

SDG Ways Forward

Speaker: Irena Zubcevic

Career/Experiment:

Director, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch of the United Nations
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Introduction of the speaker

- Acting Chief of Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- 1993 -2007: has worked over 20 years in the area of sustainable development both as part of the Croatian foreign service
- 2008 -: After joining the United Nations Secretariat and contributed to a number of reports and papers in the area of sustainable development. She has been supporting the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) since its inception.
- She has also been supporting countries preparing their voluntary national reviews (VNRS) since the beginning at 2016 HLPF. In her work she has been working with a number of stakeholders from governments to civil society, business, academia, etc. and facilitating their participation at the HLPF and other intergovernmental processes.
- 2012, 2015: She supported former Commission on Sustainable Development and was part of the team that supported the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio and its follow-up processes as well as negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda that resulted in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in September 2015.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UNDESA)

- Brings the global community together to work towards common solutions to the world's most pressing problems
- Helps countries make informed decisions by providing a wealth of information through publications and databases, and through support for international deliberations at the United Nations General Assembly and other bodies
- UN DESA is a pioneer of sustainable development and the home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where each goal finds its space and where all stakeholders can do their part to leave no one behind.

Q1: What are the key messages regarding Decade of Action and Delivery pledged at the 2019 SDG Summit? Why is it important to emphasize the link from global to local actions?

- 2019 SDG Summit is the first substantive summit since the SDGs were adopted by the global community in the 2015
- A political declaration was adopted in the Summit. In the declaration, attend areas of accelerated actions were identified, which help the advancement of the SDGs while adapting.
- 10 areas of accelerated actions:
 1. Leaving no one behind
 2. Mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing
 3. Enhancing national implementation
 4. Strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions
 5. Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation
 6. Reducing disaster risk and building resilience
 7. Solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership
 8. Harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on data transformation for sustainable development
 9. Investing in data is States statistic for the SDGs
 10. Strengthening the high-level political forum
- Global to local

HOW TO GET FROM HERE	—	THROUGH HERE	—	TO HERE
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 - Get from UN agencies, through national parliaments / governments to local communities
 - To strengthen the structure of national to local, we need strong institutions and empower all levels of government.

Q2: How much progress have we made since 2015?

- Current situation:

[From 2022 UN Secretary-General's report on Progress on SDGs]

 - Additional 75 million to 95 million people will live in extreme poverty in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic level
 - Economy slowed down in 2021 due to continued vaccine inequity, together with rising inflation, major supply-chain disruptions, conflicts, policy uncertainties, unsustainable debt in developing countries, rising energy and food prices and trade disruption
 - Due to COVID over 100 million more children fell below the minimum

reading proficiency level and other areas of academic learning

- Global energy related CO2 emissions rose by 6.0% as demand for coal, oil and gas rebounded with the economy in 2021 and are set to increase by almost 14% over the current decade
- Before 2019 (the pandemic), the 10 areas of accelerated actions were the most important areas we need to notice
- After 2019, we need to reform the actions to further achieve the SDGs.
 - Because of the poverty, economic, rising food price, energy, and other issues caused by the pandemic.
- Actions to be taken
 - Comprehensive response and the renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation.
 - ◆ Political will of governments of all levels
 - ◆ Finding solutions in the global levels.
 - Adoption of low-carbon, resilient and inclusive development pathways that will:
 - ◆ reduce carbon emissions
 - ◆ conserve natural resource
 - ◆ transform food systems
 - ◆ create better jobs
 - ◆ advance transition to a greener more inclusive and just economy

Q3: What are the roles of universities of making connection and taking the 2030 Agenda forward?

- The role of universities:
 - Education research
 - Organizational governance, culture and operations
 - External leadership
- The universities can:
 - Mapping what universities are already doing
 - Building internal capacity and ownership of the SDGs
 - ◆ By bestowing the student bodies with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to understand and address the SDGs
 - Identify priorities, opportunities and gaps and creating more opportunities for students' training and building professional skills
 - Integrating, implementing and embedding the SDGs
 - ◆ Within university strategies, policies and plans including supporting the development full spectrum of research work needed to address the

SDGs

- ◆ Which including interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, fostering innovative solutions for sustainable development
- Monitoring, evaluating and communicating the action on the SDGs
- Aligning university governance structures and operational policies with the SDGs
- Universities and society can **support each other** to achieve the SDGs.

Mutual support	Society	Universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Knowledge ■ Learning ■ Demonstration ■ Impact ■ Collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Create increased demand for SDG related education ◆ Provide a comprehensive and globally accepted definition of a responsible university ◆ Offer a framework for demonstrating impact Create new funding streams ◆ Create new funding streams ◆ Support collaboration with new external and internal partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide knowledge, ◆ innovations and solutions to the SDGS ◆ Create current and future SDG implementers ◆ Demonstrate how to support, adopt and implement SDGs in governance, operations and culture ◆ Develop cross-sectoral leadership to guide the SDG response

- SDG-related education, starting primary schools
- Teaching responsibilities

Q4: Any example in university’s involvement with SDGs? Any example for youth to contribute to SDG implementation?

- University of Minnesota SDG initiative: SDG2, SDG3, and SDG13
 - Brings together partners across the University to achieve intersections of health, sustainability and natural resources and agri-food systems
- [#bring_partners](#) [#curricular](#) [#activities](#)

- University of Malaya
 - It publishes a campus sustainability report every year which includes economic, environmental and social impacts caused by its everyday activities.
 - A sustainability report also presents the organization's values and governance model and demonstrates the link between its strategy and its commitment to a sustainable global economy.

#teaching_professionals #university_itself_managed_with_SDG_principles
#publish_SDG_report
- Global level
 - Youth 2030
 - ◆ Umbrella framework to guide the entire UN to engage youth across its three pillars - peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development
 - United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum
 - ◆ Major group on children and youth and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations
 - High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)
 - ◆ Meets every year at the ministerial level in July and participation is organized by the Major group on children and youth
 - ◆ Meets every four year at the summit level - next Summit in September 2023
- National and local level
 - Voluntary national reviews
 - ◆ Engaging in preparations for the review as a stocktaking exercise on national and local implementation and presented at the HLPF
 - University initiatives - example: George Washington University Sustainability, Washington DC, US
 - ◆ Helps advance urban sustainability and resilience and position the University for financial savings.
 - Local and community organizations - El Dorado County, California US
 - ◆ The resolution sets goals to reduce the environmental footprint of county residents in areas including waste and energy usage reduction, planning, construction and air quality.

Q5: Where and what the youth can do?

- Be present when issues concerning youth are discussed and decided

- Be positive and transformative change
- Address sustainability challenges that directly affect your life
- Be proactive and engaged
- Start from your own lifestyle and then reach out to others, community, cities, national, regional and global levels
- We are only borrowing the earth from our children