



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

2021-22 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

Building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

28 February – 3 March 2022

8:00pm (Republic of Korea), 12:00pm (Geneva), 6:00am (New York)

Background

Established in 2011, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). UNOSD contributes to building, exchanging, and facilitating the use of knowledge in support of sustainable development.

One of UNOSD's flagship activities to fulfil this goal is the annual Sustainable Development Transformation Forum (SDTF), which normally gathers around a hundred people in Incheon City at the end of October every year. However, due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the 2020 SDTF originally scheduled for October 2020, had to be postponed to February 2021, and held online only. Although the UNOSD had kept up hope to hold the next SDTF fully in person in Incheon up to very recently, it had to back away from this option. Hence the next edition of UNOSD's 2021-22 work plan, will be held online again this year.

As in most of previous editions of the SDTF, this year's Forum will follow the thread of the forthcoming High-level Political Forum (HLPF 2022), which has the overarching theme of *Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The SDTF will feature the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will go under in-depth review during the HLPF in July 2022, namely SDGs 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The 2022 edition of the SDTF will also strive to examine the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 but also across all the SDGs given the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Forum Objectives and Contents

The overarching objective of the 2022 SDTF is closely linked to the HLPF 2022, aiming to offer a platform for capacity building, policy dialogue and knowledge sharing for building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDTF will aim to achieve a better understanding of success, challenges, lessons learned, and good practices related to the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17, the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on those and across all the SDGs, and identify potential solutions to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual SDTF has brought together a hundred or so participants from all over the world to share their knowledge and experience over three days in Incheon City, South Korea. Unfortunately, in-person meetings were not possible during the pandemic last year and so this year again, the Forum will take place through a series of 2.5-hour online sessions

over four days from 28 February to 3 March 2022 (inclusive), 8:00pm to 10:30pm, Korea Standard Time.

Drawing from the HLPF 2022 as well as from the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019, the 2022 SDTF will strive to examine the selected Goals and theme of the HLPF 2022 through the lenses of governance, capacity building & education, policy & institutional coherence, as well as individual and collective behaviour to reach a better understanding of some of the necessary transformations that can possibly help advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

Methodology

The Forum will consist of several interrelated modules, each covering concepts and issues of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 in particular, as well as challenges and solutions regarding the swift recovery from COVID-19 and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

It will consist of formal presentations by international experts, scholars, practitioners, and actors followed by Q&A and discussions.

The Forum will take place in an online format using the Cisco WebEx platform.

The sessions will be led by the UNOSD team, namely, Mr. Jean D’Aragon, and a consultant, Mr. Darren Swanson, who has facilitated the in-person SDTF in prior years.

Target Audience

The Forum aims to bring together an international audience composed of national government officials and experts responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, and of civil society and private sector. The Forum will also be open to other non-government experts working in the areas of SDG implementation at the national, regional, and local levels. It will also welcome academia, youth, and other interested stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and integrated discussion on sustainable accelerated solutions for COVID-19 recovery and the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Dates and time

The Forum will take place from **28 February – 3 March 2022**, between **20:00-22:30**, Korean standard time (KST).

Theme

As indicated above, the theme of the 2022 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum will be *Building back better from COVID-19 and fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda*.

Language

The Forum will be conducted in English.

Outputs and Follow-up

The Forum will result in a communiqué —the *Incheon Communiqué* summarizing the key messages which participants would like to convey to the international community regarding the successes, lessons learned and good practices regarding the implementation of the selected SDGs as well as the main theme of the Forum, i.e., building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As well, a Forum report documenting the presentations and discussions on the entire integrated agenda will be produced.

In addition, a publication regrouping articles based upon the discussions, deliberations, and conclusions of the Forum as well as additional inputs from the 2022 SDTF presenters and participants or other experts and writers —the 2021-22 SDTF Publication— will be produced during weeks following the Forum. Both the *Incheon Communiqué* and the 2022 SDTF Publication will be published and posted on the UNOSD’s Website.

Organisers

The 2021-22 SDTF is organized 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](#)).

Agenda

(Updated versions and additional information can be found at: https://unosd.un.org/events/2021-22_SDTF)

Session One: Forum Opening and Quality Education Monday 28 February 2022	
Time	Activities
20:00 – 20:30	<p>Opening of the Forum Moderator: Mr. Jean D’Aragon, Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (video) • H.E. Ms. Han Jeoung Ae, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea (video) • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD • H.E. Ambassador Mr. Morikawa Toru, Executive Director, ASEF
20:30 – 22:30	<p>Theme: <i>Quality Education</i> – Advancing the 2030 Agenda through Education, Vocational Training and Capacity Building Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD consultant</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Manos Antoninis, Director of Team, Global Education Monitoring Report Team, UNESCO • Mr. Louis Meuleman, Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), Founder/Director, PublicStrategy for Sustainable Development and visiting professor at the Public Governance Institute of the University of Leuven, Belgium • Mr. Oliver Liang, Head, Public and Private Services Unit, Sectoral specialist: education, culture, media, sport, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization (ILO) <p>Q&A and Discussion, Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Reka Tozsa, Senior Project Manager, Higher Education Programme, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF); Mr. Edizon Fermin, Vice President for Academic Affairs, National Teachers College, The Philippines • Ms. Alicia Quezada, Latin America Director, Practical Action, Peru

	Q&A and Discussion
Session Two: Gender Equality Tuesday 1 March 2022	
20:00 – 22:30	<p>Theme: <i>Gender Equality</i> – A Gender Perspective on Building Back Better from the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD consultant; Ms. Grażyna Pulawska, Asia-Europe Foundation</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sarah Hendriks, Director, Policy, Programme & Intergovernmental Division, UN Women • Ms. Cynthia McDougall, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute <p>Q&A and Discussion, Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Angela Mwai, Chief a.i., Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit, Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat • Ms. Amanda Austin, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Equal Measures 2030 • Ms. Mrinalini Venkatachalam, Regional Director, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania, WEConnect International <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
Session Three: Life Below Water Wednesday 2 March 2022	
20:00 – 22:30	<p>Theme: <i>Life Below Water</i> – How the Oceans can help us fight against, and recover from COVID-19 and deliver the SDGs</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD consultant; Ms. Grażyna Pulawska, Asia-Europe Foundation</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kim Hyun-tae, Director General of International Cooperation Policy Bureau, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea • Mr. Sai S. Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, USA • Hon. Mr. Andy Labonte, Member of the National Assembly, Republic of Seychelles <p>Q&A and Discussion, Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yegor Volovik, Coordinator, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Regional Coordinating Unit, Ecosystems Integration Branch, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme, Toyama City, Japan • Ms. Cornelia E. Nauen, President, Mundus maris – Sciences and Arts for Sustainability, Brussels • Mr. Harmen Spek, Innovation & Solutions Lead, Plastic Soup Foundation <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
Session Four: Life on Land and Forum Closing Thursday 3 March 2022	
20:00 – 22:20	<p>Theme: <i>Life on Land</i> – How COVID-19 recovery and 2030 Agenda can only</p>

	<p>be fully achieved through addressing SDG 15</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Darren Swanson, UNOSD consultant; Ms. Grażyna Pulawska, Asia-Europe Foundation</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pierre H. Boileau, Head, Global Environment Outlook, UN Environment • Ms. Ingeborg Niestroy, Director, Project Leader, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS); Mr. Raphael Weyland, Head of Brussels Office, Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) • Ms. Grażyna Pulawska, Acting Director, Sustainable Development & Public Health Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF); Ms. Riko Kimoto, Manager for International Public Health, Sustainable Development & Public Health Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) <p>Q&A and Discussion, Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Laszlo Pinter, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University • Ms. Mariaelena Huambachano, Professor Environmental Humanities and Indigenous Studies, Syracuse University, NY, USA • Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi, Executive Director, Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN), Uganda <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
22:20 – 22:30	<p>Closing of the Forum</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jean D’Aragon, Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ambassador Mr. Léon Faber, Deputy Executive Director, ASEF • Mr. Jean D’Aragon, Senior Sustainable Development Expert, UNOSD