovative examples relevant to the SDGs Please link or upload your submission here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>
2. Based on this publication or report, please describe the underlying model, mechanism or process of science-policy, science-society or science-policy-society interface, that demonstrably advances sustainable development. Kindly note that the context can be countries, regions, or systems, and that the examples should be strongly rooted in scientific evidence. You can also include examples of negative impacts.

V. Contacting the IGS

1. Please submit any further information that you would like to communicate to the IGS through the “comments” section found in this link. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact/>