

## Call for contributions to the UN Global Sustainable Development Report 2016 Bring your science issues and solutions to the attention of policymakers and participate in a conversation with them!

### *A unique opportunity*

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With the establishment of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in 2012, Governments have created an entry point for scientists across the world to be heard at the highest levels of the United Nations. This is a call for science briefs – concise, factual, peer reviewed, open access – contributions from scientists and researchers that highlight issues, research findings or solutions. This is your unique opportunity to bring scientific issues to the attention of policy makers! Do not miss it!

Preparations for the 2016 edition of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), to be submitted to the fourth session of the HLPF in July 2016, are now underway. One chapter of the Report will cover the contributions received. “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, as the theme chosen for the HLPF 2016, will be a running theme through the report. In addition, a thematic chapter of the 2016 GSDR will have an urban focus, in the context of the SDGs. Efforts are also ongoing to include the briefs in open access, digital repositories and an e-journal.

### *UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)*

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The GSDR is a United Nations publication aiming to strengthen the science-policy interface HLPF, and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. The HLPF is the main United Nations platform providing political leadership and guidance on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The 2015 GSDR drew upon inputs from a range of stakeholders, including the UN system and members of scientific communities across the world. An open call for contributions resulted in more than [180 crowd-sourced science briefs](#).

### *Scope of the call for contributions*

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Briefs should address an issue, finding, or research with a bearing on sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental – or the inter-linkages between them. It is recommended to highlight a number of key messages from the current scientific debate for the attention of policy-makers. The level of specificity of your brief should lend itself to policy action, e.g. consider whether an analysis of antibiotic resistance is more useful than a general discussion of global public health challenges. The focus could be on: (a) the review of up-to-date findings relating to a particular issue, (b) addressing a single issue of importance, or (c) presenting solutions to a problem or challenge. It could also present the “story” of a research finding that has great policy relevance but is not typically considered in the policy debate. The briefs are to be factual and clearly based on peer-reviewed literature. Contributions from both the natural and social science communities from all disciplines are highly valued and welcomed.

### *Requirements*

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The aim of the briefs is to summarize or highlight the most salient findings or arguments; supporting material can be a separate technical annex or reference to a supporting research paper. The briefs should be less than **1,500 words**.

As a general guideline, the brief should follow the format of the sample brief on the website (two columns). Tables or figures should all be captioned with source indicated. Text references should be in Harvard Style, i.e. (Author, year) inserted where quoted in the text. Please use footnotes instead of endnotes, for necessary explanations and asides. All references should be listed alphabetically at the end of the brief.

### *Submission process*

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The brief (including supporting documents) should be submitted to [gsdr.briefs@gmail.com](mailto:gsdr.briefs@gmail.com) in **.doc or .docx format**, using email subject **GSDR 2016 Science Briefs – [title of the brief]**. **The preferred date for submissions is 18 February, but briefs will be accepted after this date.** However, interested contributors are invited to submit their briefs as soon as possible, so that they can be considered in the preparation of the GSDR

All briefs that meet basic formatting and quality standards will be posted on the website of the GSDR for an open comment period. A synthesis of salient points from the briefs will be included in the GSDR chapter on newly-arising science issues and solutions for policy-makers.

For more information, please visit:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/science/crowdsourcedbriefs>