MEMBER’S GUIDE
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WHAT IS SDSN?
Launched by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in August 2012, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes scientific and technical expertise in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales.

WHAT IS SDSN YOUTH?
SDSN Youth is the youth division of the SDSN, a new initiative to engage youth globally in the 2030 agenda. Through education and global cooperation, SDSN Youth encourages young people to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by creating a global platform to advocate for change and to offer solutions for achieving the SDGs.
MISSION STATEMENT

“Empowering youth globally to create sustainable solutions”

SDSN Youth amplifies the tremendous energy and capabilities of youth in generating broader buy-in for the SDGs by mobilizing resources and building capacity to empower action.
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Monitor** constituencies of young people with capacity to mobilise, to achieve the SDGs.
2. **Educate** young people about the SDGs and encourage them to prioritize their implementation.
3. **Integrate** concerns and views of young people into the pathways for achieving the SDGs.
4. **Provide** a platform for young people from different communities to connect and share ideas and experiences that address the challenges of sustainable development.
5. **Support** and celebrate projects that are aimed towards achieving the SDGs.

WHAT DIFFERENTIATES SDSN YOUTH FROM OTHER GLOBAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS?

SDSN Youth’s aim to *empower youth globally in order to achieve sustainable solutions* are designed to complement the efforts of existing organisations. Rather than creating a sense of bureaucracy; we wish to cooperate and assist other like-minded organisations to promote different aspects of sustainable development.

The activities of SDSN Youth are supported through the research and expertise issued by *SDSN Thematic Networks*. The institutional support of SDSN and its world leading experts ensures that SDSN Youth can more readily identify the best methods for achieving its aims and objectives by acting and advocating for causes that are strengthened and formulated by extensive qualitative and quantitative research.

By being a part of a diverse and truly global network, SDSN Youth have the ability to draw on connections to expand into all regions. Through constant engagement, SDSN Youth aims to achieve strong relationships that will provide the platform to approach issues relating to sustainable development in a multifaceted and integrated way.

*Integration* and *collaboration* is key to SDSN Youth. Therefore, we provide our Member Organisations with the opportunity to engage and cooperate with the UN Family of Agencies as well as other UN-Affiliated groups.
REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SDSNS

SDSN Youth will closely cooperate with Regional and National SDSNs, which are hosted and convened by one or more institutions from the region or country where they are based. Currently 4 Regional Representatives and 4 National Representatives sit on our Assembly, with many more to join us until the end of this year. Below is a list of Regional and National SDSNs that have been launched since 2012.

Regional SDSNs

Amazon – Hosted by Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS), Manaus, Brazil
Andes – Hosted by the Universidad de Investigación de Tecnología Experimental (Yachay Tech)
Australia/Pacific – Hosted by Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
Caribbean – Hosted by the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
Great Lakes – Hosted by the University of Rwanda
Mediterranean – Hosted by the University of Siena, Siena, Italy
Northern Europe – Hosted by the Centre for Environment and Sustainability, GMV, University of Gothenburg, and Chalmers University of Technology
Sahel – Hosted by the Université Cheikh Ante Diop in Dakar, Senegal
South Asia – Co-Hosted by TERI University in New Delhi, India and BRAC University in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Southeast Asia – Hosted by the United in Diversity Forum in Bali, Indonesia

Please see next page for National SDSNs.
National SDSNs

**Brazil** – Hosted by Conservation International-Brazil, Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and Instituto Pereira Passos

**Ethiopia** – Hosted by Wollega University

**Germany** – Hosted by German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

**Indonesia** – Hosted by the University of Indonesia

**Japan** - Hosted by United Nations University and IGES

**Malaysia** – Hosted by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology

**Nigeria** - Hosted jointly by the Universities of Ibadan and Nnamdi Azikiwe University

**Philippines** - Hosted by the University of the Philippines Diliman

**Russia** – Hosted by the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

**Spain** - Hosted by the Autonoma University of Madrid (UAM)

**South Korea** – Hosted by the Korea Development Institute

**Turkey** – Hosted by Boğaziçi University
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Exclusive invitations to attend SDSN and SDSN Youth global, regional and national events;
- Participation in the Solutions Initiatives and practical problem solving under the SDSN Youth umbrella;
- Recognition of membership on the SDSN Youth website and social media;
- Ability to leverage SDSN and SDSN Youth expertise, particularly from the Thematic Networks, for research, education and sustainable development projects;
- Opportunities to leverage SDSN Youth affiliation for resource mobilization and help obtain financial support from universities and any other private partners;
- Ability to link up with other youth groups as well as Regional/National SDSNs to increase cooperation, scale, support and awareness for initiatives and projects;
- Ability to contribute to SDSN Youth commentary on the Reports and publications, some of which are delivered to the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, as well as other SDSN stakeholders;
- SDSN Youth will provide support for promising projects, through research assistance and promotion but also the possibility of financial assistance;
- Invitations to attend exclusive webinars facilitated by renowned academics and leading experts in Sustainable Development;
- Access to our new online platform which will enable your organisation to communicate and interact with other member organisations of SDSN Youth from all parts of the world;
- Opportunities to be published on our online blog and our newsletter which is distributed to our members and followers worldwide;
- Promotion of initiatives, projects and campaigns of our member organisations through our external publications and social media.
MEMBER ORGANISATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The following list sets out the duties, responsibilities and expectations from the member organisations of SDSN Youth.

• Member Organisations must be open to host and/or support SDSN and SDSN Youth events within their campus, country or region.
• Member Organisations must participate in SDSN Youth initiatives. This includes participating in solutions initiatives, advocacy, surveys, reports, research and campaigns.
• Member Organisations must promote their membership within SDSN Youth. Promotion can take a series of forms, for instance;
  • Promotional posts on social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
  • Promotional posts through mailing list and newsletters
  • Posting SDSN Youth Official Logo (provided by SDSN Youth) on the Member Organisation’s Official Website
• Member Organisations are expected to share news and updates on their work, and the work within their networks.
• Member Organisations are expected to follow, like and share SDSN Youth’s official Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube Channel and LinkedIn pages.

QUALIFICATIONS OF SDSN YOUTH MEMBERS

• Accredited university clubs and societies, youth organizations and youth based networks with demonstrated capacities and a strong track record in education, research and/or project work on one or more themes of sustainable development in their respective campus, community, city, country and/or region;
• A demonstrated desire and ability to play an active role in local, national, regional and global problem solving and advocacy for sustainable development;
• Stated commitment from the head of the entity to become a dedicated SDSN Youth Member;
• Reputable youth-led organisations focused on achieving specific goals and targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
APPLICATION AND NOMINATION OF SDSN YOUTH MEMBERS

If your organisation meets the requirements outlined in this Membership Guide you are encouraged to apply via the SDSN Youth website but must provide an official letter of authorisation from the head of your organisation.

If your organisation was sent a direct invitation from SDSN Youth, you are encouraged to apply via the SDSN Youth website.

Application process

Stage 1: Application
The information submitted must be accurate and relevant and all questions must be answered fully.

Stage 2: Processing
The Networks team within SDSN Youth are responsible for reviewing applications. There is no set time allocated for application review, however, this process usually takes 4 – 6 weeks. The recommendations are then put to the SDSN Youth executive each month.

Stage 3: Acceptance or Rejection
Once the executive have voted, a member organisation of SDSN Youth will contact your organisation outlining whether or not your organisation has been offered membership.

Stage 4: Formal Acceptance and on-boarding Process
In order to formalise such a designation, an appointment letter referring to the bylaws, responsibilities, and benefits of membership will be sent to your organisation.
By consenting to this letter and the bylaws, your organisation will become an official member of SDSN Youth.

Term
One year, renewable.

Cause for Removal
Under exceptional circumstances, a two-thirds majority of the Executive of SDSN Youth, or with the simple instructions of the SDSN Executive Director, may revoke an organization’s membership as an SDSN Youth Member for cause if one of the following conditions is met:

• Failure to abide by SDSN and SDSN Youth regulations and standards;

• Failure to remain an active member of SDSN Youth; or

• Activities that the Global Coordinator considers harmful to the functioning of the SDSN and SDSN Youth.