



2023 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

Holiday Inn Incheon Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

16 – 19 October 2023

Organised by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development ([UNOSD](#)) of UN DESA,
 Division for Sustainable Development Goals ([UN DESA-DSDG](#)),
 in collaboration with the Asia Europe Foundation ([ASEF](#)) and [Arirang TV](#)

AGENDA

Day One Monday, 16 October 2023	
Time	Sessions
8:30-9:00	Registration (Ballroom, 2nd Floor)
9:00-9:30	Opening of the Forum Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD Mr. Chang Heum Lee, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea H.E. Ambassador Toru Morikawa, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
9:30-9:50	Setting the Stage – Keynote address Dr. Eun Mee Kim, President, Ewha Womans University, Republic of Korea
9:50-10:20	Group Photo and Coffee/Networking Break
10:20-11:00	The Launch of 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) in the Asia-Pacific Region Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Astra Bonini, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, East and North-East Asia Office, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Dr. Ambuj Sagar, Deputy Director and Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies, School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, India
11:00–12:00	Question and Answer (Q&A) session On-stage Interview on 2023 GSDR Moderator: Dr. Eun Mee Kim, President, Ewha Womans University, Republic of Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Ambuj Sagar, Deputy Director and Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies, School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, India Ms. Astra Bonini, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break (Ballroom, 2nd Floor) <i>DSA Distribution for UN funded participants (Room on 2nd Floor)</i>

Operationalization Workshop of 2023 GSDR

13:30-15:30	<p>Entry-points and Levers Moderator: Ms. Astra Bonini, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</p> <p>Topic Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ambuj Sagar, Deputy Director and Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies, School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology, India <p>Q&A</p> <p>Breakout Group Training Exercise: Exploring the GSDR’s Framework of Entry Points and Levers for Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will work in regional groups to gain a hands-on understanding of each Entry Point and Lever from the GSDR 2023 Report (see pages 44-47). Each group will be assigned a specific Entry Point and Lever to learn and then will have the opportunity later in plenary to share their learning. • Using a fun card game, participants will gain additional insights on how to apply the Levers to accelerate progress in the various Entry Points, all in the context of their respective countries and regions. <p>Report Back and Plenary Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group presentations of Entry Points and Levers • Group and individual presentations on country and region-specific application of Entry Points and Levers • General discussion
15:30-16:00	Coffee and Networking Break
16:00-17:30	<p>Call to Action Exercise – Part 1 of 3: Establishing an SDG Transformation Framework and Action Plan Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant</p> <hr/> <p>Building on the information and skills acquired in the previous session on the <i>Entry Points and Levers for Transformation</i>, participants will work individually and in groups to start developing a <i>Call to Action SDG Transformation Plan</i>. This plan is meant as a practical output of the forum for each participant, representing key insights and ideas to take home and apply in their own country work to accelerate progress toward the SDGs. Time will be allocated during each day of the forum for participants to develop and complete their <i>Call to Action SDG Transformation Plan</i>.</p> <p>Creation of the plan will emphasize the science-policy interface for evidence-based policymaking. Specifically, the exercise over the three remaining days of the forum will help develop skills in strategic foresight, innovating new alternatives, orchestrating across silos, identifying and overcoming impediments, and systems learning & resilience – in line with the five capacities needed for enabling and navigating transitions outlined in the GSDR Capacity-building Lever (GSDR, 2023, p. 47).</p> <hr/> <p>Context and Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity building focus for this Part 1 exercise will be on the role of strategic foresight and systems learning & resilience in planning and policymaking (GSDR, 2023, p. 47). The moderator will deliver a seed presentation on this capacity building skill and then provide instructions for group work. <p>Group Work: Call to Action Exercise – Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be assigned a breakout group and instructions provided to the table facilitators and participants. • A Forum Worksheet will be provided to each participant to record and advance their

	<p>plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break out groups will brainstorm on key insights generic to any country situation and will record these in their own Virtual Group Flipchart (link to be provided during the forum). <p>Report Back and Plenary Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals and groups will have an opportunity to share in plenary the key insights gleaned during the development of their plan
18:00-19:30	Dinner Reception (Ballroom, 2nd Floor)

**Day Two
Tuesday, 17 October 2023**

Time	Sessions
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Transformative Actions for SDGs under review

9:00-9:10	<p>Day 2 Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1 Recap and Day 2 Overview Warm-up Systems-thinking Exercise
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9:10-10:40	<p>Session I: Poverty and climate - Building resilience of the poor and vulnerable to climate risks through climate action (SDGs 1, 13 & 17) Moderator: Ms. Therese Bennich, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)</p> <hr/> <p>Previous participants of the SDTF have highlighted that their priority SDGs are both 1 and 13 underscoring the interdependency faced today between poverty and climate risk. Last month, member states adopted the Political Declaration of the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly's 77th session acknowledging that the world is currently facing numerous crises and millions of people have fallen into poverty, with hunger and malnutrition becoming more prevalent and the impacts of climate change more pronounced (paragraph 8). Furthermore, it was recognised that a more preventive, multi-hazard, and inclusive approach is needed for effective and efficient disaster risk reduction (see paragraph 38k). This session explores the interface between poverty and climate change adaptation. How to build the resilience of the poor and most vulnerable to climate risks from national to local levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to build the resilience of the poor and most vulnerable to climate risks from national to local levels? What role can multi-functional agriculture (Session II), open and inclusive data (Session IV) and nature-based solutions (Session V) play in building the resilience of the poor and most vulnerable to climate risks? <hr/> <p>Topic Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>UN Early Warning for All Initiative</i> - Ms. Daniela Cuellar Vargas, Programme Officer, Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems Office, World Meteorological Organisation Mr. Dukwoo Jun, Lead, Circular Economy Community of Practice, Global Green Growth Institute <p>Country Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Harinjaka Romuald Andriamiharisoa, Director-General of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar Mr. Arthur Alfaro Batomalaque, Supervising Environmental Management Specialist, Local Government Unit, San Carlos City, Philippines <p>Q&A</p>
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	<p>Discussant: Mr. Sugath Yalegama, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Interactive Group & Plenary Discussion: <i>Exploring the Entry Points and Levers of Transformation for Building the Resilience of the Poor and Vulnerable to Climate Risks</i> (Facilitated by Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant)</p>
10:40–11:00	Coffee and Networking Break
11:00–12:30	<p>Session II: Multifunctional agriculture and agroecology (SDGs 2 & 17) Moderator: Ms. Grazyna Pulawska, Associate Director, ASEF</p> <hr/> <p>In line with the GSDR’s Entry Point 3 on Sustainable Food Systems and Healthy Nutrition, this session focuses on synergies between food systems and means of implementation looking at the key intervention and transformative effects of multifunctional agriculture and agro-ecology to accelerate SDG progress. Coined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in its 30th Session in 1999, multifunctional agriculture is an approach meant to integrate the economic, social and ecological aspects of land management. Similarly, agroecology is defined by the FAO as a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. Specific questions to reflect on during this session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is multifunctional agriculture and agroecology a transformative way to achieve progress on SDG 2 and how can these practices accelerate progress on multiple SDGs? • With increasing impacts of climate change on food systems, how can multi-functional agriculture and agroecology advance resilience in agriculture and sustainability for smallholders and vulnerable groups? <hr/> <p>Topic Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pierre Ferrand, Agricultural officer, Food and Agriculture Organization <p>Country Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Leonardo Enrique Argueta, Project Coordinator, Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment, Honduras • Ms. Rachelle Ida Yapou Epse Yapou, Director of Sustainable Development Policies and Strategies, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire <p>Q&A Interactive Group & Plenary Discussion: <i>Exploring the Entry Points and Levers of Transformation for Accelerating the Implementation of Multi-functional Agriculture and Agroecology</i> (Facilitated by Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant)</p>
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break
13:30–15:00	<p>Session III: Climate Finance, Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Inclusive Growth (SDGs 13 & 17) Moderator: Prof. Laszlo Pinter, IISD and Central European University</p> <hr/> <p>This session takes a close-up view of climate finance for GHG emission reductions in the context of inclusive growth. Through the HLPF 2023’s political declaration, member states stressed the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action related to mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation, especially for developing countries (para 38L). Furthermore, member states declared that they remain resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work (para 14). Concurrently, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report outlined key entry points and finance levers for a sustainable and just economy (p. 51), including energy decarbonisation (p. 55). Specific questions to reflect on during this session include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are climate finance instruments advancing progress at country level for a just transition and do these span public, private, and other sources? • What is the role of multifunctional agriculture (Session II), open and inclusive data (Session IV), and nature-based solutions (Session VI) in achieving a just transition to a decarbonized world? <p>-----</p> <p>Topic Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. James Williams, Manager, Office of Sustainability and Inclusion (OSI), Green Climate Fund • Ms. Hyun Jee, International Cooperation Team Leader of the ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center (ASEIC) <p>Country Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Batkhuu Idesh, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia • Ms. María Emilia Ayala, Head of Climate Change, Risk Management and Environmental Affairs, Sustainable Development and Environment Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paraguay <p>Q&A</p> <p>Interactive Group & Plenary Discussion: <i>Exploring the Entry Points and Levers of Transformation for Accelerating Climate Finance within a Just Economy</i> (Facilitated by Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant)</p>
15:00–15:30	Coffee and Networking Break
15:30–17:00	<p>Call to Action SDG Transformation Action Plans – Part 2 of 3 Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD</p> <p>Context and Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the Capacity-building lever of the GSDR, this Part 2 of the planning exercise will be on the role of <i>orchestration, engagement and negotiation</i> for working across silos to coordinate action across various actors, sectors and scales (see GSDR, 2023, p. 47). • The moderator will deliver a seed presentation on this capacity building skill and then provide instructions for group work. <p>Group Work: Call to Action Exercise – Part 2 of 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be assigned a breakout group and instructions provided to the table facilitators and participants. • A Forum Worksheet will be provided to each participant to record and advance their plan. • Break out groups will brainstorm on key insights generic to any country situation and will record these in their own <i>Virtual Group Flipchart</i> (link to be provided during the forum) <p>Report Back and Plenary Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals and groups will have an opportunity to share in plenary the key insights gleaned during the development of their plan

Day Three Wednesday, 18 October 2023	
Time	Sessions
9:00-09:10	<p>Day 3 Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day 2 Recap and Day 3 Overview • Warm-up Systems Thinking Question

	<p>Session IV: Open and Inclusive Data for the SDGs (SDGs 16 & 17) Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</p> <hr/> <p>Member states of the UN General Assembly declared at the 2023 SDG Summit to strengthen efforts to “collect, analyse and disseminate relevant, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda” and to “increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing financing for data and statistics, and enhancing capacity building support to developing countries” (para 38r).</p> <p>In discussing transformations through science, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report concluded that “in the age of multiple compounding global risks that lead to escalating social vulnerability and increased inequality, the traditional process of production, validation and dissemination of scientific knowledge is not sufficient to result in meaningful processes of change... Today more than ever, scientists, policymakers and multiple social actors need to work closely together at the science-policy-society interface to build trust, establish the scientific base for progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, deliver findings and communicate these findings to society at large.” (GSDR, 2023, p. 89). In line with the Governance lever of the GSDR, this session explores the importance of open and inclusive data to inform action and review of the SDGs. Questions to reflect on during this session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your experience, what happens when data for the SDGs is not open and inclusive? • How is strategic foresight or risk assessment improving planning? What evidence and data gaps have created barriers in planning? <hr/> <p>Topic Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Therese Bennich, Research Fellow, SEI <p>Country Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jordy Vilayil Vilchez Astucuri, Director of the National Directorate of Foresight and Strategic Planning, National Center of Strategic Planning, Peru (<i>role of data to strengthen foresight and strategic planning</i>) • Ms. Fay AlNajadah, Researcher, National Observatory for Sustainable Development and Future Foresight, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait <p>Q&A</p> <p>Interactive Group & Plenary Discussion: <i>Exploring the importance of open and inclusive data in the context of the Entry Points and Levers of Transformation</i> (Facilitated by Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant)</p>
<p>9:10-10:40</p>	<p>Coffee and Networking Break</p>
<p>11:00-12:30</p>	<p>Session V: From 2023 SDG Summit to 2024 Summit of the Future Moderator: Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD</p> <hr/> <p>On 18-19 September, member states met at the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly to mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs. Building on this year’s summit, countries will work together over the coming year and reconvene in September 2024 within the General Assembly at the Summit of the Future to endorse an action-oriented <i>Pact for the Future</i>.</p> <p>Eleven policy briefs were issued by the Secretary-General to help member states prepare the <i>Pact for the Future</i> including the following topics: safeguarding the future; managing global shocks; meaningful inclusion of young people; measuring what we value; open, free, and secure digital future; an open global financial system that works for all; sharing the</p>

	<p>benefits of space; a new agenda for peace; transformation in information; and a UN 2.0 (Quintet of Change).</p> <p>This session will preview the process and substantive discussions that will need to occur over the coming year as countries and stakeholders prepare the <i>Pact for the Future</i>. Specific questions to reflect on during this session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What aspects among the eleven policy briefs will be particularly important for accelerating progress toward the SDGs in your country? • What insights from the other topics sessions of this forum are important for informing the eleven policy areas? <hr/> <p>Topic Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Astra Bonini, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Serge Pamphile Mezang Akamba, First Counselor, Permanent Mission to the United Nations of Cameroon • Mr. Alomlangsy Rajvong, Director of the Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR • UNOSD Summer Camp on the SDGs – reflections from youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Minn Va Hein, 2023 SDGs Youth Summer Camp participant ○ Ms. Antonette Tagnipez, 2023 SDGs Youth Summer Camp participant <p>Q&A</p> <p>Interactive Group & Plenary Discussion: <i>Exploring the inter-relationships among the Entry Points and Levers of Transformation and the Eleven Policy Briefs Informing the 2024 Summit of the Future</i> (Facilitated by Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant)</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-15:00	<p>Call to Action SDG Transformation Action Plans – Part 3 of 3 Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant</p> <p>Context and Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity building focus for this Part 2 of the planning exercise will be on the role of <i>innovation and generation of new alternatives, as well as identifying and overcoming impediments to acceleration and transformation</i> (see GSDR, 2023, p. 47). • The moderator will deliver a seed presentation on this capacity building skill and then provide instructions for group work. <p>Group Work: Call to Action Exercise – Part 3 of 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be assigned a breakout group and instructions provided to the table facilitators and participants. • A <i>Forum Worksheet</i> will be provided to each participant to record and advance their plan. • Break out groups will brainstorm on key insights generic to any country situation and will record these in their own <i>Virtual Group Flipchart</i> (link to be provided during the forum). <p>Report Back and Plenary Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals and groups will have an opportunity to share in plenary the key insights gleaned during the development of their plan <p>Congratulations, at this point in the forum agenda you have completed your <i>Call to Action SDG Transformation Plan!</i> Now for the important part, implementing it when you return to your work after the forum. We look forward to following up with you through a future survey.</p>

15:00-15:30	Coffee and Networking Break
15:30-17:00	<p>Session VI: Nature-based Solutions for Accelerating the SDGs and ASEF Publication Launch: <i>Nature-based Solutions – 100 cases from Asia</i> Moderator: Ms. Grazyna Pulawska, Asia-Europe Foundation</p> <hr/> <p>The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report describes how integrated approaches like nature-based solutions can have multiple benefits across many goals (p. 24). For instance, the GSDR describes how natural climate solutions offer some of the best options in the response to climate change (p. 17) and indeed, urban managers are already using nature-based solutions to improve the quality of life and sustainability in cities (p. 70). More applications for nature-based solutions are needed in rural areas and key economic sectors such as agriculture.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) ratified in 2022 brings renewed clarity on the interaction of people and nature. Specifically, Target 11 of the GBF calls on all nations to “restore, maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature”.</p> <p>This session features examples from a new publication on nature-based solutions by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) together with insights from other experts and hands-on training in the use of nature-based solutions for enhancing resilience to climate change. Specific questions to reflect on in this session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been your experience with nature-based solutions in your country? What challenges do you encounter or anticipate in the implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions? • Can nature-based solutions help build resilience of the poor and most vulnerable while at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance quality of life in rural and urban areas? <hr/> <p>Topic Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Laszlo Pinter, IISD and Central European University (CEU) • Mr. Pierre Ferrand, Agricultural officer, Food and Agriculture Organization <p>Q&A</p> <p>Training Session: Nature-based Solutions for Accelerating the SDGs and Enhancing Resilience (Prof. Laszlo Pinter, IISD and CEU and Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant)</p>

Day Four Thursday, 19 October 2023	
Time	Activities
09:00-09:15	Opening Session – Day 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of Day 3 and Overview of Day 4 • Warm-up Systems-thinking Exercise
9:15-10:30	Incheon Communiqué - Working Session Facilitator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD Consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Draft Incheon Communiqué • Individual Review and Group Discussion • Plenary Overview of Comments and Next Steps
10:30-11:00	Coffee and Networking Break
11:00-11:30	Forum Closing Session Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day 4 Recap • Forum Evaluations • Field Trip Overview and Instructions Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Grazyna Pulawska, Associate Director, ASEF • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD
11:30-12:30	Lunch (Meeting Room, 2nd Floor)
12:40-15:30	Field Trip 12:40pm: Depart Hotel 1:00 – 1:50pm: Nam Hang Wastewater Treatment Site, Incheon 2:00 – 2:50pm: IFEZ Smart City Integrated Operation Center, G tower 4 th Floor 3:00 – 3:20pm: IFEZ Observatory, G tower 33 rd Floor 3:30pm: End of Trip <i>Group A (Return to Hotel), Group B (One way trip to Seoul Station, Seoul)</i> <i>*Please be on time and wear comfortable shoes</i>