

SDG LEARNING, TRAINING & PRACTICE

2021 EDITION REPORT

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01 Background

The implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require access to knowledge, not only for policymakers and leaders but also for all committed and engaged stakeholders around the world to ensure that nobody is left behind. The SDGs Learning, Training and Practice are a series of capacity building and knowledge workshops held as a Special Event at the margins of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) featuring speakers and experts from academia and other sectors on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs. The SDG Learning, Training and Practice is organized by the Division of Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The 6th Edition of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice was held from 6 – 12 July 2021 in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 edition of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice was aimed at advancing knowledge and skills acquisition; networking; sharing experiences and peer to peer collaboration; learning about practical actions and best practices; capacity building, and sharing practical policy integration and coherence approaches. The sessions provided a space for HLPF participants and interest stakeholders to acquire practical knowledge while exchanging views on challenges faced and lessons learned.

All sessions were live-streamed and materials remain publicly available online at: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/2021-sdgs-learning-training-and-practice>.

02 Theme

The SDG Learning, Training and Practice Special Event was aligned with the 2021 HLPF theme: *"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*.

It was also aligned with the set of SDGs reviewed in-depth at the 2021 HLPF:



SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.



SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.



SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

03 Selection of SDG Learning Sessions and Programme

DESA/DSDG and UNITAR lead an open call for submissions of learning sessions proposals from stakeholders from different sectors. In total, 73 applications were received and reviewed based on their merit, relevance to the HLPF theme, expertise of organizers and willingness to produce the desired output. The 2021 SDG Learning, Training and Practice comprised 10 learning sessions, organized by 53 partners from different sectors and fields of expertise.

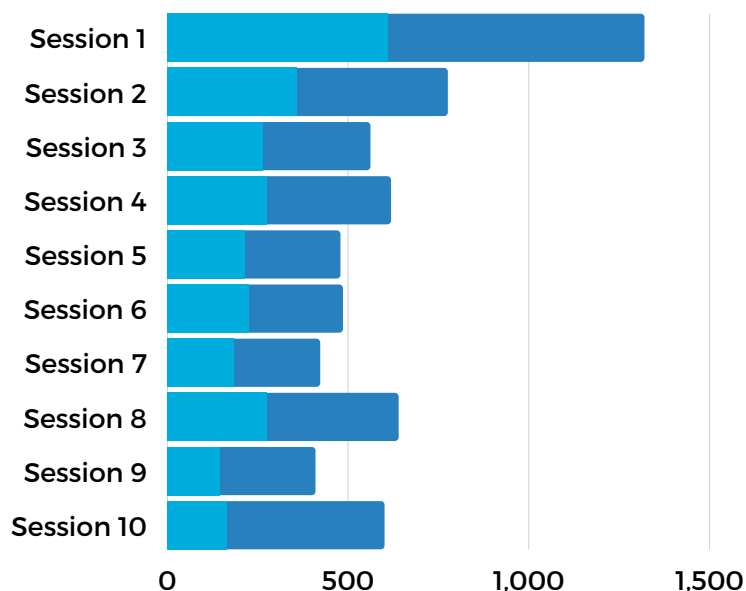
04 SDG Learning and Training Sessions Overview

The following sections bring information about all the 2021 SDG Learning, Training, and Practice sessions. All materials are currently available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/2021-sdgs-learning-training-and-practice>.

DESA/DSDG and UNITAR are grateful for the collaboration of all the partners engaged in the 2021 edition of SDG Learning, Training, and Practice. The 2021 SDG Learning, Training, and Practice sessions received 2881 registrations in total. 2718 participants joined the ten live sessions using the Zoom Webinars platform and the live streams and recordings on UNITAR and DESA/DSDG's YouTube accounts accumulated 3588 views by August 13th, 2021.

05 Attendance

Zoom / YouTube views (as of August 13th 2021)



Graph 1. Number of views per session

Session	Registered
1	1660
2	1698
3	1722
4	1753
5	1822
6	1692
7	1957
8	1902
9	2017
10	1367

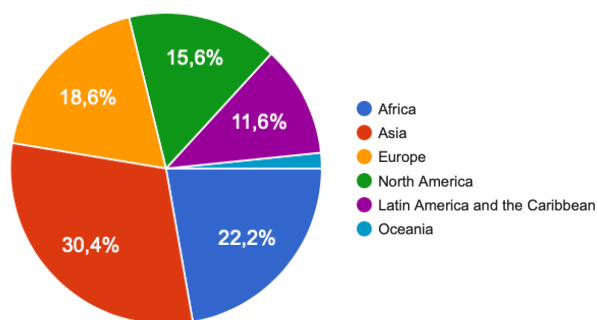
Table 1. Session Registration breakdown

2718 Zoom views

3588 YouTube views

6306 Total views

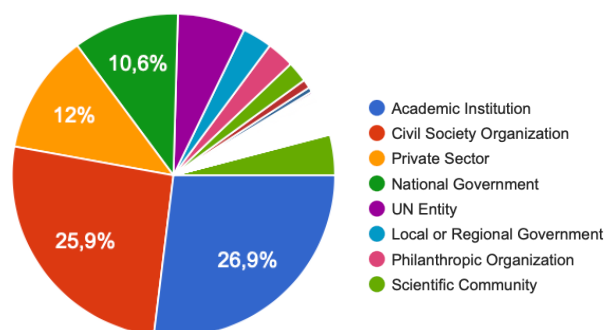
Analysis of Registration



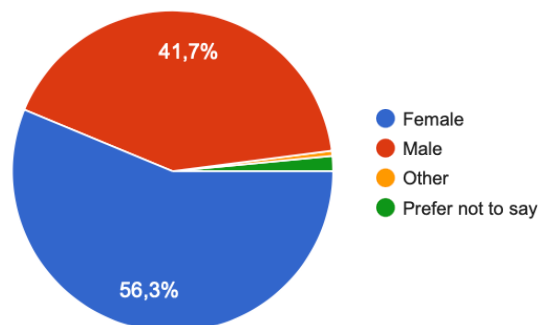
Graph 2. Regional Breakdown

In terms of regional participation (Graph 2), 30.4% of registered participants were from Asia, 22.2% from Africa, 18.6% from Europe, 15.6% from North America, and 11.6% from Latin America and the Caribbean.

More than a quarter of the registered participants belonged to academic institutions (26.9%), and another quarter belonged to Civil Society Organizations (25.9%) (Graph 3). 56.3% of the registrations were women and 41.7% men.



Graph 3. Sector Breakdown



Graph 4. Gender Breakdown

06 SDG Learning and Training Sessions

06 July, 2021
Tuesday, 8:30 am

Session 1 - Opening Session SDG Learning and Training 2021

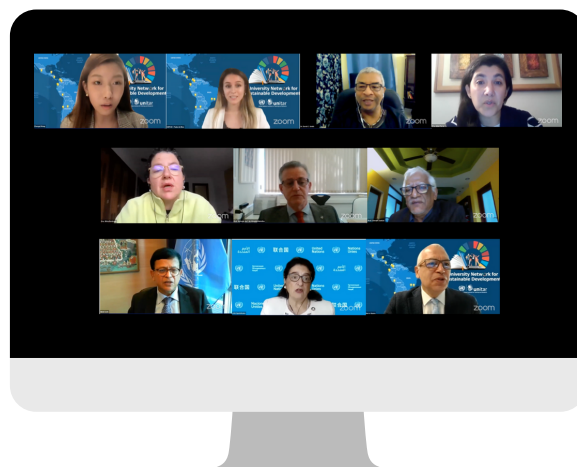
Opening of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice 2021 and launch of the University Network for Sustainable Development.

Organized by:

- DESA/DSDG
- UNITAR

For more information:

<https://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session1>



06 July, 2021

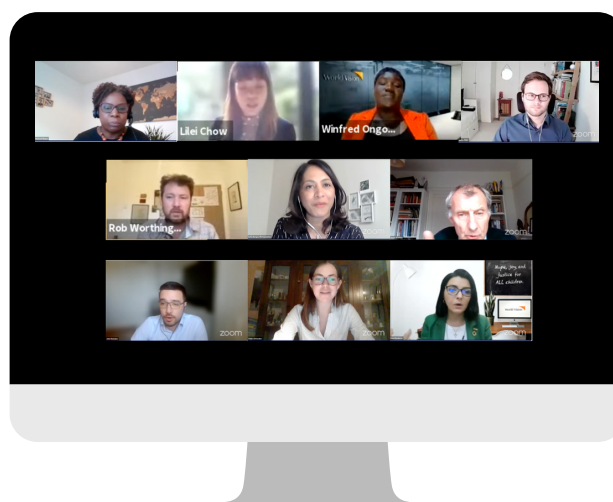
Tuesday, 2:00 pm

Session 2 - Unmasking inequalities, accelerating change: using disaggregated and citizen-generated data to foster SDG reporting and accountability.

This session discussed the importance of disaggregated data in tracking progress on the SDGs and demonstrated how governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders can produce sections/chapters as part of the Voluntary National Reviews. In addition, this session highlighted how data on inequality can help to inform strategies and policies in SDG implementation.

Partner organizations: Save the Children, World Vision International, Tap Network, Kwantu.

For more information, please go to:
<http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session2>



07 July, 2021

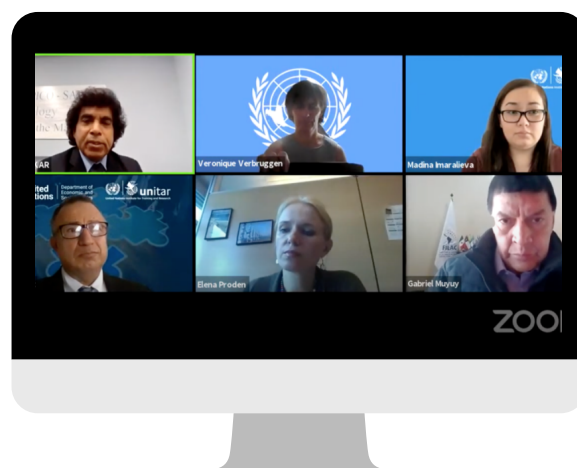
Wednesday, 8:30 am

Session 3 - Integrating recovery planning from COVID-19, building resilience and strengthening policy coherence towards the SDGs

This session introduced the latest methodologies and approaches established to strengthen the capacity of the participants in contributing to a sustainable recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic and making progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Partner organizations: UN DESA / UNITAR, CANEUS, FILAC, UNDOOSA, GNDR.

For more information, please go to:
<http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session3>



07 July, 2021

Wednesday, 2:00 pm



Session 4 - Fostering Evidence-Based Decision-making for Sustainable and Just COVID Recovery and Transformative SDG implementation

This session was divided into two parts: "Tools and Resources for Evidence-Based Decision-Making", which introduced key components to find data and conduct basic interpretation of expanded wealth measures for countries and regions pathways to recovery. The second part "Behavioral Solutions for Evidence-based Decision-making", showed behaviorally informed techniques that improve individual and collective decision-making under time constraints and in the face of complexity.

Partner organizations: IISD, UNOSTAT, World Benchmarking Alliance, UK Space Agency, Geneva Science-Policy Interface, UN Global Compact, Simon Institute for Longterm Governance, Danish Insitute for Human Rights, Women's Major Group, FEMINET, UNRISD, GRI, UNCTAD.

SDGs LEARNING **SPECIAL EVENTS** **#SDGLEARNING** **#HLPF**

Fostering Evidence-Based Decision-making for Sustainable and Just COVID Recovery and Transformative SDG implementation

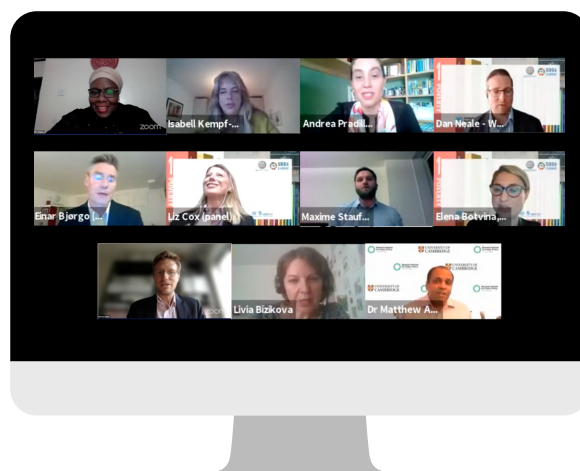
7 JULY 2021
2:00 PM-3:45 PM EDT

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- World Benchmarking Alliance
- United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT)
- UK Space Agency
- Geneva Science-Policy Interface
- UN Global Compact
- Simon Institute for Longterm Governance
- Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Women's Major Group
- FEMNET
- UNRISD
- GRI
- UNCTAD

More Info: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session4>
Registration: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Register>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs **unitar**



For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session4>

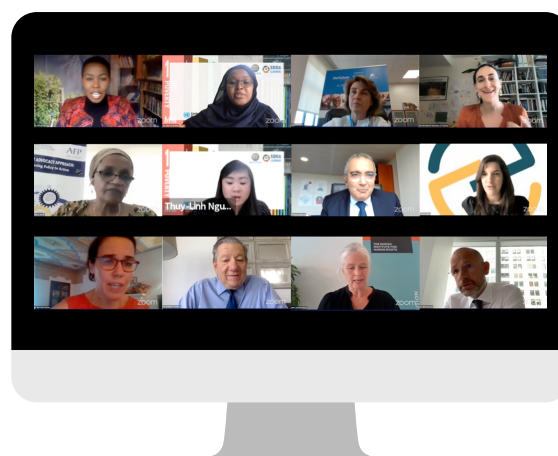
08 July, 2021
Thursday, 8:30 am

Session 5 - Tools and lessons for inclusive and sustainable recovery to secure, regain and sustain SDG momentum

This session discussed how policy coherence, accountability, advocacy and awareness-raising are essential to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 which delivers on the SDGs and human rights.

Participants were equipped with concrete tools and best practices that can be applied in their work and learned how these tools are enabling inclusive and resilient systems for accountability.

Partner organizations: The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in NY, The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN in NY, The Danish Institute for Human Rights, The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Equal Rights Trust, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Centre for Communication Program in Tanzania, Pathfinder International in Nigeria, Jhpiego in Kenya, ProFuturo, Education for Sharing.



For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/2021SDGsLearningSession5>

08 July, 2021

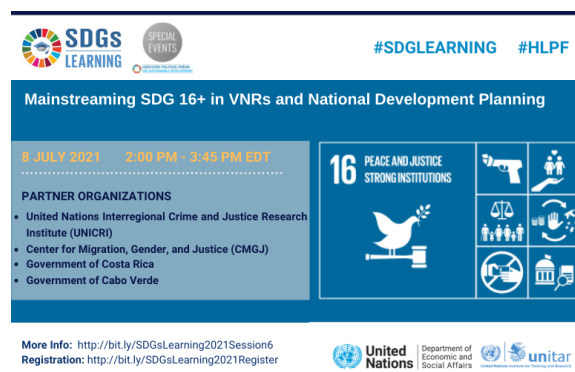
Thursday, 2:00 pm

Session 6 - Mainstreaming SDG 16+ in VNRs and National Development Planning

This session focused on the challenges and setbacks SDG 16 has been facing in the past challenging year. Speakers highlighted that governments have been taking a step back in terms of SDG 16+, and showcased why leadership on SDG 16+ is critical now. The SDG 16 community urgently called upon member states, private sector, civil society organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to put SDG 16 as the foundation of recovery from COVID-19, and build effective joint approaches for monitoring and implementing SDG 16+ across the world.

Partner organizations: UNICRI, CMGJ, Government of Costa Rica, and Government of Cabo Verde.

For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session6>



SDGs LEARNING SPECIAL EVENTS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#SDGLEARNING #HLPF

Mainstreaming SDG 16+ in VNRs and National Development Planning

8 JULY 2021 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM EDT

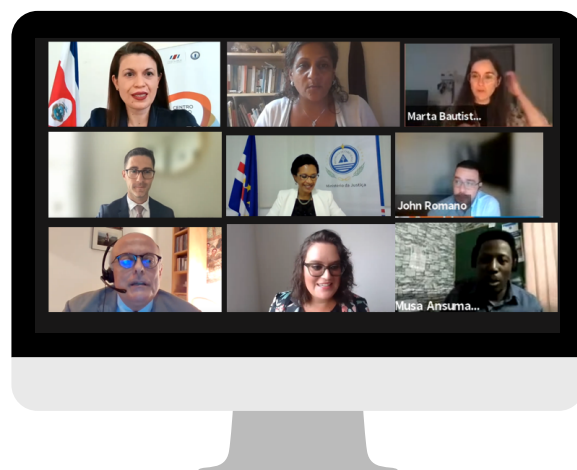
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice (CMGJ)
- Government of Costa Rica
- Government of Cabo Verde

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

More Info: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session6>
Registration: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Register>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs UNITAR



09 July, 2021
Friday, 8:30 am

Session 7 - Supporting recovery and SDG implementation at local level: governments, tools, and experiences

This session explored the connections between Earth Observation (EO) data and policymaking to support an effective post-pandemic recovery within sustainable urbanization. It introduced the EO principles while stressing the advantages and limitations for SDGs implementation and monitoring. In addition, the session illustrated EO data and tools included in the Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements, and shared an overview of the governance tools used at supranational, national, regional, and local levels to promote sustainable environmental and urban policies.



SDGs LEARNING **SPECIAL EVENTS** **#SDGLEARNING** **#HLPF**

9 JULY 2021
8:30 AM - 10:15 AM EDT

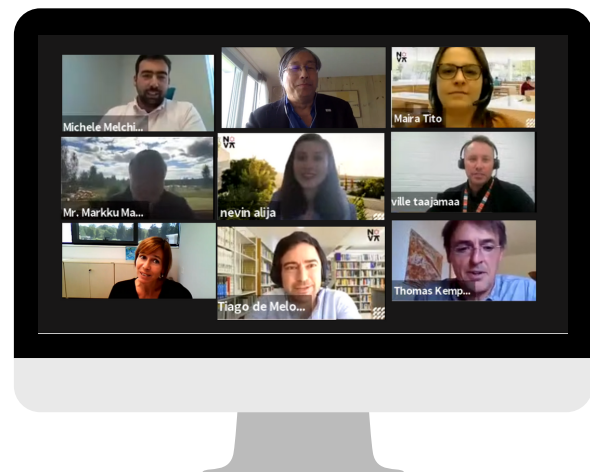
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Nova Law Green Lab in cooperation with CEDIS and Nova School of Law
- Earth Observations for the SDGs
- European Commission, Joint Research Centre
- City of Espoo, Finland
- UN Habitat

Supporting Recovery and SDG implementation at local level: governance, tools and experiences

More Info: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session7>
Registration: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Register>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs **unitar** United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Partner organizations: Nova Law Green Lab in cooperation with CEDIS and Nova School of Law, Earth Observations for the SDGs, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, City of Espoo Finland, UN Habitat.

For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session7>

09 July, 2021

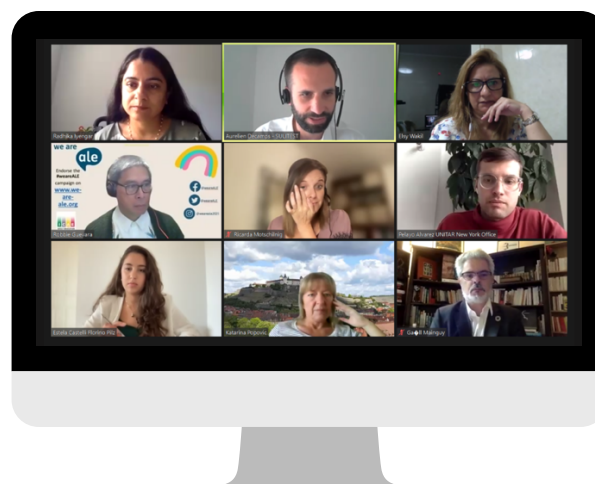
Friday, 2:00 pm



Session 8 - Accelerating progress towards the SDGs through education

This session discussed how education can build bridges and lead to a more equitable and justice-oriented society. The session demonstrated how SDG 4, and in particular SDG 4.7, can bring about transformative education.

Panelists and participants shared experiences on what the global education community has learned from the pandemic, and how to best reach the most vulnerable groups. Further to this, panelists explored the mechanisms to integrate the SDGs using case studies and their respective areas of expertise.



Partner organizations: Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University, International Council for Adult Education, and Sulitest.

For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session8>

12 July, 2021

Monday, 8:30 am

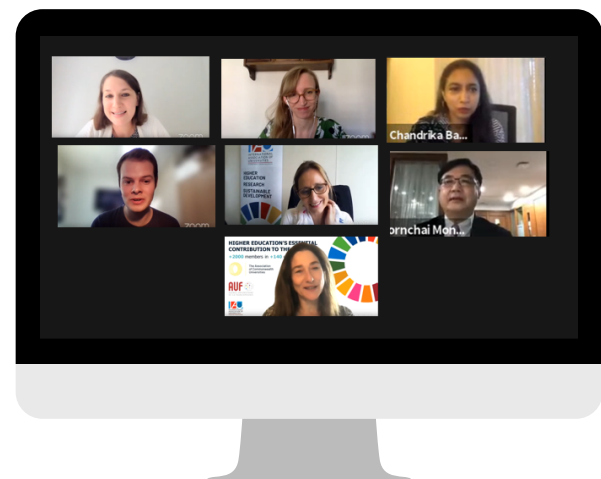


Session 9 - Filling the gaps in further education for the 2030 Agenda and inspiring action towards the SDGs

This session brought together different actors within the higher education ecosystem to share best practices and lessons learned for implementing a whole-of-institution approach to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and working with the SDGs on an institutional level, as well as the tools and partnerships that have made it possible. The session illustrated the importance and the benefits that a whole-of-institution approach to ESD can bring to a university and the reciprocal role that a university plays in advancing sustainable development research, supporting communities, and preparing the next generation.

Partner organizations: International Association of Universities, SDG Academy, L'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie & Association of Commonwealth Universities.

For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session9>

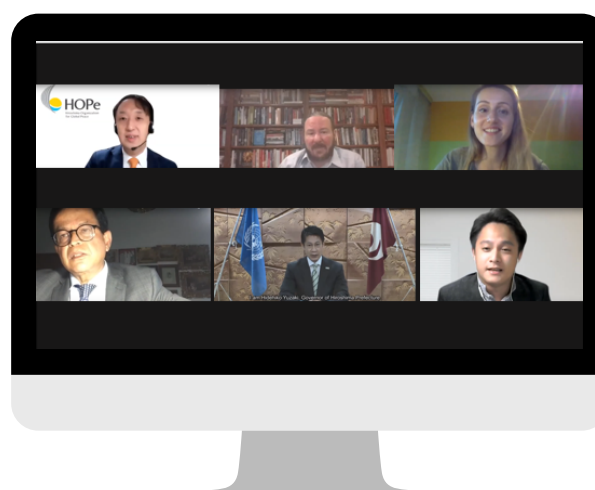


12 July, 2021

Monday, 2:00 pm

Session 10 - Nuclear disarmament and our sustainable future

This session discussed the need to establish international cooperation at various levels for global health and environment, as well as the connection between the COVID-19 pandemic and nuclear weapons issues. The speakers highlighted that the international community should learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and must not only combat current crises, but also take preventative measures against potential threats, risks and vulnerabilities forthcoming.



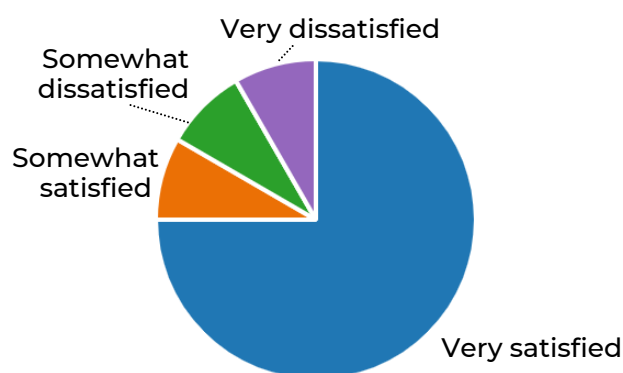
Partner organizations: Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe).

For more information, please go to: <http://bit.ly/SDGsLearning2021Session10>

07 Organizing Partners Survey

This analysis reflects the outcomes of a survey sent to all organizing partners of the 53 organizations that were involved in the planning and execution of the 2021 edition of the SDGs Learning, Training & Practice workshops. The survey aimed to better understand overall satisfaction regarding event execution, the effectiveness of support provided by UNITAR and UNDESA, and continuous challenges faced during planning and adaptation to an online teaching platform. 12 feedback responses were received. Due to the holiday season, less feedback was received than expected. As a result of the limited sample size, the outcomes might not be completely representative for all organizing partners. The main outcomes are reflected below.

Satisfaction with session



Survey Outcomes:

85% of responding organizing partners were very or somewhat satisfied with the outcome of their session at the 2021 SDGs Learning, Training & Practice.

Satisfaction with UN support

100% of organizing partners were very or somewhat satisfied with the support provided by UNITAR & UNDESA to organize their workshop.

Based on their experience this year, 83% of responding organizing partners reported that they would be interested in applying to facilitate the SDGs Learning, Training & Practice workshops in the future.

Elements of organizational support ranked by usefulness to the organizing partners:

1. Preparatory organizational meetings
2. Registration and attendance
3. Marketing materials (flyers and digital cards)
4. Publicity and outreach
5. SDGs website platform
6. Day of event facilitation

Main challenges faced by organizing partners (in order):

1. Coordinating many partners in one session
2. Duration of the workshop (would need more time)
3. Facilitating learning in a virtual setting instead of in-person workshops
4. Adjusting to the theme proposed for the session
5. Limited time for the organization of the session
6. Lack of clarity about how the main HLPF would be held
7. Adjusting to the EDT time zone

Main advantages for organizing partners to host a session (in order):

1. Opportunity for hosting a 'Special Event' during the 2021 HLPF
2. Possibility of amplifying the outreach to a broader audience
3. Support from UNDESA and UNITAR in promoting the session
4. Opportunity of working in partnership with other organizations in setting up the learning session
5. Having the recording of the learning session available at UN platforms

08 Final Comments

At its 6th Edition (and 2nd virtual edition), the SDG Learning, Training and Practice HLPF Special Event has consolidated as a space for learning, exchange, and networking between partners and organizations from different sectors.

The SDG Learning, Training and Practice depends on the commitment of partners to the SDGs and to their willingness of sharing their knowledge with practitioners all over the world. All sessions were recorded and will remain available to all interested stakeholders at both UNDESA and UNITAR web pages.

UNDESA and UNITAR take duly note of the received feedback, which provides extremely helpful inputs on which to build further editions. UNDESA and UNITAR are looking forward to organizing the SDG Learning, Training and Practice, as a Special Event of the upcoming HLPF and welcome all organizing partners and new partners to submit their applications when appropriate. For more information, please visit: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/2021-sdgs-learning-training-and-practice>.

This report was developed with inputs from:

UNDESA: Lotta Tahtinen, Naiara Costa, Lineke Wang Schrijver, Dannia Philipp and Marian Ramírez.

UNITAR: Marco Suazo, Pelayo Alvarez, Reem Ebid, Lavanya Sayal and Harris Lateef.

Design by: Amanda Cao.

2021 SDGs Learning, Training & Practice Sessions



SPECIAL
EVENTS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research