UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM
STAFF COLLEGE
UNSA
UN SUMMER ACADEMY
UN
SUMMER
ACADEMY
NARRATIVE
REPORT
2023

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE | UN SUMMER ACADEMY

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Introduction

The **UN Summer Academy** has been delivered by **UNSSC** with the support and collaboration of key **partners**, year after year, since 2012. It is UNSSC's signature multistakeholder learning event. It brings together diverse participants from the UN, governments, academia, and the private sector. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been successfully adapted to a virtual format. It is a week-long programme with synchronous and asynchronous - knowledge-based and networking - learning activities.

The 2030 Agenda is humanity's boldest agenda yet. However, halfway to 2030, we remain far off track. Now is an opportune time to analyse our approaches to meeting the goals. Identified as one of the main levers for change, the 12th edition of the UN Summer Academy addressed **Governance for Sustainable Development**.

This year's three focus areas were: (1) **multilevel governance**, (2) **green and just transitions**, and (3) **governance for the future**. To expand knowledge and competencies, participants also practised collaborative skills, attended trend talks, and engaged in peer learning. This highly interactive virtual edition provided a conducive environment for participants to scale and deepen their impact. It equipped them with a carefully selected set of conceptual frameworks and tools in **systems thinking**, **design thinking**, and **futures thinking** applicable to their daily work for tackling today's sustainable development challenges.

The diverse cohort of 109 mid-career professionals was selected from more than 1,000 applications. This **Narrative Report** describes the key messages and learning approaches of the UN Summer Academy 2023. It also highlights testimonials, the evaluation results, and social media activity. We wish you an insightful reading!

PARTNERS

The **UN Summer Academy** would not have been possible without the strategic support and collaborative efforts of its partners:

- **Sponsor**: German State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)
- **Hosting Partner**: City of Bonn
- **Contingency Partners**: Diplomacy by Networking of the German Federal Foreign Office, Engagement Global, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- **Guest Partner**: Kofi Annan Foundation

Sponsor

State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Die Landesregierung
Nordrhein-Westfalen

"As we look to 2030, we should not lose heart over the steps that have not yet been taken, but focus on the road ahead. The 2030 Agenda sets a clear compass, and the measures that have already been implemented demonstrate that progress on an impressive scale is indeed possible. Events such as the UN Summer Academy clearly contribute to enabling precisely the form of international cooperation that we urgently need. I am therefore thankful to UNSSC for convening this gathering. It is a great opportunity to draw on the expertise and experience of a highly diverse group of participants from all over the world."

- Dr. **Mark Speich**, State Secretary for Federal and European Affairs, and the Representative of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the Federal Government.

Hosting Partner

City of Bonn

17 Goals. One Future. ZUKUNFT. FUTURE. AVENIR. BONN.

"Multilevel is the only way to achieve good governance for a sustainable future. Justice is a precondition, not only locally but also globally."

- **Katja Dörner**, Lord Mayor of Bonn

Contingency Partners

Diplomacy by Networking of the German Federal Foreign Office

Federal Foreign Office

"Joining forces to make creative use of the toolkit of diplomacy!"

Engagement Global

ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL
Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen

"Municipalities are driving forces of transformation and consequently have a leading role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. More than 65% of the Sustainable Development Goals can only be implemented through or in cooperation with municipalities. Therefore, the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, supports municipalities in the strategically implementation of the 2030 Agenda."

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

"Learning about the climate challenge is one of the best ways to spark climate action. This year's UN Summer Academy 2023 will focus on Governance for Sustainable Development and how to promote low-emission development and highly resilient societies. Innovative learning and new networking connections are powerful forces to reshape the future in line with global goals in the SDGs and the Paris Agreement."

Guest Partner

Kofi Annan Foundation

Kofi Annan
FOUNDATION

"Inspired by Kofi Annan's wisdom, the Kofi Annan Foundation champions governance grounded in visionary leadership, democratic values, adaptability, and inclusive decision-making. Recognizing youth as our collective future, we believe their involvement in adopting innovative governance models is crucial, promoting sustainable development through their active and equitable participation."

Programme Highlights

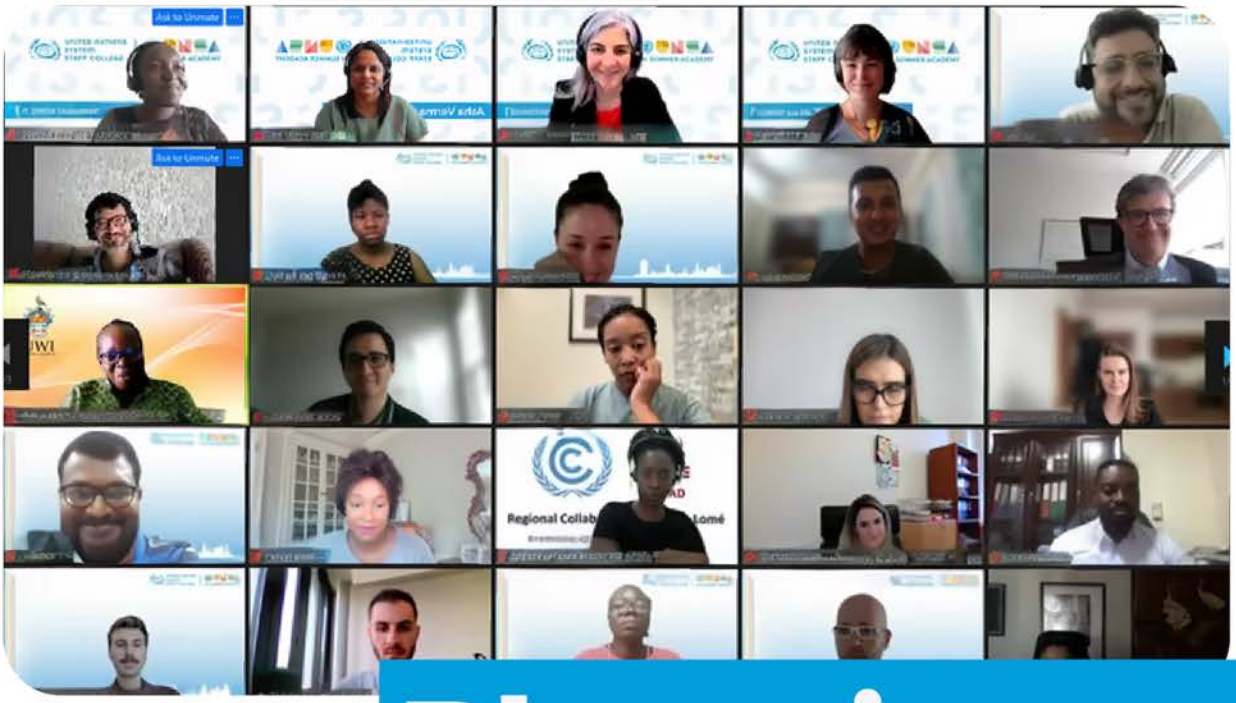
The week-long programme, as per previous editions, consisted of the following blocks:

- Take a seat in Bonn!
- UNSSC Coffee Bar
- #UNSA2023 Library
- Share Fair Gallery Walk
- Chat and Connect page

* Participants were able to choose up to 8 among the 16 side events happening twice a day. All side events recordings were made available afterwards.

The following sections provide a glimpse into each one of the blocks listed above. For more information about the programme, refer to Annexes 1 and 2.

Upon attending a minimum of 4/5 Plenary sessions, 3/4 Working Group sessions (or alternatively working on a makeup assignment), and submitting their response to the anonymous final evaluation survey, participants received a **Certificate of Attendance.**



Plenaries

DAY 1: OPENING OF THE UN SUMMER ACADEMY 2023

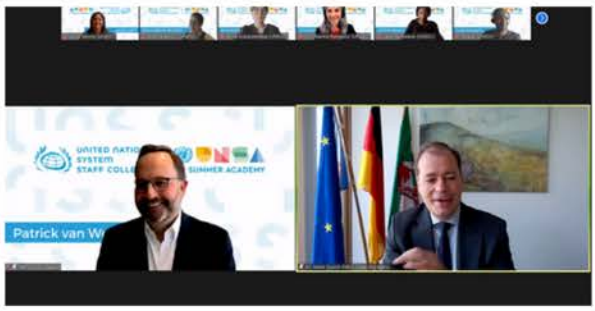
The Opening Ceremony was inaugurated by **Dr Mark Speich**, State Secretary of North Rhine-Westphalia, in Germany. Dr Mark Speich highlighted the importance of balancing climate neutrality with continued economic growth in achieving the SDGs and also gave examples of how the Feredal State of Nord Rhine-Westphalia is increasing its contribution towards green and just transitions. He also emphasised the importance of peace and inclusive societies and highlighted them as essential requirements for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Then participants heard a keynote speech from **Alice Ruhweza**, Senior Director at WWF International, who shared **three lessons** from her leadership journey to motivate and inspire participants to continuously learn and engage in governance for sustainable development.

The first lesson was on the role of culture and how it shapes individual experiences. Alice highlighted the profound influence of culture on individuals, emphasising that where we stand and how we perceive the world is deeply rooted in our cultural backgrounds. She emphasised speaking up, sharing our achievements, and becoming visible agents of change.

The second lesson was about stepping outside of our comfort zone to broader our perspective. She urged us to break free from our silos, explore different perspectives when approaching a problem in our work, and strive to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the world.

Finally, the third lesson was on leading with values and convictions. Alice underscored the significance of knowing and embracing our values and convictions, embodying empathy, courage, and resilience in our pursuit of sustainability.



During the second half of the plenary, key concepts of governance for sustainable development were introduced by the UNSSC team, including the notion of power, its various forms, and its impact on governance and sustainable development.

Participants were challenged to analyse power dynamics, identify influential actors, and devise strategic approaches to expand and shift power towards sustainable outcomes.

In a nutshell, throughout the session, participants were reminded of the strength they hold as individuals and the collective power potential they possess when groups join forces for a common cause.

DAY 2: MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE, POLICY COHERENCE AND SYSTEMS THINKING

For the second Plenary, a different approach called 5-4-3-2-1 was used to engage with the speakers: **Yunus Arikan, Stefan Wagner**, and **Simona Costanzo Sow.** There were five rounds of questions. The speakers were given time in the decreasing order of 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 and 1 minute to respond to the questions asked by **Christianna Pangalos**, the Learning Portfolio Manager moderating the session.

The questions covered the topics of effective multilevel governance for sustainable development from the perspective of sub-national actors, challenges, key enablers, pieces of advice, and future predictions to carry out multilevel governance along with policy coherence through systems thinking.

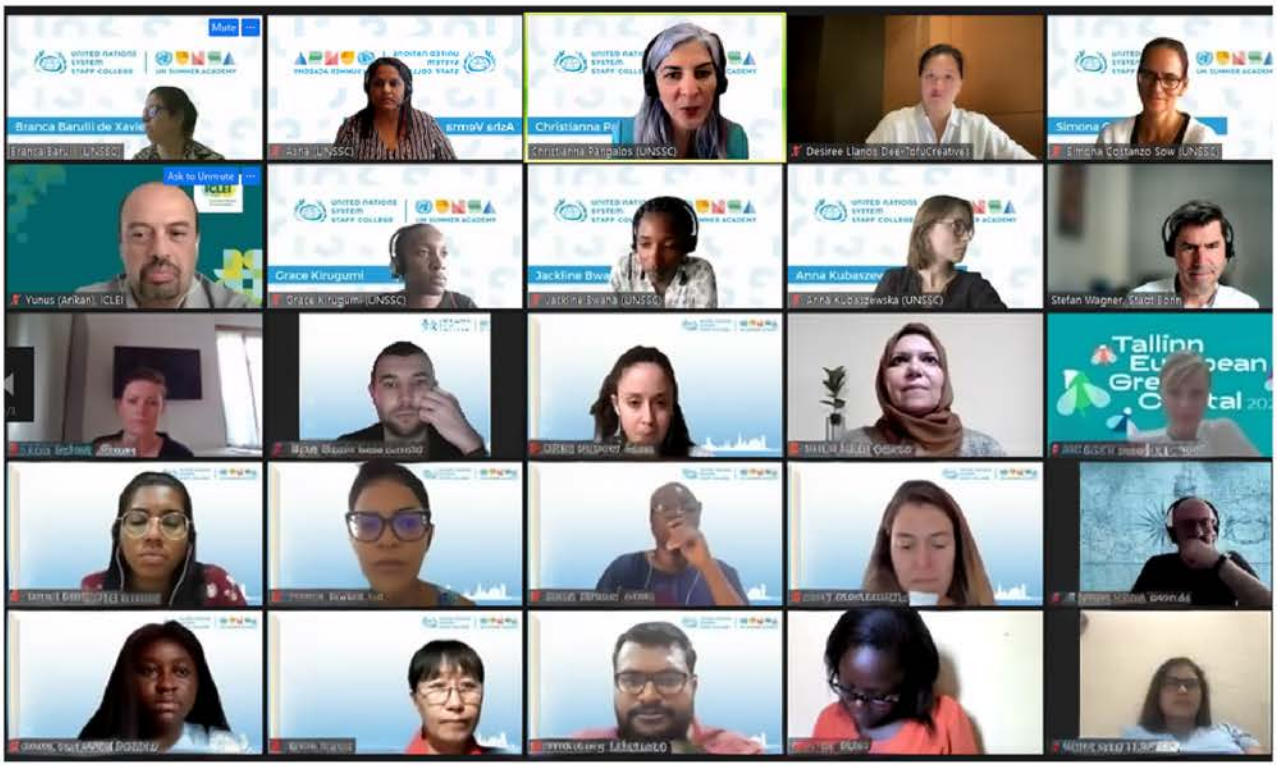
The speakers shared the story of how cities in Japan are showcasing the effectiveness of national commitments in driving local action on climate neutrality. They also explained the journey of the city of Bonn towards sustainability and the importance of localising the SDGs.

The speakers highlighted the importance of systems thinking and policy coherence in addressing complex and wicked problems related to sustainable development.

The key enablers of multilevel governance and policy coherence that emerged from this discussion are civil society engagement, digitalisation, capacity development at different levels and innovation.

Another aspect that was repeatedly mentioned during the discussion was the need for a cultural shift in approaching sustainable development challenges, moving away from a centralised problem-solving approach towards collaborative and adaptive planning and engagement with diverse perspectives, ensuring accountability, clear responsibility, and addressing long-term vision and political cycles.

Tofu Creatives artists captured the discussions in the visual recording on the next page.



Multilevel Governance and Systems Thinking

27 JUNE 2023

YUNUS ARIKAN
ICLEI

STEFAN WAGNER
CITY OF BONN

SIMONA COSTANZO SOW
UNSSC

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

SYSTEMS OF GOVERNANCE - DISPERSION OF AUTHORITY

BETWEEN LEVELS & ACROSS SPHERES & SECTORS

SYSTEMS THINKING

A WAY OF UNDERSTANDING REALITY THAT EMPHASIZES THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG A SYSTEM'S PARTS

POLICY COHERENCE

SYSTEMATIC PROMOTION OF MUTUALLY REINFORCING POLICY ACTIONS ACROSS GOVERNMENT TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE AGREED OBJECTIVES

STORY

CHALLENGES

ENABLERS

FOR THE FUTURE

ADVICE

SHARE THE FUTURE

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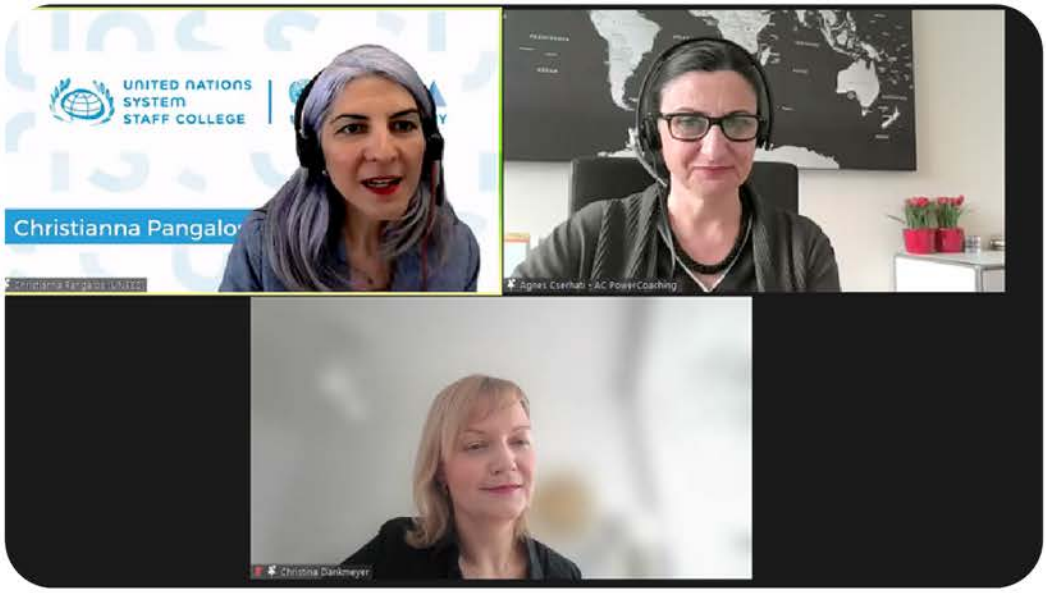
Visual story by TOFUCREATIVES.COM

DAY 3: GREEN AND JUST TRANSITIONS AND DESIGN THINKING

The third plenary covered the topic of Green and Just Transitions and Design Thinking. **Cristina Dankmeyer**, Social Protection Advisor at GIZ, explained the concept of a just transition and the role of social protection in it. She mentioned that social protection plays a crucial role in just transitions by supporting individuals and communities during periods of change, such as job loss or economic shifts caused by climate change or natural disasters.

She also explained the different instruments of social protection, i.e. non-contributory tax-funded benefits; contribution-based social insurance; family support services; active labour market interventions like job training and minimum wage policies, and debunked the myths around social protection. Here are five key points for summarising the concept of a just transition and the role of social protection as explained by the speaker:

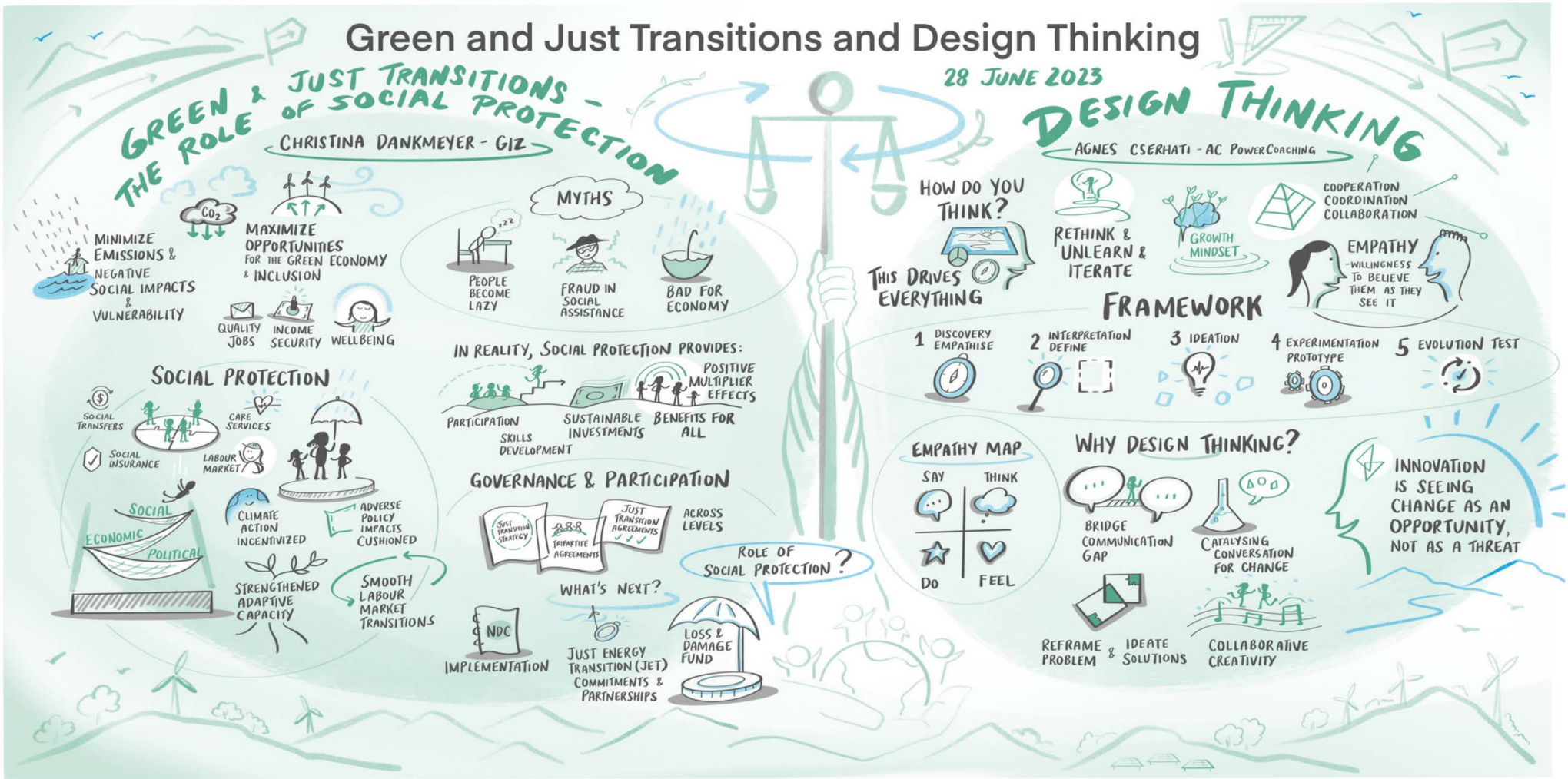
1. Just transitions refer to a comprehensive approach that combines climate action with the promotion of quality jobs, income security, and well-being while minimising negative social impacts and vulnerability.
2. Social protection plays a crucial role in a just transition by providing support to individuals and communities during periods of change, such as job loss or economic shifts caused by climate policies.
3. Social protection encompasses various instruments, including non-contributory tax-funded benefits, contribution-based social insurance, family support services, and active labour market interventions like job training and minimum wage policies.
4. In the context of a transition to a sustainable economy and society, social protection helps reduce poverty, prevent inequalities, protect people from climate and transition risks, ensure access to basic social services, and facilitate the transition to new job opportunities.
5. Myths surrounding social protection include the belief that welfare systems make people lazy or that there is not enough funding available. Those have been debunked by evidence showing the positive impacts of support systems, responsible resource allocation, and the potential of social protection in boosting productivity and local economies.



Then the participants heard from the design thinking and leadership coach **Agnes Cserhatti** who presented design thinking frameworks and explained the significance of changing thinking patterns to effectively drive behavioural change and create a bigger impact.

Here are five key points that resulted from the discussion on design thinking:

1. The mindset and thinking of individuals are crucial for initiating and achieving just transitions. Understanding how people think is essential for predicting their feelings and behaviour, and ultimately driving meaningful change.
2. Design thinking is a method that encourages taking a designer's perspective. It is a powerful tool for innovation and problem-solving. It helps reframe problems, generate ideas, and iterate towards better solutions.
3. Collaboration, cooperation, and coordination are different but valuable approaches to working together. Collaboration, in particular, allows for shared leadership and fosters collective creativity and intelligence.
4. Empathy is a key attribute of effective design thinking. To understand someone's experience, it is important to embrace it, rather than imposing our own assumptions or preconceptions.
5. Innovation should be seen as an opportunity rather than a threat. It involves being open to change, challenging assumptions, and engaging in dialogue to gain insights and pursue learning.



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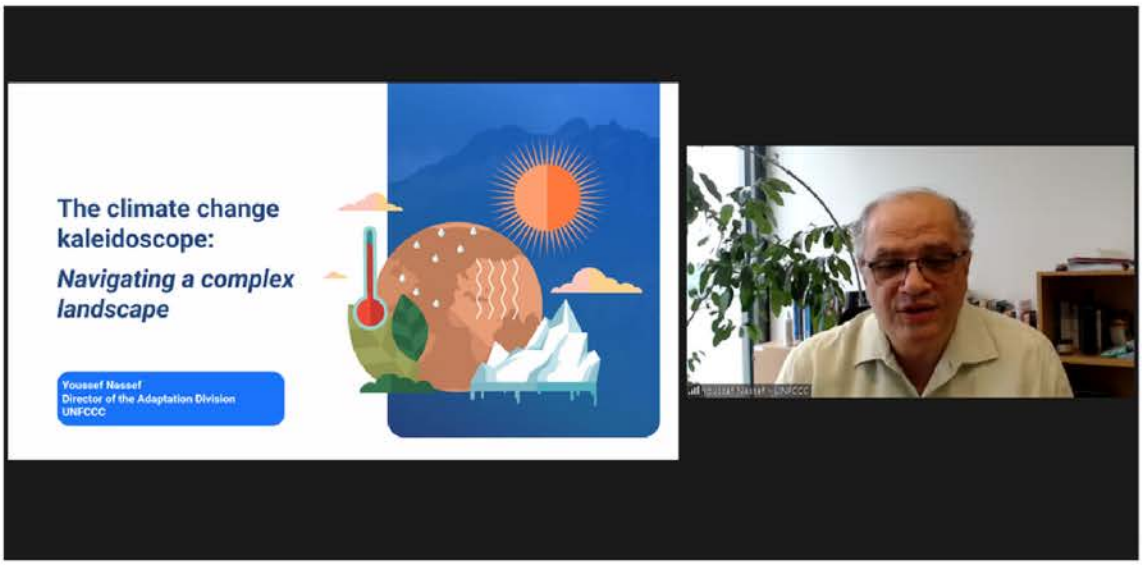
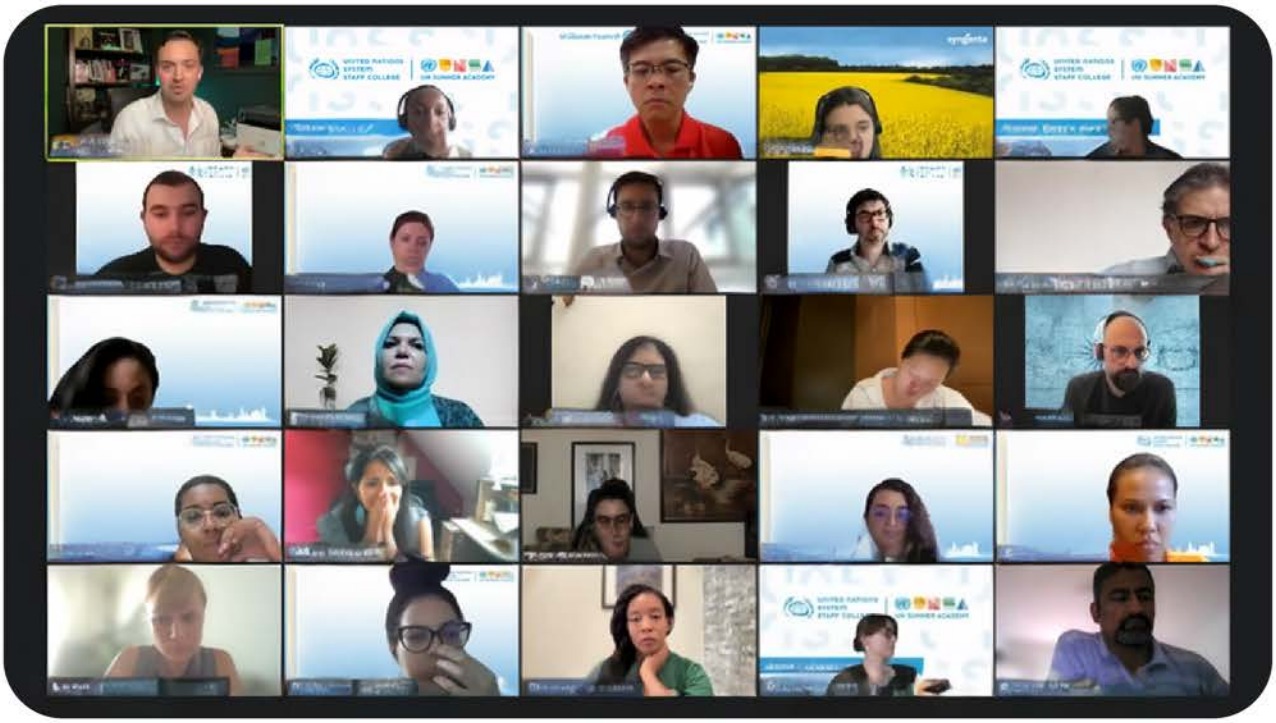
Visual story by TOFUCREATIVES.COM

DAY 4: FUTURES THINKING

In Plenary 4, the first speaker **Youssef Nassef** talked about the complexity of climate change and the challenges it poses for international policy-making processes. He highlighted the wicked characteristics of climate change and emphasized the need for transformation and paradigmatic change to address it effectively. He also pointed out trade-offs and dynamics within the climate change negotiations, including trust issues, divergent moral frameworks, and short-termism. Against this background, he also mentioned some of the positive forces driving climate action, such as scientific advancements, the economic competitiveness of renewable energy, public awareness, and the visibility given to standards.

Youssef Nassef emphasized the importance of just transitions, which involves addressing the needs of those affected by the transition towards a sustainable future. He referred to guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the attributes of transformation, which include envisioning a desirable future and ensuring societal involvement and support.

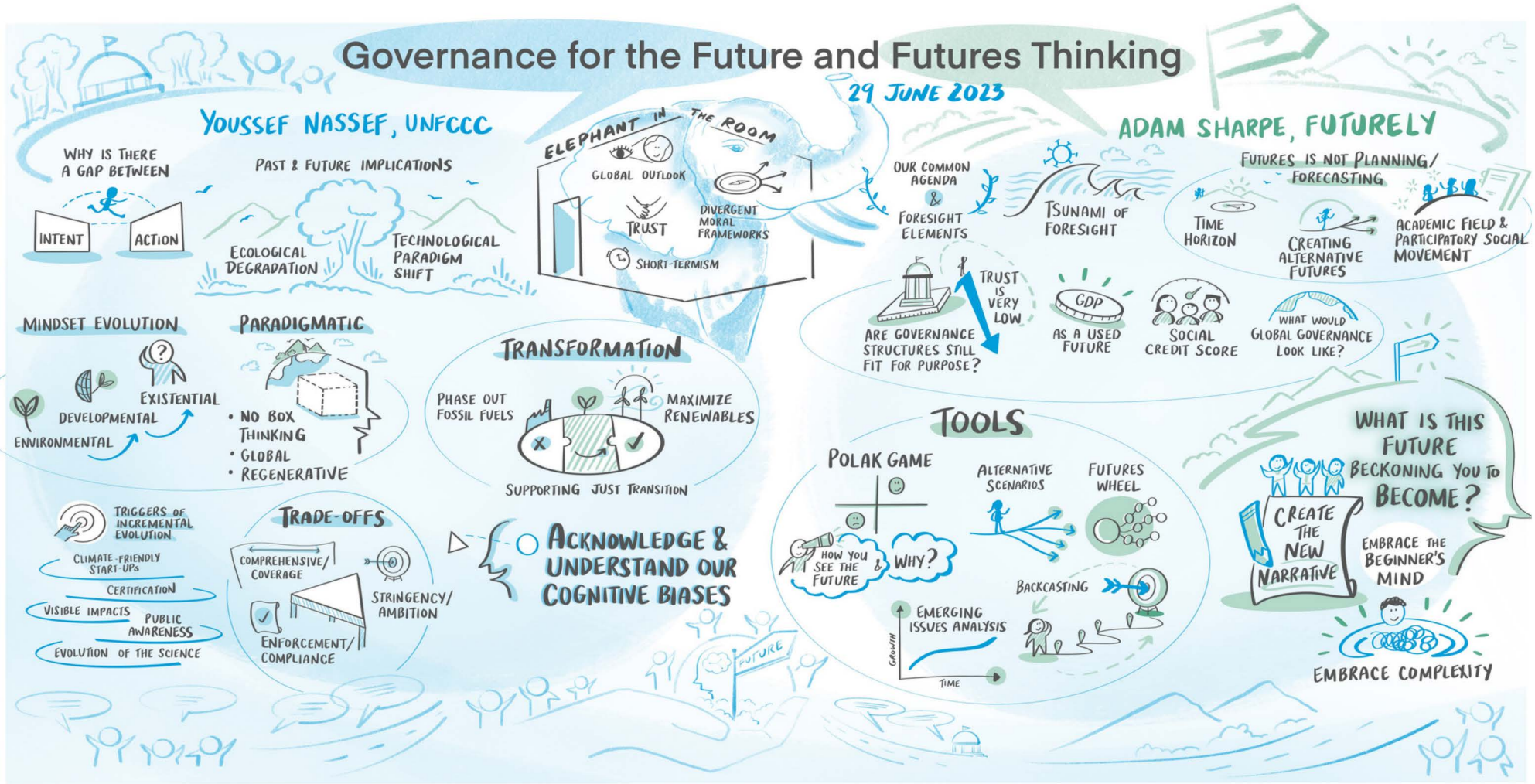




In the second part, **Adam Sharpe** a specilized consultant dedicated to expanding access to futures thinking around the world presented the concept and its relevance to governance. Adam emphasized the importance of taking a long-term view and thinking creatively about the future.

He introduced various tools and methods that futurists use, such as the Polo game, emerging issues analysis, and the futures wheel. These tools aim to help participants explore alternative futures, understand their implications, and consider the potential disruptions that may arise. He also mentioned the benefits of futures thinking and how it can bring about improved transdisciplinary thinking, openness to alternative futures, and increased optimism.

The plenary was concluded challenging participants to think outside the box and consider alternative futures that go beyond the current systems and structures. Both speakers emphasized the importance of how we see the future(s) and how this shapes our decisions and actions. They encouraged participants to critically reflect on their own perspectives and engage in futures thinking to create positive and inclusive visions of the future.



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Visual story by TOFUCREATIVES.COM

DAY 5: UN SUMMER ACADEMY CLOSING

In the closing ceremony of the UN Summer Academy 2023, the participants heard about why is it so challenging to move the governance agenda forward, and what we need to do and learn as individuals and organizations to overcome the obstacles. The speaker introducing this topic was **Arvinn Gadgil**, Director of the UNDP Oslo Governance Center.

Arvinn shared three principles for approaching governance issues:

- **Be confident**: Recognize that governance issues are at the core of humanity's problems today. The complexity and interconnectedness of these issues require multilevel governance systems to be effectively addressed. Having confidence in the importance of working on governance systems is key to moving humanity forward.
- **Be inquisitive:** Challenge your assumptions and be curious about the incentive structures and power dynamics within current governance systems. Look for both enabling and disabling factors that impact progress. Ask critical questions to understand why certain actors or systems may resist change or benefit from the status quo.
- **Be brave**: Embrace the need for transformative change in governance systems. Move beyond conservative thinking and be willing to test new ideas and approaches. Recognise that significant transformation may require taking risks and being open to positive and negative outcomes. Consider the possibility of doing some harm in the pursuit of long-term benefits.

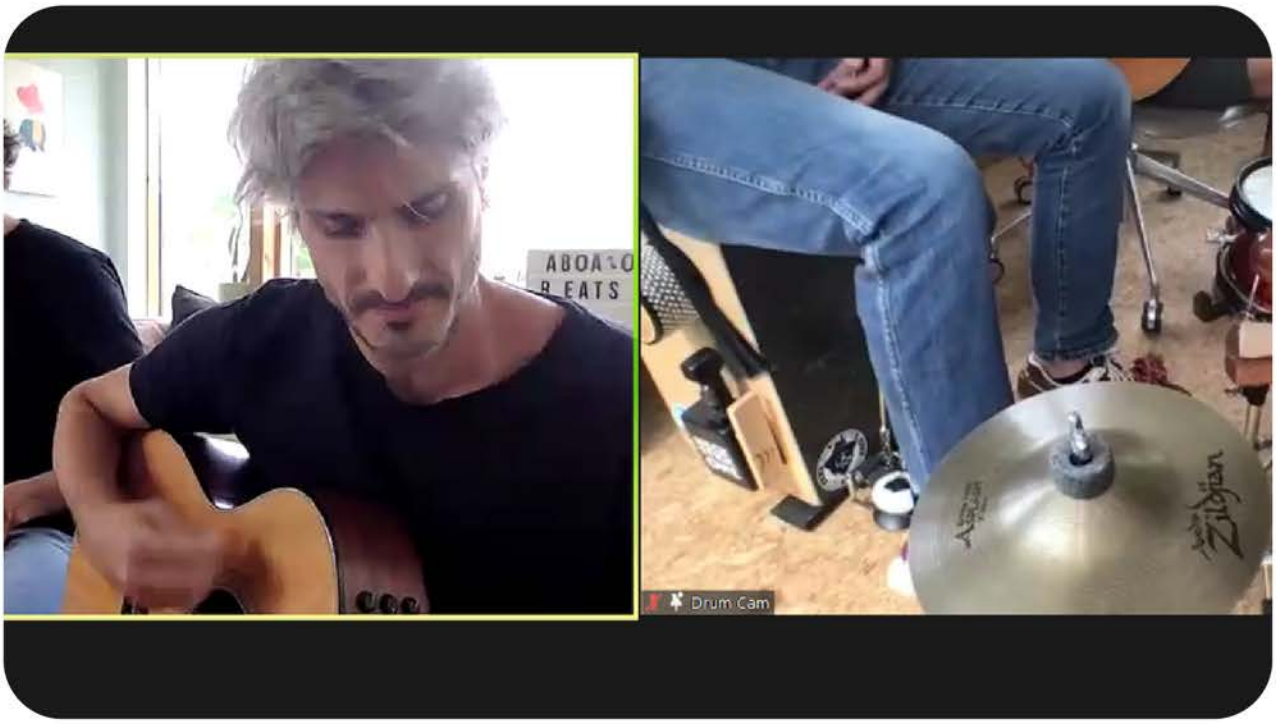
Additionally, Arvinn emphasised the importance of being hopeful. Despite our challenges and crises, there is growing interest and momentum in fixing governance systems and improving democracy. The idea of a benign state that serves its citizens' well-being is gaining traction, providing hope for positive change.

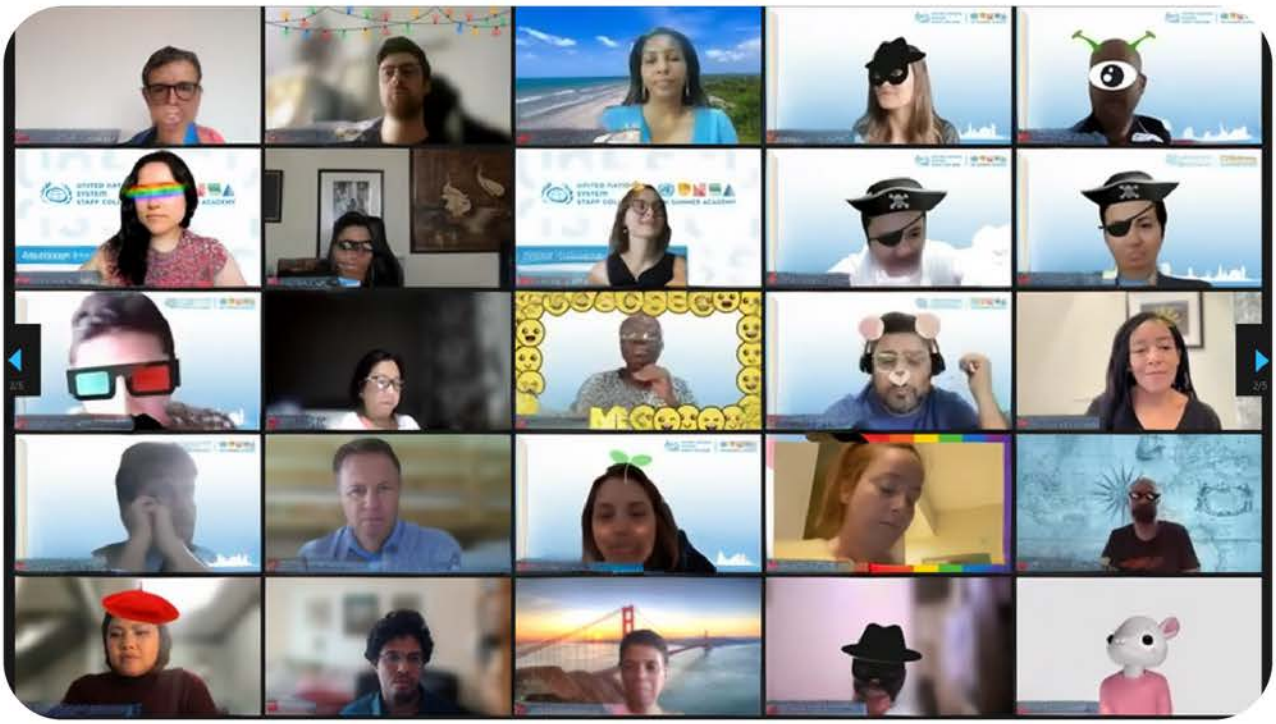
These principles, combined with a sense of hope, can guide governance professionals in navigating complex issues and contributing to transformative change.

After the motivational message from the first speaker, the participants heard from the Lord Mayor of Bonn, Ms **Katja Döner**. She highlighted the importance of good governance and multilevel collaboration in addressing the global climate emergency. The mayor shared examples from Bonn, where decision-making, ownership and participation, better management, and holistic thinking were critical elements of their approach to achieving climate neutrality.

Lord Mayor commended the UNSSC Knowledge Center for Sustainable Development for organizing the event, trusting that participants' takeaways will lead to positive actions in their respective countries and organizations.

The participants then enjoyed a lovely live online concert presented by the **Amsterdam Music Project**. At the end of the closing ceremony, participants were encouraged to share their commitments with each other in small groups and to fill in the evaluation survey individually. More about their experiences from the UN Summer Academy 2023 on page 44, and onwards.


Drum Cam



Side Events

Trend Talks

1. POWERING SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF POLITICAL INCUBATORS IN SHAPING OUR FUTURE?

In this Trend Talk, **Kimberly McArthur**, COO of the Apolitical Foundation, highlighted how political leadership entrepreneurship, particularly Political Leadership Incubators (PLIs), can bridge the gap between movements and political leadership. She touched upon their potential for cultivating impactful politicians, fostering citizen trust, decreasing polarization, and diversifying our political systems. She also delved into the complexities and prospects tied to nurturing political leadership and how it strengthens governance structures and institutions.

2. UNCOVERING REALITIES BEYOND THE NUMBERS: UNDERSTANDING AFRICAN GOVERNANCE THROUGH CITIZEN PERCEPTION

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) framework was entirely revamped, enhancing it as the most extensive and trustworthy dataset on African governance. Nearly 90% of indicators now rely on multiple sources, eliminating any single-source bias.

In this session, our expert, **Emilia Siwingwa**, guided us through the IIAG framework, interpreting results, and the significance of citizen evaluation. These assessments complement IIAG results, providing a more profound grasp of on-ground governance.

3. THE INTERSECTION OF SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL CURRENCY AND GOVERNANCE: HOW CAN WE BUILD A MORE RESILIENT DIGITAL ECONOMY?

In this Trend Talk, **George Coxon**, the Director of Nano Foundation, delved into how Nano, a highly efficient, zero-fee decentralized currency, minimizes its carbon footprint, making strides in the realm of sustainable digital currency. She highlighted the Foundation's strategy in intertwining sustainability principles into its governance model and fostering a democratic, transparent decision-making process. We took a deep dive into the ecological implications of sustainable digital currency and its transformative effects on the world of finance.

4. THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION: HOW CAN WE MAKE THE GREEN TRANSITION FAST AND FAIR?

In this Trend Talk, we navigated the intricate dynamics of the clean energy transition, examining both its hurdles and potentials, with a special focus on the role of governance in facilitating a just and fair transition.

Our expert from OXFAM, Mr. **Dante Dalabajan,** joined us to scrutinize the effectiveness of various governance structures and the importance of international collaboration in spearheading the transition towards clean energy, all with an aim to fulfill the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

5. INNOVATIONS IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE: HOW CAN WE UNLOCK THE POWER OF CLIMATE-INFORMED ENGINEERING?

In this Trend Talk, we joined **Andy Bochman** from the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center to explore climate-informed engineering. We highlighted the vital need to blend climate considerations with engineering in the face of escalating climate change and severe weather risks.

Our focus was on the principles and practicality of climate-informed engineering, especially for infrastructure projects impacted by climate change. We also shared mitigation strategies and ways to improve resilience and adaptation.

6. A VIRTUAL EXCURSION TO A TRANSFORMING CITY: HOW CAN I TRANSFORM MY NEIGHBORHOOD TO BECOME A SUSTAINABLE CITY?

In this Trend Talk, participants explored a city transitioning from traditional mining to a sustainable future, engaging with diverse stakeholders who, despite sharing the goal of city betterment, differ on how to get there.

Together with their virtual tour guide, **Paulyn Duman**, participants discussed how addressing such complex issues necessitates a multifaceted approach, employing systems, futures, and design thinking to navigate the challenges.

7. THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE REPORTING: HOW CAN AI HELP COMPANIES TRANSITION TO NET-ZERO?

In this Trend Talk, **Toby Sparwasser Soroka** discussed AI's potential in sustainable finance and highlighted how it can enhance efficiency by aligning financial data with relevant sustainability criteria. He stressed the need for AI governance to avoid data biases, ensuring AI's benefits to society. Toby's perspective blended technology and ethics, underlining the balance between innovation and responsible practice in finance.

8. ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE: HOW SCIENCE AND DIPLOMACY ARE SHAPING THE 21ST CENTURY

Science diplomacy, pivotal in international policy-making, is increasingly aiding high-level negotiations with insights from top scientists. These experts tackle global issues like poverty, climate change, health crises, and the digital divide.

In this Trend Talk, **Maricela Muñoz** from GESDA, discussed the fusion of various communities - academic, diplomatic, impact, and citizens - in anticipating and devising solutions for scientific and technological challenges, demonstrating the potential for science and technology in fostering a sustainable, inclusive future.

Share Talks

1. FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In this Share talk, **Zubair Shahid** from the UNSSC explored the role of decentralized governance for Sustainable Development by unpacking decentralization in its various forms, impact and how political economy factors play a key role in the realization of national policy objectives at the local level.

2. DRIVING CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE: ENHANCING COLLABORATION FOR EFFECTIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

In this Share Talk **Ana Cristina Thorlund**, Governance and Public Administration Expert, and **Prabin Maharjan**, Programme Management Expert, both at UNPOG/ DPIGD/ UN DESA, jointly focused on the role of multilevel governance in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

The session explored mechanisms for policy coherence, enhancing stakeholder engagement and participation, and strengthening institutional arrangements to support effective multilevel governance.

3. CITY WORKS: DIGITAL TOOLKIT TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In this Share Talk, **Eva Maria Graf** and **Lennard Kehl**, both Advisors at the Sector Programme Cities of GIZ, presented the City Works toolkit.

The session took a closer look at the toolkit, its functionality and cases of different stakeholders using the tools to foster urban transformation for cities to contribute to global agendas.

4. OUR PLANET: FRESH WATER DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION

In this Share Talk, **Anna Kubaszewska** presented the episode 'Fresh Water' from the documentary 'Our Planet' narrated by Sir David Attenborough.

The participants took part in a facilitated discussion analysing the documentary's content, message, and impact, as well as how it relates to the topic of Governance for Sustainable Development. They shared their insights, observations, and opinions on the role of governments and other stakeholders in formulating and implementing regulations that promote sustainable water use, protect water sources, and ensure equitable distribution.

5. SESSION DELIVERED BY PARTICIPANTS

GEMS: Grassroots Energy Management Support

In this Share Talk, **Shradha Pandey** explained how her project, Grassroots Energy Management Support (GEMS) uses inclusive energetic transition to lower pollution and improve the health and social welfare of women and girls in rural India and promote inclusive transition which can improve lives and advance environmental goals.

ICT Intelligent Solutions for Green Transitions, Climate Change Actions, and Sustainable Development

In this Share Talk, **Sherine Rady** introduced terminologies for Machine Learning, applications to some climate change and sustainable development predictions, and an Egyptian project proposal at the Center of Excellence for Sustainability developed at Ain Shams University.

6. GOVERNANCE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES: PERSPECTIVES ON INTEGRITY, TRUST AND ANTI-CORRUPTION.

In this Share Talk, **Aida Arutyunova**, Programme Manager at the UNDP's Global Anti-Corruption Initiative, explored the opportunities and risks of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, big data analytics, robotic process automation, the Internet of Things, and cloud computing – for sustainable development, from the perspectives of integrity, trust and anti-corruption.

She also examined the current regulatory mechanisms surrounding the use of these technologies around the world and offered recommendations for stakeholders to develop

effective digital governance strategies that maximize the benefits of technology for sustainable development.

7. SESSION DELIVERED BY PARTICIPANTS

Safecity - a platform to prevent violence

In this Share Talk, **Elsa Marie Dsilva**, Founder and President of the Red Dot Foundation, presented the Safecity global platform for reporting anonymous incidents of sexual and gender-based violence.

Gender Equality and climate change in Albania

In this Share Talk, **Xhulia Karaj** presented the progress that the government of Albania has made in establishing relevant institutional frameworks, policies and engagement for various international commitments to ensure gender equality as well as the challenges that the government has been facing in doing so.

8. JUST TRANSITIONS: CREATING FAIR AND INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

In this Share Talk, **Kusum Lata**, Team Lead, and **Agung Adhiasto**, Programme Officer on Mitigation - both at UNFCCC, expanded on the concept of just transitions, recognizing that parties may be affected both by climate change and the impacts of the measures taken in response to it. They provided a space for participants to exchange and presented a recently published compilation of best practices in implementing just transitions.

Working Group Sessions

The UN Summer Academy includes four two-hour-long Working Groups sessions. The Working Group sessions offered opportunities for participants to connect, learn about practical frameworks and tools, and practice applying them in smaller groups. Participants shared insights and experiences, tapping into the cohort's collective intelligence.

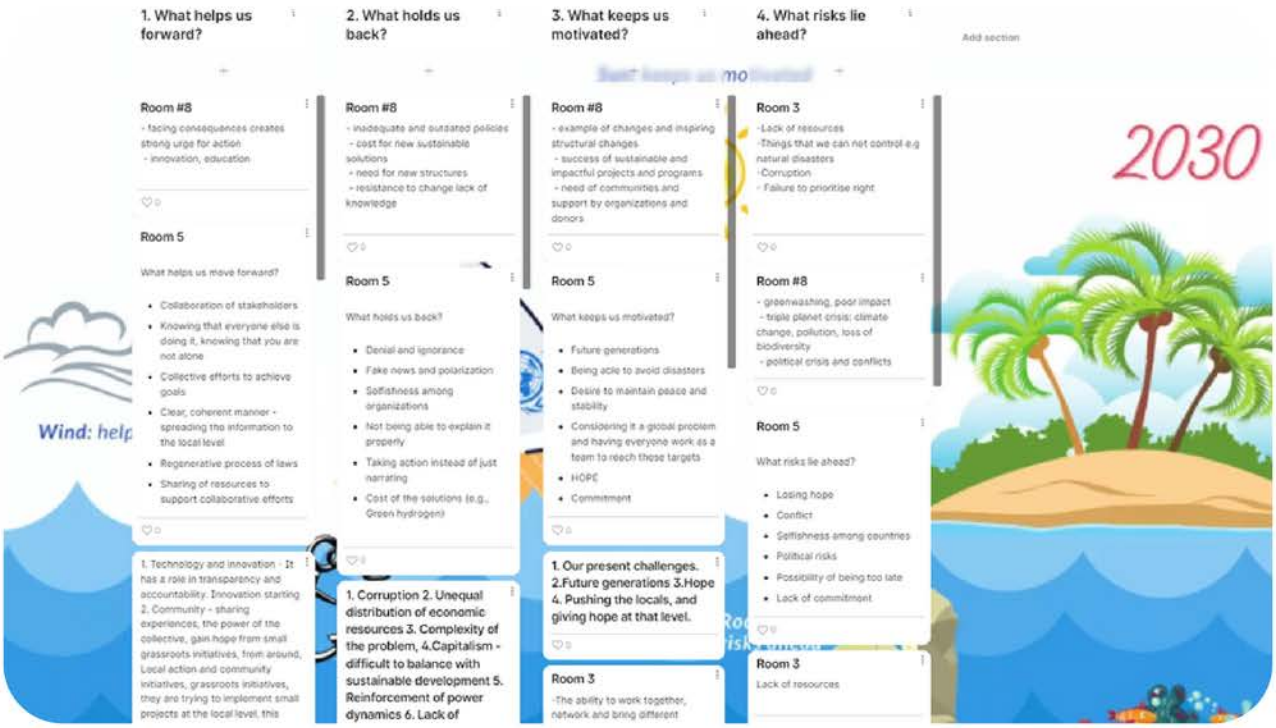
Working Group "**Indus**" and Working Group "**Turkana**," gathered each half of the cohort. They had different meeting times, to best accommodate a wide range of time zones.

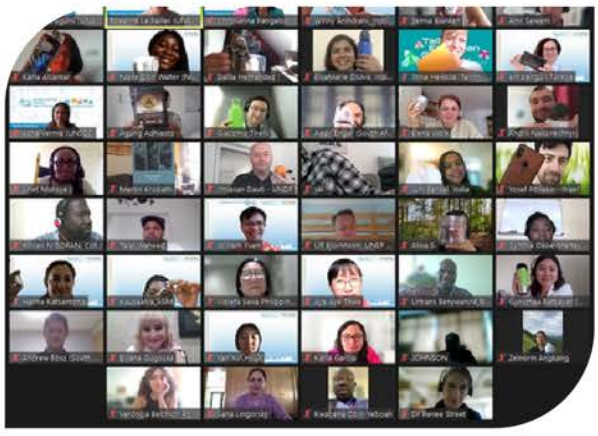
WORKING GROUP #1

The first Working Group session was about meeting each other and building a common understanding of current challenges and opportunities regarding "Governance for Sustainable Development".
We started with some key messages from the first Plenary. Participants also shared their sustainability practitioners' stories in smaller groups - describing a symbolic object of their choice.

The central activity of the first working group was then **the Sailboat exercise**, where the sailboat is used as a metaphor for the collective journey towards governance for sustainable development.

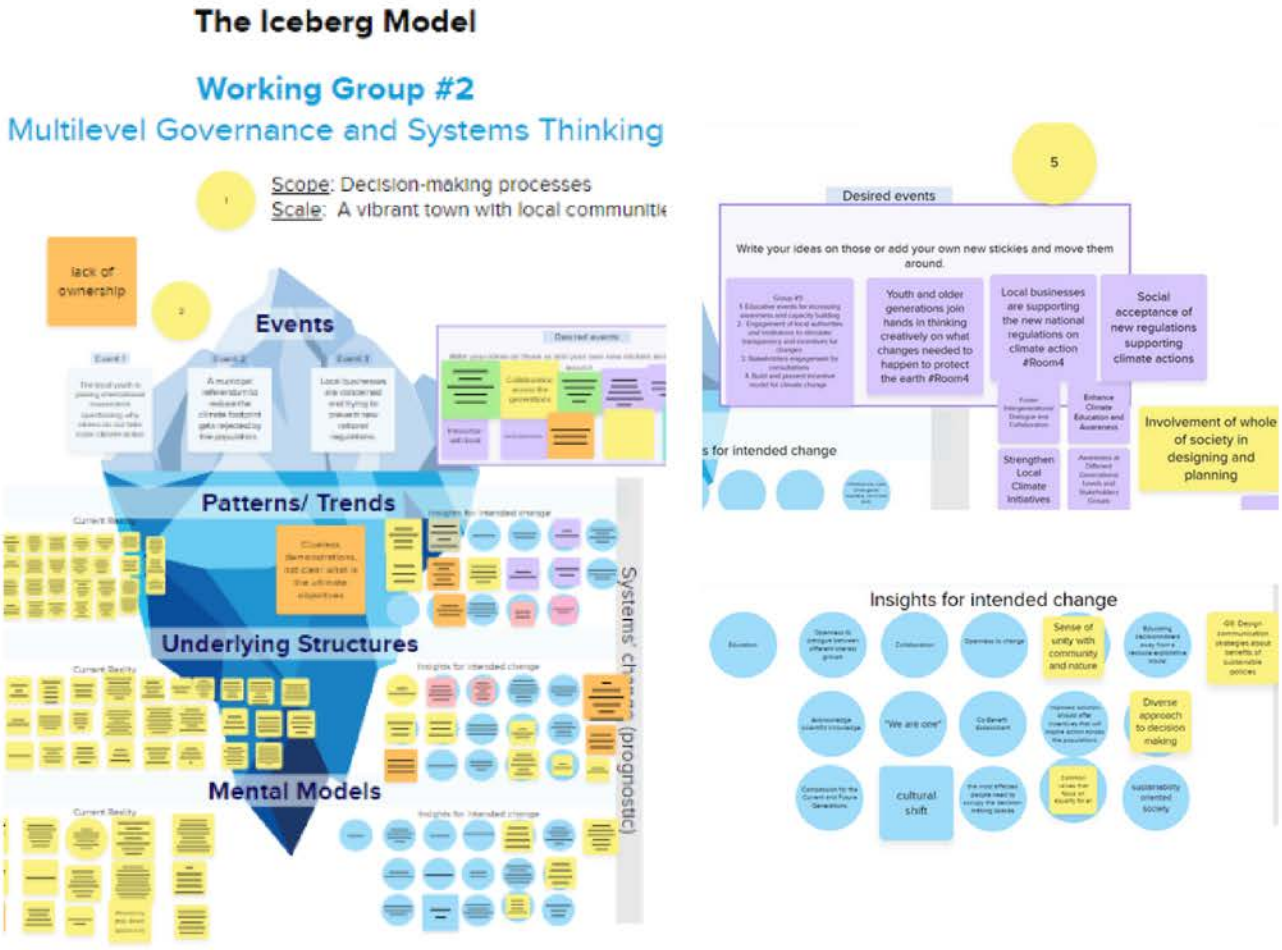
Participants discussed, agreed upon and mapped their take on: (1) what helps us forward, (2) what holds us back, (3) what keeps us motivated and (4) what risks lie ahead.





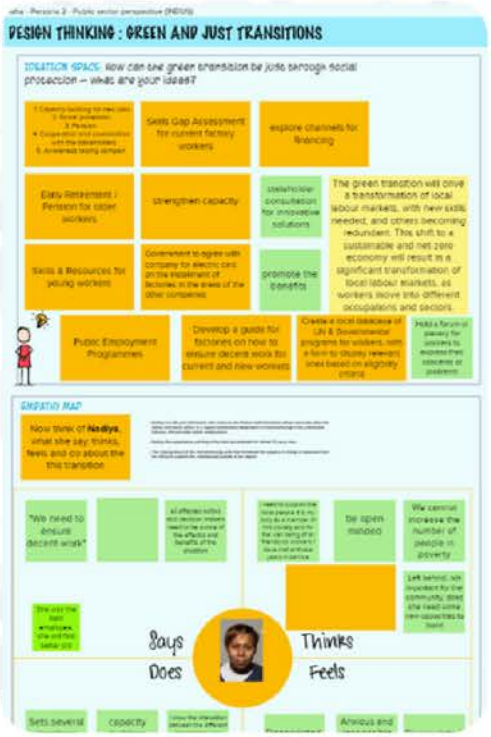
WORKING GROUP #2

The second Working Group was on **Systems Thinking** applied to multilevel governance. The session introduced the **Iceberg Model** as a tool that can be used to strive for policy coherence. This activity departed from a pre-defined scale and scope: the decision-making processes within a vibrant town and its local communities. Three events were also pre-defined: (1) local youth joining international movements demanding more climate action; (2) a municipal referendum to reduce climate footprint rejected; and (3) local businesses concerned and trying to prevent new national regulations. First, participants were sent into breakout rooms and asked to speculate what patterns, underlying structures and mental models might be in place that would explain those events. Then, participants identified what interventions could be made at the different levels for consistent and coherent **systems change** to occur.
This exercise is useful to view how events are part of a dynamic complex system rather than isolated issues - even though this is not immediately apparent.



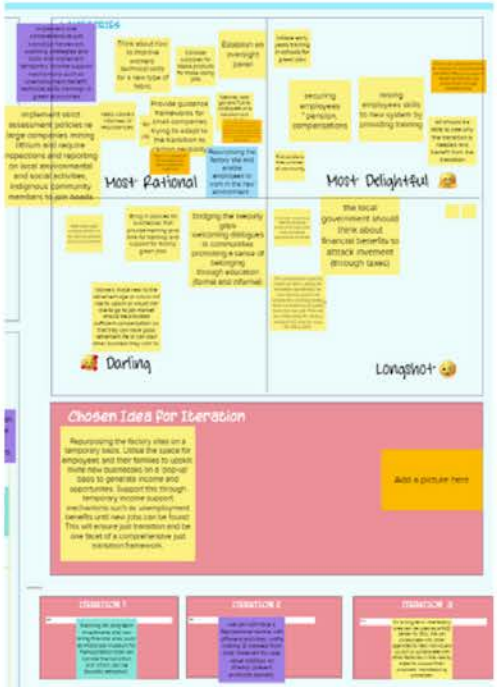
WORKING GROUP #3

The third Working Group on **Design Thinking** utilized a scenario with the question: **How can green transitions be just through social protection?** In breakout rooms, participants experimented with different ideation techniques and made a few quick iterations. During the first part, participants did a quick brainstorm to come up with as many ideas as possible in just a few minutes. The emphasis was on quantity, not quality. Participants collected their ideas on a Mural board.



Then, participants worked on an **empathy map** thinking from the perspective of different end-users. They imagined and mapped what the persona might say, do, think, and feel about the transition.

After reviewing, they completed the ideas board with additional ones, better tailored to their persona.



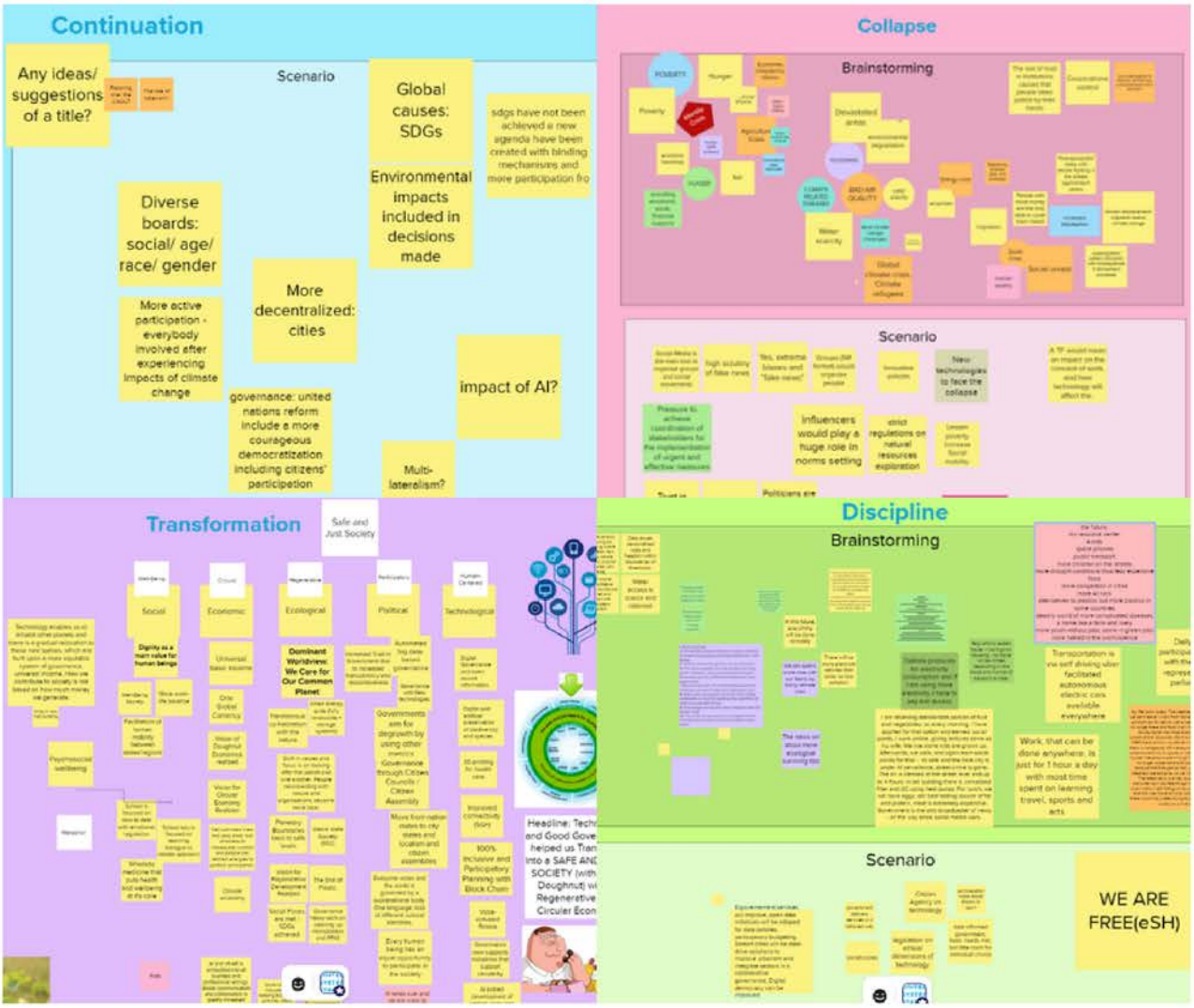
The second part requested participants to sort their ideas into four categories: most rational, most delightful, darling, and long shot.

Each group selected one category and then one idea within the selected category and developed it. They presented it to an external observer who provided **feedback**. Participants could work on two to three refined **prototypes** depending on the time they had left. Finally, they debriefed on their learning experience.

This exercise shows how a design thinking approach can support (1) the generation of many ideas very quickly and (2) collaborative iterations towards increasingly fine-tuned solutions to complex issues.

WORKING GROUP #4

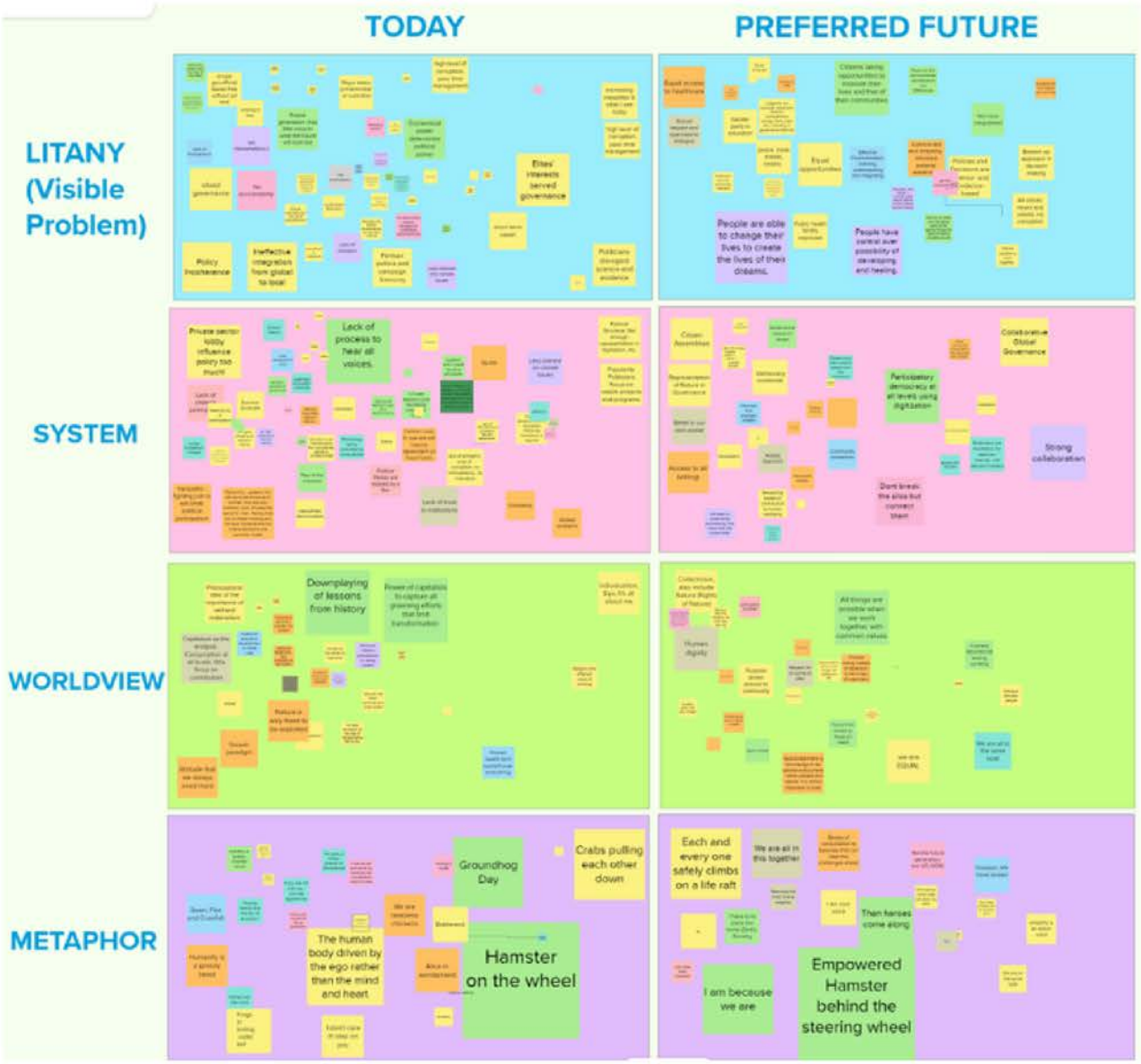
The last Working Group was on **Futures Thinking.** It was designed and led by **Adam Sharpe** with the support of a team of co-facilitators from UNSSC. First, participants were sent into breakout rooms to explore four different scenarios: Continuation, Collapse, Discipline and Transformation. Each group envisioned how those scenarios would translate for governance. Positive, negative and neutral elements were considered. Even some newspaper headlines were imagined. Participants also identified the drivers of each scenario and examined the societal, technological, economic, environmental, and political aspects of the future reality they were considering. The dominant worldview and core narrative for each scenario were explored.



Then, participants explored the use of the following futures thinking tools. They started with **backcasting.** Participants imagined that the transformative scenario was achieved by 2043. From there, they worked backwards to the present, mapping events that would have taken place to lead to the desired future. This exercise aimed to remove obstacles and focus on determining the technical steps needed to reach the desired future. By envisioning events that had already occurred, backcasting helps overcome cynicism, fear and fosters a more positive and proactive mindset.

The next step was to collectively work on a **Collaborative Learning Assessment** (CLA) matrix. This matrix is comparable to the Iceberg Model introduced during Working Group #2 - applied to futures thinking. It includes an analysis of (1) current issues/ litany, (2) systems, (3) worldviews, and (4) metaphors. First, regarding today's context, and then with desirable elements leading to the preferred scenario.

Those exercises aim at clarifying a desirable envisioned future and aligning decisions for the future to the identified current issues. It enables participants to build a richer and deeper understanding of the necessary changes, shifts and transformations required to bring about the desired future.


TODAY
PREFERRED FUTURE
LITANY (Visible Problem)
SYSTEM
WORLDVIEW
METAPHOR
Elites' interests served governance
Policy incoherence
Ineffective integration from global to local
People are able to change their lives to create the lives of their dreams.
People have control over possibility of developing and healing.
Lack of process to hear all voices.
Collaborative Global Governance
Participatory democracy at all levels using digitation
Strong collaboration
Access to all belongs
Don't break the silos but connect them
Downplaying of lessons from history
Power of capitalist to capture all greening efforts that limit transformation
Groundhog Day
Crabs pulling each other down
The human body driven by the ego rather then the mind and heart
Hamster on the wheel
Each and every one safely climbs on a life raft
We are all in this together
Then heroes come along
I am because we are
Empowered Hamster behind the steering wheel

Networking Spaces

SOCIAL LEARNING PLATFORM

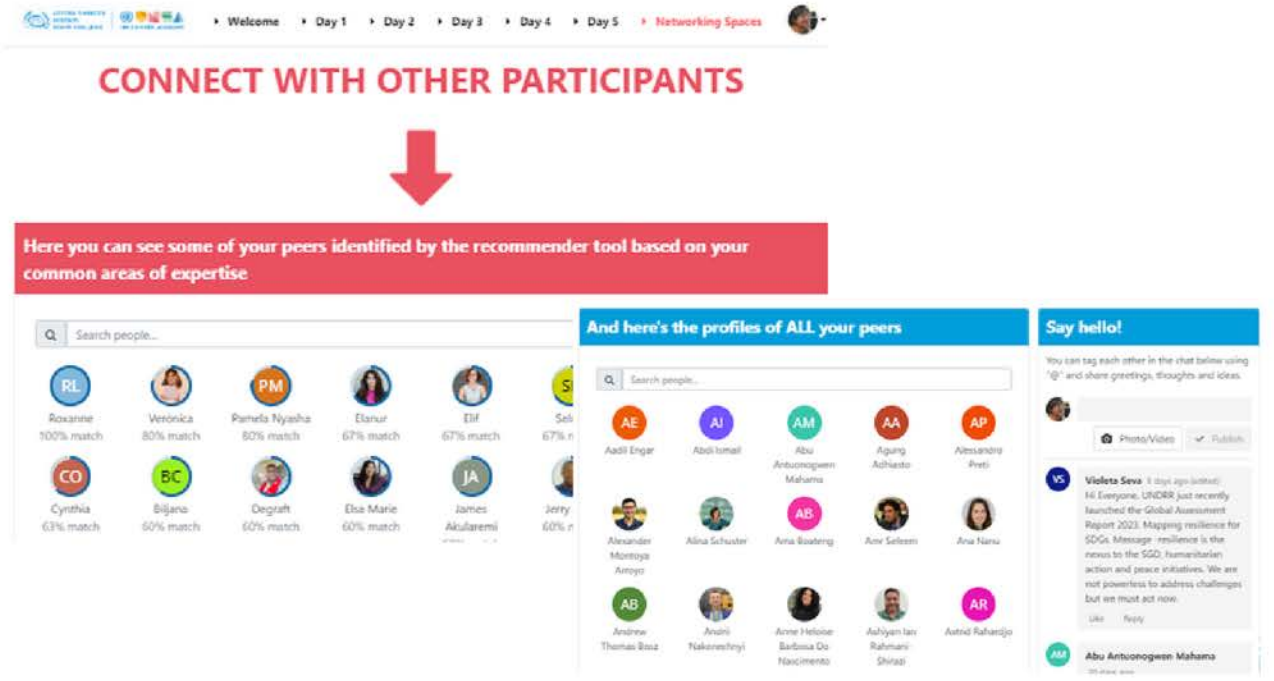
By hosting the UN Summer Academy 2023 on a social learning platform, the organizers created a dynamic and inclusive virtual environment to transcend geographical distance.

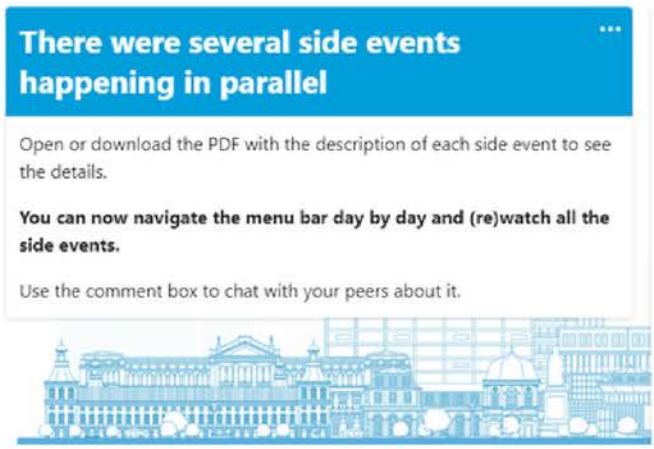
The **asynchronous** part of the programme took place on Howspace, known for its ability to enhance networking, facilitate peer learning, and prioritize social learning for development.

The platform also served the **synchronous** part of the programme, as a one-stop hub - a single space to access content, links to separate sessions and events, and information shared collaboratively.

The platform proved to be user-friendly, conducive to interactions and well-received by the users. Participants engaged, accessed the content, interacted with one another, and took part in discussions and networking activities — all within a single virtual space.

This **interactive** format fostered a sense of community and encouraged participants to connect with one another, enabling potential partnerships and collaborations beyond the duration of the UN Summer Academy.





SHARE FAIR GALLERY WALK

The UN Summer Academy Share Fair Gallery Walk is an interactive space designed for participants to explore and learn about sustainable development initiatives presented by their fellow participants. The gallery walk showcased posters that feature inspiring projects and organizations related to sustainable development.

Each poster displayed in the Share Fair Gallery Walk provided a concise summary of the initiative and the organization behind it. These summaries typically highlighted the key objectives, activities, and achievements of the projects. The aim was to promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and networking among participants by showcasing diverse and impactful sustainable development efforts.

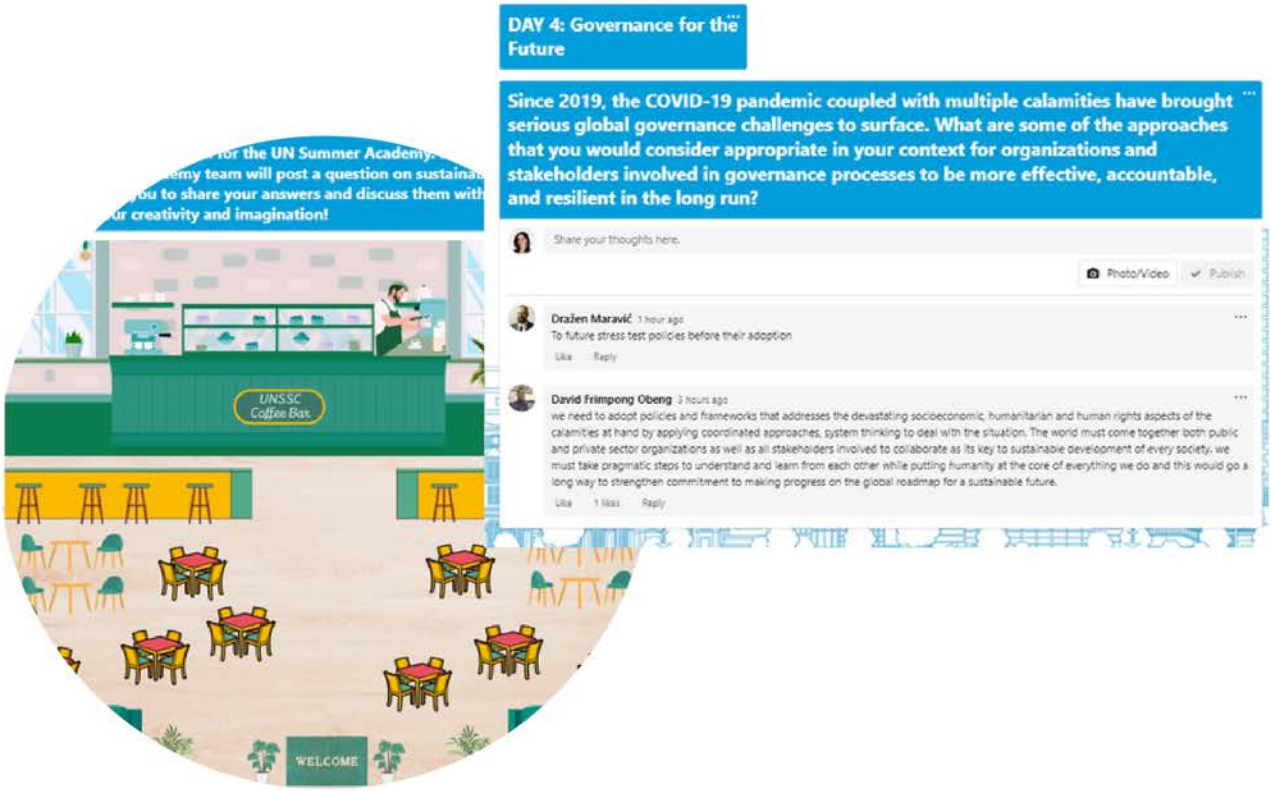
By offering a platform for participants to share their initiatives and organizations, the Share Fair Gallery Walk encouraged peer learning and potential collaboration opportunities. It served as a visual representation of the collective efforts and innovative solutions being implemented around the world to address various sustainable development challenges.

THE UNSSC COFFEE BAR

The UNSSC Coffee Bar is an engaging and interactive space that encouraged participants to share their thoughts and perspectives on sustainable development topics. This space was designed for open discussions and exchange of ideas among participants.

Every day, the UN Summer Academy team posted a question related to a specific sustainable development issue at the Coffee Bar. Participants were invited to share their thoughts, insights, and opinions on the given topic. This fostered a lively and dynamic conversation where participants engaged with one another and learned from different perspectives.

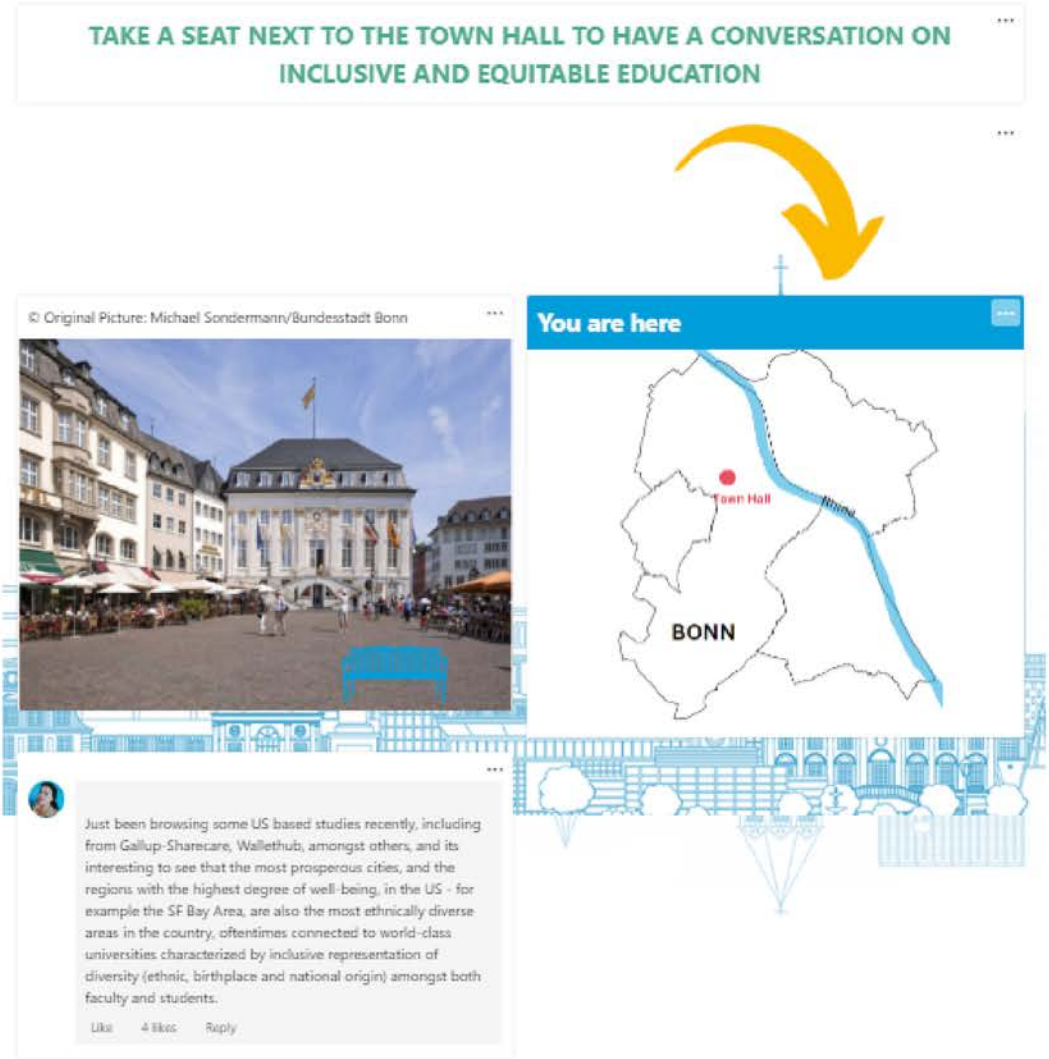
The Coffee Bar provided a relaxed and informal setting for participants to connect and interact with their peers, facilitating meaningful dialogue and knowledge sharing. It encouraged critical thinking, creativity, and the exploration of innovative solutions to sustainability challenges.



TAKE A SEAT IN BONN

The 'Take a Seat in Bonn' networking space walked participants through the city of Bonn, the host city of the UN Summer Academy. This unique networking feature allowed participants to virtually "sit" next to a landmark in Bonn and engage in chat box discussions about sustainable development initiatives of mutual interest.

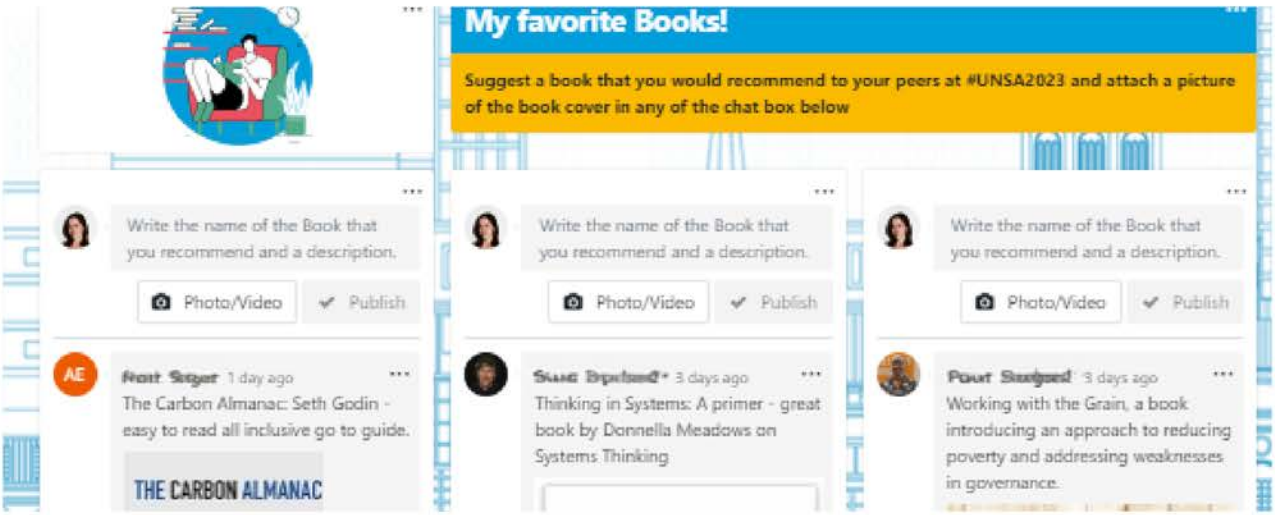
The virtual seating arrangement created a dynamic and immersive environment where participants could interact and network with others who shared similar interests and goals in the field of sustainable development.



#UNSA2023 LIBRARY

The #UNSA2023 Library is a space dedicated to recommendations and sharing of articles, tools, books, podcasts, and music amongst peers.

The library served as a digital repository of recommended resources covering a wide range of topics within sustainable development. These resources can include research papers, reports, articles, videos, documentaries, podcasts, and music playlists that align with the principles of sustainability, environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic development.



HOWSPACE ANALYTICS

In preparation of and during the UN Summer Academy (19-30 June)

Active users

100%
109 users

109 users were selected and 109 visited the workspace

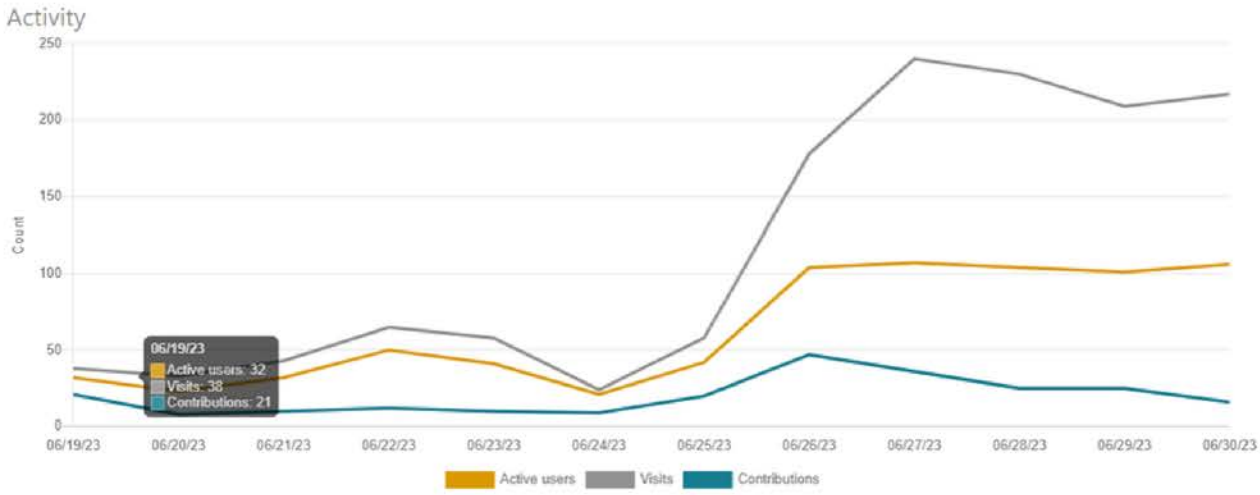
Contributions

90%
98 users

98 users wrote a comment

Visits

1425
avg 13 per active user



> **UN Summer Academy exposure would allow me to enhance my knowledge and skills related to sustainability and governance frameworks. We want to join the UN Summer Academy to learn, collaborate, and improve our integral approach to Governance for Sustainable development.**

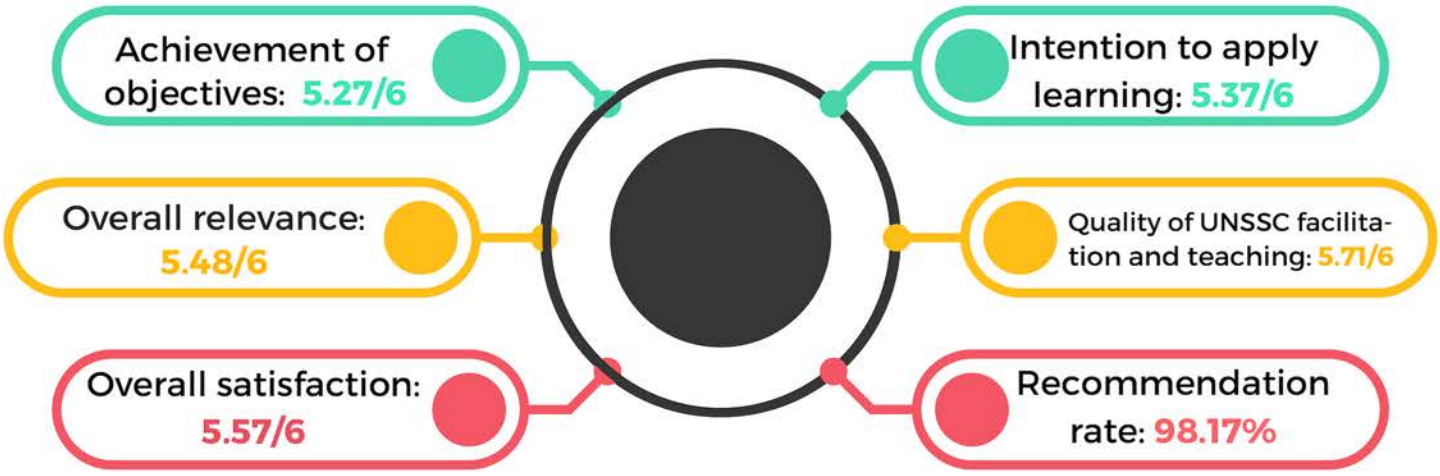
Summary of "Why did you decide to take part in this year's UN Summer Academy?" discussion

This is an AI generated summary response of the 70 entries submitted on the Welcome Page in response to the question "Why did you decide to take part in this year's UN Summer Academy?"

Participants' Evaluations & Testimonials

The main indicators used by the UNSSC to evaluate courses are ranked on a scale of 1 to 6, where 1 is "unsatisfactory" and 6 is "excellent". For the UN Summer Academy, UNSSC received **109/109 anonymous responses** to the final evaluation survey and all indicators were evaluated very favourably.

As indicated below, the overall satisfaction with the quality of the UN Summer Academy is 5.57 out of 6. On average, participants valued the relevance and applicability of the learning to their own work at 5.48 out of 6. The rating of the Plenary and Working Group sessions were all higher than 5.24 out of 6.



Participants' satisfaction with the UN Summer Academy was reflected not only in the exceptional scores listed above but also in posts published by participants on their **social media** accounts. In addition to the anonymous evaluation survey, UNSSC also collected participants' **testimonials**.

On the next pages, a handful selection of testimonials and social media posts illustrates it.

Hanna Katsantonis
Sustainable Solutions for Africa

★★★★★

My time at the UN Summer Academy 2023 was highly rewarding and insightful. The expert speakers provided invaluable insights into Governance for Sustainable Development, Multilevel Governance and Systems Thinking, and Green and Just Transition and Future Thinking. The creative organizers and generous sponsors truly made this profound learning journey special. I highly recommend this Academy to anyone interested in these pivotal areas of study for achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

Sherine Rady

★★★★★

The UNSA2023 was an amazing opportunity to enhance my knowledge and skills towards multi-governance and green transitions topics. I have extremely enjoyed the plenary sessions with such distinguishable figures and speeches. The fascinating part was the working group practices, where it really made a lot of additional experiences through the tools, exercises we practiced, and the groupwork with professional experts and wonderful participants! It was really delightful having such wonderful experience by joining the UNSA2023.

Monica Sanders
The Undivide Project

★★★★★

This academy was a great professional development opportunity. I love the trend talks and share talks. These were peer learning and applied work opportunities shared throughout the program. It was a great way to learn and co-produce new ideas.

Konan Guillaume N'G
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable

★★★★★

"It was a nice experience. The quality of the interventions and that of the coordination team was of a high standard. I clearly and enormously learned about climate governance. it is a training are I would gladly recommend."

U

Urbans
Regional Article Expert, UNFCCC-RCC East and Southern Africa

★★★★★

"This year's Summer Academy has made me appreciate the role of governance towards sustainability. Hearing from experienced professionals and facilitators including interacting with other participants from allover the world in just a week is such a great learning and fun moment! Please keep it up!"

L

Linet
Social Innovaion in Health Initiative Fellow.

★★★★★

"This course has been very inspiring. It's given me the opportunity to go back to the basics and re-evaluate my approach in creating a just world. There is hope to make the world a better place for all. I will do my best to steer this change. Thank you UNSSC for this opportunity."

Md Sijanur Rahaman Robin • 1st
Renewable Energy Enthusiast | Humanitarian Aid Worker
1w •

I am delighted to share that I have been selected as a member of the #UNSA2023 cohort and have been awarded a scholarship from Staatskanzlei des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen to partake in the Governance for Sustainable Development Program. This comprehensive initiative encompasses various aspects such as Multilevel Governance, Green and Just Transitions, and Governance for the Future.

The UN Summer Academy 2023 has been an exceptional experience for me. Participating in the working group sessions on systems thinking, future thinking, and design thinking has greatly enhanced my understanding of sustainable development and equipped me with a wealth of knowledge.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and its dedicated team for organizing this remarkable event.

#governance #sustainabledevelopment #sdg2030 #sdg #futurethinking #designthinking #climatechange #networking #greentransition #justtransition #unssc #UNSummerAcademy #governanceforsustainabledevelopment

Sofía Puertas Borreguero • 1st
International Trade Advisor @Economic and Commercial Office of the Em...
1w •

Excited to share that these last few days I have been attending UN Summer Academy "Governance for Sustainable Development" organized by **United Nations** and **United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)** and sponsored by the German government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

One of the highlights of the UNSA Summer Academy was the opportunity to collaborate with 100 scholars around the globe. Together, we delved into a pressing global issue, dissecting its root causes, analyzing its consequences, and devising potential solutions. This collaborative endeavor not only honed our teamwork and problem-solving skills but also empowered us to become agents of change, ready to tackle the world's most pressing challenges.

Tatiana S. • 2nd
Expert in Sustainable Urban Development and...
1w •

+ Follow ...

I am closing this extraordinary week with the fantastic UN Summer Academy #UNSA2023 mapping on my desk the patchwork of new mindset tools on #multilevelgovernance and #justtransition for #sustainabledevelopment.

Systems Thinking
Design Thinking
Future Thinking
Backcasting are only a few highlights to mention.

I am grateful to the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, for this sponsorship enabling the opportunity to network and discuss questions with the experts that have shared their helicopter vision.

Also, immense gratitude to the #UNSA Team for the dedication and passion that have been so much resonating while walking through the rich #UNSA2023 program carefully balanced with creativity.

Humanity has built so far tons of science-based evidence and rational linkages connecting ESG often bypassing a powerful game-changer. Emotional attachment. Visualization of a desired green abundant future enables the transformative change much faster.

So let us plant the roots and surf the incredible journey to sustainable, just and safe society 🙌 with joy and enthusiasm 😊

Xhulia Karaj • 1st
Diplomat
1w •

...

The UN Summer Academy hosted by United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is an amazing platform to learn, interact, and connect with development and governance experts from all walks of life. I'm so grateful to have been part of #unsa2023, and thank you to Staatskanzlei des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen for awarding me with a scholarship 🙏

#UNSA2023#thankyou#sustainabledevelopment#climatechange#multilevegovernance #grateful #inspiringjourney #UNSA2023👏

Hasibul Hasan @HasibIsHere · 7 jul.

"✨ Grateful and inspired! Just completed my incredible journey at the #UNSummerAcademy. The past weeks have been an eye-opening experience filled with knowledge, collaboration, and new perspectives. Thank you, @UN and fellow participants, for an unforgettable summer! **#UNSA2023**

Traducir con DeepL

Nansata Yakubu, PhD
@Nansata

Really inspiring on how to discover your 'North Star'; leadership and the importance of context.

Traducir con DeepL

Traducir Tweet

Alice Ruhweza @aruhweza · 11 may.

Thrilled to be the Keynote Speaker at #UNSA2023! Join me as we dive into transformative governance for #SustainableDevelopment and explore how global trends can shape a brighter future. Don't miss out! Register now for this inspiring learning experience. bit.ly/41rmnRI

Traducir con DeepL

Jonathan John Garcia Maldupana
June 26 at 3:29 PM ·

Glad to be accepted as part of this year's cohort of the UN Summer Academy with the theme, "Governance for Sustainable Development."

I hope to learn more about Multilevel Governance, #greenandjust Transition, and Governance for the Future as well as Systems Thinking, Design Thinking, and Futures Thinking, and of course how I can apply all these in urban planning / environmental planning.

#Unsa2023

Elsa Dsilva
June 29 at 5:17 PM ·

I am thrilled to present our work at Safecity at the UN Summer Academy's Course on Governance for Sustainable Development.
#UNSA2023 #SDG2030 United Nations System Staff College - UNSSC

Annex 1: Programme

Virtual United Nations Summer Academy 2023

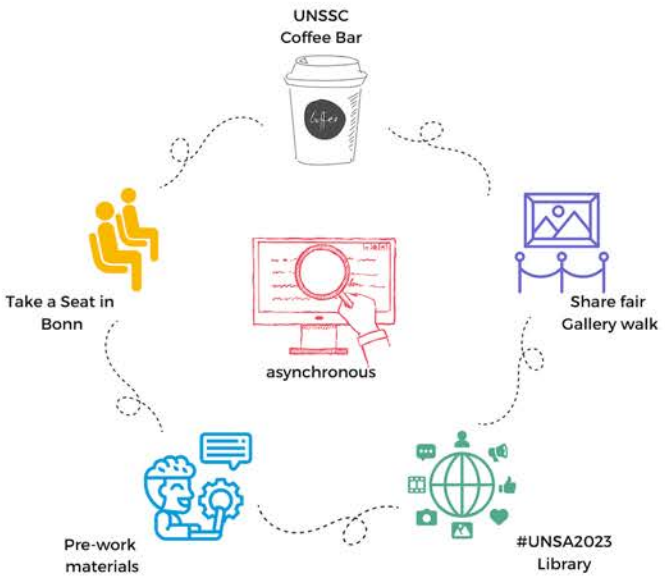
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE | UNSA UN SUMMER ACADEMY

Synchronous Programme Overview

Time (CEST)	Monday 26 June	Tuesday 27 June	Wednesday 28 June	Thursday 29 June	Friday 30 June
10h - 12h		Indus Working Group	Indus Working Group	Indus Working Group	Indus Working Group
12:30h - 13h		Side events*	Side events	Side events	Side events
14h – 16h	Plenary 1: Opening Ceremony Zoom link	Plenary 2: Multilevel Governance Zoom link	Plenary 3: Green and Just Transitions Zoom link	Plenary 4: Governance for the Future Zoom link	Plenary 5: Closing Zoom link
17h – 17:30h	Side events*	Side events	Side events	Side events	
18h – 20h	Turkana Working Group	Turkana Working Group	Turkana Working Group	Turkana Working Group	

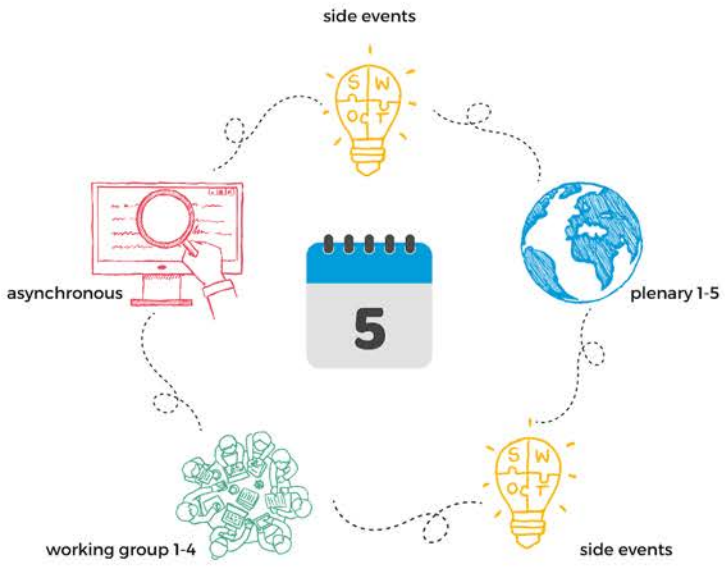
* Participants can choose from 2 side events happening in parallel before and after the Plenary sessions. They can access the descriptions of each option and enroll directly on the e-learning platform.

Asynchronous activities start one week before the Opening Ceremony of the UN Summer Academy within the e-learning, interactive space. They include a virtual UNSSC Coffee Bar and "Take a Seat in Bonn" chat for networking, but also peer learning with a Share Fair Gallery Walk, and content resources such as pre-work modules, and the UNSA Library. Access is maintained and interactions can continue until the end of July 2023.



SIDE EVENTS DETAILED PROGRAMME

Time	Monday, 26 June	Tuesday, 27 June	Wed, 28 June	Thursday, 29 June	Friday, 30 June
12:30 to 13:00 CEST	**TREND TALK** features influential leaders who are actively shaping the path towards seizing opportunities arising from global trends. We will highlight emerging issues that might provide weaker signals today but will impact how we live tomorrow. **SHARE TALK** aims to promote and present the inspiring contributions of our UNSSC colleagues, UN partners, and participants of the UN Summer Academy. This session focuses on sharing their noteworthy projects, initiatives, and achievements.	**Uncovering Realities Beyond the Numbers: Understanding African Governance Through Citizen Perception** ***Speaker:*** *Emilia Siwingwa, Founder of the African Hub for Accountability and Development Initiatives, and Focus Group Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.* 2 **Driving Climate Action through Multi-level Governance: Enhancing Collaboration for Effective Climate Solutions** ***Speakers:*** *Ana Cristina Thorlund, Governance and Public Administration Expert & Prabin Maharjan, Programme Management Expert (UN DESA/UNPOG)*	**The Clean Energy Transition: How can we make the green transition fast and fair?** ***Speaker:*** *Dante Dalabajan, Senior Manager of Oxfam in the Philippines* 4 **Our Planet: Fresh Water - documentary discussion** ***Speaker:*** *Anna Kubaszewska, Associate Fellow, UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development*	**A virtual excursion to a transforming city: How can I transform my neighborhood to become a sustainable city?** ***Speaker:*** *Paulyn Duman, SDG Learncast podcast host, UNSSC and UN SDG:Learn* 6 **Governance of New Technologies: Perspectives on Integrity, Trust and Anti-Corruption** ***Speaker:*** *Aida Arutyunova, Programme Manager, UNDP's Global Anti-Corruption Initiative*	**Anticipating the Future: How can science and diplomacy shape the 21st Century?** ***Speaker:*** *Maricela Munoz, Director for Partnerships at the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)* 8 **Just Transition: Creating fair and inclusive opportunities for everyone whilst leaving no one behind** ***Speakers:*** *Agung Adhiasto, Programme Officer, Mitigation & Kusum Lata, Team Lead (UNFCCC)*
17:00 - 17:30 CEST	**Powering Sustainability: What is the role of Political Incubators in shaping our future?** ***Speaker:*** *Kimberly McArthur, Chief Operating Officer at Apolitical Foundation* 1 **From Global to Local: Exploring the role of Decentralized Governance for Sustainable Development** ***Speaker:*** *Zubair Shahid, Associate Fellow, UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development*	**The Intersection of Sustainable Digital Currency and Governance: How can we build a more resilient digital economy?** ***Speaker:*** *George Coxon, Director of the Nano Foundation and Industrial Fellow at RDSBL UEL* 3 **City WORKS: digital toolkit that supports local governments to better understand and connect global agendas with local visions and realities** ***Speakers:*** *Eva-Maria Graf and Lennard Kehl, advisors at the Sector Programme Cities of GIZ*	**Innovations in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** How can we unlock the power of climate-informed engineering? ***Speaker:*** *Andy Bochman, Senior Grid Strategist-Defender National & Homeland Security Idaho National Laboratory* 5 **Session delivered by participants on Intelligent solutions and Grassroots Energy Management** ***Speakers:*** *Sherine Rady & Shradha Pandey, UN Summer Academy 2023 participants*	**The Future of Sustainable Reporting: How can AI help companies transition to Net-Zero?** ***Speaker:*** *Toby Sparwasser Soroka, Sustainable Finance, AI & Business Development at Briink | AI For SDGs at IRCAI (UNESCO)* 7 **Session delivered by participants on Gender in Albania and in India** ***Speakers:*** *Xhulia Karaj & Elsa Marie Dsilva, UN Summer Academy 2023 participants*	**TREND TALK** features influential leaders who are actively shaping the path towards seizing opportunities arising from global trends. We will highlight emerging issues that might provide weaker signals today but will impact how we live tomorrow. **SHARE TALK** aims to promote and present the inspiring contributions of our UNSSC colleagues, UN partners, and participants of the UN Summer Academy. This session focuses on sharing their noteworthy projects, initiatives, and achievements.



Annex 2: Speakers

PLENARY SPEAKERS

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE | UN SUMMER ACADEMY

26 - 30 JUNE 2023

TRACKING GOVERNANCE TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION

Governance for sustainable development is crucial for creating a fairer, more prosperous, and sustainable world. It involves establishing effective, inclusive, and accountable decision-making frameworks, encompassing political, legal, administrative, and social elements that shape the distribution of power and resources.

Our Plenary Sessions provide an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the field, exchange best practices, and establish partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Our inspiring speakers are leaders in their fields, offering insights and strategies to inspire and support future disruptions. Join us for thought-provoking discussions on emerging issues that will equip you with new knowledge and thinking approaches in governance for sustainable development.

Our Speakers:

Opening Ceremony
Mark Speich
State Secretary for Federal and European Affairs, International Affairs and Media of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. Representative of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the Federal Government

Opening Keynote
Alice Ruhweza
Senior Director, Policy Influence and Engagement at WWF International

Multilevel Governance
Stefan Wagner
Head of the Department of International Affairs and Global Sustainability of the City of Bonn, Germany

Multilevel Governance
Yunus Arikan
Director of Global Advocacy at ICLEI

Green and Just Transitions
Christina Dankmeyer
Advisor to German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on behalf of GIZ (Just Transition, Financing)

Design Thinking
Agnes Cserhati
CEO AC PowerCoaching - Leadership coach, trainer and speaker

Futures Thinking
Adam Sharpe
Lead Convener of the NGFP Intergenerational Fairness Hub, Director of Learning at Metafuture School, Foresight Consultant at UNICEF

Governance for the Future
Youssef Nassef
Director of the Adaptation Programme at UNFCCC

Closing Ceremony
Katja Dörner
Mayor of Bonn

Closing Ceremony
Arvinn Gadgil
Director at UNDP
Oslo Governance Center

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UN Summer Academy Plenary Speaker Facilitators

Christianna Pangalos, UNSSC-KCSD
Patrick van Weerelt, UNSSC-KCSD
Simona Costanzo Sow, UNSSC-KCSD

TREND TALK

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE | UN SUMMER ACADEMY

26 - 30 JUNE 2023

NAVIGATING A WORLD OF DISRUPTION

We live in an era of disruption: the pace of technological progress is accelerating, new powerful global forces are emerging, and globalization patterns are changing.

Global trends offer opportunities to those who embrace them while disproportionately damaging those who cannot keep up. It is easy to lose sight of long-term trends amid short-term concerns.

The UN Summer Academy Trend Talk will feature inspiring leaders paving the ways to opportunities to ride the tide of global trends that can cause greater future disruptions. We will highlight emerging issues that might provide weaker signals today but will impact how we live tomorrow. Join us in the discussions.

Our Speakers:

Powering Sustainability

What is the role of Political Incubators in shaping our future?
Kimberly McArthur, Chief Operating Officer at Apolitical Foundation

A virtual excursion to a transforming city

How can I transform my community to becoming a more sustainable city?
Paulyn Duman, SDG Learncast podcast host, UNSSC and UN SDG:Learn

Uncovering Realities Beyond the Numbers

Understanding African Governance Through Citizen Perception
Emilia Siwingwa, Founder of the African Hub for Accountability and Development Initiatives, and Focus Group Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Innovations in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:

How can we unlock the power of climate-informed engineering?
Andy Bochman, Senior Grid Strategist-Defender National & Homeland Security Idaho National Laboratory

The Intersection of Sustainable Digital Currency and Governance

How can we build a more resilient digital economy?
George Coxon, Director of the Nano Foundation and Industrial Fellow at RDSBL UEL

The Future of Sustainable Reporting

How can AI help companies transition to Net-Zero?
Toby Sparwasser Soroka, Sustainable Finance, AI & Business Development at Briink | AI For SDGs at IRCAI (UNESCO)

The Clean Energy Transition

How can we make the green transition fast and fair?
Dante Dalabajan, Senior Manager of Oxfam in the Philippines

Anticipating the Future

How can science and diplomacy shape the 21st Century?
Maricela Munoz, Director for Partnerships at the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)

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UN Summer Academy Trend Talk Host:

Paulyn Duman, UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development

SHARE TALKS

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE | UNSA UN SUMMER ACADEMY

A PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND INSPIRATION

Welcome to the **Share Talks**, an engaging series of side events within the synchronous programmme of the UNSA 2023 in Governance for Sustainable Development. These talks provide a dynamic platform for speakers to share their insights, projects, tools, and knowledge with their peers, fostering a vibrant community of learning and collaboration.

Each speaker will captivate the audience with their chosen topic. Whether it's their expertise in a specific field, a groundbreaking project they are passionate about, or innovative tools they have developed to ignite curiosity and inspire participants.

In this unique knowledge-sharing forum, we invite you to connect with like-minded individuals who are actively working towards sustainable development goals. Expand your horizons, gain new perspectives, and be part of an interactive experience where ideas flourish and connections are formed.

Our Speakers:

Share Talk 1

Zubair Shahid - UNSSC

"From Global to Local: Exploring the role of Decentralized Governance for Sustainable Development."

Share Talk 2

Ana Cristina Thorlund and Prabin Maharjan - DESA/UNPOG

"Driving Climate Action through Multi-level Governance: Enhancing Collaboration for Effective Climate Solutions"

Share Talk 3

Lennard Kehl and Eva-Maria Graf - GIZ

"CityWORKS by the Sector Programme Cities of GIZ"

Share Talk 4

Anna Kubaszewska - UNSSC

"Our Planet: Fresh Water - documentary discussion"

Share Talk 5

Shradha Pandey and Sherine Rady

Session delivered by participants on Intelligent solutions and Grassroots Energy Management

Share Talk 6

Aida Arutyunova - UNDP

"Governance of New Technologies. Perspectives on Integrity, Trust and Anti-Corruption"

Trend Talk 7

Elsa Marie Dsilva and Xhulia Karaj

Session delivered by participants on Gender in Albania and in India

Trend Talk 8

Agung Adhiasto and Kusum Lata - UNFCCC

"Just Transition: Creating fair and inclusive opportunities for everyone whilst leaving no one behind"

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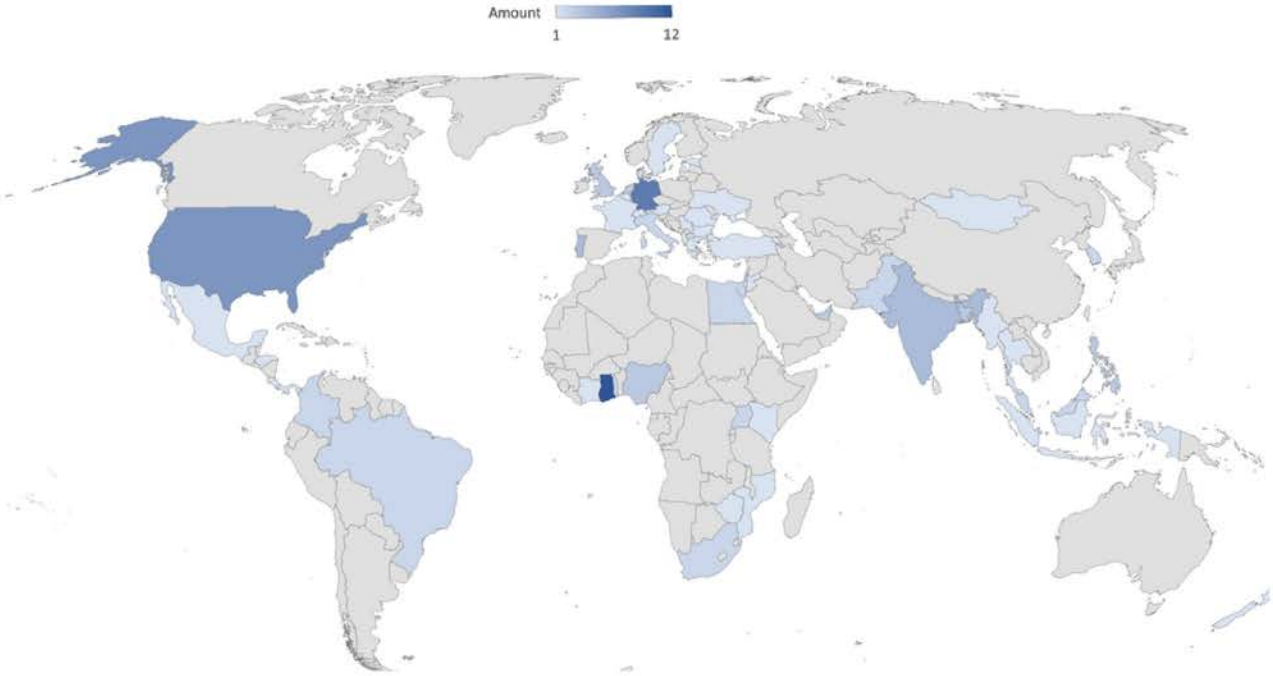
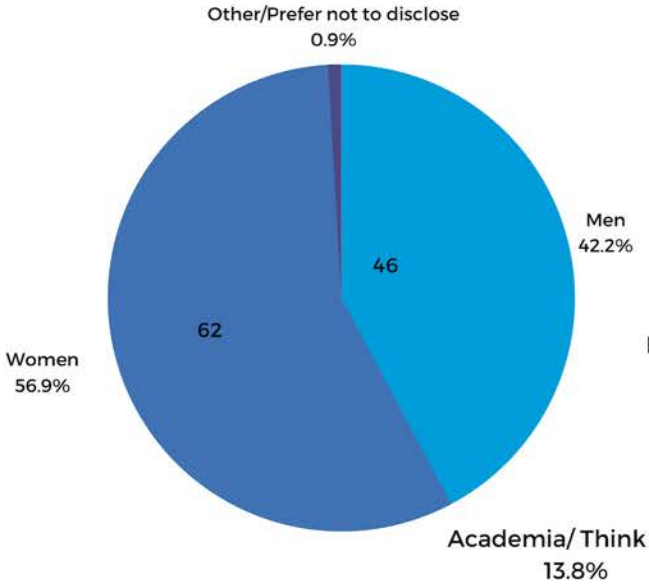
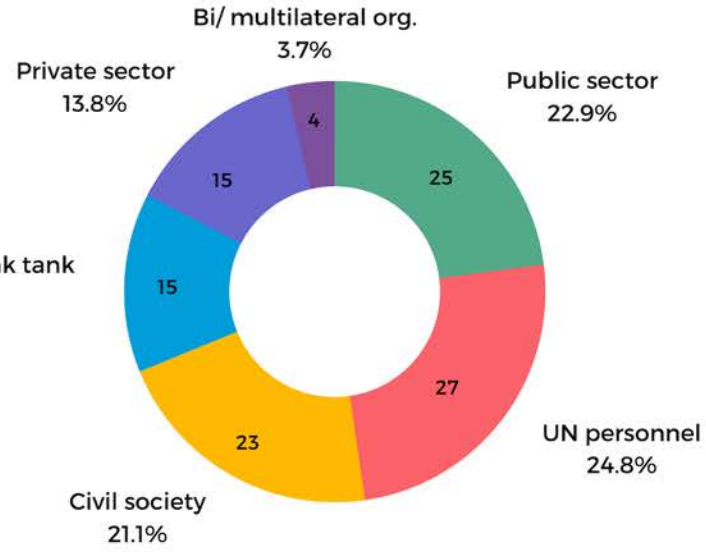
Annex 3: Participants

109 participants, based in 54 different countries, attended the UN Summer Academy.



Participants are listed on the following pages. The figures below show the cohort's gender and sector breakdown.





List of Participants - LoP

-	Ms/Mr	First Name	Last Name	Title	Organisation	Country
1	Mr.	Aadil	Engar	Program Manager: Catalytic Projects	City of Ekurhuleni	South Africa
2	Mr.	Abdirahman	Ismail Isse	Rc/Hc Talent Pipeline Member	ICRC	Switzerland
3	Mr.	Abu Antuonogwen	Mahama	Metro. Development Planning Officer	Sekondi - Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly	Ghana
4	Mr.	Agung	Adhiasto	Programme Officer	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
5	Ms.	Aissatou	Diagne	Consultant	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Togo
6	Mr.	Alessandro	Preti	Director	United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC)	Colombia
7	Mr.	Alexander	Montoya Arroyo	Postdoctoral Researcher	University of Hohenheim	Germany
8	Ms.	Alina	Schuster	Administrative Assistant	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
9	Ms.	Ama	Boateng	Senior Climate Change Officer	UNFCCC RCC Caribbean	Grenada
10	Mr.	Amr	Seleem	Sr. Climate Action Specialist	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	United Arab Emirates
11	Ms.	Ana	Nanu	Programme And Research Coordinator	Business Development Group	Romania
12	Mr.	Andrew Thomas	Bosz	Compliance Officer	Green Climate Fund	Korea, Republic Of
13	Mr.	Andrii	Nakonechnyi	Senior Expert	SURGe Project	Ukraine
14	Ms.	Anne Heloise	Barbosa Do Nascimento	Climate Justice Advisor	Instituto Marielle Franco	Brazil
15	Mr.	Ashiyan Ian	Rahmani-Shirazi	Fellow	University for Peace (UPEACE)	Costa Rica
16	Ms.	Astrid	Rahardjo	Climate Finance Expert	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Korea, Republic Of
17	Ms.	Aye Aye	Thwe	Professor	Yezin Agricultural University	Myanmar
18	Ms.	Biljana	Cvetanovska Gugoska	Programme Officer	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	North Macedonia
19	Mr.	Brandon	Bessler	Sustainability Program Manager	Bridge Partners	New Zealand
20	Ms.	Cynthia	Okoe-Martey	Municipal Development Planning Officer	Ga West Municipal Assembly	Ghana
21	Ms.	Dalila	Hernandez	Global Leadership Coach	WCR	France
22	Ms.	Daniela	Eilberg	Associate Cybercrime Programme Officer	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Malaysia
23	Mr.	David	Frimpong Obeng	Development Planning Officer	Upper West Akim District Assembly	Ghana
24	Mr.	David	Perry-Kabyson	Student	KNUST	Ghana
25	Mr.	Degraft	Johnson-Taylor	Development Planning Officer	KEEA MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY	Ghana
26	Mr.	Dražen	Maravić	Portfolio Manager For Inclusive Politicr	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Serbia
27	Mr.	Edson	Julio	Diplomat	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERAT	Mozambique
28	Ms.	Elena	Wölk	Desk Officer	German Federal Foreign Office	Germany
29	Ms.	Elif	Bengu	Faculty Member	Abdullah Gül University	Türkiye
30	Ms.	Elsa Marie	Dsilva	Founder And President	Red Dot Foundation	India
31	Ms.	Emily	Dick-Forde	Deputy Campus Principal	The University of the West Indies Open	Trinidad And Tobago
32	Ms.	Francesca	Pedri	Associate, Investments & Advisory	GERBER-RAUTH	Italy
33	Mr.	Giacomo	Tirelli	Project Assistant	OSCE	Austria
34	Ms.	Gunsmaa	Batbayar	Guest Scientist	UFZ Helmholtz center for environmental r	Mongolia
35	Ms.	Hanna	Katsantonis	Senior Investment Officer	Sustainable Solutions for Africa	Greece
36	Mr.	Hasibul	Hasan	Youth Panelist	Global Youth Mobilization (GYM)	Bangladesh
37	Mr.	Ilmiasan	Dauti	Programme Analyst	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	North Macedonia
38	Ms.	Irene	Nagudi	Fellow	Teach for Uganda	Uganda
39	Mr.	James Akularemi	Ata-Era	District Development Planning Officer	ASUNAFO SOUTH DISTRICT ASSEMBLY	Ghana
40	Mr.	Jean Sebastian	Pedraza Paez	Chair Steering Committee	YPARD	Colombia
41	Mr.	Jerry John	Owusu	Assistant Director 1	Local Government Service, Ghana	Ghana
42	Ms.	Jessica	Lopes	Marine Education Officer	Oceanário de Lisboa	Portugal
43	Ms.	Joelma	Almeida	Policy Officer	SGPCM	Portugal
44	Mr.	John Kofi	Taylor	Chief Budget Analyst	Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly	Ghana
45	Mr.	Jonathan John	Maldupana	Volunteer Planner And Trustee	Planoteerism, Inc.	Philippines
46	Mr.	Josef	Poliakin	Actively Seeking	recently graduated	Israel
47	Mr.	Juan J	Castillo Lugo	Advisor, Air Quality And Health	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	United States
48	Ms.	Juhi	Bansal	Ndc & Lt-Leds Expert For Asia Pacific	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Thailand
49	Ms.	Juliana	Masi	Assistant Director Information	Government of Rivers State Nigeria	Nigeria
50	Mr.	Juwon	Afolayan	Global Chapter Facilitator	World Youth Parliament for Water	United Kingdom
51	Ms.	Karine	Kostanyan	Moescs Ra	Northern University	Armenia
52	Ms.	Karla	Alcantar Sanchez	Programme Officer	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
53	Ms.	Karla	Solis Garcia	Programme Management Officer	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
54	Ms.	Kausaalya	Nagaraja	Analyst	Academy of Sciences Malaysia	Malaysia
55	Ms.	Kay	Bodden	Environmental Department Manager	Municipality of Puerto Cortés	Honduras
56	Mr.	Kester	Agyekum	Development Planning Officer	Tema West Municipal Assembly	Ghana
57	Mr.	Konan Guillaume	N'Goran	Head Of Service	Ministry of environment of Cote d'Ivoire	Cote D Ivoire
58	Mr.	Kwabena Obiri	Yeboah	Founder	Social Entreprenuership Hub	Ghana
59	Ms.	Linet	Mutisya	Project Manager-Maternal & Child Health.	Swedish Organization for Global Health	Sweden
60	Ms.	Marcelle	Kpeto	Research Assistant	RCC-BOAD	Togo
61	Ms.	Márcia	Marques	Adviser Tosecretary Of State Of The Sea	Government of Portugal	Portugal
62	Ms.	Maria	Kokotkova	Senior Programme Analyst	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	United States
63	Ms.	Maria Paola	Ferrario	Community Development Planner	Region Nine Development Commission	United States
64		Martin	Krobath	Sustainability Lead	Department for Environment - UK GOV	United Kingdom
65	Mr.	Md. Kamrul Hasan	Arif	Protection Associate	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Bangladesh

66	Mr.	Michael	Agyemang	Metro Development Planning Officer	Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly	Ghana
67	Mr.	Michael	Smits	Holistic Innovation Coach And Co-Founder	Metamorphany Changemakers	Netherlands
68	Mr.	Mohammad	Shehadat	Kofi Annan Changemaker	Kofi Annan Foundation	Jordan
69	Mr.	Mohammad Sijanur Rah	Robin	Technical Training And Learning Officer	NGO Forum for Public Health	Bangladesh
70	Ms.	Monica	Sanders	Professor, Founder	The Undivide Project and Georgetown Univ	United States
71	Mr.	Muhammad	Attlam	Business Sustainability Engineer	Hassan Allam Holding	Egypt
72	Mr.	Muhammad Ali	Sheikh	Consultant	Asian Development Bank	Pakistan
73	Ms.	Nadia	Gonzalez	Rcc Latam	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Panama
74	Ms.	Nancy	Landa Hernandez	Advisor On Migration & Displacement	Independent Consultant	Mexico
75	Ms.	Nansata	Yakubu	Team Lead	Democracy Engineers	Ghana
76	Ms.	Ndife	Zion Walter	Founder/Program Coordinator	Alpha Development Model Foundation	Nigeria
77	Ms.	Olivia	Benson Gallina	Chief Operating Officer	The Forbes Funds	United States
78	Mr.	Olubunmi	Duduyemi	Program Manager	Agroinfotech Africa	Nigeria
79	Ms.	Pamela Nyasha	Mapedzamombe	Campaigns And Advocacy Manager	Zimbabwe WorkCamps Association	Zimbabwe
80	Ms.	Paula	Sweis	Business Consultant & Advisor	SILVERWEISS International	United States
81	Ms.	Ping	Manongdo	Country Director	Eco-Business	Philippines
82	Mr.	Pratheesh	C Mammen	State Programme Coordinator	Kerala State Disaster Management	India
83	Ms.	Renee	Street	Interim Director	South African Medical Research Council	South Africa
84	Mr.	Rolando	Castellares	Associate General Counsel	World Wildlife Fund	United States
85	Ms.	Sana	Lingorsky	Programme Officer	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Bulgaria
86	Ms.	Sarra	Boujnah	Admin And Liaison Officer	World green economy organization	United Arab Emirates
87	Ms.	Selma	Blanken	Csr Coordinator & Project Facilitator	ProductIP & NGO La Bolina	Netherlands
88	Ms.	Sherine	Rady Elasmar	Professor, Director Of I-Chp	Ain Shams University	Egypt
89	Ms.	Shradha	Pandey	Project Leader	Grassroots Energy Management Support	India
90	Ms.	Silvia	Otieno	Fellow	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
91	Ms.	Sofía	Puertas Borreguero	International Trade Trainee	Embassy of Spain in Belgium	Belgium
92	Ms.	Sofie	Lindberg	Director Communications	Metroselskabet	Denmark
93	Mr.	Steve	Borchardt	Research Consultant	Seidor	Italy
94	Ms.	Stina	Heikkila	Sustainability Governance Advisor	City of Tallinn, Estonia	Estonia
95	Mr.	Talal	Waheed	Global Advisor Disability Inclusive Drr	CBM - Christian Blind Mission	Pakistan
96	Ms.	Tatiana	Saraseko	Research Associate	Bielefeld university	Germany
97	Ms.	Thatiana	Felski	Sustainability Senior Analyst	Syngenta	Brazil
98	Mr.	Ulf	Bjornholm	Dep. Director, Governance Affairs Office	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Kenya
99	Mr.	Urbans	Benywanira	Technical Officer	Regional Collaboration Centre Kampala	Uganda
100	Ms.	Valeria	Fuentes Verastegui	Energy Trade Trainee	Eneco	Netherlands
101	Ms.	Verónica	Belchior	Project Coordinator	Associação Mais Cidadania	Portugal
102	Mr.	Vikrant	Badve	Associate Programme Officer	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Germany
103	Ms.	Violeta	Seva	General Secretary	EMI	Philippines
104	Mr.	William	Yuen	Head Of Market Intelligence & Strategy	BlueOnion	China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
105	Ms.	Windyaswari Pristina	Arindrani	Engagement Manager	McKinsey and Company	Indonesia
106	Ms.	Xhulia	Karaj	Diplomat	Embassy of Albania in Denmark	Denmark
107	Ms.	Yan	Xu	Phd Candidate	Durham University	United Kingdom
108	Ms.	Yasmin	Shameem	Innovation Specialist	RCC- MENA &SA	United Arab Emirates
109	Ms.	Zeinorin	Angkang	Founder	Hill wild	India

Annex 4: The UN Summer Academy team

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Jackline Bwana

Elanur Alsaç

Asha Verma

Léa Abdel Jalil

Felipe Deute

Branca Barulli de Xavier

Lien Chau Ton Nu

Grace Kirugumi

Christianna Pangalos

Heike Tuerke

Roxanne Le Failler

Patrick van Weerelt

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The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is the primary provider of inter-agency 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.

For more information about the **UN Summer Academy 2023**, please contact the team at sustainable-development@unssc.org

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