



Informal Spotlight Session 5
“Enhancing Capacities for Transformation:
Building Partnerships to harness Science, Technology and Innovation”
2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, 31 January 2023 at UNHQ in New York.
4:15 – 5:15 pm, NY time (EST).

Concept Note

Organizers:

Lead organizer: Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
Co-organizers: UN AI, Dag Hammarskjöld UN Library and SDSN Youth

Focal points:

Professor Patrick Paul Walsh the Vice President of Education / Director of SDG Academy at Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) on Secondment from University College Dublin.

Paul.Walsh@unsdsn.org

Samantha Thompson, She/Her, Communications Coordinator, SDG Academy, Sustainable Development Solutions Network

sam.thompson@unsdsn.org

Problem statement:

We will discuss how partnerships can enhance the role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in an effective science policy interface (SPI) at all levels of government to achieve the targets of SDG 17 and the targets of all other SDG Goals.

Objectives:

COVID-19 has highlighted our collective failure to generate open STI, transfer capacity across nations, and deliver an effective SPI for all nations.

The 2023 UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) is being prepared by an Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General and is slated for release in September 2023. The 2023 GSDR will be outlined at this session. The 2023 report aims to build on the 2019 GSDR providing evidence on how science can help decision-makers to accelerate action and overcome recent impediments that stand in the way of progress on sustainable development¹.

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/gsdr/gsdr2023>

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their networks need to be encouraged by governments, donor agencies and institutions worldwide to focus on open scientific cooperation across borders and build an open SDG knowledge commons that enhances SPI at all level of governance.² This session spotlights the institutions working on this mission, including members of the UN Academic Impact; The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); Members of Mission 4.7, Dag Hammarskjöld UN Library and the OER Dynamic Coalition, UNESCO.

Discussion questions:

- How do partnerships around STI build knowledge of interlinkages among goals and targets of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to accelerate transformation and ensure that no one is left behind?
- How can partnerships create and disseminate Open Science in a Global SDG Knowledge Commons into policy and practice?
- How can partnerships strengthen the science-policy-practice interface at all levels of governance?

Proposed format:

This Session will be in-person.

Moderator

Professor Patrick Paul Walsh the Vice President of Education / Director of SDG Academy at SDSN

Speakers

Presentation of the outline of the UN GSDR 2023 (20 Mins)

Imme Scholz (Co-Chair of the UN GSDR 2023) and Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation

Presentation of Partnerships around an SDG Global Knowledge Commons for an effective Science Policy Interface (20 mins)

Jayashri Wyatt, Chief, Education Outreach, Department of Global Communications, United Nations

Thanos Giannakopoulos, Chief, Dag Hammarskjöld UN Library

Youth Voice (5 mins) Brighton Kaoma, Director of SDSN Youth

Q&A (15 mins)

² Walsh, Patrick Paul (2021) *The Global Science Commons and Sustainable Development*. IAU Horizons 26(2):32-33. Available at: https://www.iau-aiu.net/IMG/pdf/iau_horizons_vol_26_2.pdf. Accessed 2 Mar 2022