

2022 ICSD Parallel Session Themes & Tracks

This year ICSD will accept abstracts within 9 themes, several of which have different “tracks” within them. This summary of all themes and tracks is intended to guide researchers as to where to submit abstracts.

1. [Achieving Carbon Neutrality](#) (5 tracks)
2. [Advancing SDGs at the Local Level: Understanding Scale for Collective Impact](#) (1 track)
3. [Amplifying all Voices for SDG Achievement](#) (4 tracks)
4. [Collaboration Models for the SDGs](#) (2 tracks)
5. [Digitization for a Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Decade of Action](#) (1 track)
6. [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#) (3 tracks)
7. [Financial Flows and SDG Transformation](#) (2 tracks)
8. [SDGs as a Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (2 tracks)
9. [The SDGs and Value Chains](#) (2 tracks)

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1. Achieving Carbon Neutrality

To limit the adverse impacts of climate change, safeguard the planet for future generations, and achieve SDG 13 (Climate Action), a quick transition to a carbon neutral world is necessary. This would involve reducing and offsetting carbon emissions from various anthropogenic activities, and require the coordinated efforts of individuals, businesses, and governments. This track will explore both the technical and theoretical side of reaching carbon neutrality through a number of different sessions.

Transport Sector Electrification and Decarbonization

Decarbonizing the transport sector, which accounts for approximately 14% of total anthropogenic GHG emissions, is considered difficult because of the multitude of small, mobile emitters. Much of the world is looking towards electric vehicles (EVs) to reduce the carbon emissions from transport and reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels. To do so, however, will take continued advancement in both the development and deployment of EVs and the mitigation of carbon produced in powering them. This theme will address questions such as: What type of data is needed to address both vehicular and infrastructure energy requirements? How can charging infrastructure and the electric grid be made more resilient to support EVs? What are the gaps in policy analyses and what can be learned from comparative studies?

Risks and Opportunities of the Energy Transition

The sustainable development agenda implies many directions, including that of emissions reduction through the green transition, especially in the energy sector. The session deals with the analysis of risks and opportunities of the green transition, perspectives on renewable energy, pollution reduction, improvements to people’s health, and tools for building a circular economy.

Innovative Solutions, Case-Studies, and Applications: Towards the Decarbonization of the Energy Sector

The session welcomes innovative research on the topic of innovative energy systems, applications to different areas (e.g. transportation, buildings) and their implications for the decarbonization of the energy sector, energy policy, development of innovative methodologies for the design, environmental performance assessment and benchmarking of energy systems and solutions.

Enhancing Sustainable Natural and Industrial Carbon Sinks for Carbon Neutrality

Achieving carbon neutrality is critical for limiting the adverse impacts of climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for the future generations. This would involve reducing and offsetting carbon emissions from various anthropogenic activities, and require the coordinated efforts of individuals, businesses, governments, and the society. This session welcomes presentations that investigate the potentials and challenges of adopting various natural and industrial carbon sink options for achieving carbon neutrality at sub-national, national and global levels, focusing on primarily nature-based solutions and CO2 capture and storage (CCS).

SDGs, Construction, and the Built Environment

The session will address how scholars and practitioners, including women, are advancing the implementation of SDGs in construction. The session will cover on-site construction processes and the operational life of built environment assets. Planning issues will also be addressed.

2. Advancing SDGs at the Local Level: Understanding Scale for Collective Impact

In this track we will share and compare context-specific experiences, initiatives, and approaches of local authorities and or other stakeholders in localizing the SDGs at different scales. By weaving together different experiences (languages, territorial scales and locations, political and professional realities, etc.) we aim to identify lessons learned but also draw together the future of SDG localization for strong collective impact. *This session will be bilingual (English-French).*

3. Amplifying all Voices for SDG Achievement

The SDGs are for all citizens of planet Earth, and yet not all voices are incorporated into their achievement. To ensure the SDGs are inclusive, we must provide the space for all voices to be heard. The sessions in this track will explore this concept and how achieving SDG 10, Reducing Inequalities, affects all SDGs.

Integrating Gender Perspectives into SDG Implementation

No country in the world has managed to achieve gender equality. Whilst Agenda 2030 has made some progress in this area, the majority of implementation efforts and research have been gender blind. To accelerate progress, especially after the burden of COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to integrate gender perspectives into the analyses of ALL 17 goals.

We ask researchers in sustainability, experts on the SDGs, gender scholars concerned about Agenda 2030, and policy experts to contribute to this session to help Agenda 2030 achieve its gender equality goal.

Achieving Gender Parity in Science and Academia

Advancing gender equity in science and academia depends upon multiple interconnected factors including, active direction of girls and young women into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); career perceptions, career information and career access for young people; flexible, supportive, and attractive scientific and academic training pathways; early career programs to empower, challenge, support, and ensure full access to the essentials for professional growth; and mentoring for all on exemplary practices, skills and behaviors that promote gender equity in science and academia. This session invites viewpoints on these or other related themes and will aim to showcase exemplar initiatives.

Children, Youth, and the Future of the SDGs

The SDG framework calls for no one to be left behind. Children and youth figure centrally in addressing each of the 17 SDGs, yet effective policy requires more data and analysis on their situations and increased attention to their perspectives and participation. We invite papers on theories and practices that consider the needs, interests, and voices of children and youth in meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030.

Indigenous Alliances for Sustainable Development

The current coronavirus pandemic underlines the complex interactions between humans and the environment and how fragile our societies are. Biodiversity loss, climate change, urbanization, and the degradation of our ecosystems also demonstrate the need for reconnecting to nature. The current disconnects between humans and its environment, especially the natural world, limits our capacity to achieve truly sustainable development that is not only concerned with the economy. Indigenous approaches to sustainable development relate to the importance of seeking diverse and innovative models by Indigenous peoples and through respectful partnerships with Indigenous communities. Doing work in a “good way” is central to Indigenous ways of practice. This session will examine case studies and projects undertaken by Indigenous communities, including potential and allied strengths of ecofeminist and Indigenous systems thinking, and through such partnerships with the aim to understand how various approaches can contribute to transforming the way we deal with our environment.

4. Collaboration Models for the SDGs

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) aims to increase international cooperation and strengthen global partnerships. The SDGs are multidisciplinary in nature and will require all sectors to be achieved. This track aims to identify opportunities for collaboration and highlight successes.

Partnerships and the Sustainable Development Goals

The interconnected nature of the SDGs calls for a ‘whole-of-society’ and a ‘whole-of-government’ approach in implementation within a country. This necessitates effective partnerships between different state and non-state sectors, and within government departments, to work collaboratively, co-sharing resources (including expertise) and responsibilities to address complex social, economic, and environmental problems.

Connecting Science and Policy

This session seeks papers on improving science-policy interactions with an orientation towards action and building on transdisciplinary approaches (i.e. the triangle of policy-practice-knowledge). It seeks new modes of science-policy interaction, taking into account transformative changes. The session will also seek to understand the (un-)willingness of society (individual and groups) to change their practices.

5. Digitization for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Decade of Action

Digitalization plays a major role in the different sectors: health, finance, construction, education, etc., and can remarkably contribute to the SDGs. It has been proven that the achievement of approximately 67% of these goals can be accelerated by information and communication technologies. In this session, we aim to spotlight the different initiatives and projects relying on digitalization to improve performances in the various fields while contributing to sustainability. We are calling out for submissions in the areas of smart cities, smart buildings, e-finance, sustainable mobility, and industry 4.0 among others. Lessons learned will be shared among participants while inspiring and impacting the actions for the next decade.

6. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

In order to achieve the SDGs, sustainable development should be incorporated into all levels of education. From teaching and curriculum development, to online learning, to higher education transformations, this track will explore all aspects of education for sustainable development.

Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum Development

Educators, administrators, and students are recognizing the urgent need for and importance of education as a change agent for the SDGs. This parallel session will bring together educators, students, community partners, and administrators who are changing their practices to be more holistic, innovative, and transformative. The session invites contributions detailing syllabus development, teaching tools, pedagogies, and other examples of best practices that articulate methods for embedding education for sustainable development (ESD) throughout education levels. Specific examples that this call seeks to attract include - submissions that inform any element of ESD as it relates to teaching and learning practices (such as sample syllabi, lesson plans.) Through sharing successful approaches and models in different contexts, presenters reflect on the educational process and the role of education in advancing the Global Goals.

Online Learning and Innovation for ESD

More than a decade has passed since academic institutions around the world began incorporating online courses into their program offerings. The goal of many online courses was to foster cross-border and cross-disciplinary collaboration and to allow students and teachers to participate in collective assignments and learning experiences. The lessons learned and challenges experienced are numerous. This panel invites academic institutions

to share their research on online courses they have organized, including their challenges and innovations.

Transforming Research, Governance, and Education within Higher Education to Support Sustainable Development

The higher education sector can play a key role in achieving the SDGs and addressing the climate crisis through research for impact, leadership, and partnerships. This session seeks to understand the current status of higher education contributions to sustainable development, where we need to be in ten years, and what will help to get us there. We invite contributions that study these themes across the sector, as well as inspiring and impactful examples of how institutions are evolving their research, education, and governance practices to support great action. This session will have a different format, with presentations of 7-10 minutes to allow for more discussion. *Submission of a conference paper is optional.*

7. Financial Flows and SDG Transformation

With only 8 years left to achieve Agenda 2030, financing for the SDGs is of the utmost importance. This track will take a look at fiscal policy and governance to support the SDGs as well as the impact of foreign investment on sustainable development.

Fiscal Policy and Governance in Support of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development and climate change call for the mobilization of significant capital. Countries with better fiscal positions or those with greater accumulated assets can employ economic stimulus to support sustainable development and socio-economic resilience. In contrast, commodity exporters face a dual challenge: dependence on commodity revenues, and increasing pressure to address socio-economic shocks. This session brings together inter-disciplinary, empirical, and theoretical works on the role of public capital, fiscal responses, and governance in addressing sustainable development imperatives.

Foreign Investment's Impacts on Global Development and the SDGs

China, the EU, the USA, and other countries greatly affect global development and specifically achievement of the SDGs through large flows of foreign direct investment. This session will explore the ways in which financing, aid, trade, investment, and other vectors of engagement contribute to global development. Papers can discuss the role of investment broadly, or explore specific case studies, such as China's Belt and Road Initiative or flows of COVID-19 vaccines and PPE from wealthy countries to emerging economies.

8. SDGs as a Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Natural disasters are becoming more common as a result of climate change. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how shocks can cause ripple effects across all facets of life. The SDGs are a common framework for planning for and mitigating against disasters. This session will explore how the SDGs can be used for disaster risk reduction.

Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, and COVID-19 in Physical & Sustainable Development Planning

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges to achieving the SDGs at all spatial scales. A holistic approach to planning that mainstreams green, blue, and gray infrastructures to support better health, water management, and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies are needed. This session aims to disseminate innovative approaches, particularly around socio-ecological systems, economies, energy provision, transport networks, health systems, food production, and institutional resilience, towards disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM), and COVID-19 response.

Economics and Demography of Natural Disasters and Disease Outbreaks

This session will examine the economic and demographic causes and consequences of natural hazards and disease outbreaks. The potential topics include, but are not limited to, earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods, sediment disasters, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tornados, droughts, heat waves, heavy snow, forest fires, coastal erosion, and COVID-19 or other disease outbreaks.

9. The SDGs and Value Chains

The interconnectedness of the SDGs requires incorporating sustainable development along every step of the value chain.

Inclusive Global Value Chain Governance

Conferences often discuss how multinational corporations (MNCs) have embraced their role in the achievement of the SDGs. Their efforts are company-wide and include their global value chains (GVCs). While this is laudable, it raises the question of whether MNCs want to impose rules of implement collaborative decisions. If imposing their own decisions, do all components of the GVC have the capacity to adhere to MNC demands? Or does this create an inequitable and unfair imbalance of power that unduly burdens the parts of the GVC that, arguably, are in most need of progress on an SDG. This theme will explore how this imbalance can be rectified, particularly by giving all parts of a GVC a say and fostering inclusive GVC governance.

The Agri-Food System's Value Chains

It is well established that the SDGs are interlinked, and that efforts to advance towards one SDG can have positive or negative effects on another, in the same country and/or abroad. A key part of achieving the SDGs is transforming our agri-food systems (both local and global), going beyond SDG 2 as food systems interact with several SDGs. This session seeks studies and experiences on mapping and monitoring SDGs interactions along agri-food system value chains, as well as solutions that drive the necessary transformations of agri-food systems. Works that apply Input-Output Analysis and/or Life-cycle Assessments will be particularly welcomed.