Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019*

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*Excerpts from Peter Messerli’s presentation (2019.9) and GSDR 2019
I. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Agenda 2030
Leave No One Behind
II. Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019

1. UN member states requested an independent and critical assessment of the implementation of the SDGs every four years.

2. The Mandate of the Global Sustainable Development Report:
   • Science-policy interface with evidence-based research
   • To reflect “the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (GSDR 2019: xix)

1. Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)

Co-Chairs

Endah Murniningtyas (Indonesia; Agriculture Economics, Environment, Indonesia Development)

Peter Messerli (Switzerland; Geography, Southeast Asia, African Ecosystem)

Wolfgang Lutz (Austria; Demography, Human Capital Population & Environment)

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Katherine Richardson (Denmark; Biology, Bio-Diversity, Marine Biology)

Eeva Furman (Finland; Environmental Policy, Bio-Diversity, Eco-System)
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David Smith (Jamaica; Disaster Management, Climate Change)
Muhammad Saidam (Jordan; Climate Change, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation System)

Jurgis Staniskis (Lithuania; Environmental Engineering, Environment Economics)
Gonzalo Hernández Licona (Mexico; Economics, Poverty, Economic Development, Social Development)
Eun Mee Kim (Republic of Korea; Sociology, East Asian Economic Development, International Development Cooperation)
Amanda Glassman (US; Maternal and Child Health, Global Public Health, Social Protection)
2. The Brundtland Report (*Our Common Future*), 1987

The Brundtland Commission Report/ Former Prime of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland

**UN World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED): 1987**

- Environment became a major global issue at the Stockholm Conference

- **Environment & Development as One Global Problem ➔** Presented as a major global political problem to be solved by all

- Poverty eradication, gender equality, redistribution of wealth in order to enhance human development are also important for the sustainability of the environment; Need to limit economic growth in order to save the environment for developed and developing countries

- Research, analysis, and recommendations for Solutions for Sustainable Development
3. Process of GSDR 2019

Face-to-face meetings in New York and continuous consultations facilitated by UN DESA. Support by Task Team of six UN Agencies: UN DESA, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, and World Bank.

- **Dec 2016**  
  Received mandate

- **2017**  
  - Understanding the mandate
  - Develop overall concept

- **2018**  
  - Zero Draft
  - Consultations
  - 1st Draft

- **2019**  
  - 2nd Draft
  - Scientific review
  - Member states comments
  - Final draft and launch at UN SDG Summit

**Nominations by Member States**
**Appointment by UNSG**

**First Member State briefing**
**Workshop: Helsinki, Finland**
**External Inputs**

**Second Member State briefing**
**Workshop: Washington DC**
**Regional Consultations: South Africa, Argentina, Bangladesh**
**Participation in Regional UN Forums: Thailand**

**Third Member State briefing**
**Regional Consultation: Jordan**
4. GSDR 2019

Global Sustainable Development Report 2019

The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development
### (1) A decisive decade ahead

Sounding the alarm bell:
**The need to scale-up and accelerate implementation**
Understanding the systemic challenges

Rising inequalities

Biodiversity loss

Climate change

Ecological footprint


IPBES, 2019

World Bank, 2016

(2) Knowledge-based transformations

Insight (a): From boxes to arrows – a systems perspective

Moving forward:

➢ address trade-offs
➢ harness co-benefits
➢ turn vicious- into virtuous cycles
**Insight (b): Levers for change in a hyper-connected world**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flows of information</th>
<th>Flows of goods</th>
<th>Flows of capital</th>
<th>Flows of people</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals using the Internet</td>
<td>Merchandise exports</td>
<td>Personal remittances, received</td>
<td>Air transport, passengers carried</td>
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<td>% of population</td>
<td>Goods exports, US$ (billions)</td>
<td>Foreign direct investment, net outflows</td>
<td>Passenger (billion)</td>
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<td>Mobile cellular subscriptions</td>
<td>Air transport, freight</td>
<td>International tourism, number of arrivals</td>
<td>Passengers (billion)</td>
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<td>Subscriptions (billion)</td>
<td>Million tonne-km (thousand)</td>
<td>International migrant, total</td>
<td>Air miles (billion)</td>
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<td>Monthly active Facebook users worldwide</td>
<td>Million bushels (thousand)</td>
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<td>Rice imports by the EU</td>
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<td>Net official development assistance received</td>
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<td>ODA (US$ billion)</td>
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<td>Migration (million)</td>
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Insight (c): Context and universality matter!
Context-specific pathways to transformation for sustainability

Pathways to Transformation as context-specific configurations of levers to achieve transformation in each entry point

Each entry point:
✓ Impediments
✓ Levers
✓ Integrated and context-specific pathways
✓ Call to Action
R&D Gap in the Global North and the Global South: Implications for ODA & GPEDC for SDGs
(5) Summary of Key Points of **GSDR 2019**

1) **Independent and Critical Assessment of SDGs Implementation**
   - Meta Analysis of scientific research publications, UN Reports, Country Reports, etc.

2) **Evidence-based Research for SDGs**
   - Reflect the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda
   - Interlinkages and correlation among the 17 goals: Trade-offs and co-benefits
   - Policy recommendations to be based on scientific evidence including indigenous knowledge

3) **Policy Recommendations**
   - **Message to the UN and Member States to implement SDGs:** **STRONG POLITICAL WILL → WE NEED TO MAKE HARD CHOICES and MAKE SDGs TOP PRIORITY!**
   - **ALARM BELL:** We only have 10 years left until 2030
   - **BUT, WE CAN DO IT:** 6 ENTRY POINTS FOR TRANSFORMATION and 4 LEVERS
III. Concluding Remarks

➢ **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs:**
  1. Use science and scientific evidence to guide and inform policy for SDGs (GSDR 2019)
  2. Interlinkages among SDGs: Address trade-offs, and harness co-benefits
  3. 6 entry points for transformation and 4 levers for SDGs
  4. Take advantage of existing science and technology including indigenous knowledge to achieve the SDGs

➢ **Gap in STI between the Global North and the Global South:**
  1. Large gap in research and development (R&D): Large investments in R&D and innovation in the Global North, largely from the private sector
  2. Disaggregated data to measure inequalities and to find workable solutions are needed in the Global South
  3. Good higher-education is needed in the Global South
  4. Use Official Development Assistance (ODA) and South-South Cooperation (SSC) to assist developing countries to reduce the gap in STI

➢ **We must work together, hand in hand between developed and developing countries as partners for SDGs!**
Thank you very much!