



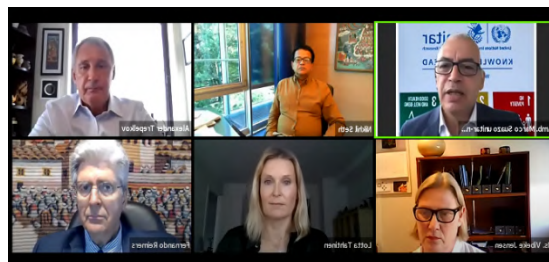
SDG Learning, Training and Practice 2020 – HLPF Special Event

7-13 July 2020 during HLPF

VIRTUAL EDITION

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) New York office, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), is hosting the 2020 edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Learning, Training and Practice center. This is a weeklong training series that offers a wide range of training workshops featuring speakers and experts from academia and other sectors. The series focuses on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs under review in 2020. This year's program is the 5th edition of the SDG Learning and Training series, which has benefited more than 4,000 participants since 2016.

The head of UNITAR New York office, Ambassador Mr. Marco Suazo, started off the first workshop “Learning and Training for SDG implementation in the COVID-19” by giving the opening remarks. Next, Executive Director of UNITAR and Assistant-Secretary General, Mr. Nikhil Seth mentioned that despite the existing challenges faced during the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation process, this unprecedented time also provides opportunities to rethink about the economic drivers and lifestyles. During the session, Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano; the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs from the UNDESA and her department launched the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). This is a free and open resource, that allows people to learn about approaches and tools that enable interests and participation in the SDG implementation process. After her remarks, the keynote speaker Professor Fernando Reimers, the Ford Foundation Professor of the Practice of International Education and the Director of the Global Education Innovation Initiative at Harvard University, acknowledged the current adversities faced but highlighted that the existence of the current SDGs served as a north star to guide the educational systems forward. The session also hosted the panel, “The role of Education in building back better in the Decade of Action for Delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals” which included panelists Ms. Vibeke Jensen, the director of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Ms. Pauline Rose, Professor of International Education from Cambridge University, and the Director of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre among others experts. The subjects covered were the difficulties that the pandemic created and accentuated in education, how the SDGs need to be taken into consideration, and that more resources need to be contributed to public education in order to not leave anyone behind.





The second workshop “Developing transformational partnerships to catalyze SDGs implementation” was organized by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Office for Sustainable Development), UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Economic Forum, The Partnering Initiative, and the World Economic Forum's new learning platform Strategic Intelligence. This training’s objective is to introduce how

multi-stakeholder partnerships can facilitate system transformation by a specific example. It examined how the SDGs, exist within complex systems and partnerships, and leveraging various aspects of those systems are required to transform them in a positive way. The training focused on the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) levers of Governance and Individual and Collective Action to achieve human well-being and capabilities as an entry point to transformation – by introducing an innovative approach to system mapping and identifying specific action pathways required to transform the system. The transformation of the Rule of Law (SDG 16) as essential to achieving the SDGs overall, how this exists with a complex system requiring multi-stakeholder partnerships (SDG 17) to address it and education (SDG 4) as a fundamental aspect of this transformation was also looked at.

The third workshop “Accelerating action through digital technologies: strengthening digital skills and capacities for human wellbeing” was organized by UNITAR and International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The availability of technology and the use of digital tools contribute to progress being made on each of the 17 SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically underlined the vital importance of meaningful connectivity to people’s livelihoods, employment, health and well-being, education, and social participation. However, many around the world lack access to technology. This session highlighted the importance of digital skills and capacity for the achievement of the SDGs. It presented methodologies to carry out national digital skills assessments that will inform the Government and other stakeholders.

The fourth session “Food systems and nutrition patterns: Biodiversity, Agriculture and Sustainable Practices” was organized by Emerging Ag Inc. and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST). During this workshop, it was explained that food production and biodiversity are inextricably interlinked. Biodiversity underpins food security, sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem resilience, disaster resilience, coping strategies for climate change, and adequate nutritional requirements, among others. Therefore, the questions of how agriculture and biodiversity coexist and how can food systems best prepare for disasters were discussed. In addition, the speakers focused on how disasters impact the environment and food systems and how to increase food production for a growing global population while preserving biodiversity, protecting the environment, mitigating the impact of disasters and adapting to climate change.

The fifth session “Global Environmental Commons: Co-designing solutions to deliver on SDG 14” was organized by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), of Government of Japan; Sulitest; and the Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute of Columbia University. During the session, it was emphasized that sustainable development remains a paramount priority as before COVID-19 and recovery plans are a unique opportunity for a strong inclusion of SDGs. The pandemic demonstrates the impacts of one issue on most of SDGs and the imperative need to strengthen collective resilience. Building resilience in the context of recovery plans by considering Global Environmental commons is a key issue for public and private actors. This event served as an opportunity for the Member States and other stakeholders including practitioners to address the global environmental commons on how to take immediate actions towards the integration of SDGs in their policies and practices. The outcome of this side event will contribute to the implementation of actions as well as the various international conferences and meetings.



The sixth workshop entitled “Energy decarbonization and universal access: Participatory Science and Stakeholder Capacity Building in Sustainable Energy Development” was organized by International Atomic Energy Agency and NGO Objectif Sciences International. The workshop was divided into two parts. The first part introduced the IAEA’s capacity building program for sustainable energy development offered to stakeholders from national institutions, policy and decision-making bodies, energy policy agencies, and companies engaged. Objectif Sciences International used the second part of the workshop to demonstrate that participatory science allows both to support the implementation of solutions and to create new solutions for SDGs involving citizens and stakeholders: the presenters showed how to design participatory science and how it contributes to strong empowerment of the actors.

ILO Green Jobs Programme, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), among other partners organized the seventh workshop, “Sustainable and just economies: Lessons learned from the COVID-19 Crisis and enabling factors for the SDGs.” The COVID-19 crisis and economic impact of the “Great Lockdown” were points touched during the workshop. Both highlighted the urgency of the Agenda 2030 and threatened to rollback progress made since 2015. Therefore, it was agreed that to ensure that the recovery points towards a development model that delivers a triple bottom-line of prosperity, planet and people in light of the global pandemic it requires coordinated and well-integrated policies to maximize opportunities for more and better jobs, social inclusion, and social justice. The workshop brought together information and experiences from different schemes of work on the issue of sustainable economies. These diverse experiences aimed to allow participants to have a broader understanding into various perspectives and issues under this heading, as well as providing them with tools to enable and support their critical perspectives in these issues. In addition, the workshop foresaw the presentation of tools that promote collaboration among different sectors that can help incentivize and catalyze the achievement of SDGs and a quick transition to sustainable and just economies.



The eighth session, “Urban and peri-urban development: Tools for SDG Localization,” was hosted by the European Commission -Joint Research Centre. The speakers highlighted that local governments are key actors for the achievement of the SDGs, and not only because they deliver essential services, but also for their capacity to mobilize local energies and actors. Despite the increasing targeted action taken at the local level, how cities and

regions should contribute to the SDGs, and how their contribution can be measured and assessed is still uncertain. Therefore, this training aimed at building partnerships and improving the capacities of representatives of different level of governments to implement transformative actions towards the achievement of the SDGs. In particular, the training presented tools that support the follow up and review of SDG implementation at the local level. The workshop focused on one of the main tools developed by the Joint Research Centre with a number of partners for the SDG localization: the "European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews", which describes the main steps for setting up a local SDG monitoring systems (indicators and review).

The SDG Learning Center will continue throughout the 13th of July with 2 more sessions which will analyze and work towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Attendance Statistics

Over 4,300 individuals registered to attend the ten sessions held over the course of the five-day training.

Regionally, the breakdown of attendance reflected a wide range of member states and organizations across the spectrum of sustainable development—from civil society to academia, the private sector, and the missions of UN member states.

Gender balance was achieved with 55% of participants identifying as female.

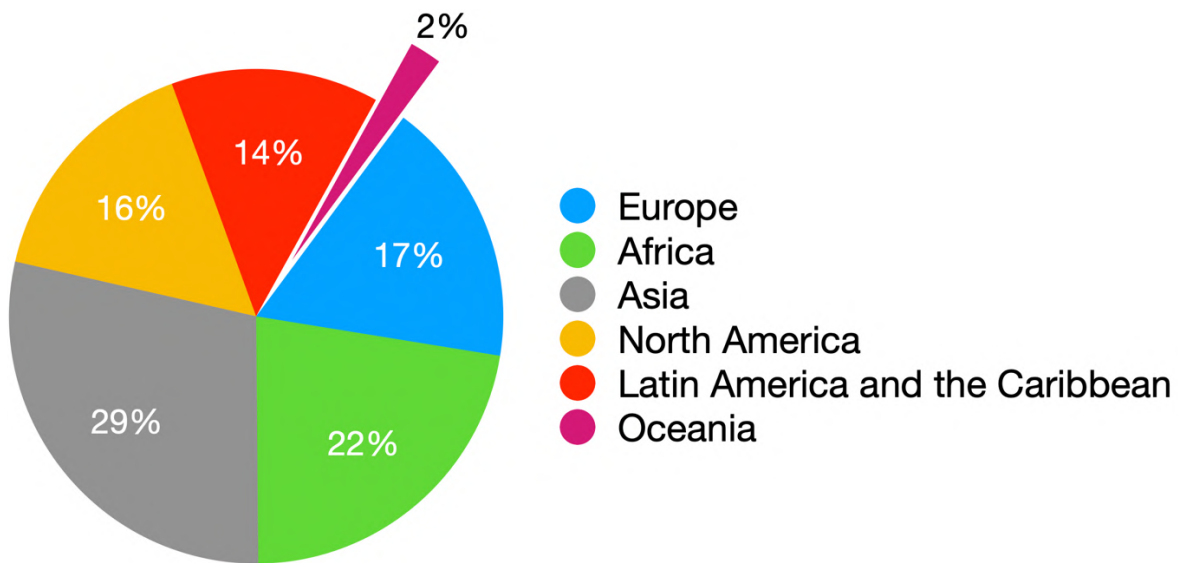
Session	Registered	Session	Registered
1	2431	6	1994
2	2335	7	2806
3	2229	8	2325
4	2059	9	2882
5	2663	10	2811

Session	Zoom	YouTube
1	500	3269
2	250	879
3	300	617
4	300	809
5	340	595

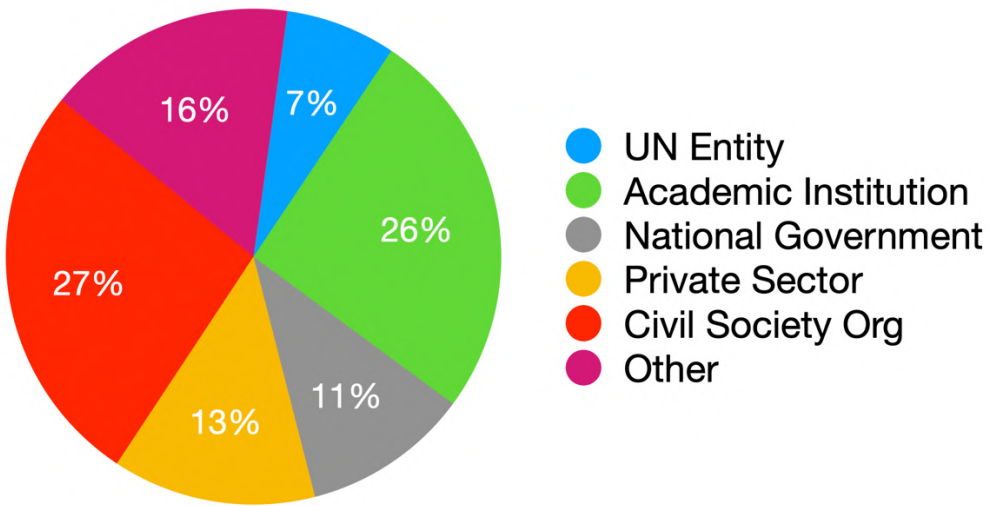


6	190	349
7	314	469
8	320	460
9	440	533
10	300	242
Total YouTube Views: (Updated 20 July)		8,222

Regional Breakdown:



Organizational Breakdown:



Gender Breakdown:

