

Inter-union liaisons: IDSSD & SDGs

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International Decade of
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The UN's GA declared 2024-2033 as the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) to help find solutions to the global challenges faced by humanity.

The IDSSD's goals include: restoring confidence in science, encouraging critical thinking, strengthening worldwide scientific cooperation.

ISC Cat 1 members cover a broad range of scientific disciplines. It would be good to share the knowledge accumulated in our disciplines and start thinking of joint future pathways to help advance the aims of the IDSSD.

Drawing inspiration from the IPCC, we could liaise to produce reports containing comprehensive/balanced descriptions of the current knowledge on topics related to the IDSSD, in particular, to the UN's SDGs.

As a first step it is important to know the themes on which we could liaise to produce these reports. Having joint webinars/presentations with participation of researchers of our disciplines would certainly help.

To this end, I shared with you a form to identify one or more SDGs and, within the SDG, a theme for which your disciplines have been making relevant contributions as well as other subjects of interest. Based on this, we can then organize the webinars and the writing of the reports.

Themes from the form (responded by representatives of 15 Unions)

Some responses were related to initiatives undertaken by the unions related to the SDGs. In any case, some broad subjects could be identified (some of them are actually solely defined by the SDGs). They are:

Quality education. 13 positive responses. Possible theme: science education, in particular, the impact of AI on science education and training at different levels.

Good health and wellbeing. 14 positive responses. Themes; themes: optometry and vision science, toxicology, radon research in cave environments, therapeutic use of cave environments (speleotherapy), occupational safety in cave exploration; biology-based disease prevention, biodiversity-health data integration, global wildlife trade risks, zoonotic diseases, medical physics and the contributions of "Forests and Trees for Human Health," among others.

Clean water and sanitation. 11 positive responses. Nature is running an issue (still open for submissions) on "Water pollution and advanced treatment processes" that could serve as inspiration to organize a webinar (<https://www.nature.com/collections/hehhggfbge>).

Affordable and clean energy, 10 positive responses. Themes: Energy-related technologies; fusion for sustainable development and energy transition; resource management and planning; mapping for sustainable land planning; cartographic visualization of SDG indicators and SDG atlases.

Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 12 positive responses. Themes: Infrastructure and Engineering; Innovation and Technology; Resource Management and Sustainability; Data and Visualization: Research support.

Climate action. 11 positive responses. Themes: Climate Change Research and Modeling; Evolution of climate knowledge and impact of industrialization; Biological interactions and chemical ecology; social movements and activism; climate change responses and energy transition

Sustainable cities and communities. 8 positive responses. Themes: Urban planning and management; Environmental contributions; Academic and research initiatives (incorporating sustainability thinking in university curricula and research); Urban sociology; Technological impact; smart cities.

Life on land, 9 positive responses. Themes: Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation; forests and water; science policy forums concerning biodiversity (CBD COP); environmental sociology.

No poverty: 7 Zero hunger: 6 Life below water: 6. Decent work and economic growth: 6. Reduced inequalities: 5. Life below water: 6. Peace, justice and strong institutions: 6. Partnership: what we are doing!

Did not include gender equality because the SCGES is working fine!

Other themes:

- Life in space, Space biology, Origin of Life
- Oceans
- Geospatial technologies
- Science diplomacy. Science Communication. Trust in science.
- Open Science. Data Sharing
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cultural Heritage
- Capacity Building
- Geohazard Prevention
- Social and economic resilience

How to go on from here?

Put together a small committee to organize webinars (starting when?). I would start with the SDGs and some of the themes suggested by the various unions.

Learn from IUFRO how they managed to produce so many reports.

Establish a strategy and timeline to produce ~4 reports in 8 years.

For the future: Discuss what other themes could be incorporated to the future agenda of sustainable development. That could be a “closing report” in the series.



Thank you!