





Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development









The United Nations System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development opened in Bonn in 2016, with the support of the Federal Government of Germany. It offers free and fee-based courses, training and learning events – available online and face-to-face – as well as diverse knowledge products. Its mission is to respond to the comprehensive learning, training, and knowledge management needs of UN staff and partners in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Alongside the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda is the most comprehensive blueprint to date for eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet. All offerings at the Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development are designed to address the paradigm shift and the adjustments in competency and skill sets that are needed to bring about transformative change.

















About Bonn

Bonn is Germany's centre for international cooperation and a leading sustainability cluster. It prides itself for being the host of numerous UN entities, federal ministries and agencies, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organisations working in the field of sustainable development. Bonn also stands for culture and nature: situated on the banks of the Rhine, it is a modern, lively, and cosmopolitan city with a history of over 2,000 years. The pattern of Beethoven's hometown is set by its old and famous university, its former role as the seat of government (transferred to Berlin after reunification), its busy commercial life, and ongoing cultural offers at its museums, opera, theatres, and galleries.

About Sustainable Development

Development is more than the rise of national incomes. It is about creating an environment in which people have opportunities and choices, where they can develop their full potential and lead productive and creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests. The notion of **sustainable development** is grounded in the necessity to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. This includes the obligation to be mindful of the long-term consequences of political, social, and economic choices we make with regard to value systems, social cohesion, stability and peace, and the need to respect planetary boundaries.

By endorsing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the world community has reaffirmed its commitment to the three pillars of sustainable development, namely – to ensure sustained and inclusive economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through a new global partnership. Combating climate change through the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be a crucial component to achieve the sustainable development agenda.

The 2030 Agenda is universal, transformative, and rights-based. It is an ambitious plan of action for countries, the UN system, and all other development actors. To support the implementation of the agenda in a holistic and integrated manner, the UN system must seize its strategic position as catalyst for change. To do so, the UN's efforts must be based on three key principles: reinforcing national ownership, developing country-contextual responses, and ensuring the effective delivery of development results on the ground.



UNSSC Bonn Campus, April 2016.

Sustainable Development Learning

The 2030 Agenda demands new approaches to knowledge and skills development for all actors. It requires holistic thinking, moving beyond separate mandates and structures and exploring linkages between different thematic issues. At the heart of the agenda are five interconnected dimensions: people, prosperity, planet, partnership, and peace, also known as the five P's. For a development intervention to be sustainable, it must take into account these five dimensions, and reflect on the trade-offs, synergies, and spin-offs it generates.

As the UN repositions its development system to deliver on the agenda, it must enhance its support for countries in the areas of integrated policy advice, implementation of norms and standards, measurement, and partnerships. The UNSSC Knowledge Centre offers a range of learning offerings, including in the areas of country- and results-focused programming, scenario planning, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable development leadership. National capacity development across all these areas remains a priority.

Life-long learning constitutes a key component of personal as well as organisational development. The UNSSC Knowledge Centre is committed to facilitating catalytic learning across the UN system and beyond in support of sustainable development results.





Learning at the UNSSC Knowledge Centre

The 2030 Agenda profoundly challenges the way development partners work as it requires enhanced multisectoral as well as cross-institutional integration. To address the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development integrates knowledge across UN agency mandates and thematic pillars of sustainable development. The UNSSC Knowledge Centre leverages its substantive and instructional design expertise to foster inter-agency coherence and strengthen dialogue and networks within and beyond the UN system. The UNSSC Knowledge Centre's role in inter-agency learning, knowledge sharing, and knowledge management enhances coherence of development interventions and strengthens operational and conceptual capacity of UN staff and partners.



EXAMINE: We provide concrete learning opportunities where UN Staff and partners can learn and examine the sustainable development agenda.



EMPOWER: We assist UN Country Teams in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda by identifying their learning needs and providing customised learning programmes.



PARTNER: We help the UN and partners to better engage in constructive partnerships to become genuine catalysts for sustainable development.



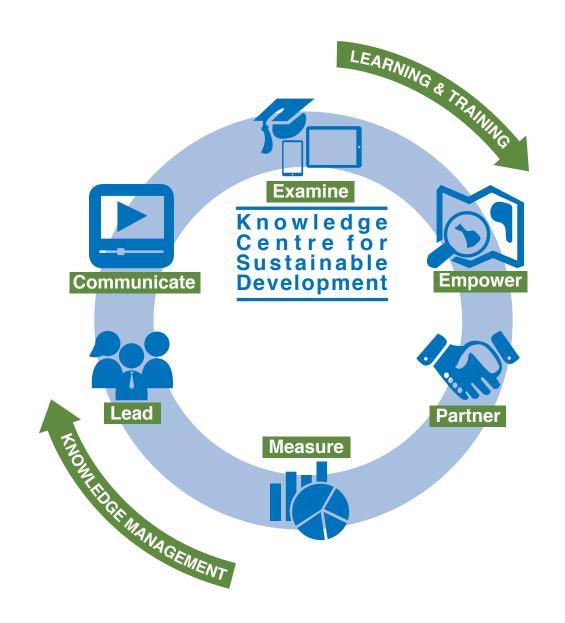
MEASURE: We recognize the importance of a coherent measurement language in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, which is reflected in our learning offerings.



LEAD: We create a space where leaders across sectors can hone their craft, becoming more effective and strategic facilitators, implementers, and leaders of transformational change.



COMMUNICATE: We facilitate learning on effective communication and advocacy for sustainable development and engage alumni and the larger community in continuous discussions through diverse knowledge management platforms and training formats.







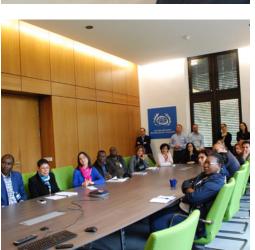




















Who We Serve

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development employs a demand-driven and client-centric approach in the design of its courses. Our primary audience consists of representatives from the UN system. Given the need for multistakeholder engagement we also serve representatives from the public and private sector, academia, and civil society.



















Learning Opportunities

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development offers **both face-to-face and online courses**. Face-to-face courses combine lecture style sessions with interactive and participatory modules. Online courses combine live webinars with knowledge application to real-life and training scenarios.

Additionally, the UNSSC Knowledge Centre stands ready to design and deliver **tailor-made learning programmes** to meet the specific needs of UN entities, governments, sustainable development networks, and other partners. Furthermore, the Knowledge Centre also offers **knowledge-related services and products for all stakeholders**, in the form of free of charge learning events and resources such as microlearning modules and the SD Talks series of live webinars.

Selected Learning Opportunities

Open to all stakeholders:

- Foundational Course on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a Development Agenda
- UN Summer Academy
- Leveraging Big Data for Sustainable Development
- Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
- Stakeholder Engagement and Consensus Building for Sustainable Development
- Close the Loop: SDG 12 Online Course

For UN staff only:

- UNCT Leadership Skills Course: Leveraging UN Country Teams for the 2030 Agenda
- UN Country Programming in the Context of the 2030 Agenda
- Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development
- Communicating as One on Sustainable Development
- Advancing Common Business Operations
- Results-Focused Programming
- Measurements for Effective Results-Based Management

Learning Facilities

Haus Carstanjen has witnessed historic processes in the pursuit of development, such as the administration of the German Marshall Plan. Located in the midst of an English garden, right on the banks of the river Rhine, the castle constitutes a perfect hub for learning and training on sustainable development. It is an ideal venue for leadership seminars, small retreats, and other learning events. Our facilities provide flexible and technologically advanced learning environments that are safe, healthy, comfortable, aesthetically pleasing, and accessible.



Sustainable Development Conference Room



Lounge



Marshall Room



Studio

Partnerships

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development is actively pursuing collaboration and partnerships and has concluded Memoranda of Understanding and partnerships with, among others, the following institutions: the Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), Data-Pop Alliance, the Hertie School of Governance, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, the simpleshow foundation, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Association, and the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UN DOCO). The Knowledge Centre is also a member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD).





UNSSC Headquarters

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The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is the primary provider of interagency training and learning for staff of the United Nations system. Its overall objective is to promote and support UN inter-agency collaboration, increase the operational effectiveness of the UN system as a whole and provide UN staff with the required skills and competencies to face today's global challenges.

UNSSC conducts a variety of learning and training activities, in Turin and Bonn, UN Headquarters as well as at the regional and country levels. All such activities effectively respond to the cross-agency, far-reaching reform agenda of the United Nations.



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