



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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HOW TO MAKE SDGs EUROPE'S BUSINESS

A Multi-Stakeholder Approach

30/31 May 2016, Brussels

Brief outline of workshops

1. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (hosted by SDSN)

The global agriculture and food system in its current form is not sustainable, causing both environmental degradation while not meeting food security goals. Today 793 million people still suffer from hunger, two billion from micronutrient deficiencies, and two billion are overweight or obese. Poor nutrition and environmental degradation from agriculture are a major challenge in Europe. However, the agriculture and food system can be transformed to simultaneously meet economic, social, and environmental goals, with the SDGs offering an opportunity for countries to shift away from business-as-usual towards a better path at all scales and at each step of the food chain. This workshop will explore how long-term pathways for a transformation towards sustainable agriculture can be developed and how best practice can be shared to build capacity in Europe and beyond. The workshop will draw on initial findings of the Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative and discuss a work program for the coming years involving science, government, civil society, and business.

2. Sustainable Value Chains: Sector agreements on international responsible business conduct

Many companies are making positive contributions to international responsible business conduct and sustainable supply chain management. Nonetheless, violations of fundamental rights or environmental pollution regularly happen worldwide, sometimes with fatal consequences. Agreements on international responsible business practices offer companies the opportunity to work jointly at the sector level in conjunction with the government and other parties to address complex problems in their international supply chains. These agreements are concluded by business associations, unions, NGOs, government, and other stakeholders and aim to achieve improvements for groups facing adverse impacts in supply chains and to offer shared solutions to address problems that companies cannot solve entirely by themselves. An agreement on sustainable garment and textile production was presented in the Netherlands in March and an agreement by the banking sector is expected to follow shortly. These agreements are multistakeholder initiatives in terms of both the process and the parties involved and aim to contribute to several of the sustainable development goals. In this workshop we would like to explore how (part of) these agreements could become European-level multistakeholder initiatives.

3. Implementing the Paris Agreement: An Energy Transformation for Europe (hosted by SDSN)

Following the breakthrough Paris Climate Agreement every country in the world needs to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the second half of this century. This will, inter alia, require a full decarbonization of the economy, including energy, transport, buildings, and industry. The Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project, an international consortium led by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), has investigated how the 16 largest emitters worldwide can transform their energy systems to stay within 2°C. In this working group we will briefly present the implications of the energy transition. We will then explore how the European Union can meet this unprecedented challenge at national and Europe-wide levels. In particular we seek to identify short-

term opportunities for action and how the relevant stakeholders can develop and mobilize around a shared transformation pathway.

4. Implementing the Urban SDGs (hosted by SDSN)

The growing urban population presents serious challenges. The battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities. The 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the upcoming Habitat III New Urban Agenda put cities at the forefront for action to improve the quality of life in our cities. In this regard over the last few decades the EU has, internalized sustainable urban development process across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of cities and regions. Within this process multi-stakeholder dialogues have reached a prominent role in many European cities. They have created and continue to support spaces in which meaningful conversations take place among diverse stakeholder groups. These dialogues inform and help shape more formal negotiation and decision-making processes. Multiple assessments rank some EU member states as among the most ready to implement the SDGs. Two opportunities arise from this: expanding this experience and progress across all EU members and extending appropriate forms of this experience via international cooperation programs of the EC. The guiding question we want to discuss in our workshop is how to expand and to extend these experiences and what kinds of initiatives are required..

5. Sustainable Societies: How will SDGs contribute to fighting poverty and reducing inequality? (hosted by EESC with Solidar and World Vision)

Fighting poverty and reducing social inequality worldwide is at the core of the UN 2030 Agenda. The universal nature of the SDGs poses challenges to developed as well as developing countries. While least developed countries are confronted with the most extreme forms of poverty and social insecurity, the progress in emerging middle class societies in many countries does not include all societal groups. OECD countries, including EU Member States, show huge differences as regards goals related to the social dimension of sustainable development. Though strategies against poverty and inequality must be tailored to the individual context of each country, the SDGs set out common benchmarks and targets for effective measures. The creation of social protection floors, decent work, and social dialogue informed by a human rights-based approach are essential elements.

This working group will discuss effective approaches to the implementation of SDGs relating to the fight against poverty and reducing inequality with particular regard to the role and potential of social protection floors. It will look at how social protection systems contribute to achieving these objectives in the EU and Europe's role in promoting social protection floors internationally. Moreover, the working group will explore how multi-stakeholder partnerships can help achieving social objectives, and what policy framework is needed in order to encourage such alliances and make them effective.

6. Innovative Finance for Realising SDGs: The Role of Financial Institutions, Governments and Philanthropic Organisations (hosted by SDG Charter)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be realised if sufficient financial capital is available, as captured by SDG 17: "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development." Given SDG 17 and the broad scope of the SDGs in general, innovative finance structures are required. These stem from a mix of sources (rather than just governmental) and have impact as their central aim. In light of Europe's ambition to contribute to realizing the SDGs, it is essential that such sources of capital are matched with the SDGs or targets they aim to achieve. This calls for a dialogue between suppliers of finance, including financial institutions, governments and philanthropic organisations, and organisations in need of finance, including business, NGOs, academia, and partnerships.

In this session we aim to identify: a) what is already happening regarding financing the SDGs, b) what are current financing gaps and c) what role innovative finance can play in accelerating the SDGs. Based on this discussion, it will be possible to define possible next steps in terms of Europe's role in stimulating innovative finance structures and the design of such structures, including the organisations to involve. The session will be moderated by Herman Mulder (SDG Charter board, Nyenrode University fellow, co-initiator True Price; formerly chair of the Global Reporting Initiative, initiator Equator Principles, Director-General Group Risk Management at ABN AMRO).

7. Exploring a European SDG Charter: Partnership for Multi-stakeholder SDG (hosted by SDG Charter)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an agenda of opportunities. Unique is that they require collaboration across borders and stakeholders. While the SDGs are currently taking shape at the governmental and national level, more impact can be generated if Europe works more closely together. There is a strong need to find new partners and forms of collaboration. However, there are also barriers to such cross-border and cross-sector collaboration.

Considering the shared ambition in Europe to realize the SDGs, this working group will explore whether there is a need and shared interest in setting up a European SDG Charter to enable and stimulate joint action of stakeholders across sectors and borders to realize the SDGs. This could build on the many national initiatives that have arisen. We will explore what needs to be done: how would such a Charter initiative look like, based on the aims to 1) create a common understanding of the role the various sectors can play in realizing the SDGs in Europe 2) create an enabling environment at European level for the implementation of the SDGs and 3) facilitate SDG solution partnerships to more effectively achieve the SDGs.

Lastly, we will identify what this conference can mean in terms of next steps for exploring a European Charter and the roles of potential supporting organizations, both as representative organisations and partnership brokers. This working group will be moderated by Fokko Wientjes, vice-president sustainability at DSM and chair of the SDG Charter.

8. Developing a Long-Term European Narrative for Sustainable Development: What Should Europe Look Like in 2050? (hosted by SDSN)

To meet the SDGs and to pursue a sustainable development pathway Europe will need to undertake several interlocking transformations including towards clean energy, sustainable agriculture, a circular economy, sustainable cities, and an effective innovation system. An integrated strategy for sustainable development can provide a long-term narrative for the European Union. Yet, we lack an integrated understanding of how these transformations can be undertaken, the challenges they represent, and the longer-term rewards they will generate. Available analyses tend to focus on individual sectors only, take a short-term view, do not factor in the role of the private sector, and do not take account of planetary boundaries. Filling this knowledge gap will require good science and effective engagement with stakeholders from government, civil society, and business. In this working group we will discuss the most important knowledge gaps and explore how they can be filled. The session will be moderated by leaders of the newly created The World in 2050 Consortium that aims to develop regional pathways for sustainable development through to 2050.