

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**SDG**academy

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM SDSN’S PRESIDENT ..... 1

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR .....2

LETTER FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR ..... 4

INTRODUCTION .....5

OUR MISSION AND VISION.....5

CONTENT 8

COURSES .....9

SDG ACADEMY LIBRARY ..... 14

PEDAGOGY & TRAINING 15

ONLINE MASTER’S PROGRAMS..... 16

TESTIMONIALS ..... 17

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ..... 18

COMMUNITY 22

SOCIAL & ALUMNI NETWORKS .....23

GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF MDP PROGRAMS.....24

NGO-UNESCO SDSN LIASON COMMITTEE .....25

MISSION 4.7 .....26

UNESCO-SDSN JOINT COMMITTEE ON OER .....26

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP 28

SPECIAL ISSUES OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS.....29

OP-EDS AND BLOGS ..... 31

FEATURED INITIATIVE: INSURANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 35

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS .....37

# LETTER FROM SDSN'S PRESIDENT

I am absolutely delighted and honored to introduce the 2025 Annual Report of the SDG Academy. The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in 2012 to support the world community in developing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From the very start, the SDG Academy was established to be SDSN's flagship in global education. Our aim has been to provide cutting-edge educational materials for individuals worldwide who are interested in sustainable development.

I am extremely proud of and gratified by the accomplishments of the SDG Academy, as recounted in the 2025 Annual Report. The SDG Academy is at the global forefront of education for sustainable development (ESD), providing crucial educational and training materials for the SDGs. Moreover, the SDG Academy gratefully finds itself in a growing global community of schools, educators, and civil society organizations committed to educating and training the next generation of global leaders in sustainable development.

Higher education today faces urgent as well as long-standing challenges to ensure objective inquiry into global challenges, to support research and development, and to inform societies to make the best decisions for the future. The SDG Academy's work creating and sharing educational and academic resources, including nearly 60 massive open online courses, degree pathways, and thought leadership, champions the broadest possible diffusion of knowledge and the promotion of international peace and cooperation. The SDG Academy is committed to convening researchers and experts to produce special reports on education and training for sustainable development. I'm very proud and delighted that the SDG Academy is also home to Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs, a monthly podcast in which I am honored to discuss important books with esteemed authors.

Achieving sustainable development requires new skills and competencies. Accordingly, the SDG Academy invests intensively in professional training initiatives in key industries and sectors. Building on the work of the UNESCO-SDSN Joint Committee on OER, the SDG Academy this year launched the Capabilities 4 the Future Hub, a partnership between the SDSN, UNITAR, and UNIDO, to inspire and activate green and digital transformations among governments, the private sector, and educational institutions. The SDG Academy has now exceeded its original goal of reaching at least 1 million learners, and the global cohort of learners continues to grow!

In this spirit, the SDG Academy is forging ahead with a new and growing partnership with a key pillar in the global financial architecture: the insurance sector. In the lead up to the 2025 UN Financing for Development Summit in Seville, Spain, the SDG Academy launched a position paper and online course on "Insurance and Sustainable Development"—a first of its kind multilateral research and education initiative to support private sector professionals who see that the future depends on sustainable development.

We live in a period of geopolitical turmoil, including many regional conflicts and tensions among the major powers. The SDSN believes that these conflicts and tensions are solvable through diplomacy and through a recognition that our shared global challenges are far greater in significance than anything that divides us. I like to recall the eloquent and wise words of President John F. Kennedy more than 60 years ago in his speech to the Irish Parliament:

Indeed, across the gulfs and barriers that now divide us, we must remember that there are no permanent enemies. Hostility today is a fact, but it is not a ruling law. The supreme reality of our time is our indivisibility as children of God and our common vulnerability on this planet.

In this spirit, the SDG Academy salutes its many partners around the world and looks forward to our continued efforts together on behalf of education and training for the future we want.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Sachs, President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)



# LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear SDG Academy Community,

We are delighted to share highlights from this past year in our 2025 SDG Academy Annual Report. By investing in strategic partners, we have had the opportunity to lead dialogues that inform the policy and practice of sustainable development throughout government, education, and industry.

## **Flourishing UN Partnerships**

Our partnership with UNESCO and IFLA produced timely research on libraries' contributions to sustainable development, which we proudly launched at the 2024 UN High-Level Political Forum. We are also honored to represent the Western Europe region on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for 2024-2026, positioning us to enhance member state engagement and advocate for education for sustainable development.

In November 2024, we joined the 3rd UNESCO World OER Congress in Dubai, co-organized with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, which brought together 400+ global leaders to explore how AI and open solutions can democratize knowledge access. The Congress produced the Dubai Declaration on Open Educational Resources, establishing digital public goods as essential for equitable education.

Our collaboration with UN SDG:Learn has been an important gateway for learning across industries, sectors, and geographies. Developed from UN SDG:Learn's model of universally applicable and sector-specific coursework, UNIDO, UNITAR, and the SDSN launched the "Capabilities 4 the Future" (CAP4FUTURE) Hub at UNIDO's Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum in October 2024, with support from DLA Piper. This platform will help governments, the private sector, and educational institutions navigate green and digital transformations in global supply chains.

The SDG Academy continues to support transformation of the European built environment via the BuildSkills Academy with monthly meetings, representation in events, and participation in the Annual Meeting in May 2025. Our collective ability to transform the European built environment sector for net zero pathways requires partnerships on global supply chains, which is why the BuildSkills Academy is a partner in our CAP4FUTURE initiative.

## **Engaging the Summit of the Future**

In preparation for the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024, we released a MOOC called *Revitalizing Multilateralism for a Sustainable Future* to guide learners through the past, present, and future of the global development agenda. Leveraging content from our prestigious Global Classroom series, the course examines in detail the themes of the Summit; reflects on the Summit's outcome document, the Pact for the Future; and considers what's next for multilateralism. At SDG Action Day on September 21, the International Day of Peace, our "Peace Not War" side event highlighted interdependence as essential for sustainable peace. As Leonor Zalabata Torres, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, said, "Building peace should be like building stone walls—where large stones are supported by smaller ones."

## **Spreading Education for Sustainable Development**

Our Master's Pathway on edX achieved a milestone as the first cohort completed their Professional Diploma and advanced to the MSc in Sustainable Development at University College Dublin. We

launched a new course in partnership with UNITAR and Better Insurance Network, “Insurance and the Sustainable Development Goals, ” alongside an original position paper on “Insurance and Sustainable Development: Partnering on Risk, Resilience, and Transformation,” supported by Swiss Re and published by Dublin University Press. Now in its fourth season, our top-ranking podcast, Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs, continues to highlight important works by experts in governance, war, and peace. In addition to the audio podcast, the conversations are hosted on the SDSN’s YouTube channel, with viewership reaching the thousands.

## **My Thanks**

The work highlighted in this report is made possible by the wonderful SDG Academy staff in our New York, Dublin, Paris, and Kuala Lumpur offices. We are able to continue to expand our broad range of activities thanks to the leadership and generous support of Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. We continue to be very grateful for the support of the SDG Academy’s High Level Advisory Council (HLAC). Each and every member is an active part of our content creation, partnerships, and advocacy for education, and professional training.

On a personal note, I was humbled to receive the Patron of the Planet Award 2024 from Cornell University at the NYC Green School Conference 2024 for our work on sustainable education practice.

Lastly, on behalf of the entire SDG Academy team, I want to express our deep gratitude to the dedicated learners and alumni of our e-learning platforms, degree programs at University College Dublin and Sunway University, and Professional Certificate programs on edX, as well as everyone else we have engaged with this past year. Your hard work for peace, justice, and sustainable development around the world inspires us to rise each day and commit ourselves to the mission of the SDG Academy.

Sincerely,

Patrick Paul Walsh, Vice President for Education, SDSN, and Director of the SDG Academy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patrick P. Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Walsh" clearly legible.

# LETTER FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

The past few years have been fraught with devastating warfare, rising global temperatures, and indications of declining commitments to multilateralism. The geopolitical context has yet to produce the world we seek, one rooted in human dignity, environmental sustainability, and mutual care. In many ways, we have seen rollbacks to our hard-fought progress. Yet, despite recent challenges, it's hard not to be optimistic.

When I look at the past achievements of the SDG Academy, I see a growing global movement. Over the last year, our learning community has expanded to well over a million dedicated and passionate learners. Our advocacy and reports have produced impacts across sectors, and our team has been a vital voice at international events guiding global development, including the UN General Assembly, UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP), and more. There is much cause for optimism, and I have confidence that our continued efforts will result in the world we very much need.

Looking forward, the SDG Academy will continue this effort and double down on its commitments to expanding high-quality education for all. As leaders in the field of education for sustainable development (ESD), we will endeavor to be at the forefront of new knowledge, digital advances, and education policy. Our vast library of resources will be shared more widely through key partnerships that address lifelong learning. Many of these new partnerships will endeavor to strengthen the capacities of companies and employers to upskill and re-skill workers so that our economies can still contribute to environmental stability. We will also continue to enhance our traditional educational programming, including the launch of new accredited degree programs and deeper collaborations with the world's best universities.

As always, the SDG Academy will remain a source of advocacy and expertise through the development of several thought leadership initiatives, including symposiums, position papers, policy briefs, and academic journal issues. Through our growing network of scholars and experts, we will partner to integrate cutting edge knowledge with practical and effective projects for change.

In the next year, the SDG Academy will deliver its same high quality content, expertise, and educational programs. Despite political shifts and new obstacles, we will stay the course and maintain our principles of inclusion, equity, and a better world for all. We look forward to delivering on this agenda and are grateful for the solidarity of our partners in this collective mission.

Sincerely,  
Amber Webb  
Managing Director of the SDG Academy

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Amber Webb', written in a cursive style.

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 11th year of the SDG Academy. We continue in our dedication to expand the knowledge and practice of sustainable development via our four pillars: Content, Community, Education & Professional Training, and Thought Leadership. Now in its third year, our High Level Advisory Council (HLAC) provides keen insights, connections, and leadership for our unique program of work. The HLAC is composed of experts from various backgrounds, including library sciences, education technology, and industry, and represents a variety of sectors, including the nonprofit and private sectors, inter-governmental organizations, and higher education. This year, with the support of key HLAC members, we investigated and pursued deeper connections between sustainable development and finance, libraries, and higher education. We did so by weaving together our four pillars of expertise into initiatives that reimagine the partnerships necessary to make meaningful progress in the SDGs.

As we continue into this new decade of the SDG Academy, we reaffirm our commitments to furthering education for sustainable development by co-creating opportunities and materials that facilitate lifelong learning and policy change for a more sustainable future.

## HLAC Members:

Mohammed Al Rizeiqi	William Hynes	Niki Rodousakis
Brad Beecher	Yuma Inzolia	Joanna Rubinstein
Niamh Brennan	Radhika Iyengar	Lisa Sachs
Carolynn Chalmers	Trine Jensen	John Schwartz
Jit Ern Chen	Abel Kinyondo	David Smith
Tsung Ping Chung	Katrin Kohl	Kristen Stebbins
Ramu Damodaran	Elizabeth Lee	Rocky Tuan
May East	Enda Murphy	Zeynep Varoglu
Thanos Giannakopoulos	Emmanuel Ola-Olowoyo	Stephen Wyber
Dan Groody	Oláńrewájú Oláníyan	Raquel Xalabarder
Lorcan Hall	Zheng Qian	Stefano Zamagni
Narimane Hadj Hamou	Virenda Rawat	
Charles Hopkins	Michael Richey	

# OUR MISSION AND VISION

**Mission:** The SDG Academy represents the education and training division of the SDSN, with the mandate of promoting transformative education through the creation and curation of high-quality content on sustainable development, sharing of innovative pedagogies and training models, and providing open access to learning resources for a global audience.

**Vision:** A world in which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved through the efforts of multiple generations of educators, policymakers, practitioners, and citizens. By providing avenues of learning, collaboration, and partnerships, the SDG Academy mobilizes a truly global movement aimed at advancing sustainable development everywhere.





SDG Academy staff at the SDSN's 2024 High-Level Pre-Summit of the Future in New York





Jeffrey Sachs

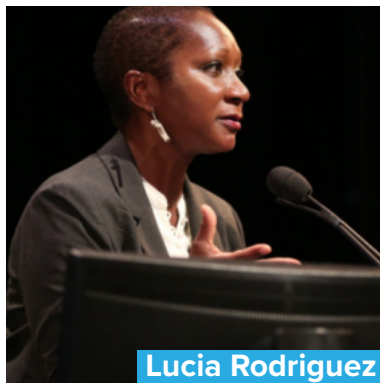


Patrick Paul Walsh



Amber Webb

**SDG Academy  
staff work  
hybridly across  
New York, Kuala  
Lumpur, Dublin,  
and Paris**



Lucia Rodriguez



Dawn Adrian



Kayla Colyard



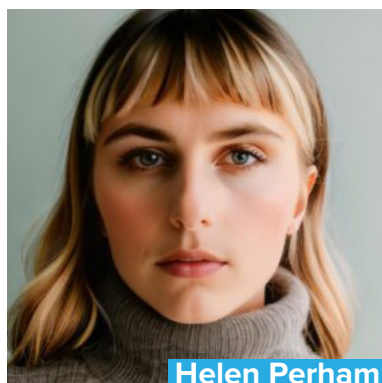
Shannon Kobran



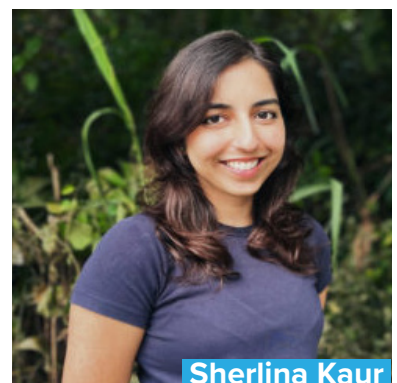
Isabela Carrozza Joia



Jessica Crist



Helen Perham



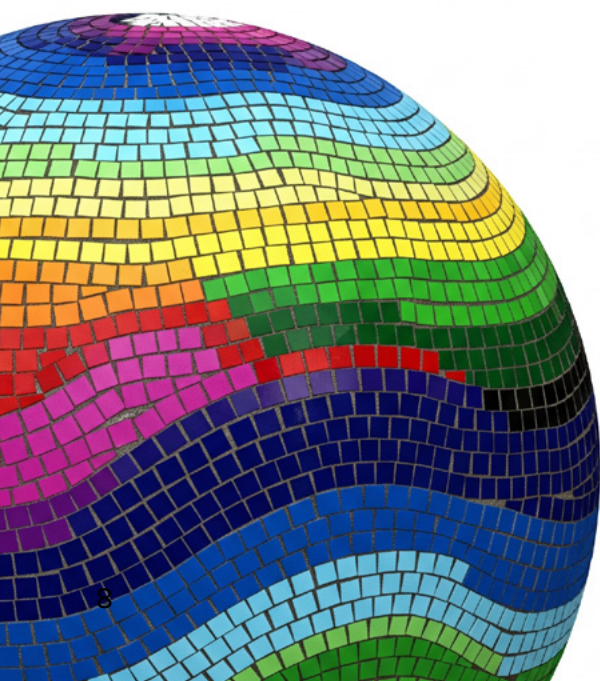
Sherlina Kaur

# CONTENT

## PEDAGOGY & TRAINING

## COMMUNITY

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



# COURSES

The creation of high-quality knowledge products continues to be the foundation of the SDG Academy's diverse portfolio of work. This year, five new courses were launched on topics ranging from innovation in extractive industries to monitoring climate adaptation to the future of multilateralism. We were pleased to work again with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, and were delighted to welcome new partners including Queensland University of Technology, Better Insurance Network, and the European Union's IMPETUS project. The SDG Academy now offers more than 50 courses across its various platforms.

## REVITALIZING MULTILATERALISM FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



This unique course, launched ahead of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, guides learners through the past, present, and future of the global development agenda. Featuring reflections from renowned leaders in the field, the course examines in detail the themes of the Summit; reflects on the Summit's outcome document, the Pact for the Future; and considers what's next for multilateralism. The course will be continually updated leading up to the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025.

## FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTION: TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN EUROPE



Created in partnership with the EU's IMPETUS project, this course presents an overview of mitigation and adaptation strategies and pathways in Europe, and explores current technologies, financial instruments, and science-based modeling as the region prepares to achieve a net-zero transformation.

## MANAGING INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES



In this course, Queensland University of Technology's Professor Robert Perrons explores how innovation and research and development occur within extractive industries. By teaching how to apply a broad range of tools and fresh ideas from other industries that have historically been more at ease with technology, Prof. Perrons teaches learners how they can get better results from innovation-related activities, enabling them to make significant progress towards SDGs 7, 9, and 13.

# MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING FOR NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN PROCESSES



This course, developed by the NAP Global Network at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, equips climate change adaptation professionals with key methodologies, tools, and practical skills for implementing effective monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes.

## INSURANCE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

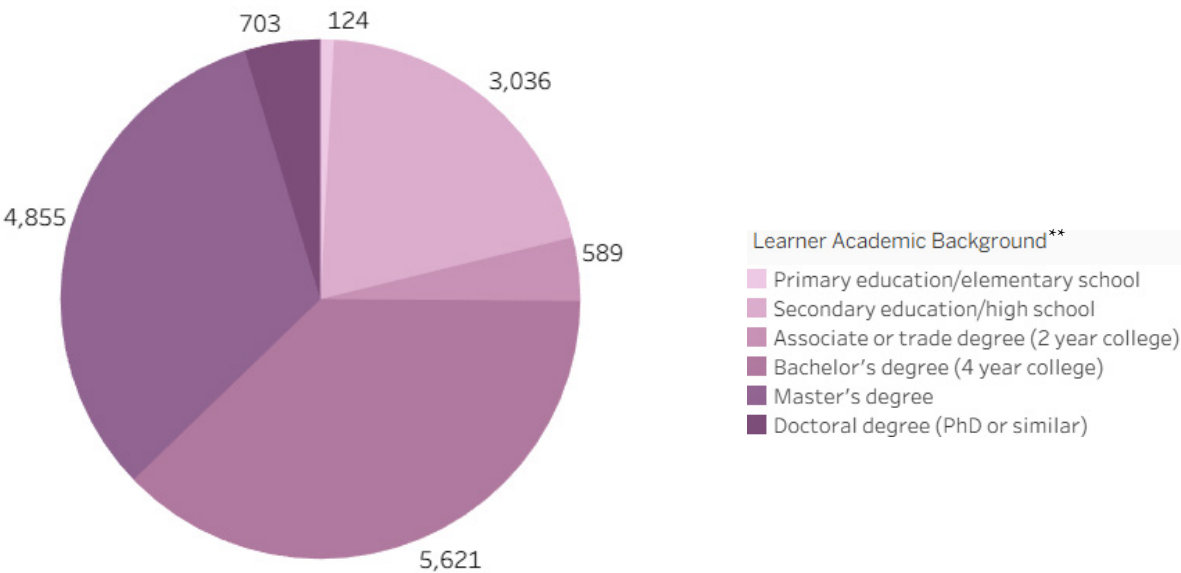


Insurance, through social protection programs and private sector solutions, is crucial for advancing the SDGs. This course, led by industry experts, UN representatives, and academics, explores the intersection of private sector solutions and the SDGs, highlighting the pivotal role insurance plays in advancing the global agenda.



### TOP 5 COURSES\* (July 2024 - June 2025)

<a href="#">Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience</a>	28,306 learners
<a href="#">Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Working with nature to adapt to a changing climate</a>	5,238 learners
<a href="#">Transforming Our World: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals</a>	4,223 learners
<a href="#">Global Public Health</a>	4,061 learners
<a href="#">Sustainable Cities</a>	3,745 learners



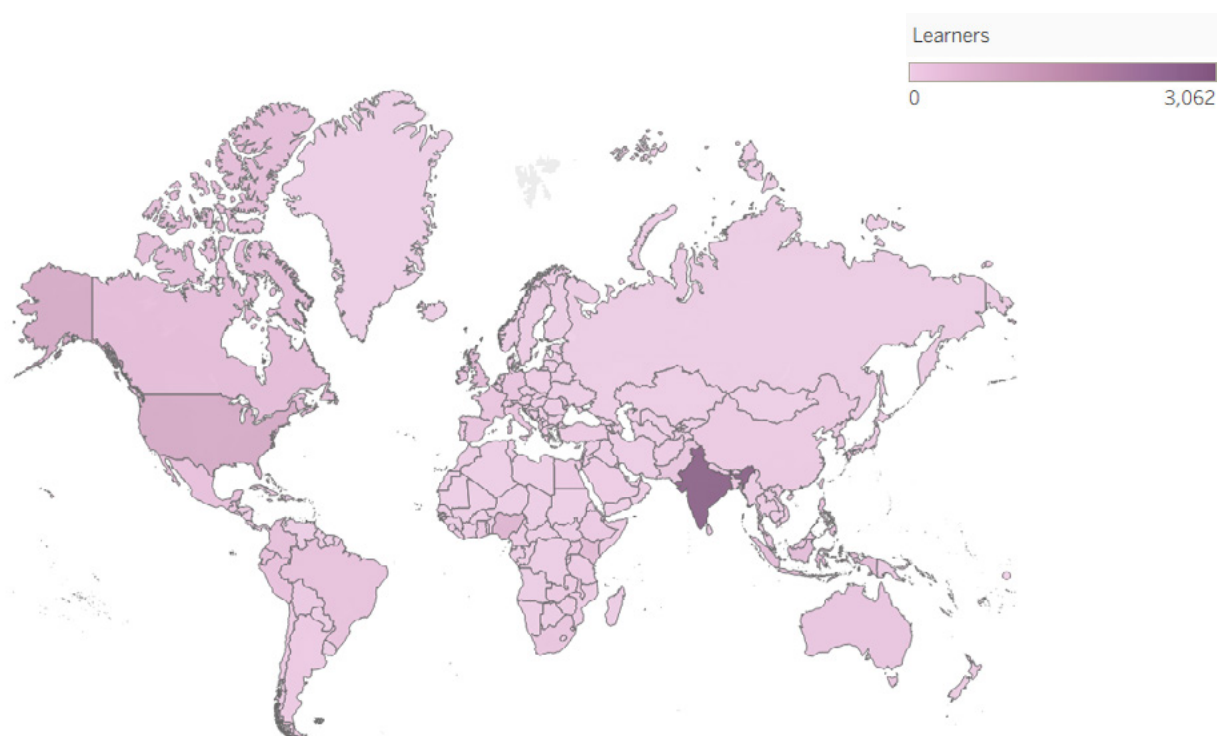
\*by edX enrollment      \*\* out of the 14, 928 post-course surveys collected



## WHO ARE OUR LEARNERS?

This year, the SDG Academy enrolled 95,908 learners in our online courses on edX, our largest platform. *Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience*, once again our most popular course, attracted over 28,000 participants alone. Learners came from 235 countries and territories, with more than 20% coming from India. Notably, 78.3% of survey respondents were first-time learners with the SDG Academy, signaling our expanding reach to new audiences. The learner base remained academically strong, with over 70% holding a bachelor's or master's degree. These figures reflect not only the SDG Academy's sustained relevance but also our role in equipping a diverse, educated, and globally engaged community with the tools to advance the SDGs.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SDG ACADEMY LEARNERS JULY 2024- JUNE 2025



*"The videos apply high standards of storytelling, which makes the course content more engaging."*

*-Learner from Canada*

*"I also appreciated how the course encouraged critical thinking by exploring different perspectives on work, economy, and social democracy. Discussing these topics with others helped me broaden my understanding and see how policies impact diverse groups. Overall, it was an informative and insightful experience! Looking forward to applying these learnings in real-world discussions."*

*-Learner from India*

# BOOK CLUB WITH JEFFREY SACHS

Now in its fourth season, Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs, the SDG Academy's signature podcast, continues to captivate a growing audience with its powerful blend of ideas, literature, and leadership. With each episode, the podcast reaffirms its mission: to connect learners worldwide with the thinkers shaping our world—one book and conversation at a time. Professor Jeffrey Sachs and featured guests delved into some of the most consequential questions of our time, from the roots of war and empire to the future of peace and technology. Through thought-provoking dialogues with leading historians, political analysts, and futurists, this year's episodes ventured deep into the forces shaping our world today.

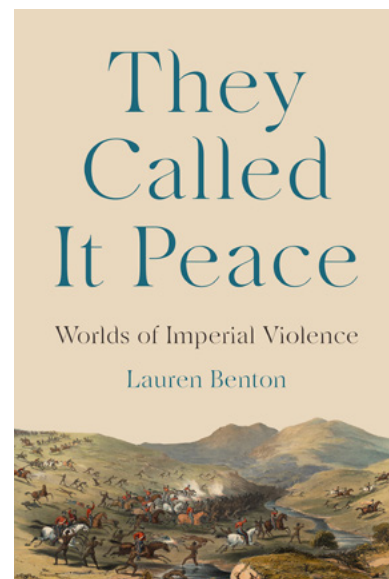
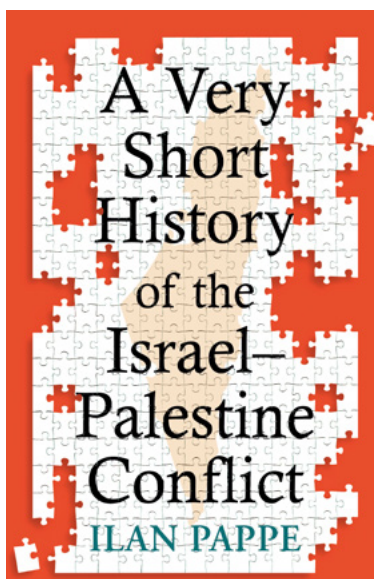
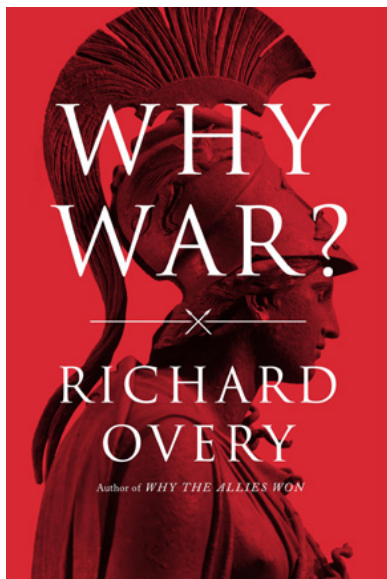


This year, the Book Club rebranded and started posting recordings on YouTube. The Book Club's videos have been viewed over 800,000 times.

## HIGHLIGHT

297,585 ALL TIME DOWNLOADS OVER 4 SEASONS

## TOP 3 EPISODES THIS SEASON



Aaron Good's [American Exception](#) and Dennis Fritz's [Deadly Betrayal](#) sparked rigorous dialogues on U.S. foreign policy and the inner workings of the deep state, particularly in relation to the Iraq War. Glenn Diesen's [The Ukraine War & the Eurasian World Order](#) offered geopolitical context to one of today's most consequential wars, while Eugene Rogan's [The Arabs: A History](#) and Ilan Pappé's [Lobbying for Zionism on Both Sides of the Atlantic and A Very Short History of the Israel-Palestine Conflict](#) shed light on the historical and ongoing struggles in the Middle East. [Israel in Palestine: Jewish Rejection of Zionism](#) by Yakov M. Rabkin furthered these conversations, building on discussions around peace for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the global lobbying landscape around it.

On the nature and origins of war itself, historians Richard Overly ([Why War?](#)) and Lauren Benton ([They Called it Peace](#)) challenged conventional narratives, revealing how peace is often shaped by violence and imperialism. Nuclear tensions were brought into sharp focus in conversations with Annie Jacobsen ([Nuclear War: A Scenario](#)) and Jon Wolfsthal ([Doomsday Clock](#)), both of whom explored the frighteningly plausible pathways to nuclear escalation. Amid these challenging ideas, Ray Kurzweil's [The Singularity is Nearer](#) brought a sharp pivot toward the future, encouraging listeners to consider the accelerating pace of technological advancement—and what it means for the future of humanity. [Plato and the Tyrant](#) by James Romm highlights the enduring relevance of Plato's quest to align ethics with leadership, offering timeless insights into justice, governance, and the challenges of moral power in today's world.



With a 4.9-star rating and listeners tuning in from over 13,577 cities in 228 countries and territories, the Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs is where global minds meet. Join the conversation and find out why podcasters worldwide keep coming back for more: [bookclubwithjeffreysachs.org](https://bookclubwithjeffreysachs.org)

## LISTENERS SAY:

*"If there is one podcast I would recommend to someone who believes the general narrative of the legacy press, it's this one. Once a month is not too much to have one's conception of the world challenged. Both the host and guests have firsthand experience with the most powerful institutions on earth."*

*"It's inspiring to see someone with the courage to speak up and dedicate their life to tackling complex global issues. Their unwavering commitment, expertise, and determination to create positive change for humanity are truly admirable."*

*"Topical, educational & entertaining—thank you Dr Sachs for a wonderful podcast series."*

*"Just listen. Dr Sachs is a masterful interviewer. He provides a space for his guests to discuss and provide a rich understanding of the topics of their work."*



# SDG ACADEMY LIBRARY

As our course catalog grows, so too does our SDG Academy Library, becoming a premier destination for educational videos on the SDGs. It boasts more than 2,000 lectures, case studies, and event recordings across topics as varied as Business & Management, Energy Systems, Education Policy, and History.

We also added two new Spotlight videos to the Library. The Spotlight initiative gives SDSN members the opportunity to showcase their incredible work advancing sustainable development and to share the knowledge they have gained with a global audience. This year, the initiative featured two members of SDSN Southeast Asia—Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore and Universiti Brunei Darussalam—whose work centers around sustainability education and earthquake hazard management, respectively.



## ALL TIME HIGHLIGHTS



2,347 videos  
843 experts  
2,127,039 minutes viewed

## MOST POPULAR VIDEOS (JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025)

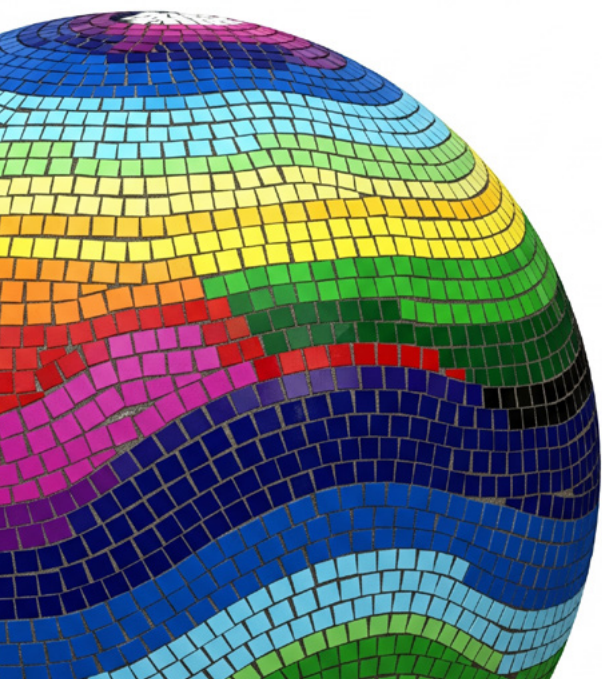
<u>Introduction: The Oceans and Sustainable Development</u>	3,107 plays
<u>Introducing Sustainable Development</u>	2,409 plays
<u>Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship</u>	1,990 plays
<u>Our Ocean: A Finite Resource</u>	1,857 plays
<u>Why Sustainable Development is Important: Happiness and Wellbeing</u>	1,807 plays

## TOP COUNTRIES





**CONTENT**  
**PEDAGOGY & TRAINING**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**



# ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAMS

The SDG Academy continues to support innovative online Master's programs in sustainable development at both University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland and Sunway University, Malaysia. To meet the demand of working professionals, SDG Academy also partners with UCD for the Master's Pathway in Foundations of Sustainable Development initiative. Students can start with the SDG Academy's Master's Pathway Professional Certificate on edX and then continue on to UCD's accredited online Professional Diploma in Foundations of Sustainable Development. Once they complete the Diploma, students can continue into UCD's MSc in Sustainable Development—offsetting 20 academic credits and providing a flexible pathway for learners with nontraditional academic backgrounds.

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

The MSc in Sustainable Development at University College Dublin enrolled 56 new full-time and part-time students, and added 30 new alumni to its roster. Twelve of these new Master's students came via the UCD Professional Diploma as part of our Master's Pathway program.

The UCD programs continue to benefit from the creative use of SDG Academy educational resources, including our MOOCs, videos from our SDG Academy Library, and exciting guest lectures alongside UCD lecturers' synchronous and asynchronous teaching and project-based learning.

## SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

The Master in Sustainable Development Management (MSDM) program offered by the Jeffrey Sachs Center at Sunway University enrolled 20 new online students, with five new graduates in the past year. The program, designed for working professionals across Malaysia and beyond, aims to equip students with necessary management skills and acumen to create innovative solutions to achieve the SDGs.



# TESTIMONIALS

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



The Master's program in Sustainable Development at UCD has given me the knowledge, skills, and passion to make a difference in the world. The program's focus on interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, and ethics has helped me to see the interconnectedness of different sustainability issues, address complex sustainability challenges, and develop a strong moral compass for my work in sustainability. I am confident that I can make a positive impact on the world and help to create a more sustainable and equitable future.

- Abdullah Bash Imam



UCD's Master's of Science in Sustainable Development has been invaluable to my professional career, and personal life experience to date. The 100% online level 9 programme provides a flexible and adaptive approach to learning. The course materials provide an in depth insight into all 3 pillars of sustainable development; society, economy, and environment. As the programme progresses, there are opportunities to focus on specific pillars or continue to study all three in tandem. The assessments have the perfect balance of individual and group work, and calculations, essays, short assignments, and group work.

The partnership with the UN SDSN gives the course a global reach. The opportunity to engage with people across the world, all passionate about the SDGs and sustainability sector, was something that I've never experienced in any other programme. I have made friendships and connections that will last for life, and that I never would have made without partaking in this programme.

- Lauren Minion

## SUNWAY UNIVERSITY



Throughout my life of education, for the very first time, the MSDM course and community has been an experience that I can understand and connect with.

- Mathiny Naido Khanis





Director Patrick Paul Walsh, (on left) at a Better Insurance Network's 4th Sustainable Insurance Summit



Director Patrick Paul Walsh, delivers remarks at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



Katrin Kohl and Charles Hopkins Co-Chairs of UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Education towards Sustainability at York University, Patrick Paul Walsh, and Elena Proden, Senior Specialist, SDGs and Strategic Implementation at UNITAR attended the SoTF in New York

In 2023, the SDG Academy took a pivotal step forward by expanding into professional development and training programs, recognizing that the global workforce plays a critical role in advancing sustainable development. To achieve the SDGs, professionals across every sector must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to integrate sustainability into their organizations, industries, and communities and the SDG Academy is helping to close this knowledge gap.

Over the past year, we have built a strong foundation for this work by launching targeted initiatives that meet the growing demand for upskilling. Our partnerships with leading platforms such as edX, LinkedIn Learning, and SEEK have broadened access to high-quality courses and certificates worldwide. In collaboration with SDSN Networks, we have supported members and communities seeking to strengthen their sustainability expertise. We have also worked directly with private sector partners and municipal governments developing tailored training for organizations including the BuildSkills Academy in Europe, Sunway Group in Malaysia, and with an industry focused project in the insurance sector.

The SDG Academy is making professional learning both accessible and transformative, creating multiple entry points for professionals to gain the skills, knowledge, and credentials needed to drive sustainability from vision to practice. With further expansion planned for 2025 and beyond, we remain committed to continuing to strengthen partnerships, launch more targeted courses, and equip a diverse global workforce to contribute meaningfully to a sustainable future.



# SDSN CANADA & THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE FOR THE SDGs

The Youth Leadership Certificate for the SDGs, a collaboration between SDSN Canada and the SDG Academy, empowers post-secondary students across Canada to become effective leaders in sustainable development. Through a combination of self-paced online courses and interactive workshops, students deepen their understanding of the SDGs and develop practical skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, and community engagement. This program not only enhances students' academic and professional profiles but also fosters a network of young changemakers committed to driving positive impact in their communities and beyond.



*“In 2025, the University of Calgary became the new host institution for SDSN Canada’s Youth Leadership Certificate for the SDGs. This opportunity brought together over 200 passionate young leaders from across Canada. Over several months, participants dove into SDG Academy courses, hands-on workshops, and a national networking event, all designed to spark ideas and build real-world skills. What emerged was more than just learning — it was a growing community of changemakers committed to advancing sustainable development in their own communities and beyond.”*

– Ali Epp, Engagement Coordinator, SDSN Canada

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

This year, the SDG Academy launched a new edX Professional Certificate on [Sustainable Mining and Resource Development](#) in partnership with the **Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment**. The new certificate joins our existing programs in Fundamentals of Sustainable Development, Sustainable Water Management, and Sustainable Cities.



# BUILDSKILLS ACADEMY

The SDG Academy continues to be a key education and dissemination partner in the BuildSkills Academy, a multistakeholder initiative to create a pan-European framework and certification scheme for upskilling the construction sector towards the twin transitions. This year, BSA achieved two key milestones: the development and verification of the BuildEnrichedSkills Methodology, and the design of the certification framework.



The project Academy for Transitional Skills in the Build Environment is co-funded by the European Union, ERASMUS+ Programme under Grant Agreement number: 101104419

The SDG Academy is leading the development of a roadmap to support European Vocational Educational and Training (VET) providers to enrich their existing courses and teach transitional skills alongside traditional content.

We also actively contribute to disseminate the project outcomes to a global audience in the context of the SDGs. In the past year, SDG Academy Director Patrick Paul Walsh and Program Associate Isabela Carrozza Joia have participated in and co-organized several events to feature the work of the BuildSkills Academy as a policy-driven project:

- **17 July 2024:** High-Level Political Forum Side Event on “Partnerships in Labor Force Resilience: The Imperative of Education and Upskilling in Digital and Sustainability Skills”
- **10-12 September 2024:** Participation at the Forum on Vocational Excellence, Lyon, France
- **21 September 2024:** UN Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event on “Public-Private Partnerships in Capacity Building for SDG Transformations,” New York City
- **23 October 2024:** UNIDO Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum 2024 Side Event on “Capabilities 4 the Future Hub,” Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- **5 February 2025:** UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum Side Event on “Public-Private Inclusive and Sustainable Knowledge Partnerships”

In the coming year, BSA looks forward to the finalization and verification of the certification schemes, 12 courses piloted across six countries, and three masterclasses to help trainees understand why the twin transition is important and the trends driving the future of the construction sector.

We are honored to continue to support the upskilling of professionals towards a more sustainable economy.



Partners at The BuildSkills Annual Meeting



# SDG ACADEMY PARTNERS WITH VYRA

In April 2025, the SDG Academy became one of the first partners on Vyra, a climate, environment, and energy training platform for the private sector. Alongside partners like the Global Reporting Initiative and the Energy Institute, the SDG Academy offers its expert educational content to Vyra's growing audience of professionals looking to build skills in sustainability leadership, the energy transition, digital transformation, and more.



## JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL

In early 2025, the SDG Academy partnered with Junior Chamber International (JCI), a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people to create positive change in their communities. Supporting JCI's global conferences and training of their members, SDG Academy offered expert advice and educational materials to promote learning, capacity-building, and impact measurement aligned with the SDGs.

JCI recently held their annual area conferences across the Americas, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific, with 250+ participants joining for "Sustainability Leadership in the 21st Century," a training session co-developed with the SDG Academy which teaches sustainable development in the context of JCI, their youth development goals, and practical application across all JCI programs.

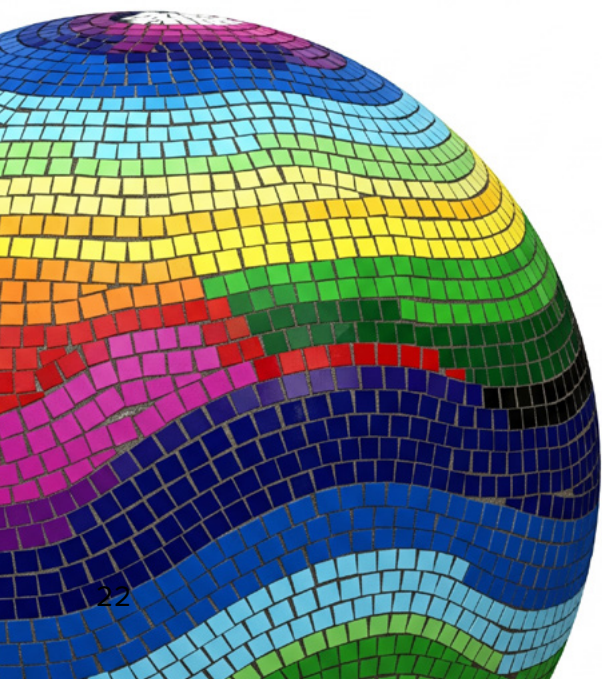


Junior Chamber International conference session co-developed by SDG Academy



Managing Director, Amber Webb, (second from right), chaired a session at COP29.

# CONTENT PEDAGOGY & TRAINING COMMUNITY THOUGHT LEADERSHIP





# SOCIAL & ALUMNI NETWORKS

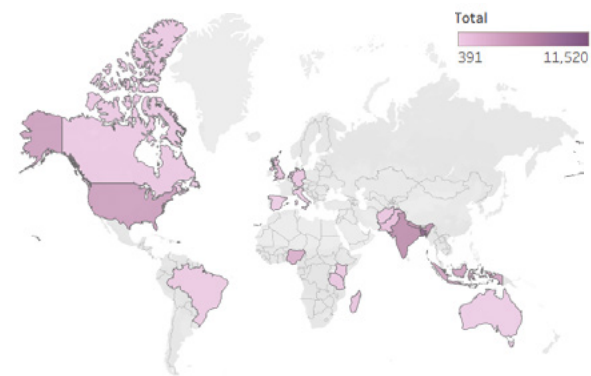
The SDG Academy has several digital communication channels, including our website, newsletter, and social media. Our audience is broad, spanning sector and geography, gender, and professional experience. Followers on X plateaued at 15,600, and our Facebook page remained steady at 55,385. **Our most substantial growth this year was visible through our Instagram page, which grew by 29% this year to 13,825, and our LinkedIn page, which grew by 13% reaching 31,071.**

Our reach is impressive, with over 115,000 followers across our social media platforms, 68,000 subscribers to our newsletter, and approximately 250,000 active users on sdgacademy.org.

Over 60% of our newsletter subscribers have taken at least one SDG Academy course. Alumni also participate in our professional communities on both LinkedIn and Facebook, with over 10,000 active members across the two platforms.

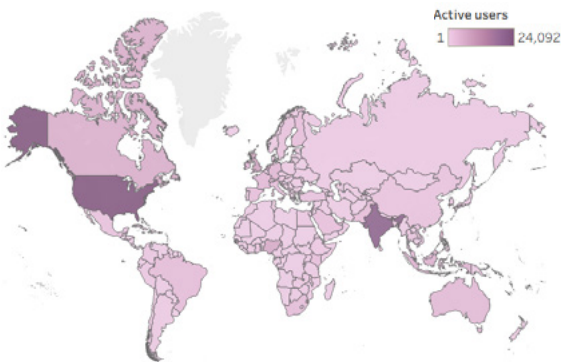
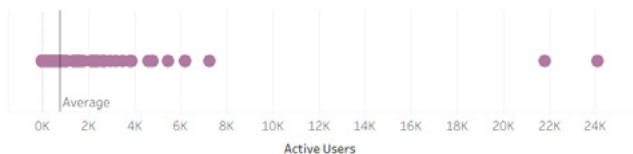
## SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

We analyzed our follower data across our primary social media channels—LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram—to identify the top 19 countries with the highest number of SDG Academy followers. The map to the right shows the geographic distribution of our audience, highlighting where our followers are most concentrated. **The countries with the highest number of followers across our social media channels were Bangladesh (11,520), India (6,347), Nepal (5,704), and the United States (4,535).**



## WEBSITE TRAFFIC

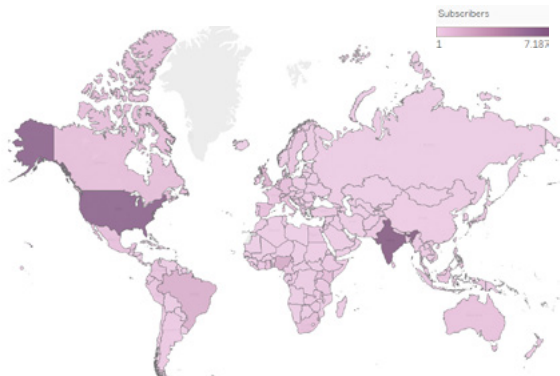
From July 2024 through June 2025, over a quarter million Active Users engaged with our site.\* The map to the left represents the geographic distribution and **shows two notable outliers: the United States (24,092), India (21,795).** A majority of countries fall around 1,000 Active Users.



\* Active Users are defined by Google Analytics as “the number of people who engaged with your site or app in the specified date range.”

## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Our monthly newsletter highlights the work of SDG Academy and our partners. The newsletter reaches 68,406 inboxes per month, and subscribers are distributed across 212 countries and territories. Similar to our social media followers and website traffic, the **highest number of newsletter subscribers are concentrated in India (7,187) and United States (6,713), followed by Brazil (1,675), the United Kingdom (1,496) and Kenya (900).**



68,406 monthly subscribers

HIGHLIGHT

# GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF MDP PROGRAMS



This past year has been remarkable for our achievements. **The network now includes 40 MDP programs, up from 34 three years ago.** Between July 2024 and June 2025, we implemented a new membership campaign. Interested institutions had to demonstrate that their curricula are grounded in an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to teaching and learning about sustainable development and/or the Sustainable Development Goals.

This requirement ensures new members align with the network's focus on interdisciplinary education for sustainable development, beyond just the traditional four pillars (natural, social, management, and health sciences). **Currently, we have MDP programs in 23 countries and over 8,000 graduates worldwide.**



Over the past 12 months, key MDP highlights include 10 meetings of the Global Student and Alumni Advisory Council (SAAC) and numerous activities organized by SAAC, such as online Masterclasses offering students exclusive access to field experts on specific development skills.

In 2024, SAAC launched the Global Challenge, designed to translate theory into action. Sixty students from 15 MDP programs across 13 countries formed multinational teams to respond to requests for proposals on sustainable development goals. Their proposals were evaluated by experts from The World Bank, NGOs, academia, and others. Among the four finalists, the Unity-One Team was selected as the winner for their proposal on flood-resilient housing, digital learning, and mobile clinics to reduce poverty in Sabah, Malaysia.

Partnership formation was also a major focus during 2024-2025. AFFLICAN, an NGO that connects talented youth with development partners to co-create innovative solutions and amplify their voices globally, has collaborated with us. Through this partnership, our MDP students have benefited from participating in international opportunities such as the 2024 Summit of the Future.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Foundations for Leadership, we were invited to Model United Nations events for high school students in Florida. These events provided us with opportunities to promote the MDP network and showcase SDSN and SDG Academy resources on several occasions.

Leopold Bachmann Foundation also became a new partner of the MDP network, expressing interest in expanding access to higher education in Colombia and South Africa. Over two years they will provide scholarships to marginalized students of indigenous and African heritage, enabling them to participate in MDP programs in these countries.



Model United Nations event held in Florida

In June, we held the 17th Annual MDP Summit at Tsinghua University's international campus in

Milan, Italy, attended by 17 MDP program participants from around the world.

Finally, despite a busy schedule, we organized the 13-week online course, “Global Classroom: Foundations of Sustainable Development,” which was held from September to December. The MDP Academic Steering Committee convened several times, and the monthly MDP newsletter continued to be published throughout the year.



Annual Global MDP Summit in Milan, Italy

## HIGHLIGHT

The MDP Association has welcomed new partners from around the world, including **Missouri University, USA**, **Universidad Politécnica de Madrid & Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain**, and **University of California, Davis, USA**.

# NGO-UNESCO SDSN LIASON COMMITTEE

SDSN, represented by the SDG Academy’s Isabela Carrozza Joia, has been elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for the 2024-2026 term. This key body represents NGOs’ collective voice in UNESCO, fosters dialogue between NGOs and UNESCO, and coordinates international fora on UNESCO’s five program areas: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.

In a highly competitive election with over 22 NGOs running for the Western Europe region seat, SDSN was successfully elected.

Additionally, Isabela has been appointed by the Committee President to serve as the Communications Officer for the 2024-2026 Program of Work.



Isabela Carrozza Joia, (second from left), and members of the NGO-UNESCO Liason Committee



Patrick Paul Walsh and Isabela Carrozza Joia



## MISSION 4.7

Mission 4.7 has made significant strides in advancing education for sustainable development (ESD) through multiple initiatives. The consortium coordinated a comprehensive Earth Day series featuring events and panels on curriculum design, barriers to Social Emotional Learning adoption in the Global South, and ESD's role in higher education. Over 800 participants registered for the hybrid events, and Mission 4.7 colleagues shared findings with UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership.

In Malaysia, the Mission 4.7 team, along with SDG Academy staff in the Kuala Lumpur office, successfully completed their pilot ESD teacher training program. They also serve as founding members of the National Strategic Alliance for Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education, working directly with the Ministry of Education to ensure ESD representation in the 13th Malaysia Plan and Education Blueprint.

Additionally, Mission 4.7 partnered with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) to develop a Just Transition curriculum focused on marginalized women and girls in low-income countries, accompanied by an open-access research paper. To address the growing demand for SDG 4.7 curricula, Mission 4.7 supported the Ages of Globalization team to develop curriculum specifically designed for implementation in secondary schools worldwide.



Dawn Adrian, Sherlina Kahr, Amber Webb and Shannon Kobran at ESD for 2030 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## UNESCO-SDSN JOINT COMMITTEE ON OER

The SDSN and SDG Academy continue to build momentum towards establishing a global knowledge repository of Open Education Resources (OER) for sustainable development. Our collaborations culminated in the 3rd UNESCO OER Congress.

The Congress steering group included the SDSN's President, Jeffrey Sachs, along with H.E. Jamal Bin Huwareb, CEO of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF), and Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO.

The [3rd UNESCO OER Congress](#) was held in Dubai, UAE, from November 19-20, hosted by the MBRF, an organization founded by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.



President of the SDSN, Jeffrey Sachs delivered the keynote at the 3rd UNESCO OER Congress, pictured here with H.E. Jamal Bin Huwareb, and Dr. Tawfik Jelassi



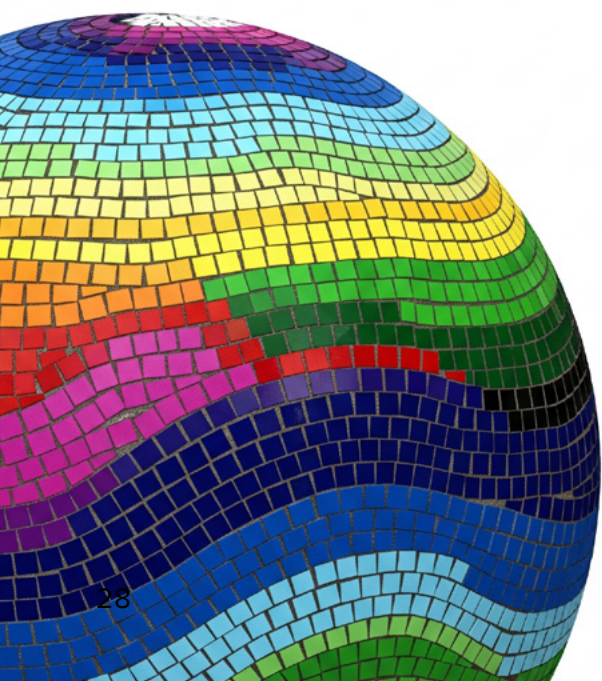
SDG Academy Director Patrick Paul Walsh chaired panels on “Harnessing OER and Generative AI for Digital Inclusion” and “UNESCO/SDSN OER Overlay Repository.” Additionally, Professor Walsh spoke on “Partnerships: Public Sector, Private Sector and Libraries” at a panel on Strategies to Meet Emerging Challenges.

The SDSN supported the open-access outcome document from the Congress, the “[Dubai Declaration on Open Educational Resources \(OER\): digital public goods and emerging technologies for equitable and inclusive access to knowledge.](#)” The draft Declaration included extensive global consultations, and was refined by the discussions held at the Congress.



Patrick Paul Walsh is pictured here with H.E. Jamal Bin Huwareb (center), and Dr. Tawfik Jelassi along with members of the Joint Committee on OER

CONTENT  
PEDAGOGY & TRAINING  
COMMUNITY  
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The SDG Academy has long been a leader in education for sustainable development (ESD), producing high-quality content on the SDGs and modeling principles of open access and educational development. Our work has produced a vast library of resources that has served a wide variety of people around the world. As our reputation in the field has grown, we have used our voice to better advocate for educational change and highlight valuable knowledge. Through partnerships with leading experts, we have worked to change the landscape of ESD and education policy, and to advance advocacy, awareness, research, and policy formation.



Dawn Adrian speaks at the UNESCO 3rd International Conference on Equitable education in Bangkok, Thailand

This year, we launched several publications, including special issues of the *African Journal of Sustainable Development* (AJSD) and the *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development* (JESD). Members of the SDG Academy team and our broader education network also published articles, op-eds, and blogs in several outlets, and were featured in publications and on podcasts.

## SPECIAL ISSUES OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Our special issue of the *African Journal of Sustainable Development*, titled “Redefining African Futures: The State, Resilience, and Pathways to Progress,” was published in partnership with the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria ahead of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future.

The special issue focuses on African scholarship related to the SDGs, multilateral cooperation, and the future of global governance, specifically highlighting work from OSAA’s 2023 Academic Conference on Africa. At a moment when multilateralism is under threat and commitments to the global development agenda are waning, this special issue brings to the fore critical commentaries on how to reshape African development and create a more equitable system of global cooperation.

“Policy Perspectives on Education for Sustainable Development,” a special issue of the *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development*, was developed by the SDG Academy in partnership

with York University and Columbia University. Provoked by the global momentum around the UN’s SDG Summit and Summit of the Future, this special issue highlights key perspectives on how the international education community has rolled out ESD initiatives during the SDG campaign, with a special focus on SDG Target 4.7. Expert commentaries provide valuable insights into concrete



The special issue was launched in September 2024 on the sidelines of the UN Summit of the Future, with a keynote by Ms. Cristina Duarte, UN Special Adviser on Africa and Under-Secretary-General of OSAA.



The special issue was highlighted at a number of events, including a 2025 UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum side event with UNESCO, and a UN ECOSOC Youth Forum side event on impact of ESD policy on youth.

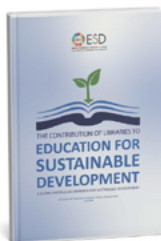
actions to enrich ESD, the evolving contours of policy production, and, more deeply, critiques on the underlying forces shaping the field.

The official launch took place during Earth Week in April 2025. Hosted by the UNESCO Chair at The George Washington University, invited authors shared key findings and arguments from their commentaries and engaged in a lively discussion about ESD policy.

## POSITION PAPERS AND PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES



[Insurance and Sustainable Development: Partnering on Risk, Resilience, and Transformation](#)



[The Contribution of Libraries to Education for Sustainable Development](#)

SDG Academy Manager Director, Amber Webb, along with Ndidi Anyaegbunam, and Olawale Olayide, co-edited our special issue of the *African Journal of Sustainable Development* and co-authored its [introductory essay](#). The article highlights important issues underlying development that inhibit wide-scale and sustainable progress, including post-colonialism, gender inequality, governance, and conflict and crisis.

Additionally, Amber Webb, Radhika Iyengar, Katrin Kohl, and Charles Hopkins co-authored an article, [“Policy Perspectives on Education for Sustainable Development: Taking stock of the field in the era of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”](#) Following the UN Summit of the Future, the article offers valuable insights into concrete actions to enrich ESD, the evolving contours of policy production, and, more deeply, critiques on the underlying forces shaping the field.



# OP-EDS AND BLOGS

In addition to the Special Issues and research publications, SDG Academy staff members published various [articles and blogs](#) throughout the year.

- [“Fix the child illiteracy crisis to ensure a sustainable future”](#) by Patrick Paul Walsh, Director, for 360info
- [Patrick Paul Walsh on The SUSTAIN Podcast](#)
- [“Sustainable development education and ESG professional training”](#) interview with Patrick Paul Walsh in *Eolas Magazine*
- [“Education must get soft to better prepare students for work”](#) by Shannon Kobran, Head of Education and Training, in *Times Higher Education*
- [“Rethinking Education to Re-Engage Youth: Why It’s Time to Focus on Practical Skill Building”](#) by Jessica Crist, in *Next Billion*
- [“Reflections on Beijing+30: Celebrating and interrogating 30 years of gender progress”](#) by Amber Webb, in *Apolitical*
- [“Equipping Youth with Education, Training, and Agency in Shaping Policies for a Sustainable Future”](#) by Patrick Paul Walsh, and Kayla Colyard for UN SDG:Learn

## **SDG Academy blog posts:**

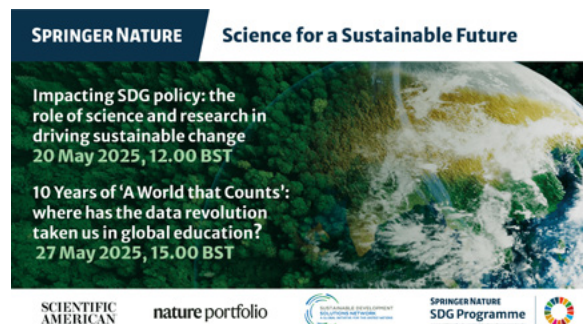
- 24 July 2024: [“Education for Sustainable Development: The key that unlocks the SDGs”](#) by Shannon Kobran, SDG Academy
- 1 October 2024: [“A Global Partnership Forum for Education: Connection, Appreciation and Action”](#) by Radhika Iyengar, Chair, Mission 4.7 Secretariat
- 26 November 2024: [“Reflections on COP29: Human Development and Education Highlighted as Key Priorities”](#) by Amber Webb, SDG Academy
- 18 March 2025: [“Empowering Future Leaders: Expanding Sustainable Development Education in Colombia & South Africa”](#) by Lucia Rodriguez, Global Association of Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) Programs, SDG Academy
- 22 April 2025: [“Reflections on Boao Forum for Asia \(BFA\) Annual Conference 2025”](#) by Helen Perham, SDG Academy
- 21 May 2025: [“Reflections on Youth Empowerment & Engagement for Sustainable Development: Lessons Learnt and Policy Insights”](#) by Ishaan Bharadwaj, Youth Eco-Ambassador, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University

# WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, PANELS, AND FORA

## SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The SDG Academy worked with Springer Nature to organize two webinars under the annual [Science for a Sustainable Future \(SFSF\) initiative](#). Now in its fifth year, SFSF brings together policymakers, government representatives, UN officials, and leading global scientists to discuss and advance the objectives of the SDGs.

Our session on “[Impacting SDG policy: The role of science and research in driving sustainable change](#)” showcased the ways in which science and research can help to achieve the SDGs. It featured Dr. Chagun Basha from the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Dr. Sarah Foxen from the UK Parliament’s Knowledge Exchange Unit, and Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid from the International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability at UCSI University. The session was moderated by Dr. Stavroula Kousta, Chief Editor of *Nature Human Behaviour*.



The second webinar, “[10 years of 'A World that Counts': Where has the data revolution taken us in global education?](#)” explored the data revolution in the 10 years since the “A World that Counts” report, specifically focusing on global education, and proposed solutions and suggestions for policy in the future. The session featured Dr. Clara Fontdevila from the University of Glasgow, Dr. Manos Antoninis from the Global Education Monitoring Report, and Dr. Marcos Delprato from Universidad Nacional de Chilecito, and was moderated by Dr. Suzanne Grant Lewis, Emeritus Chair of Education Science and Policy at Education.org.

## MULTILATERAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY FORUM

The Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF) was established in 2023 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to facilitate global discussions on sustainable industrial policies that drive productivity and growth, while also fostering resilience and environmental sustainability, and addressing societal challenges.

MIPF 2024 was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 23-24 October, and focused on innovative solutions for achieving sustainable industrial growth.

The SDG Academy, together with UNIDO and UNITAR, with support from DLA Piper, [hosted a side event](#) introducing the “Capabilities 4 the Future” (CAP4FUTURE) Hub, a platform designed to promote dialogue and learning strategies at global, sectoral, and national levels, providing access to learning, training, upskilling, and reskilling opportunities for



Isabela Carrozza Joia (second from left) and Patrick Paul Walsh with partners from the CAP4FUTURE launch at the MIPF, in Riyadh

individuals and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. The event explored this innovative idea to support governments, the private sector, and educational and training institutions to navigate the twin green and digital transitions. The SDG Academy also presented its work on insurance and the SDGs and on the EU-funded BuildSkills Academy as case studies.

The [MIPF 2024 outcome document](#) recognized the CAP4FUTURE Hub and the BuildSkills Academy as key capacity building initiatives to equip workforces with the skills and knowledge needed for the future.



Niki Rodousakis, UNIDO/TCS/IPC moderated the panel at the MIPF side event. Panelist included: Elena Proden, UNITAR, Patrick Paul Walsh, SDSN, Hon. Andrew Paygar-Flangiah, Deputy Minister of Industry, Liberia, Jacqueline Corbelli, U.S. Coalition of Sustainability and SustainChain, H.E. Gerry Cunningham, Ambassador of Ireland to Saudi Arabia, Siegfried Leffler, GIZ, and Isabela Carrozza Joia, UNSDSN

## EVENTS

**This year, the SDG Academy co-hosted and participated in more than 50 events in close partnership with agencies such as UNESCO, UNIDO, and UNITAR.**

The SDG Academy’s team of experts participated in discussion panels, delivered keynotes, and presented the work of the SDG Academy at global fora.

We partnered with UNESCO on a number of conferences including the UNESCO ESD For 2030 Regional Meeting on Transforming the Futures of Education in Malaysia; 3rd UNESCO World OER Congress in Dubai, UAE; 2024 UNESCO International Conference of NGOs in Paris, France; and the 3rd International Conference on Equitable Education in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2024, we hosted several events including: “Connection, Appreciation and Action”: Global Partnership Forum for Education” and “Empowering Youth and Future Generations Through Transformative Education” during the SDSN’s High-Level Pre-Summit of the Future. We also hosted two events during the UN SDG Action Days: “Public Private Partnerships for SDG Capacity Building and Training” as well as [“Peace Not War: Accelerating Peace Worldwide.”](#)

Additional events of note include: “Combating climate change across generations: Reinforcing global to



local policy action for education” at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan; UNIDO’s Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum; ECOSOC Youth Forum; ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and ESG Forum 2025.



Dawn Adrian at UNESCO 3rd International Conference on Equitable Education



SDG Academy Staff at the UN Summit of the Future



Amber Webb at COP29



Jeffrey Sachs and Patrick Paul Walsh at the SDSN High-Level Pre-Summit of the Future



SDG Academy Staff at the SDSN High-Level Pre-Summit of the Future



Lila Potter, Kayla Colyard, Helen Perham and Isabella Leite Lucas (with Olivia) at a UNSSC event



Patrick Paul Walsh and Ambassador Noemí Espinoza Madrid at the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)



Sherlina Kaur at ASEAN-China-India Youth Leadership Summit 2024



Patrick Paul Walsh at the Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum



Sherlina Kaur at ASEAN-China-India Youth Leadership Summit 2024



Shannon Kobran at ESD for 2030



# FEATURED INITIATIVE: INSURANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Through our work in sustainable development education and training, the SDG Academy has a unique opportunity to drive public-private partnerships for sustainable development, spreading awareness and prompting knowledge exchange among practitioners in all fields.

This year, the SDG Academy embarked on an exciting new partnership with key players in the insurance industry, launching a comprehensive initiative to promote the pivotal role of insurance in advancing the SDGs.

## Key Pillars of the Initiative:

### Education and Capacity Building

In April 2025, in partnership with the Better Insurance Network and UNITAR, the SDG Academy launched *Insurance and the SDGs* on edX. This six-module online course is designed to equip learners with the knowledge to incorporate insurance into sustainable development strategies, highlighting its critical role in advancing the SDGs and strengthening public-private collaboration.



### Thought Leadership and Research

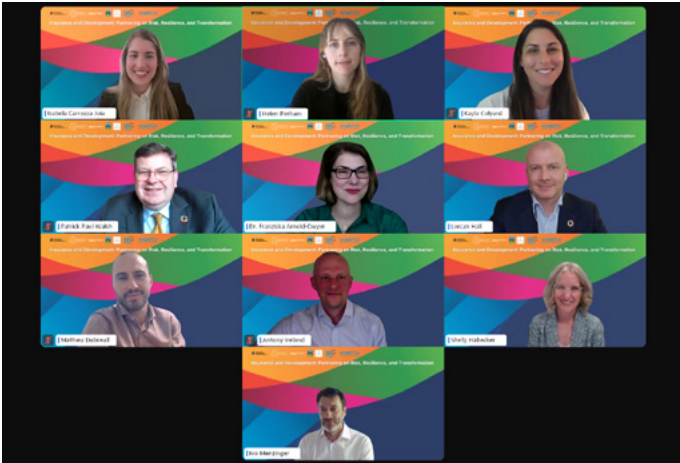
Also in April, we published a comprehensive position paper titled "Insurance and Sustainable Development: Partnering on Risk, Resilience, and Transformation" in partnership with Swiss Re. The paper highlights the insurance industry's potential to contribute significantly to sustainable development. Drawing on interviews with senior leaders across the public and private sectors, the paper presents 11 key themes with 18 actionable recommendations, advocating for the mainstreaming of insurance solutions in development efforts.



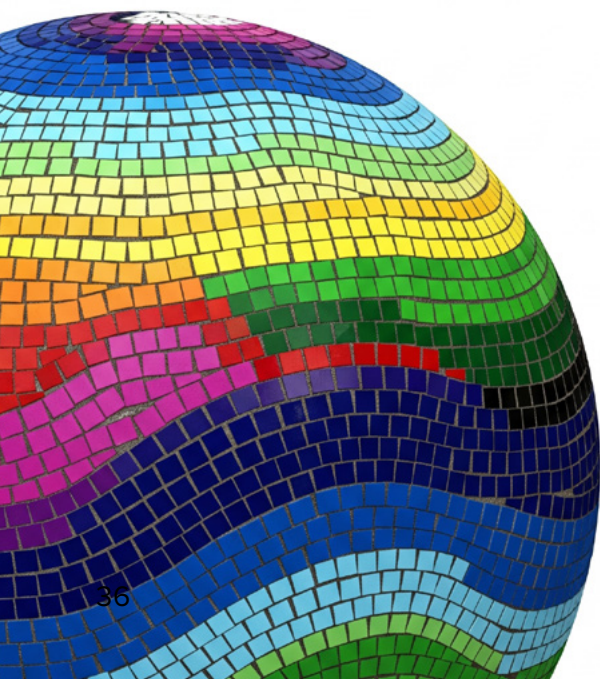
### Global Engagement and Advocacy

Throughout the year, the SDG Academy has participated in and co-hosted numerous events related to this initiative, including the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum, the International Conference on Inclusive Insurance, the UN ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development & 4th PrepCom for FFD4, among others. These events brought awareness to and showcased the insurance industry's capacity to address health-related protection gaps and support societal resilience.

Through this holistic and integrated engagement with the insurance industry, SDG Academy brought together education, research, and global dialogue to spotlight insurance as a critical enabler of risk reduction and resilience. This multi-sectoral effort reflects our core aim to enhance education for sustainable development, mobilize knowledge, and empower cross-sector collaboration, while advancing our mission to equip diverse actors with the tools and insights needed to accelerate progress toward a more resilient and inclusive future for all.



Our work with the insurance sector builds on the global agenda of aligning financial systems with sustainable development, a key focus of the [4th International Conference on Financing for Development](#) in Seville, Spain. By demonstrating how insurance can unlock and direct both public and private capital toward resilience and long-term development goals, this initiative offers an example of how multi-stakeholder partnerships can help close the financing gap for the SDGs.



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR PROGRESS



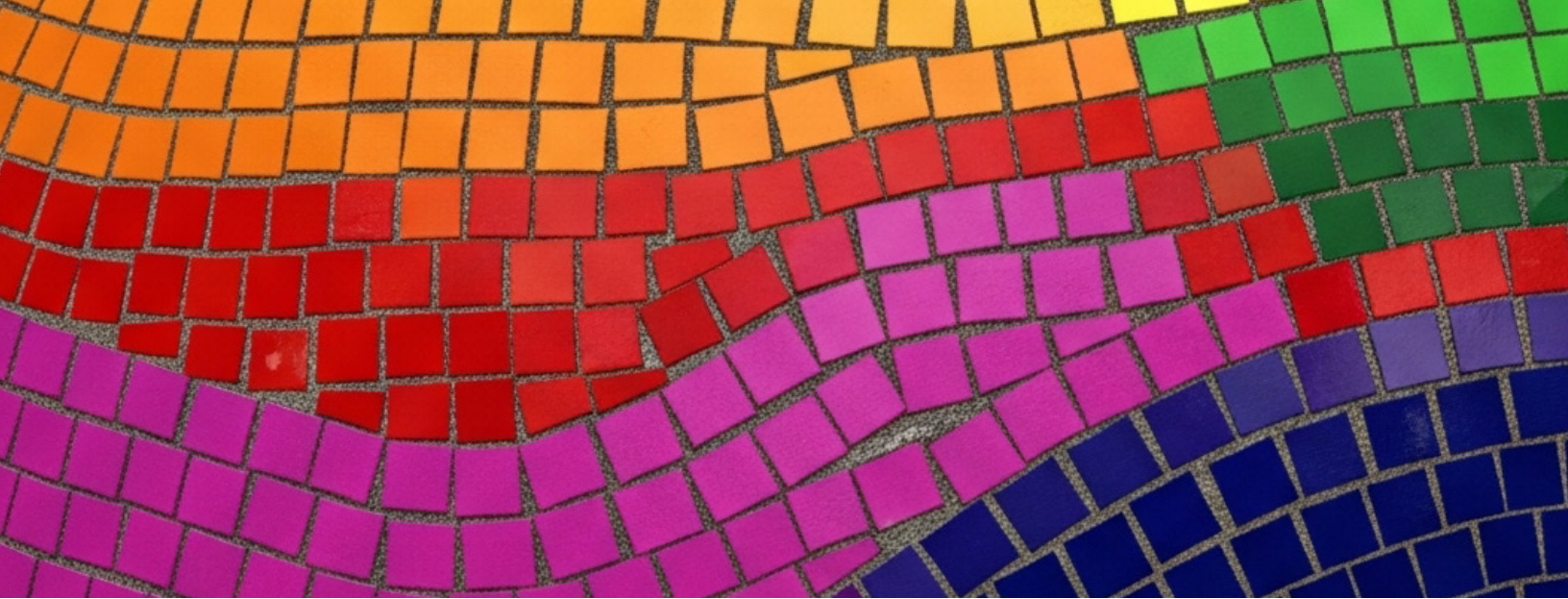
Center for Sustainable Development  
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



University College Dublin







# SDGacademy



[www.sdgacademy.org](http://www.sdgacademy.org)



[@sdgacademy.org](https://www.facebook.com/sdgacademy.org)



[sdgacademy@unsdsn.org](mailto:sdgacademy@unsdsn.org)



[@sdg\\_academy](https://www.instagram.com/sdg_academy)



475 Riverside Drive, Suite  
530, New York, NY 10115,  
USA



[@SDG\\_ACADEMY](https://twitter.com/SDG_ACADEMY)



Sunway University, 5 Jalan  
Universiti, Selangor 47500,  
Malaysia



[@sdg-academy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sdg-academy)



19 Rue Bergère, 75009  
Paris, France



[@sdgacademy.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/sdgacademy.bsky.social)

Produced by the SDG Academy  
Designed by Helen Perham

Image on page 14 by Dave Hoefler on Unsplash  
Vector Art from vecteezy.com  
Globe of SDG tiles created by Gemini AI by Google