EGM for the GSDR: Emerging issues for the attention of policy makers,
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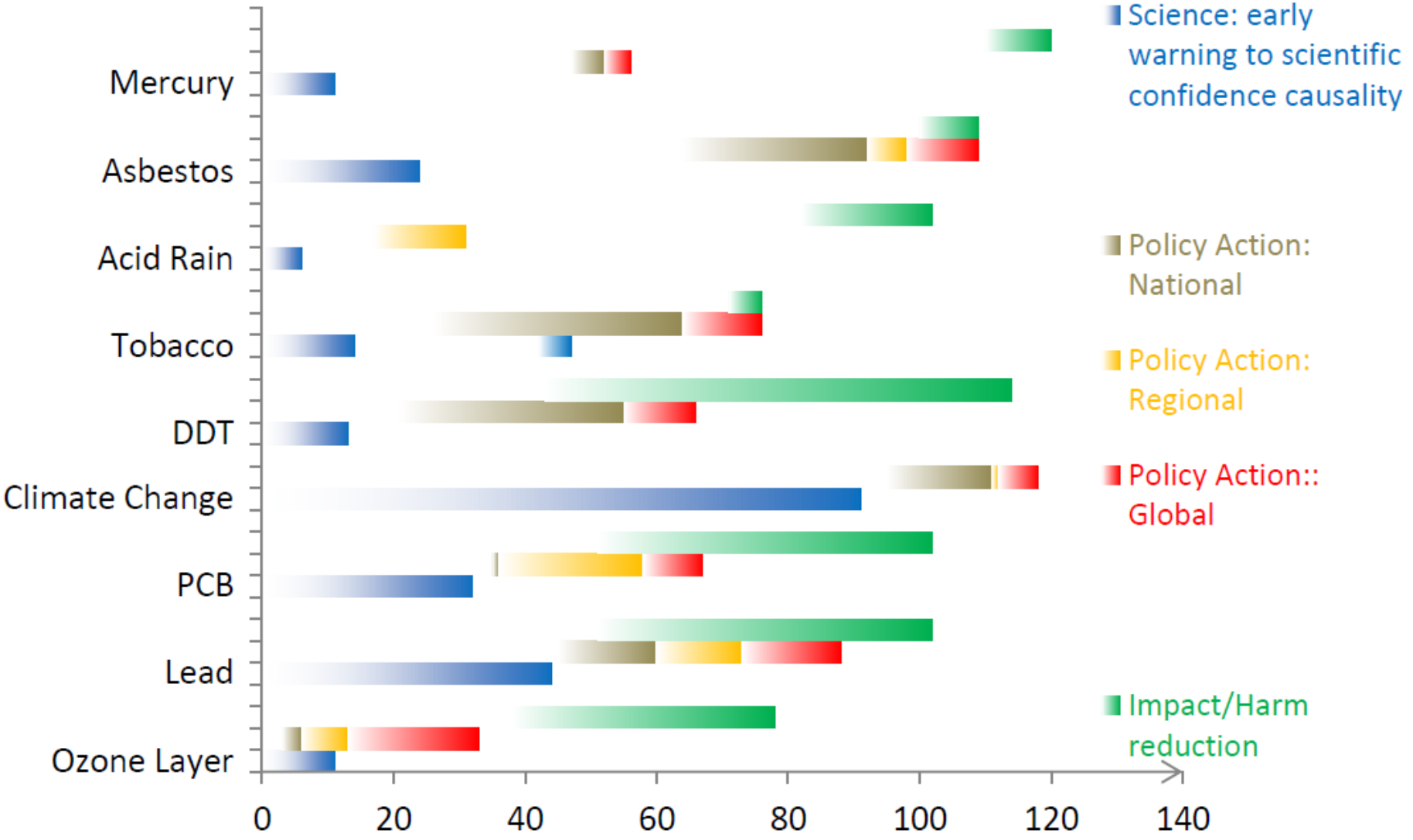
Emerging issues and the Global Sustainable Development Report

New UN entry points for science

Richard Alexander Roehrl
Senior Economic Affairs Officer
UN Division for Sustainable Development,
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Time lags between science and policy (in years)



Origins of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

- HLPF mandate to strengthen the science-policy interface
  - including through a GSDR
  - Rio+20, GA 67/290, Agenda 2030
- Agenda 2030, para. 83: "*The HLPF will also be informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall strengthen the science-policy interface and could provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development*."
- Inspired by "*Our Common Journey*" (NRC, 1999)
- "Prototype" reports in 2014 and 2015.

What is the GSDR?

- A new UN window for science-policy dialogue on sustainable development at the highest political level
- A UN report - one of two to inform the 2030 Agenda
- Assessment of assessments to make sense of existing knowledge: challenges, actions, progress, and innovative solutions.
- Multi-stakeholder approach: many perspectives, multilingual inputs, multiple knowledge channels
- Policy relevant, not prescriptive
- Scope: global, 2+2 generations, SDGs+ emerging issues
- 4-year cycle: annual reports towards an in-depth GSDR in 2019 (comprehensive SDG review in HLPF).

GSDR: two threads

- Science-policy interface for SD: how it works at different levels, how it might work better
  - With a view to informing HLPF
  - Look at assessments of different kinds
  - (Emerging) science issues for the attention of policy makers
  - At national level, including countries in special situations
- Sustainable development goals as integrated network: different lenses on integration
  - Global: through integrated assessments
  - Nexus approaches: examining sub-systems
  - Cross-cutting issues (e.g. disaster risk reduction)
  - Review of past progress and SDG scenarios
  - Big data and new solutions
- Approach can be applied to any theme
  - e.g. subject of thematic reviews at HLPF in given year

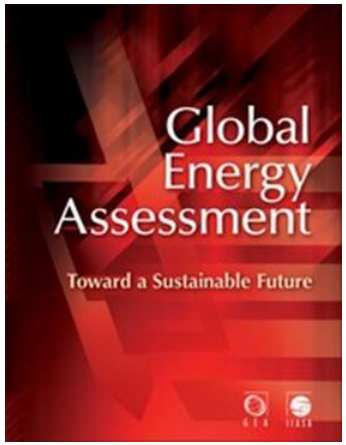
Scientific stakeholders

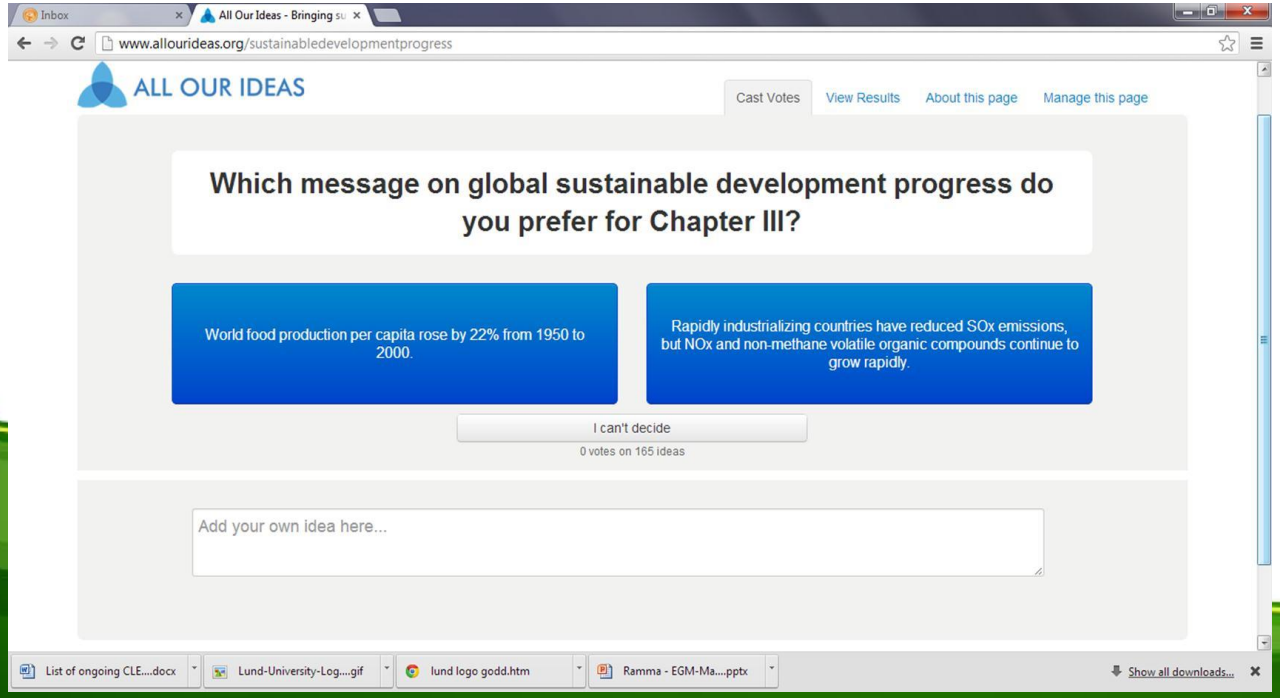
- **UN reports and outlooks teams**: DESA, Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, ECE, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, WB, UNU
- **Key UN groups**: Committee for Development Policy, UN SG's Scientific Advisory Board, London Group, SE4All, GEO board
- **Thematic scientific expert groups:** e.g., IPCC, IPBES, GEA, etc.
- **Non-UN organizations**: South Center, OECD, EC, AU, regional development banks,
- **Think-tanks and NGOs**: SDSN, Future Earth
- **Academies of sciences**: World Academy of Sciences, IIASA, prominent national academies, the Inter-Academy Council
- **Science-related major groups**: ICSU, ISSC, WBCSD, WFEO
- **Scientists among the government officials**

Participation and consultations in the GSDR process

	Prototype GSDR 2014	GSDR 2015
Participation	Team of 57 UN staff from 21 entities, with 1.5 UN staff "fully" dedicated	UN team from 26 entities; 11 chapter lead authors (DSD, UNEP, UNIDO)
	35 government officials	Many more
	339 scientists and experts	~500 scientists and experts
	2,000+ scientists contributing issues through multi-lingual crowdsourcing platform	378 scientists, 46 countries. Chief scientists' survey
	8 Expert group meetings	5 EGMs
Assessments	57 int'l assessments, 125 UN flagship pubs, and 23 outlook reports by intergov. orgs	Closer look at SDG coverage of 36 of them; review of 72 scenario models
	69 national SD reports	35 reports/articles on LDCs, 35 on SIDS, and 23 on LLDC
	>1,000 academic articles and contributions	~500-1,000 articles/contrib.
	14 science briefs	187 science briefs
Tools	Global mini-SDG model. Crowdsourcing platform	Global SDG meta model. Surveys. Open call for briefs.

Mixed multi-stakeholder approach for inputs





Chapter 7 of GSDR 2015 on "Science issues for the attention of policy makers"

- Policymakers exposed to a broad range of analyses, rankings, and advice on "emerging issues" from a multitude of perspectives.
- Many existing UN mechanisms to identify "emerging issues" (typology suggested)
- The open call for science briefs (187 accepted contributions from 367 natural and social scientists from 46 countries most of which from developing countries).
- Big data applications emerging for all SDG areas
- Early warning and science-policy time lags.
- Which criteria? Which sources?

Criteria used in the open review of science briefs

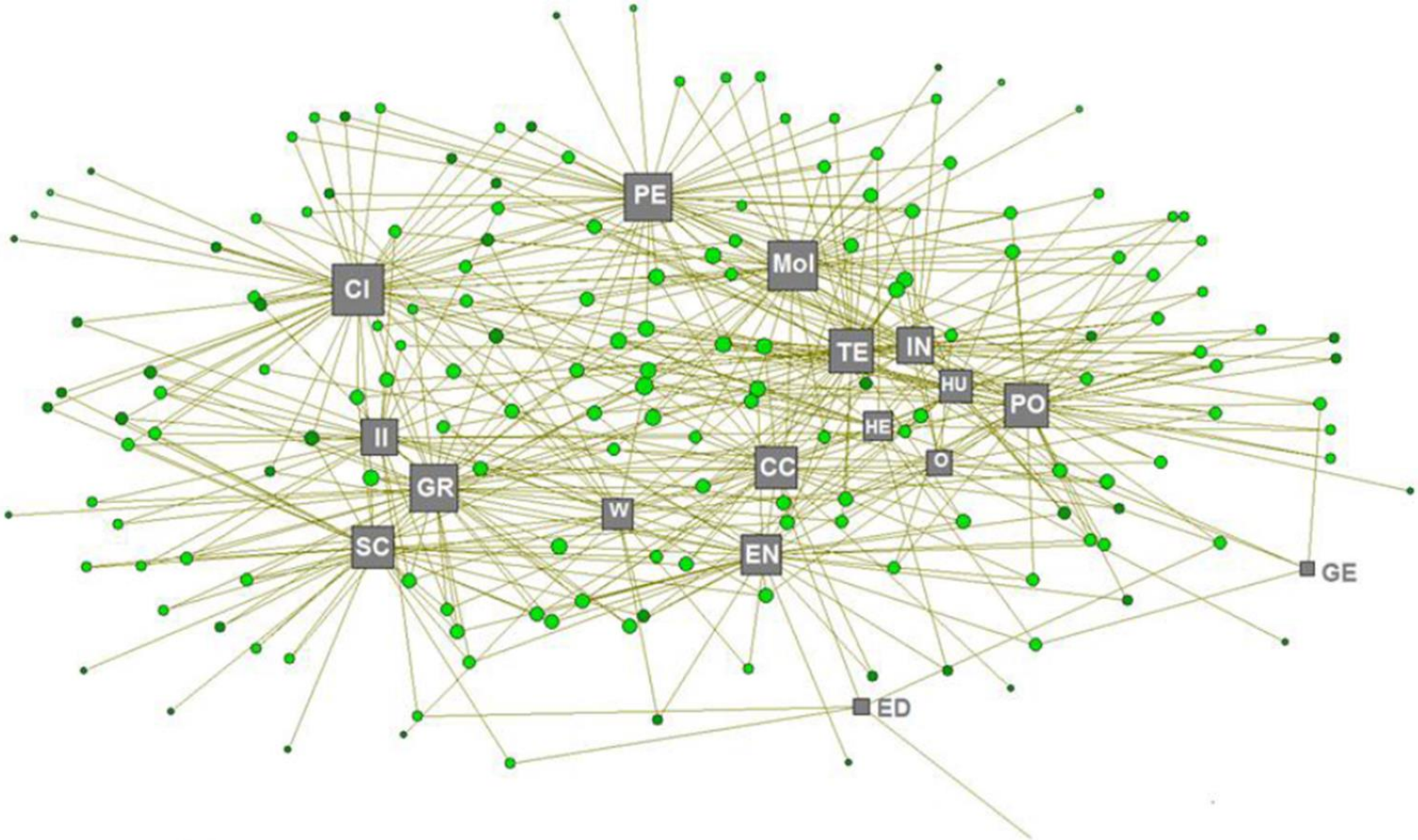
Criteria	Question
Scientific basis	Is the brief factual and based on peer-reviewed literature?
Balanced approach	Does it consider a wider range of scientific perspectives? Does it reflect economic, social and environmental aspects?
Novelty	Does it present an issue that is typically not adequately considered in the global SD policy debate?
Accessibility	Is the brief well-written and easily understandable?

http://gsdr2015.wordpress.com
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/science/crowdsourcedbriefs

Briefs that received most attention in the review

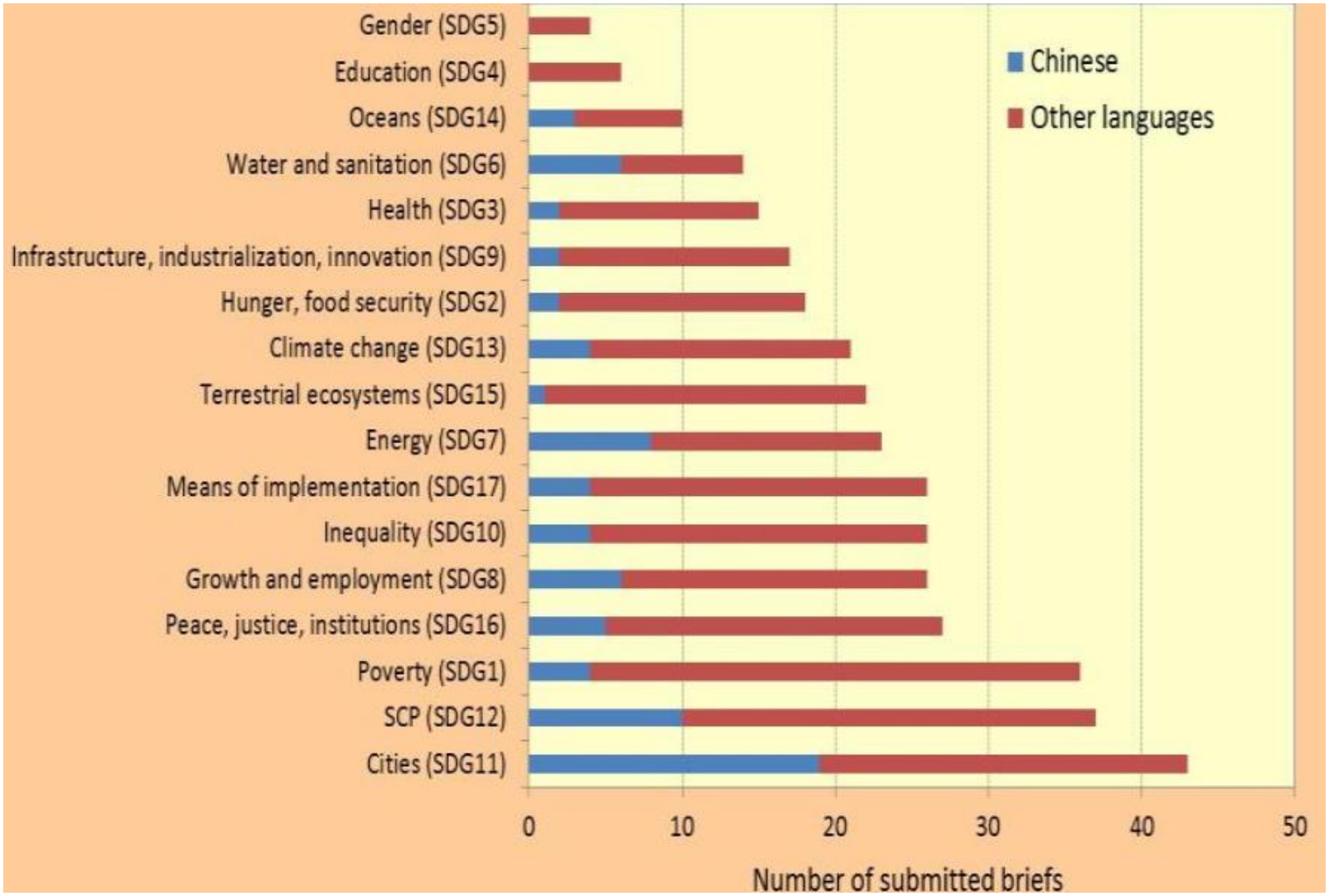
Author	Title of brief (hyperlink)
Norman Warthmann, Claudio Chiarolla (Australia, France)	Thinking a Global Open Genome Sequence Data Framework for Sustainable Development
Hans A. Baer, Thomas Reuter (Australia)	Anthropological perspectives on climate change and sustainability: implications for policy and action
Clemens Mader, Christian Rammel (Germany, Austria, Switzerland)	Transforming Higher Education for Sustainable Development
Mathew Kurian, Kristin Meyer (Germany)	The UNU-FLORES Nexus Observatory and the Post- 2015 Monitoring Agenda
Celina N. Amato (Argentina)	Relación entre Sustentabilidad, Responsabilidad Social y Responsabilidad Extendida al Productor
James Ehrlich, Larry Leifer (USA)	RegenVillages – Integrated village designs for thriving regenerative communities
Saahil Parekh and Siddharth Singh (India)	Towards an energy efficient oil and gas sector
Olanike Adeyemo (Nigeria)	Towards sustainable tackling of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
Alina Greslebin, Maria Laura Vélez, Matteo Garbelotto (Argentina,	Austrocedrus forests of South America are pivotal ecosystems at risk due to the emergence of an exotic tree disease: can a joint effort of research

SDG coverage of the submitted science briefs



CI	Cities
CC	Climate Change
ED	Education
EN	Energy
GE	Gender Equality
GR	Growth & Employment
HE	Health
HU	Hunger
IN	Inequality
II	Infrastructure & Industry
MoI	Means of Implementation
O	Oceans
PE	Peaceful & Inclusive Societies
PO	Poverty
SC	SCP
TE	Terrestrial Ecosystems
W	Water

SDG coverage of briefs: all vs. Chinese language



Conclusions

- GSDR – a new UN entry point for science at the highest level, but are the UN and scientific community ready?
- Institutionalization of emerging issues identification by scientists is key. Similarly, prospective studies/tools.
- Multi-stakeholder approach that is multilingual, accepts many perspectives, takes into account multiple knowledge channels and includes both bottom-up and top-down is feasible.
- ICSU and academies of sciences should have a lead role
- “Infrastructure” for contributions and peer review needed in multi-year cycles.
- 2019 – an opportunity not to be missed!

We hope you will be interested to get involved!

Thank you

http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport

roehrl@un.org