Time for action!

We have reached a point in history where humanity faces unprecedented social and environmental challenges. Addressing such challenges is not only a requirement for building a socially just and environmentally sustainable society (a better world for future generations), but an urgent need for the protection of ecosystems that support today’s communities and their social stability. The scale of these problems, added to the complex connectivity of natural systems and of globalization, results in a variety of issues that affect us all and therefore have to concern us all. Likewise, we all share a common (although differentiated) responsibility to contribute towards their solution. Effective change requires action from all parts of society. Take action now!

Jorge Gomez-Paredes
Director

The Sustainable Development Goals

In September of 2015, 193 member states of the United Nations adopted an agenda to direct global action towards a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable universal development path. The term “universal” implies application in all countries. This “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have 169 associated targets and a timeline of 15 years, to be met by 2030. The SDGs are thus the new organizing principles of global development cooperation, replacing and expanding the Millennium Development Goals, which ran from 2000 to 2015.1

1 For information on the SDGs see http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals
The Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in August 2012 at the request of former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, special adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and current Secretary-General António Guterres, is the Executive Director of the SDSN.

Created three years ahead of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the SDSN mobilized global scientific and technological expertise to help define the SDGs. Now, the main focus of the SDSN is to promote practical problem solving initiatives for the implementation and achievement of the SDGs at local, national, regional, and global levels.

In order to build an agile global network encompassing academia, civil society, business, government, and international organizations, the SDSN has launched national and regional SDSN chapters. ²

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the Andean Region

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the Andean Region (SDSN Andes) was launched in June 2015 at the headquarters of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) by the SDSN and the Ecuadorian Presidency. The Andean Region comprises Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

² For a list of regional and national networks visit http://unsdsn.org/what-we-do/national-and-regional-networks/regional-sdsn
Aligned with the SDSN’s purpose, the SDSN Andes’ mandate is to work for the achievement of the SDGs in the Andean Region. To that end, the SDSN Andes works at:

- Promoting an open dialogue among a variety of sectors of society about the challenges faced by the Andean Region to achieve the SDGs
- Mobilizing academia, civil society, business, government, and international organizations to find and implement solutions to the challenges of the region, in a way that contributes to the materialization of the SDGs
- Providing science-based decision-making support to governments, communities, and other stakeholders, in their efforts to implement strategies to achieve the SDGs
- Spreading solutions initiatives and best practices through publications and media outlets with a national, regional, and global reach
- Promoting and supporting education on sustainable development in order to enable the future leaders of the region

In order to tackle such tasks, the SDSN Andes is conceived as a unique inter-organizational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary network of leading organizations, within and outside of the region, with interest and expertise to tackle pressing development challenges in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and/or Venezuela.

SDSN Andes’ governance and funding

Operationally, the SDSN Andes is composed of a Leadership Council (LC) and a Secretariat.

The LC consists of global leaders and visionaries who provide intellectual stewardship, advance the organization’s vision and strategy, and help mobilize human and financial resources.

The Secretariat is the regional coordinating hub for the activities of the network, managing all operations and communications, and serving as a bridge that connects member and partner organizations. The SDSN Andes’ Secretariat is located at Yachay Tech University, in Urcuquí – Ecuador. Dr. Jorge Gómez-Paredes is the Director.

Similarly to other regional SDSN chapters, the SDSN Andes is financially self-sufficient through donations.

3 For more information of the Secretariat visit http://www.unsdn-andes.org/en/about-us/organization/secretariat
**SDSN Andes’ members and partners**

**Membership** is open to universities, research centers, civil society organizations, and other knowledge centers with deep expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development. Membership is free. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are periodically processed by the SDSN’s Executive Committee.

**Partnership** is open to governmental organizations, business, and individuals, in recognition of their contributions to sustainable development. Applications are accepted on a rolling bases and are periodically processed by the SDSN Andes’ Secretariat.

It is not necessary for members and/or partners to reside in the region.

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4 Membership is open to universities as a whole, as well as to single university departments and/or institutes. Business and governmental organizations cannot become members, except for public research agencies.
5 To apply for membership visit https://icsd.submittable.com/submit
6 To apply for partnership contact us at info@unsdsn-andes.org
7 For a list of members and partners visit http://www.unsdsn-andes.org/en/about-us/organization/members-partners
8 SDSN educational resources are available at https://www.sdsnedu.org
SDSN Andes’ thematic areas and current initiatives

Thematic areas of work are:

- Biodiversity protection and sustainable management of ecosystem services
- Sustainable and resilient human settlements
- Sustainable production systems and consumption patterns

Notwithstanding these, the SDSN Andes welcomes initiatives addressing any of the 17 SDGs in the Andean Region.

Aligned with these thematic areas, examples of current SDSN Andes’ initiatives are:

- “Conservation and management of ecosystem services in the Mira-Mataje binational watershed (Colombia - Ecuador)”
- “Development of resilient coastal communities in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru”
- “Influence of Andean Region countries’ economic structures on the SDGs”

Lastly, the SDSN Andes will soon begin a process aimed at “Localizing the SDGs in the Andean Region”. Such initiative responds to the fact that while the SDGs are pertinent to all countries they need to be implemented in consideration of national and regional contexts. This process will imply identifying priorities within the SDGs for the seven countries comprising the Andean Region. It will open a discussion on suitable indicators for effectively measuring progress towards the SDGs, starting from the newly released SDG Index. And will produce a regional recommendations report compiling a list of potential solution initiatives and research priorities relevant for the region, both of which will guide the work of the network in the years to come. All SDSN-Andes’ members and partners will be invited to actively participate in this exercise, along with key stakeholders from all sectors of society in the Andean Region.

We invite you to take part in this historic process as well as to take action for the sustainable development of the Andean Region.

9 For more information on these initiatives visit [http://www.unsdsn-andes.org/en/what-we-do/projects](http://www.unsdsn-andes.org/en/what-we-do/projects) or contact us at [info@unsdsn-andes.org](mailto:info@unsdsn-andes.org)

10 See the SDG Index & Dashboards at [http://sdgindex.org/](http://sdgindex.org/)
JOIN US!

www.unsdsn-andes.org