



2023 SDGs Learning,
Training & Practice



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2023 Edition Report

SDGs Learning, Training and Practice

**A Special Event held in connection with the
2023 High Level Political Forum 10-14 July 2023**

**5 GENDER
EQUALITY**



**4 QUALITY
EDUCATION**



**3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**

2

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#SDG Learning

**2023 EDITION REPORT
SDG LEARNING, TRAINING & PRACTICE**

Background

The implementation and monitoring of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) require access to knowledge, not only for policymakers and leaders but also for all committed and engaged stakeholders around the world to ensure that nobody is left behind. **The SDGs Learning, Training and Practice**, are a series of capacity building and knowledge workshops held as a Special Event at the margins of the United Nations **High-Level Political Forum** (HLPF) featuring speakers and experts from academia and other sectors on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs. The SDGs Learning, Training and Practice is organized by the **Division of Sustainable Development Goals** (DSDG) of the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs** (DESA) and the **United Nations Institute for Training and Research** (UNITAR).

The 8th Edition of the SDGs Learning, Training and Practice was held from 10 - 14 July 2023, with six in-person sessions with broadcast, and four sessions held in virtual format. The 2023 edition of the SDGs Learning, Training and Practice aimed at advancing knowledge and skills acquisition; networking; sharing experiences and peer to peer collaboration; learning about practical actions and best practices; capacity building; and sharing practical policy integration and coherence approaches. The sessions provided a space for HLPF participants and interested stakeholders to acquire practical knowledge while exchanging views on challenges faced and lessons learned.

All sessions were live-streamed and materials remain publicly available online.

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Theme

The 2023 SDGs Learning, Training and Practice Special Event was aligned with the 2023 HLPF theme: *"Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels"*. It was also closely connected with the following SDGs reviewed at the 2023 HLPF:



SDG 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



SDG 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Selection of SDGs Learning Sessions and Programme

Between February and March 2023, DESA/DSDG and UNITAR lead a global open call for submissions of learning sessions proposals from Member States, UN entities and stakeholders from different sectors. In total, 128 applications were received and reviewed based on their merit, relevance to the HLPF theme, expertise of organizers and willingness to produce the desired output. The 2023 SDGs Learning, Training and Practice comprised an opening session and ten learning sessions, organized by 34 partners from different sectors and fields of expertise.

SDGs Learning Sessions Overview

The following sections bring information about all the 2023 SDG Learning, Training, and Practice courses. All materials are currently available [here](#).

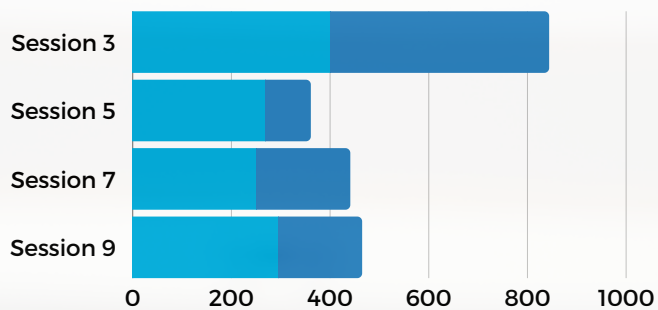
UN DESA/DSDG and UNITAR are grateful for the collaboration of all partners engaged in the 2023 edition of SDGs Learning, Training, and Practice. The 2023 SDGs Learning, Training, and Practice sessions received 1832 registrations in total. The opening session and Session 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 were held in person at UNHQ in New York, with livestream on UN WebTV. Session 3, 5, 7, 9 were held virtually, with more than 1200 participants attending each session via the Zoom Webinars platform. The recordings of the sessions on the UNITAR and DESA/DSDG's YouTube accounts accumulated 896 views by 10 August 2023.

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Attendance



Zoom / YouTube views (as of 10 August 2023)



Graph 1. Number of views per virtual session

Session	Registered
Opening	253
1	245
2	237
3	1278
4	284
5	1314
6	261
7	1295
8	280
9	1342
10	268
Total	7057

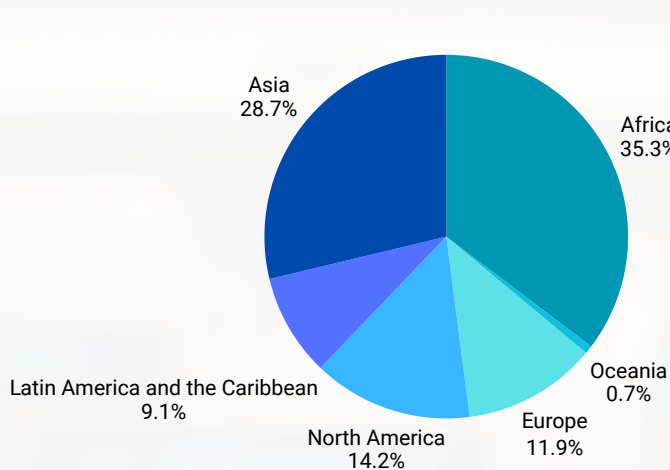
Table 1. Session registration breakdown

Analysis of Registration

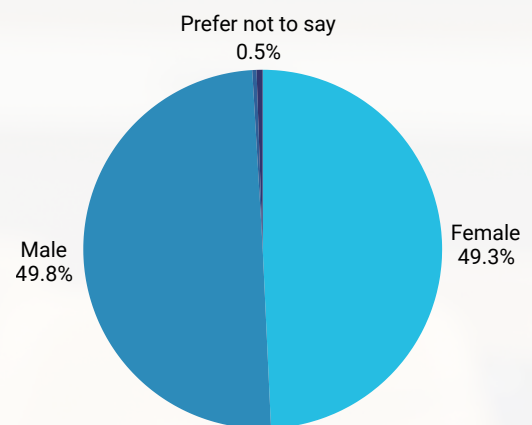
With regard to regional representation, as illustrated in Graph 2, the distribution of registered participants is as follows: 35.3% from Africa, 28.7% from Asia, 14.2% from North America, 11.9% from Europe, 9.1% from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 0.7% from Oceania.

The segmentation by sector, delineated in Graph 4, highlights the following categorizations among registered participants: 20% associated with Civil Society Organizations, 19.3% affiliated with the private sector, 17.2% affiliated with academic institutions, and 16% affiliated with national government entities.

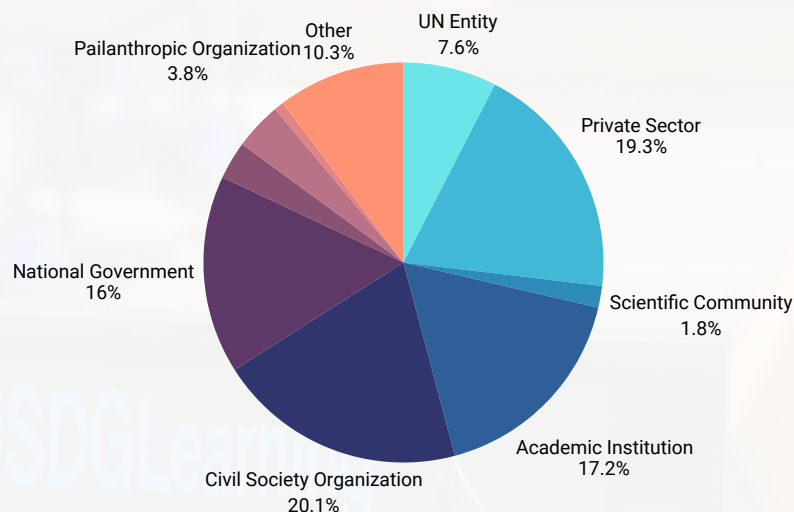
Furthermore, the gender breakdown, as depicted in Graph 3, underscores that 49.3% of the total registrations were attributed to female participants.



Graph 2: Regional Breakdown



Graph 3: Gender Breakdown



Graph 4: Sector Breakdown

SDGs Learning Sessions

Opening Session

11:15 a.m. | 10 July 2023

The opening session of the 2023 SDGs Learning, Training and Practice, was held in-person at Conference Room 5, at the UNHQ in New York with live stream on UN WebTV. This high-level session was moderated by Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UN DESA; and featured welcoming remarks from Mr. Nikhil Seth, (Executive Director, UNITAR); and Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA.

The speakers at the opening session addressed the 2023 SDG Learning, Training, and Practice, focusing on the UN High-Level Political Forum's theme of accelerating recovery from COVID-19 and implementing the 2030 Agenda. The session highlighted the challenges faced, progress made, and the need for international cooperation and funding for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The session also included a presentation on the work of UNITAR made by Ms. Tianyi (Amy) Zhao, Program Consultant, UNITAR.

More information is available [here](#).



Session 1: Paradigm shift: tools to ensure best practice when engaging marginalized communities and youth

12:00 p.m. | 10 July 2023

This session focused on SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals) and emphasized that achieving the 2030 Agenda relies on involving poverty-affected communities and youth in designing solutions. This session examined effective tools to advance multiple SDGs, while fostering equitable participation and ethical collaboration. This session also encouraged inclusive policy-making, amplifying the voices of impacted communities and youth.

Partner organizations:

- International Movement ATD Fourth World
- Fundação Antonio Meneghetti

More information is available [here](#).



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Session 2: Accelerating SDG 6 implementation: Water Action Agenda and interlinkages with other SDGs

3:00 p.m. | 10 July 2023

Dedicated its discussions on SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation for all), this session aimed to equip participants with the ability to articulate the significance of SDG 6 as a cross-cutting imperative essential to achieve all other SDGs. Presenters provided specific descriptions of the interconnections between SDG 6 and SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, and 17. Session organizers offered practical illustrations from their own experiences, and engaged in discussions with the audience about the path forward to attain SDG 6.

Partner organizations:

- World Vision
- Millennium Child Support Group

More information is available here.



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Session 3: Resilience in a time of crisis: Transforming Energy access, Climate Action Learning and strengthening indigenous knowledge to achieve the SDGs

8:30 a.m. | 11 July 2023

Focusing on SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), this virtual session featured objectives including: leveraging expertise from multi-stakeholder partners; introduce cutting-edge methodologies, including practical examples such as energy access education for SDG 7, Indigenous knowledge research infrastructure, green growth strategies, and blockchain-enabled climate action learning; fostering collaboration; sharing of lessons and practices, and promoting a global movement for climate education and local SDGs empowerment.

Partner organizations:

- Transforming Energy Access Learning Partnership (TEA-LP), University of Cape Town
- International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges IAAI GloCha
- CANEUS
- Pawanka Fund
- FILAC
- UNITAR and UNDESA/DSDG

More information is available [here](#).

Session 3 | Virtual
Resilience in a time of crisis: transforming energy access, climate action learning and strengthening indigenous knowledge to achieve the SDGs
Speaker: Miroslav Polzer, founder and CEO of IAAI GloCha and DigitalArt4Climate coordinator
Tuesday, 11 July 2023
08:30 – 10:00 (EDT)
bit.ly/2023SDGSLearning

HLPF 2023 SDG Learning Session #3
Resilience in a time of crisis: Transforming Energy access, Climate Action Learning and Strengthening Indigenous Knowledge to achieve the SDGs

SPECIAL EVENTS
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Q&A: How can we
• capitalise, especially at the local level, from the learnings happening across the SDGs
• leverage and implement Indigenous knowledge for the SDGs

Session Outcome: Representatives from:
unitar | United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | CANEUS | Pawanka Fund | FILAC

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- 01** Contribute practical experience in delivering education from the TEA platform **SDG 7**
- 02** Help increase digital skills and innovation potentials with the use of blockchain technology in line with **SDG 9**
- 03** Integrate Indigenous Knowledge for sustainable clean water and sanitation **SDG 6**
- 04** Identify Post Covid-19 opportunities with partnerships and green investment line with **SDG 11 and 17**

Contributing to the main theme and the five SDGs under review at HLPF 2023

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Session 4: Sustainability in Action: The Role of Facility Management and Electrotechnology's Impact on the SDGs - A New Story

3:00 p.m. | 11 July 2023

This session focused on SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals), and discussed in depth the role of facility management in addressing global challenges, indoor air quality's impact, and how management facilities contribute to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Partner organizations:

- IFMA Foundation
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

More information is available [here](https://bit.ly/2023SDGSLearning).



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Session 5: SDG Synergies: a tool to support decision making in implementing the 2030 Agenda

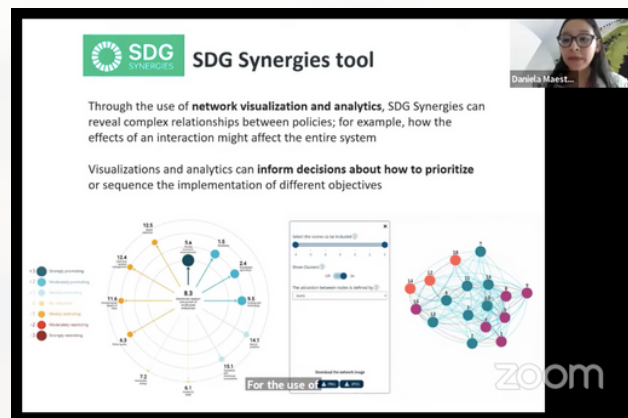
8:30 a.m. | 12 July 2023

With a focus on SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals), this virtual session aimed at enhancing the adoption and capability to utilize SDG Synergies, targeting government, academia, and civil society stakeholders worldwide, utilizing the HLPF as a platform to showcase the potential of SDG Synergies in understanding cross-impact interactions among the SDGs. The session included a training workshop to facilitate skill development, peer collaboration, and networking, by presenting the tool's features, usage, case studies, and access instructions.

Partner organizations:

- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

More information is available [here](#).



Use cases

The SDG Synergies tool is designed for governments, policymakers, and academic organizations that:

- Need to localize the SDGs and align them with the country's national development goals.
- Want to assess policy coherence in a specific sector or in the national development plan.
- Want to assess SDG interactions, between SDGs or SDGs and other agendas, in practice.
- Aim to analyze scenario interactions at different geographical scales, by modeling socio-technical scenarios based on the knowledge of local experts and stakeholders

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Session 6: Building Sustainable Cities: Harnessing the potential of local communities to withstand crises

3:00 p.m. | 12 July 2023

Targeted on both SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals), this session encouraged peer learning and idea exchange among urban actors, focused on locally-led strategies for response, recovery, and resilience-building in cities, and aimed at promoting equitable development and inclusivity. The session reviewed methodologies to facilitate knowledge and best practice sharing related to successful urban recovery and resilience approaches, while also fostering collaboration and partnerships among various stakeholders including local authorities, community-based organizations, government agencies, NGOs, to enhance coordinated efforts and resource leverage for sustainable recovery and resilience.

Partner organizations:

- Cities Alliance
- Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

More information is available [here](#).



Session 7: Accelerating resilient recovery: Role of Infrastructure Sector and Entrepreneurship

8:30 a.m. | 13 July 2023

Focused on SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals), this virtual session explored pathways for resilient post COVID-19 recovery by leveraging the SDG Cities Global Initiative, transparent infrastructure development, and urban entrepreneurship. Through interactive discussions, digital tools introduction, presentation of corruption prevention tools, and sharing insights on urban expansion, the session aimed to promote institutional synergies for implementing the 2030 Agenda by addressing sustainable city acceleration, corruption risks in infrastructure, urban entrepreneurs' role in innovation, and lessons from pandemic-resilient entrepreneurs.

Partner organizations:

- UN-Habitat
- UNCTAD
- International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
- Think Tank AlterContacts

More information is available [here](#).

Session 7 | Virtual
SDG 11: Accelerating resilient recovery: role of infrastructure sector and entrepreneurship
• United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
• UN-Habitat
• International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
• Think Tank AlterContacts
Thursday, 13 July 2023
08:30 - 10:00 (EDT)
[bit.ly/2023SDGsLearning](#)

Context: Infrastructure delivery is critical to achievement of the SDGs, yet related inefficiency & corruption remains a "wicked" problem.

WELL SPENT
How Strong Infrastructure Governance Can End Waste in Public Investment

EFFICIENCY LOSS

Economic Group	Efficiency Loss (%)
Low Income Developing Countries	63%
Emerging Market Economies	34%
Advanced Economies	18%

Economist Intelligence Unit (2019) | International Monetary Fund (2020)

just a few years ago the IMF published this report

Session 8: Enabling effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

3:00 p.m. | 13 July 2023

Through the lenses of SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals), this session discussed how to enhance awareness and capacity in developing partnership factors for multi-stakeholder collaborations in support of the SDGs, facilitated by the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, Partnerships2030, and the Global Forum on SDG Advisory Bodies. This training concentrated on individual and institutional partnering capabilities as well as partnership platforms, equipping participants with practical tools for effective partnering at various levels, aimed at fostering transformative change and achieving the SDGs.

Partner organizations:

- DSDG/UN DESA
- The Partnering Initiative
- Partnerships2030

More information is available [here](#).



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Session 9: SDG 11: Progress, challenges, lessons learned and tools for sustainable transformation of cities

8:30 a.m. | 14 July 2023

This session focused on SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals). This virtual session identified key themes, shared progress, and discussed how to strengthen partnerships among cities, universities, policymakers, urban professionals, civil society (including NGOs), and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to accelerate SDG 11 implementation through sustainable urban transformation.

Partner organizations:

- Sustainable Cities Institute (Brazil)
- World Blind Union (WBU)
- UNIBO and University of Paris Saclay
- International Association of Universities (IAU)

More information is available [here](#).

Session 9 | Virtual

SDG 11: Progress, challenges, lessons learned and tools for sustainable transformation of cities

- Sustainable Cities Institute (Brazil)
- World Blind Union (WBU)
- UNIBO and University of Paris Saclay
- International Association of Universities (IAU)

Friday, 14 July 2023
08:30 - 10:00 (EDT)
bit.ly/2023SDGsLearning

11 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Learning for all by all.
A menu of actions for a participative governance in the cities of the future

UNIBO AND UNIVERSITY OF PARIS SACLAY Presenter:

- Daniela Piana, Professor of Political science University of Bologna and coordinator of the UNESCO UNITWIN NETWORK NET LEARN
- Permanent invited ENS University of Paris Saclay

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Session 10: Gender-Responsiveness in Partnerships for the SDGs: consultations, tools, strategies and approaches to overcome barriers towards gender equality

3:00 p.m. | 14 July 2023

Concentrated on SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals), this session provided strategic insights and practical knowledge to participants on finding sustainable solutions for their communities. The session discussed in depth the methodologies to enhance dialogue, collaboration, and partnerships among various stakeholders to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The session involved panel discussions on themes including the Gender-Migration Index, effective stakeholder engagement through conflict resolution strategies, and building and utilizing NGO consultations for gender equality.

Partner organizations:

- Women's Major Group
- Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice
- Mediators Beyond Borders International
- Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP)

More information is available [here](#).



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Final Comments

At its 2023 Edition (in hybrid format), the SDGs Learning, Training and Practice HLPF Special Event continued to serve as a space for learning, exchange, and networking between partners and organizations from different sectors.

The SDGs Learning, Training and Practice depends on the commitment of partners to the SDGs and to their willingness of sharing their knowledge with practitioners all over the world. All sessions were recorded and will remain available to all interested stakeholders at both [UNDESA](#) and [UNITAR](#) webpages.

This was the second edition that included in person sessions since 2019. The number of registrations and participants also demonstrate that virtual engagement is still necessary and allow for broader participation, especially for those stakeholders in developing countries.

UNDESA and UNITAR thank all organizing partners for making the 2023 Edition a great success, and we look forward to working with existing and new partners at the future SDGs Learning, Training and Practice, as a Special Event of the HLPF in the coming years.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

This report was developed with inputs from:

UNDESA: Lotta Tahtinen, Naiara Costa, Yunxiao Long, Zihao Xu, Alexey Shamagin

UNITAR: Marco Suazo, Pelayo Alvarez, Tianyi Zhao

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