

## Virtual Dialogue between the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and representatives from the private sector

### Concept Note

Friday 3 March, 2023, 10:00-11:30am EST | Zoom

#### **A. BACKGROUND: GSDR & the 2023 SDG Summit**

The [Global Sustainable Development Report \(GSDR\)](#) was first mandated in “[The Future We Want](#)”, the outcome of [the 2012 Rio+20 Conference](#), and further reaffirmed in [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), with a view to strengthening the science-policy interface and providing a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers to better understand and navigate the relationships among social, environmental and economic development objectives. In 2016 Member States [decided](#) that the GSDR will be produced once every four years to inform the quadrennial SDG Summit and that it should be written by an Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) appointed by the Secretary-General. The IGS consists of 15 experts representing a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines, and institutions, ensuring geographical and gender balance.

2023 will mark the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The [2023 SDG Summit](#) will be held in September 2023, during the high-level week of the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. It will review the state of the SDG implementation, provide policy guidance, mobilize action to accelerate implementation and consider new challenges since 2015. [The upcoming 2023 GSDR](#) will be an important instrument to inform the deliberations at the Summit. An initial draft of the 2023 GSDR has been circulated through formal channels with the Permanent Missions, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, and UN Task Team members for comments at the end of January. Building on the feedback received, a further revised draft is expected to be made available in March to inform the intergovernmental deliberations on the political declaration to be adopted at the 2023 SDG Summit in September.

#### **B. The proposal: a virtual dialogue between the IGS and private sector representatives**

The proposed virtual dialogue will provide an opportunity for members of the IGS to seek private-sector-specific feedback to further inform the 2023 GSDR. The IGS will present preliminary findings and collect perspectives from the private sector on specific priorities, challenges, and opportunities to achieve the SDGs, as well as inputs on scalable, practical tools, high-impact initiatives that could accelerate progress on the SDGs. It will also help the IGS identify case studies that can breathe life into the report and help identify concrete policy recommendations that have the potential to enable the private sector to contribute more effectively to the implementation of the SDGs.

#### **C. Private Sector Network Partners**

Private sector representatives at the moderated discussion will be recommended by UN Global Compact, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and International Organization of Employees (IOE), including:

- Representatives who work on ESG and public-private partnerships for SDGs;
- Representatives who work on finance, including financing for green technology;
- Representatives who work on frontier technologies and the science policy interface;

- Representatives who work on risks, including those who deal with disaster risk insurance;
- Representatives who work on hiring practices, inclusiveness.

Speakers will be selected with gender and geographical balance in mind and will include perspectives from large international companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

#### D. Guiding Questions for Discussion

1. Based on the presentation, are there any additional private-sector priorities, challenges and opportunities for SDG achievement that could be reflected in the report?
2. From your experience in the private sector, what are some examples of scalable, practical tools to accelerate transformations toward the SDGs that the IGS should be aware of? What high-impact initiatives and new ideas and commitments could turbocharge SDG delivery at the halfway point on the 2030 Agenda?
3. Are there any additional concrete policy recommendations the report should incorporate to help the private sector work more cohesively with other actors including government, civil society, science and academia, and youth to contribute to the SDGs going forward?

#### E. Proposed Agenda

10:00-10:05	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <i>Ms. Astra Bonini, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</i>
10:05-10:20	<b>Presentation: Initial findings and recommendations of the 2023 GSDR</b> <i>Prof. Norichika Kanie, Keio University; Member of the Independent Group of Scientists drafting the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report</i>
10:20-11:00	<b>Moderated Discussion with representatives from the private sector</b> <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Norine Kennedy, Senior Vice President, Policy and Global Strategy, United States Council for International Business (USCIB)</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Cristina Moral, Senior Advisor Climate Policies and International Alliances, Iberdrola</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Silvano De Marte, External Advisor, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Kathleen Ebersohn-Khuvutlu, Senior Sustainability Manager, Old Mutual Limited</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Mardi McBrien, Director of Strategic Affairs, IFRS Foundation</i></li> </ul> <i>Moderated by:</i> <i>Ms. Shivani Nayyar, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</i>
11:00-11:20	<b>Q&amp;A with audience</b>
11:20-11:30	<b>Closing Thoughts</b> <i>Prof. Norichika Kanie &amp; Ms. Astra Bonini</i>