



## Global Sustainable Development Report 2023

### Regional Dissemination Workshop for Asia and the Pacific

*Concept Note*

*October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2024, Delhi*

#### 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 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 2023 group was co-chaired by Prof. Imme Scholz of Germany and Prof. J. Jaime Miranda of Peru.

The GSDR 2023 arrived at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, when the world was far off track in its quest to achieve the SDGs. Building on the GSDR 2019, the report discusses essential transformations within the **six entry points**: 1) human wellbeing and capabilities, 2) sustainable and just economies, 3) food systems and healthy nutrition, 4) energy decarbonization with universal access, 5) urban and peri-urban development, and 6) the global environmental commons. Multiple transformations will need to occur in each of these entry points. These transformations will have different contours depending on the country and region. Building on the GSDR 2019, the GSDR 2023 identifies **five levers**, that will drive transformation— 1) governance, 2) economy and finance, 3) science and technology, 4) individual and collective action, and – as additional lever in 2023 - 5) capacity building.

Following an objective assessment of the evidence, GSDR 2023 highlights the significant role of science-backed transformation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. It finds that strategies for the SDGs must identify and minimize impediments and support promising solutions specific to different phases of transformation – emergence, acceleration and stabilization. This requires applying levers strategically and changing approaches over time to encourage the ‘emergence’ of new technologies, practices and initiatives through experimentation and learning; to support their ‘acceleration’ and scale-up with just transitions, collective action and political momentum; and to ultimately enable ‘stabilization’ of a new normal anchored in regulations, behaviour change and new infrastructures.

The GSDR aligns with many other reports showing that business-as-usual approaches to the SDGs must be replaced by transformative approaches operating at a systemic level that address multiple goals simultaneously. Ideally, interventions toward progress on a given target will also generate positive synergies with other targets, while resolving trade-offs. Sustainable development will require fundamental changes in the way societies are governed, and in how they produce, consume, move around, interact and work. These changes will be possible only through effective, inclusive and accountable governance and integrated actions that cut across sectors.

While the report leaves us with a “**Call to Action**” outlining policy priorities that can ignite progress in each of these entry points and across society at large, it comes with the clear reminder that in order to be successful, interventions for sustainable development “will require contextualized strategies and actions.” It provides evidence that the nature of SDG interlinkages varies across groups and regions.

#### From theory to practice: regional dissemination workshop

The GSDR 2023 regional operationalization workshop in New Delhi, India, is part of a global GSDR dissemination series. The workshop serves two basic purposes: 1) to introduce the GSDR framework to practitioners for national and local SDG policy-making and implementation; 2) to support government

experts and other stakeholders to put the recommendations of the report into practice in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and other national, local and regional sustainable development strategies.

The **GSDR Launch for the Asia and the Pacific Region** will be held on the morning of 22 October. The opening will involve high-level government officials, while the workshop sessions will focus on building the capacity of technical level decision makers to support transformative change. The workshop participants will include policymakers at all levels, civil society, local communities, youth, academia, and the private sector. The workshop will focus on countries that are preparing VNRs for the High-level political forum (HLPF) in 2025.

The aim of the workshop is to raise awareness about the GSDR in Asia and the Pacific, deepen knowledge of the GSDR framework, its applicability and opportunities. Participants will be encouraged to identify **how to apply the GSDR framework into national policymaking**. The workshop will serve as a platform for joint reflection on what this means for **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** preparation and follow-up processes as well as inputs and feedback-loops into national sustainability processes. Given the complexity of transformation, participants will discuss how to engage various stakeholder groups in the development of transformation plans. Participants will consider the following key questions:

1. *How can policy cycles of national policy making (Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and VNRs) integrate the 2030 Agenda towards a climate neutral and socially just Asia and the Pacific region in the coming decades?*
2. *What barriers need to be overcome to enable integrated policy making? What are some promising opportunities for supporting transformations in the six entry points highlighted in the GSDR? How might this vary depending on the phase of transition for a given system or country?*
3. *How can stakeholder groups (academia, civil society, private sector and others) support these policy cycles in a meaningful and sustainable way? How can all of the levers needed for transformation be applied in a cohesive manner?*
4. *What is needed to foster connections and collaboration from local to national levels to accelerate key transformations aligned with the 2030 Agenda?*
5. *What institutional adjustments and capacities are needed for integrated and transformative approaches to the SDGs, and effective monitoring and delivery of SDGs in the Asia and Pacific region?*

The workshop also **builds upon the results of the 2023 SDG Summit (September 2023)** taking into account the commitments made in the **Political Declaration**, as well as national commitments and commitments to the **High Impact Initiatives** and outcomes of the **Summit of the Future** and their implications for integrated SDG-implementation. The Workshop outcomes could further inform the GSDR 2027 process.



## Agenda

### Global Sustainable Development Report 2023

#### Regional Workshop for the Asia and Pacific Region New Delhi, India

22 - 24 October 2024

Day 1 – 22 October

*Sheraton Hotel, District Centre Saket, Delhi 110017, New Delhi*

09:00 am – 09:30 am  <i>Main Hall</i>	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>
09:30 am – 09:45 am  <i>Plenary at Main Hall</i>	<b>Welcome and Setting the Scene</b> (Link to <a href="#">Live Stream</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ms Astra Bonini, Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li><li>- Mr Abhijith Mathew, Data Focal Point at Science Policy Interface of the Major Group for Youth and Children</li></ul>
09:45 am – 10:00 am  <i>Plenary at Main Hall</i>	<b>Integrated SDG Implementation – Key Messages from the 2023 GSDR</b> (Link to <a href="#">Live Stream</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mr Ambuj Sagar, IGS Member and Deputy Director (Strategy &amp; Planning) and the Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India</li></ul>
10:00 am – 10:30 am  <i>Plenary at Main Hall</i>	<b>Opening on Status and Integration of SDGs</b> (Link to <a href="#">Live Stream</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mr Li Junhua, USG UN DESA (<i>video message</i>)</li><li>- Mr Georg Enzweiler, Deputy Head of Mission German Embassy</li><li>- Mr Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator India</li></ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i></p>
10:30 am – 11:00 am	<b>Group Photo / Coffee Break</b>

<p>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>High-Level Panel Discussion on Integrated SDG Implementation in Asia and the Pacific</b> (Link to <a href="#">Live Stream</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Sashi Kiran, Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Parliament of Fiji</li> <li>- Mr Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India</li> <li>- Ms Sharmila Mohamed Salleh, CEO, Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia</li> <li>- Ms Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute</li> <li>- H.E. Endah Murniningtyas, IGS 2019, Indonesia (<i>virtual</i>)</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i></p>		
<p>12:00 am – 12:45 pm</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Key Message from the International Group of Scientists (IGS) 2023</b> (Link to <a href="#">Live Stream</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Shirin Malekpour, IGS member and Associate Professor &amp; Director, Graduate Research Program, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Australia</li> <li>- Mr Ambuj Sagar, IGS Member and Deputy Director (Strategy &amp; Planning) and the Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India</li> <li>- Mr Jaime Montoya, IGS member and Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Chair of the Health Sciences Division and Secretary, National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i></p>		
<p>12:45 pm – 02:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>		
<p>02:00 pm – 04:15 pm</p> <p><i>Main Hall</i></p> <p><i>incl. coffee break</i></p>	<p><b>Working Group Session I: Key Shifts to Accelerate Progress – the GSDR Matrix</b></p> <p>This session aims to explore the GSDR’s suggested entry-points and levers for transformation. Based on a worksheet, participants will work in three groups to gain hands-on understanding of the GSDR recommendations, entry-points and levers (see pp. 44-47) the participants shall discuss the following three entry points and all levers from an Asia and the Pacific perspective.</p> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Shivani Nayyar, Economic Affairs Officer, UN DESA</i></p>		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group I:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Global Environmental Commons</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jaime Montoya (IGS)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Astra Bonini (UN DESA)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Luise Glöckner (GIZ)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Room: Dakshin</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group II:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Urban and Peri-Urban Development</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shirin Malekpour (IGS)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Alice Siragusa (UN ESCAP)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Laura Niewendick (GIZ)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Room: Ball Room I</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Group III:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Energy Decarbonization with Universal Access</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ambuj Sagar (IGS)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shivani Nayyar (UN DESA)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Karin Deckenbach (GIZ)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Room: Dynasty</i></p>

<p>04:30 pm – 05:20 pm</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Applying the Transformation Framework for Accelerated Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Friedrich Soltau, Chief Intergovernmental Policy &amp; Review Branch, UN DESA (<i>virtual</i>)</li> <li>- Ms Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General / CEO Sustainable Development Council, Sri Lanka</li> <li>- Mr Subhash Nepali, SDG Adviser, UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Nepal</li> <li>- Mr Mahesh Bhattarai, Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Nepal</li> <li>- Mr Manish Agarwal, Additional Secretary to Government, Planning &amp; Convergence Department, Government of Odisha</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Sara Libera Zanetti, UN ESCAP</i></p>		
<p>05:20 pm – 05:30 pm</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Wrap up Day I</b></p> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Shivani Nayyar, UN DESA</i></p>		
<p><b>Day 2 – 23 October</b></p>			
<p>09:00 am – 09:10 am</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Morning Light – Recap of Day I</b></p> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i></p>		
<p>09:10 am – 10:00 am</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Capacities in Sub-National, Integrated SDG-Implementation – Spotlights from India's SDG-Localization Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Rajib Kumar Sen, Senior Adviser, NITI Aayog</li> <li>- Mr Ashutosh Ojha, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</li> <li>- Ms Annie Namala, Executive Director, Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute</i></p>		
<p>10:00 am – 10:30 am</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Capacity Building – an Essential Lever to Transformation Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Ambuj Sagar, IGS Member</li> </ul>		
<p>10:30 am – 12:00 pm</p> <p><i>Main Hall</i></p> <p><i>incl. coffee break</i></p>	<p><b>Working Groups Session II: How can Capacity Building across Stakeholders be implemented</b></p> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Shivani Nayyar, UN DESA</i></p>		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table Host I:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strategic Direction and Foresight</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jaime Montoya (IGS)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table Host II:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Role of Capacity Building in Different Transformation Phases</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shirin Malekpour</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table Host III:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Building Capacity of Key Stakeholders</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ambuj Sagar (IGS)</i></p>

	<p><i>Astra Bonini (UN DESA)</i></p> <p><i>Luise Glöckner (GIZ)</i></p> <p><i>Room: Dakshin</i></p>	<p><i>Shivani Nayyar (UN DESA)</i></p> <p><i>Laura Niewendick (GIZ)</i></p> <p><i>Room: Ball Room I</i></p>	<p><i>Sudip Ranjan Basu (UN ESCAP)</i></p> <p><i>Karin Deckenbach (GIZ)</i></p> <p><i>Room: Dynasty</i></p>
12:00 pm – 02:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
02:00 pm – 02:15 pm	<p><b>United for the Future: Integrated Approaches to SDG Implementation in Germany</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Sophia Engel, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Germany</li> </ul>		
02:15 pm – 04:20 pm	<p><b>Working Group Session III: Applying the Transformation Framework to National Action Plans and Voluntary National Reviews, VNRs</b></p> <p><i>Main Hall</i></p> <p><i>Incl. Coffee Break</i></p> <p>As a part of the transformation framework, countries are encouraged to develop National Plans for Transformative Accelerated Action that are grounded in science and inclusive processes to identify and harness SDG synergies and reduce trade-offs and negative transboundary spill-overs. The GSDR recommends that local and industry-specific planning should feed into the national plans. The report recommends that action plans are presented at the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. This session aims to discuss how to go about developing these national plans based on the criteria recommended by the GSDR, including ensuring policy coherence as well as strengthening the science-policy interface (p. 105 GSDR).</p> <p><i>Moderation by Mr Sudip Ranjan Basu, Chief, UN ESCAP and Ms Sara Libera Zanetti, UN ESCAP</i></p>		
	<p><b>Group I: VNR</b></p> <p><i>Shirin Malekpour (IGS)</i></p> <p><i>Sudip Ranjan Basu (UN ESCAP)</i></p> <p><i>Laura Niewendick (GIZ)</i></p> <p><i>Room: Dakshin</i></p>	<p><b>Group II: VNR</b></p> <p><i>Ambuj Sagar (IGS)</i></p> <p><i>Shivani Nayyar (UN DESA)</i></p> <p><i>Karin Deckenbach (GIZ)</i></p> <p><i>Room: Ball Room I</i></p>	<p><b>Group III: VNR</b></p> <p><i>Jaime Montoya (IGS)</i></p> <p><i>Astra Bonini (UN DESA)</i></p> <p><i>Luise Glöckner (GIZ)</i></p> <p><i>Room: Dynasty</i></p>
04:20 pm – 05:00 pm	<p><b>Reporting Back and Plenary Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the biggest barriers and challenges when establishing National Plans?</li> <li>- Can existing plans such as VNRs benefit from the GSDR framework?</li> <li>- How can the science-policy interface help in establishing the national plans, including through partnerships?</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Hannah Janetschek, Head of Project, GIZ</i></p>		
05:00 pm – 05:15 pm	<p><b>Wrap up Day II</b></p> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Hannah Janetschek, Head of Project, GIZ</i></p>		



Day 3 – 24 October

<p>09:30 am – 09:45 am</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop Reflection</b></p> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i></p>
<p>09:45 am – 10:00 am</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>SDG Implementation in Practice: Maritime Transport in the Marshall Islands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Mark Stege, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)</li> </ul>
<p>10:00 am – 11:30 am</p> <p><i>Plenary at Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Application of Integrated policymaking at all Levels - Political Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP (<i>video message</i>)</li> <li>- H.E. Sashi Kiran, Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection Parliament of Fiji</li> <li>- Ms Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General / CEO, Sustainable Development Council, Sri Lanka</li> <li>- Ms Eva Kracht, Director-General, Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Germany</li> </ul> <p><b>Fishbowl: Reflecting on Key Learnings and Ways of Application to the National Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ms Shirin Malekpour (IGS)</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr Jaime Montoya (IGS)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Moderation by Ms Astra Bonini, UN DESA</i></p>
<p>11:30 am – 12:45 pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p>01:00 pm – 01:45 pm</p> <p><i>Main Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Introduction to the Alag Karo Project</b></p> <p><i>Implemented by the NGO Sahaas</i></p>
<p>01:45 pm– 06:00 pm</p> <p><i>Pick-up Location: Lobby, Sheraton Hotel</i></p>	<p><b>Field Trip to a Circular Waste Management Project in New-Delhi</b></p> <p>The Alag Karo project demonstrates how circular waste management in a community works with the components of waste segregation, recycling, composting and training for schools, households, waste collectors and businesses. The project is partly funded by Coca Cola and Tetra Pak India and implemented by the NGO Saahas. It works with commercial recycling companies to ensure high recycling rates in Gurugram, Delhis twin city. The NGO Saahas will showcase this very successful project.</p>