

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023

REGIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC Synthesis Report

Manila, Philippines
28-30 November 2022

Supported by:

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit





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Background

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was originally mandated by the United Nations Member States in the outcome document of the 2012 “Rio +20” conference on sustainable development, “The Future We Want”. Three years later, as part of the 2030 Agenda, Member States reaffirmed the importance of the GSDR and requested in 2016 that it would be written by an independent group of scientists (IGS). The first report was published in 2019. The next report is scheduled for release in September 2023.

The IGS, appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, consists of 15 leading experts from the natural and social sciences, representing developed and developing countries. The current group is co-chaired by Prof. Imme Scholz of Germany and Prof. J. Jaime Miranda of Peru. The IGS is supported by a United Nations Task Team, with secretariat servicing from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DESA-DSDG). The current consultation has received additional substantive and secretariat support from the DESA United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD).

As requested by Member States, the GSDR aims to strengthen the science-policy interface and to provide evidence-based guidance on global sustainable development issues and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report is an important instrument to inform the deliberations at the quadrennial Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit (next held in September 2023), where it is presented to heads of state, who take stock on the progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The 2023 report will be launched at the half-way point on the 2030 Agenda when decision-makers will be looking for practical solutions that can accelerate progress.



The 2023 GSDR will incorporate a broad range of existing scholarship on SDG implementation. It will build on the 2019 GSDR which identified four levers for change as well as adding a fifth lever on capacities:

- **Governance**
- **Economy and finance**
- **Individual and collective action**
- **Science and technology**
- **Capacities**

It will also build from the six entry points identified in the 2019 GSDR where interlinkages among the SDGs are especially strong such that interventions can address many goals and targets:

- **Strengthening human wellbeing and capabilities**
- **Shifting toward sustainable and just economies**
- **Building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns**
- **Achieving energy decarbonization with universal access to energy**
- **Promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban development**
- **Securing the global environmental commons**

For the 2023 GSDR, the IGS will expand on the 2019 report with a focus on accelerating action and overcoming impediments that stand in the way of making the levers work together toward transformation through the entry points. Acceleration and enabling transformations is critical as the world struggles to rebuild in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. The time dynamics of transformation and implementation are explicitly addressed – moving from emergence toward acceleration and finally to stabilization. The focus will be on identifying concrete recommendations and tools grounded in evidence for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and on making the field of science more supportive to this acceleration.



Science and technology have long been recognized as essential to achieving sustainable development. They allow for objective assessment, evidence-based policies and innovative solutions towards difficult challenges. Leveraging the systemic relationships between the individual SDGs leads the way towards the needed rebalancing between human progress, social outcomes and environmental conditions that are at the heart of sustainable development. While many science-based tools on interlinkages and transformation pathways already exist, there are many impediments to accelerating their uptake and applying them in practice. The GSDR 2023 aims to strengthen the science-policy interface and to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by presenting case studies and calls to action for governments, private sector actors, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders.

Sustainable Development Progress and Challenges in the Asia Pacific Region

Since the 2030 Agenda was agreed upon, Asia and the Pacific have made significant efforts to progress in their sustainable development implementation. The region is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, with East and North-East Asia on track toward eliminating poverty (SDG 1) and meeting industry, innovation and infrastructure targets (SDG 9). Even with such progress, other subregions are not making this progress and there is an urgent need for regional collaboration and partnerships to ensure that no one and no country in any of the Asia-Pacific subregions is left behind as SDG progress stagnates or regresses from COVID-19 impacts.

With an average annual urbanization rate of 3%, the Asia-Pacific region is the world's most rapidly urbanizing region. However, the region also has 250 million people living under poor-housing conditions, with limited access to basic services and at risks to hazards like flooding and other natural disasters. If urban areas in the region do not deliver infrastructure, jobs and services at a pace as rapid as urban development, the increased



urbanization will widen inequalities, which in turn hamper economic growth and foster social divisions. At the same time, deforestation and urbanization can contribute to the emergence and transmission of new and more frequent zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19.

Economic growth has been high in many parts of the region but has been accompanied by disparities in wealth and income. Rising inequalities risk lowering economic growth and weakening social cohesion unless actions are taken to reduce poverty and create fair, sustainable and green jobs. This can only be reached through an economic transformation that decouples the benefits from economic growth from its negative environmental and social impacts. Improving the quality of economic growth and not its quantity by creating just economies is essential for sustainable development. In a related trend, progress is not moving in the right direction in key areas like responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and climate change (SDG 13). While some progress was made in affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), between 2005 and 2020, regional carbon emissions grew by around 50%, making the Asia and Pacific region the source of half of the global CO₂ emissions in 2021. Coal still forms the backbone of the region's power sector, and the coal supply chain represents a central labour market in many countries. In this context, a wholistic energy transition that provides green jobs is necessary to ensure sustainable and inclusive development. Governments, businesses and investors across the region recognize the need for urgent action. A record 368 billion US\$ was invested to facilitate the energy transition in 2021, an increase of 38% in comparison to the previous year. Additionally, more than 40% of global investments in the energy transition are located in the Asia-Pacific region. However, high demand for energy due to strong economic growth counters this progress, leading to a net increase in overall emissions.

As the global environmental commons are the foundation of the existence and good functioning of human societies and economies, securing them is crucial for accelerating progress towards human well-being and capabilities, sustainable food systems, and achieving sustainable economies, urban development and energy systems. The health of the planet's ecosystems depends on a wide range of animals, plants and



microorganisms that clean our water, purify our air and support our food production. The Asia-Pacific region is home to 17 of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots. Protecting the biodiversity of the region is of global importance and essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. The Asia-Pacific region also includes countries that are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Many of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific have circumstances and priorities distinct from other countries in the region. Tailor-made measures and solutions must be developed to accommodate their needs.

This multitude of threats and challenges towards the sustainable development and resilience of the region requires systematic approaches supported by international and especially regional cooperation.

The views expressed in this summary report are those of the consultation participants and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or its senior management.

WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

The GSDR held a regional consultation workshop for Asia and the Pacific (APAC) in Manila, The Philippines, 28 -30 November 2022, capitalizing on a rich transformative change agenda thanks to the presence of 76 stakeholders from civil society, academia, governments, and the private sector (Table 1). The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines (DOST) facilitated the workshop with financial and human resources. The workshop encouraged dialogue on the interlinkages between social, economic, and environmental development, and accelerating transformations with different levers to advance multiple SDGs.

The GSDR consultation workshop had the following objectives:

- To support exchange among stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region reflecting on themes covered by the GSDR.
- To enable the identification of priority SDGs and relevant trade-offs and co-benefits pertaining to APAC.
- To share successful pathways towards sustainable development as well as key challenges in Asia and the Pacific.
- To feed into the GSDR, and contribute to a vision for the region’s transformation pathways.

76

participants from over

19

countries

	Number of Participants	Percentage from total (n=X)
Stakeholder Categories		
Government	30	39.47 %
Civil Society	14	18.42 %
Academia	9	11.84 %
Research Institute / Think Tank	9	11.84 %
International Organisation	6	7.89 %
NGO	6	7.89 %
Private Sector	2	2.63 %
Gender Balance		
Women	46	60.53 %
Men	30	39.47 %
Regions		
South-Eastern Asia	47	61.84 %
Southern Asia	16	21.05 %
Oceania	3	3.95 %
Other	10	13.16 %

WORKSHOP THEMES

Group 1 Energy decarbonization and universal access

Moderator: Jaime Montoya

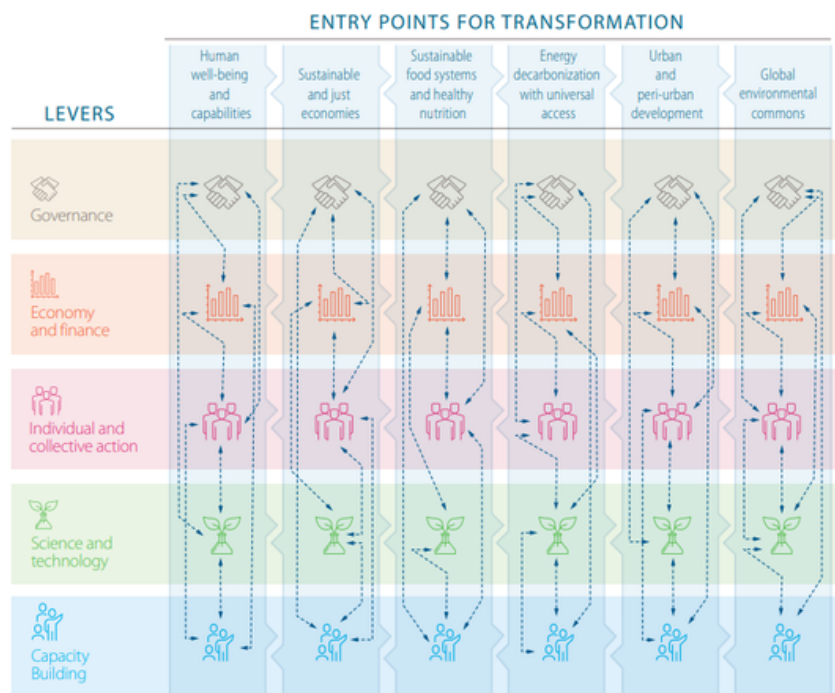
Group 2 Promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban development

Moderator: Astra Bonini

Group 3 Securing the global environmental commons

Moderator: Nancy Shackell

TRANSFORMATIONS TO THE SDGS: ENTRY POINTS AND LEVERS



The 2019 GSDR identified six “entry points” or systems fundamental to sustainable development progress, and four “levers” or categories of interventions or tools.

The 2023 GSDR retains the four levers from the 2019 report and adds a fifth lever: **capacity building**.



ADDITIONAL KEY ELEMENTS

to be transmitted to the GSDR

In addition to the key messages based on the workshop discussions, a specific plenary session was organized where all participants were able to raise issues beyond those covered in the workshops. Key points discussed include:

- Ensure the interlinkages of SDGs
- Lack of data is a common theme yet scientific evidence is overflowing; there is an untapped potential of citizen generated data
- Need financing mechanisms, including risk insurance, for adaptation and resilience
- Need an awareness and understanding of what renewable and efficient technologies are present in the market, and make them available to small-scale businesses/SMEs
- The global commons are threatened due to over consumption in the West; issue of climate justice because those that are most affected by climate change are often not the ones polluting
- Goals for energy decarbonization, net zero, and energy access will be thwarted if developing countries are not given space for development
- Recognize the importance of transboundary sectors (fisheries/oceans, air, forests, water, food security)
- Participants agreed that the GSDR should be bold and underscore the urgency of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.





Workshop Participants

- Madelaine Alfelor, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)
- Rico Ancog, University of the Philippines Los Baños
- Marvin Kristian B. Arias, Office of Civil Defense of The Philippines
- Kaveri Ashok, Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy
- Jocelle E. Batapa-Sigue, Department of Information and Communications Technology (The Philippines)
- Madhulika Bhati, CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies
- Arjun Kumar Bhattarai, Nepal Development Initiative
- Bhakta Bahadur Bishwakarma, Asia Dalit Rights Forum
- Leah J. Buendia, Department of Science and Technology Chol Bunnag, Thammasat University
- Maria Minerva P. Calimag, Philippine Medical Association
- Rajarshi Chakraborty, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal
- Song Chanponleu, Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Manisakhone Chittaphong, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Anthony Shun Fung Chiu, De La Salle University
- Amy Melissa Chua, Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture
- Lourdes J. Cruz, National Academy of Science and Technology
- Adeline T. De Castro, Department of Labor and Employment
- Portia Dugu, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Pooja Dwivedi, Technische Universität Dresden, Institute of Waste Management and Circular Economy
- Bianca Isabelle, Ejercito
- Ronald Gareza, Department of Agrarian Reform, Quezon City
- Robeliza Halip, Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples
- Mohammed Helal Uddin, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
- Joy Hernandez, International Trade Union Confederation for Asia Pacific
- Martina Herras, Foundation for Media Alternatives
- Victoria Yvette Herrera, Office of Senator Pia Cayetano
- Ajay Kumar Jha, Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society
- Ifrah Kamil, World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan
- Towfiqul Islam Khan, Centre for Policy Dialogue
- Fahmida Khatun, Centre for Policy Dialogue
- Tonni Agustiono Kurniawan, Ministry of Health of Indonesia
- Win Win Kyu, Ministry of Energy Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- Charlie Labaria, FAO Philippines
- Sona Long, Cambodia Climate Change Alliance, National organisation
- Maria Rosario Lopez, Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation
- Maria Lourdes Deng Palomares, University of British Columbia
- Karen Lou S. Mabagos, Department of Science and Technology
- Nur Fadzlina Mahamad Razi, Malaysia Innovation Foundation
- Rebecca Malay, Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement
- Dominique McCollum Coy, Monash Sustainable Development Institute
- Ronald Mendoza, Ateneo Policy Centre in Manila
- Annie Namala, Center for Social Equity and Inclusion/Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
- Subha Niranjana, Electronics City Industrial Township Authority
- Simon Hoiberg Olsen, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
- Gomer Padong, Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia
- Jesry T. Palmares, Department of Agrarian Reform
- Gay Jane Perez, Philippine Space Agency
- Virasith Phomsouvanh, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR
- April Portera, Asia Pacific Women's Forum on Law and Development
- Saba Raffay, Urban Sector Planning and Management Services Unit (The Urban Unit), Government of Punjab
- Nacanieli Rika, University of the South Pacific
- Dilip Kumar Sadaula, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (retired)
- Nune Sakanyan, Women in Climate and Energy NGO
- Edgardo M. Santos, Bulacan State University
- Niharika Singh, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Renato U. Solidum, Jr., Department of Science and Technology
- Sandino Soliman, Caucus of Development NGO Networks Inc.
- Kannikar Srithunyalucksana, The Creagy Co.,Ltd.
- Mitzi Jonelle Tan, YACA Philippines
- Chi Laigo Vallido, The Philippine NGO Council on Population Health and Welfare, Inc.
- San Vannakreth, General Directorate of Planning, Ministry of Planning
- Irina Velasco, UNDP Philippines - Accelerator Lab
- Cherdsak Virapat, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
- Wilkins Win L. Wong, Department of Information and Communications Technology



Workshop Participants

Julius Agbor, Nkafu Policy Institute and Vanguard

Members of the Independent Group of Scientists

Jaime Montoya
Nancy Shackell

United Nations Secretariat

Astra Bonini
Joy Ning Hou
Shivani Nayyar
Stephanie Rambale

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Joy Ning Hou, UN DESA

Appendix A: Workshop Programme



GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2023

Agenda

Global Sustainable Development Report 2023

Regional Consultation Workshop for Asia and the Pacific

Manila, Philippines

28 - 30 November 2022 (UTC +8)

Welcome Dinner – 28 November

Dusit Thani Hotel – Mayuree Ballroom 2

Mayuree Ballroom 2, Ground Floor

19:00

Reception and informal networking dinner organized by DOST

We strongly recommend taking a **COVID-19 rapid test before entering the dinner venue**. The rapid tests will be handed out when checking into the hotel rooms. Participants that do not stay in the hotel can pick up a rapid test at 18:40 at the dinner venue.

Day 1 – 29 November

Dusit Thani Hotel

Glass Pavilion, 2nd Floor

High-level Consultation Session

[Live Stream on Zoom](#) (09:00-11:45, UTC+8)

08:30 – 09:00

Registration and recommended COVID-19 testing

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09:00 – 09:05

Welcome

- Astra Bonini, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- Jaime Montoya, Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) member

09:05 – 09:30

High-Level Opening

- Hon. Renato Solidum Jr., Secretary of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines
- Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Philippines
- Verónica Tomei, German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (video message)



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



09:30 – 9:45	Group Photo		
09:45 – 10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>		
10:15 – 10:20	Message from the IGS Co-chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prof. Imme Scholz, IGS Co-chair (video message)</i> 		
10:20 – 11:00	Quo vadis GSDR 2023? Dialogue format on the GSDR 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jaime Montoya, IGS member</i> • <i>Nancy Shackell, IGS member</i> 		
11:00 – 11:45	Keynote from youth advocates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prof. Rodmar John N. Eda, National Convenor, 2030 Youth Force in the Philippines, Inc.</i> • <i>Ms. Bianca Ysabelle Ejercito, President, Asian Medical Student's Association, Philippines</i> 		
11:45 – 13:15	<i>Joint lunch, Sarika</i>		
Working Group Sessions			
13:30 – 13:45	Opening remarks & working groups instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Astra Bonini, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA</i> 		
13:45-17:00	Working groups (incl. coffee break at 15:00)		
	Entry point: Achieving energy decarbonization with universal access to energy <i>Jaime Montoya</i> <i>Ruby Anne King</i> <i>Glass Pavilion</i>	Entry point: Promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban development <i>Astra Bonini</i> <i>Joy Ning Hou</i> <i>Yakal</i>	Entry point: Securing global environmental commons <i>Nancy Shackell</i> <i>Shivani Nayyar</i> <i>Narra</i>
17:00-17:45	Reporting back to the plenary <i>Shivani Nayyar, UN DESA</i>		
19:00	<i>Joint dinner, Sarika</i>		



Day 2 – 30 November

Dusit Thani Hotel

Glass Pavilion, 2nd Floor

08:30 – 09:00	<p>Registration and recommended COVID-19 testing</p> <p><i>We strongly recommend taking a COVID-19 rapid test before entering the workshop venue. The rapid tests will be handed out when checking into the hotel rooms. Participants that do not stay in the hotel can pick up a rapid test at the registration desk.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that all participants must register again on day 2 at the registration desk.</i></p>	
09:00 – 09:10	<p>Welcome and setting the stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Astra Bonini, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA</i> 	
09:10 – 10:30	Physical participation	Virtual participation (via MS Teams)
	<p>Fishbowl discussion – “leave no one behind”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jaime Montoya, IGS member</i> • <i>Nancy Shackell, IGS member</i> 	<p>Virtual break-out session discussion– “leave no one behind”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shivani Nayyar, UN DESA</i> <p><i>Meeting ID: 314 518 188 109</i> <i>Passcode: H5Emzx</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>	
11:00 – 11:10	<p>Reporting back to the plenary from virtual break-out session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shivani Nayyar, UN DESA</i> 	
11:10 – 12:00	<p>Exploring the levers: Issuing recommendations for the Call to Action</p> <p><i>World Café format (table hosts briefly report back to the plenary)</i></p>	
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jaime Montoya, IGS member</i> • <i>Nancy Shackell, IGS member</i> • <i>Nadja Emmanuel, Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</i> • <i>Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i> <p>End of GSDR 2023 Regional Consultation Workshop</p>	
12:30	<p><i>Joint lunch, Sarika</i></p>	

Appendix B: Concept Note

United Nations Nations Unies

Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 Asia and the Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop

28-30 November 2022, Manila, Philippines

Background

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As the global environmental commons are the foundation of the existence and good functioning of human societies and economies, securing them is crucial for accelerating progress towards human well-being and capabilities, sustainable food systems, and achieving sustainable economies, urban development and energy systems. The health of the planet's ecosystems depends on a wide

¹ *Pathways are context-specific configurations of levers to achieve transformation in each entry point*

range of animals, plants and microorganisms that clean our water, purify our air and support our food production. The Asia-Pacific region is home to 17 of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots. Protecting the biodiversity of the region is of global importance and essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. The Asia-Pacific region also includes countries that are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Many of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific have circumstances and priorities distinct from other countries in the region. Tailor-made measures and solutions must be developed to accommodate their needs.

This multitude of threats and challenges towards the sustainable development and resilience of the region requires systematic approaches supported by international and especially regional cooperation.

GSDR Asia and the Pacific Regional Consultation Objectives

SDG implementation is achieved primarily at the local, national, and regional level. To inform the GSDR as an assessment of assessments, the IGS are collecting perspectives from different regions and stakeholders including context specific priorities, challenges, and opportunities as well as scalable, practical tools to accelerate progress. The IGS are seeking perspectives from scientists, government officials in their technical capacities, private sector experts, members of civil society, youth, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and stakeholders at all levels. The aim will be to collect case studies that will breathe life into the report and give shape to the concrete policy recommendations that the Member States are expecting.

In particular, the aim is to identify:

- 1) Innovative ways to make the five levers work together in the context of the 6 entry points to create enabling conditions for acceleration;
- 2) Specific promising tools for accelerating transformation in the context of these entry points (policies, initiatives, technologies, partnerships, etc.); and
- 3) Ways to create enabling conditions for transformation moving from emergence to acceleration to stabilization (including in different contexts).

In the Asia and the Pacific Region all six entry points identified in the 2019 GSDR are important for achieving the SDGs, but the following three entry points are especially critical to accelerate the sustainable development of the region.

- 1) Achieving energy decarbonization with universal access to energy
- 2) Promoting sustainable urban and peri-urban development
- 3) Securing the global environmental commons

Identifying interventions

Within these entry points, workshop participants would be asked to identify practical tools and interventions to accelerate progress in the implementation of the SDGs. In thinking about these interventions, the following guiding questions can be considered.

- How is this intervention a strategic choice for addressing systemic and structural challenges? Does it have potential for generating synergies among the SDGs through a given entry point and managing critical trade-offs? Are there positive and negative spill-overs internationally?
- Is this intervention in the emergence, acceleration, or stabilization stage (globally and in different regions/contexts)?
- If in the emergence stage, are there ways to shorten the timeframe of scaling up and accelerating uptake? What evidence or signs do you see of tipping points/windows of opportunity to move into the acceleration phase?
- How particular is the intervention to a given context? What additional international support may be required to support the transformation in these contexts?



Implemented by



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

- What would help ensure that this intervention would address inequalities including gender inequality, reach those at risk of being left behind, and build resilience against shocks?

Bringing the levers together for action

Within these entry points, workshop participants would also be asked to discuss how levers can work together to accelerate progress and create enabling conditions for action. The following guiding questions can be considered.

- Who are the key actors and stakeholders involved, either promoting or resisting the intervention?
- Are there promising ways to apply the five levers together in support of acceleration through the intervention? At what levels of governance/society (local, national, regional, international)?
- What are the impediments to using the levers/engagement by different actors and are there promising ways for them to be overcome?



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