

Global Sustainability Strategy Forum

4 – 8 March 2019 in Potsdam

MOTIVATION AND OBJECTIVES

From clean energy to sustainable production and the fight against poverty – insights into the many challenges of sustainable development are not in short supply. But despite the wealth of knowledge available to policymakers, little progress has been made in the transformation towards a sustainable future. How can we bring our knowledge to bear more effectively? This question underpins the Global Sustainability Strategy Forum, which will bring together 15 leading international experts for a week-long retreat in Potsdam every two years, beginning on 4–8 March 2019.

In September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly in New York adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 global goals for sustainable development. The Global Sustainability Strategy Forum was established with the aim of translating into action this vision of peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future, through sustainability strategies that are informed by the best available knowledge and know-how from the field. The forum fosters change and provides effective guidance for policymakers, business, and civil society by developing policy recommendations that will promote sustainable development at the global and regional levels. Interpretation rather than analysis is the goal.



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SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND POLICY ADVICE

The Global Sustainability Strategy Forum draws on the best available knowledge from diverse global regions in order to address critical interdependencies and trade-offs and develop regionally appropriate solutions for sustainable development. The forum aims to close the gap between knowledge and action for sustainability. Research conducted within this scope will explore interdependencies, synergies, and trade-offs between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on the three major processes of global transformation: sustainability, globalization and digitalisation.

Policy advice is a core focus of the Global Sustainability Strategy Forum, which will develop guidelines appropriate to the global, regional, and local contexts that will enable actors to navigate the conflicting values and objectives at play in relevant policy areas and among the United Nations' global goals for sustainable development.

RESULTS

The Global Sustainability Strategy Forum provides guidance for the transformation towards sustainability by developing policy recommendations and presenting its findings to a broad public. Reports published following each of the forum's biannual retreats will address diverse actors from policymaking, the private sector, civil society, and the public sphere.

All of the publications and policy recommendations presented by the Global Sustainability Strategy Forum will be based on scientific evidence, experience, and the participants' familiarity with the geographic and cultural contexts. These outputs will encompass both global and geographically and culturally differentiated strategies. Together with the accompanying public relations work, the forum's reports will offer a robust basis for public debate.

PARTICIPATING EXPERTS

Professors Ortwin Renn (IASS), Ilan Chabay (IASS) and Sander van der Leeuw (Arizona State University) are the project leaders. Solene Droy (IASS) is the project coordinator.

The following experts have agreed to participate in the first summit in March 2019 in Potsdam, Germany:

Xuemei Bai – Professor, Australian National University, Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australia

Belay Begashaw – Director, Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa, Rwanda

Marcel Bursztyn – Professor, University of Brasilia, Brazil

Carl Folke – Scientific Director of the Stockholm Resilience Center, Stockholm University and Director, Beijer Institute of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Sweden

Heide Hackmann – Executive Director, International Science Council (ISC), France

Kensuke Fukushi – Professor, Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), The University of Tokyo Institutes for Advanced Studies (UTIAS), Japan

Joyeeta Gupta – Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, the Netherlands

Carlo Jaeger – Professor of Economics, Potsdam University and Global Climate Forum, Berlin, Germany

Anand Patwardhan – Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, USA

George Safonov – Director, Centre for Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Russia

Peter Schlosser – Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures, Arizona State University, USA

Elisabeth Hege – Research Fellow, Governance and Financing of Sustainable Development, IDDRI Paris, France

Coleen Vogel – Professor, University of the Witwatersrand School of Geography, Archeology, and Environmental Studies, South Africa

Yongsheng Zhang – Senior Research Fellow and Chief Expert on Climate Change and Green Growth at Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC), People's Republic of China

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