

SDG ACTION WEEKEND
SIDE-EVENTS
SEPTEMBER 2023



Manifesting New Sustainability Values: From aspirational envisioning to practical policymaking

SDG Lab, Office of the Director-General at UN Geneva

Background on the side-event

More than 10 billion people are expected to call this planet home by 2100. The challenges that lie ahead, ranging from climate change and resource depletion to geopolitical tensions and social inequalities, paint a daunting picture. Yet, within these multifaceted challenges, lie the seeds of opportunity as well.

With seven years to go to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, how can we rethink and redesign our current socio-economic systems to reflect what younger generations truly value and prioritize, while anticipating the impact current policies and activities have on future generations? And how can we translate such priorities into actual policymaking, through intergenerational and multisectoral debate?

With these and other key questions in mind, SDG Lab at UN Geneva hosted the workshop "*Manifesting new sustainability values: from aspirational envisioning to practical policymaking*" on 16 September as a side-event of the SDG Summit Weekend 2023. The interactive workshop format created a constructive and safe space for delegates to discuss and reflect on such values and helped to collectively identify practical ways to incorporate them into effective policymaking.



Key Issues discussed

Numerous questions were raised and issues unpacked during the workshop:

1. What if we build a world where everyone lives sustainably with no debts to the future?
2. Why is considering future generations key for making systemic progress on the SDGs and long-term sustainability?
3. What are the top considerations or ingredients required for effective intergenerational dialogue about the future?
4. What are the key values we need to reprioritize now for humanity to thrive in 2053 and beyond?
5. How do we best operationalize and institutionalize the above values and principles from a policy perspective, and how do we incorporate them into policy-design?
6. What are the potential barriers and enablers to incorporate perspectives of younger and future generations into policymaking?
7. How do we build effective peer-to-peer negotiations and dialogues around policy priorities?
8. How can we navigate between doomsday scenarios and wishful thinking when developing impactful narratives about the future?

Key recommendations for action

1. Promote greater discussion and awareness of the impact of individual choices vis a vis the collective, e.g., individual footprints onto future generations.
2. Move from intergenerational dialogue to intergenerational dialogue *coupled with* designated funding for youth engagement, representation, and mobilization.
3. Facilitate and prioritize the development of meaningful and effective inter-generational dialogue, inter-generational teams and co-creation spaces designed with users in mind.
4. Establish delegates/representatives of "Future Generations" at different levels of governance (e.g., supranational, multilateral) with legitimacy/agency/authority to review, design, and approve policies and measures to safeguard the rights of future generations.
5. Develop cultural transformation and valuation tools allowing for closer predictions and estimates of future generations' priorities through breakout demographics and identification of common patterns across existing younger generations.
6. Inspire rather than convince younger people to take part in political and governance processes including through voting.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.sdglab.ch>

If applicable, please include the link to any commitments registered with the SDG Summit Acceleration and Accountability Platform: <https://sdgs.un.org/SDGSummitActions>.