



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

| Turkey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document has been prepared with the aim of presenting the high level content, discussions and experience that took place at the first SDSN20 Conference held in Istanbul on November 11 and 12, 2015. In the framework of the G20 Meetings held in Antalya, Turkey on November, 15-16, 2015, it reflects the sequence of the speeches, highlighting discussed content.

The first SDSN20 Conference in Istanbul was held at Boğaziçi University, the university hosting the UNSDSN Turkey network, on November 11 and 12, 2015 within the framework of the G20 Meetings held in Antalya-Turkey on November 15-16 2015. Welcoming remarks from the Vice Rector, Professor Lale Akarun, and the Honorary Chair of SDSN Turkey, Professor Üstün Ergüder, drew attention to the role of SDSN in an age of sustainable development.

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of SDSN Global, started discussions with a brief history and objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals. Prof. Sachs stated that governments' agreement on an inclusive list of seventeen goals was promising despite bearing significant challenges for implementation, for which the G20 carries a significant responsibility and importance during the process.

OECD Ambassador for Turkey, Mithat Rende, discussed the importance of energy and energy security, stating the need to provide energy through affordable and uninterrupted means. Commitments to decrease emissions as well as on financing (especially of LIDCs – Low Income Developing Countries) are required, taking into account the challenge stemming from the drop in oil prices.

Aromar Revi, Co Chair of SDSN, discussed issues such as immigration from the perspective of public social behaviors and analyzed reasons for the unfinished 'calls'. He stressed that the reasons needed to be understood for sustainable deployment while sharing an instrumental perspective to overcome challenges for the SDG process.

The importance of the G20 for the SDGs was a primary topic of discussion throughout the SDSN20 Conference. The current goals and institutions of the G20 for sustainable development were discussed and the institutions that needs to be developed to achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, this design problem in the system had necessitated the SDGs.

Parallel to the SDSN20 Conference, a call for action for the G20 to focus on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was developed and a declaration for addressing the G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey on November 2015 was issued:

'We therefore call on the G20 to ensure maximum support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the political, governance and operational levels within the next 12 to 18 months. Progress should be reviewed at the next G20 meeting in China.'

General discussions on the role and nature of the SDGs were held in various panels. Essentially, SDGs are considered as instrumental, inclusive and diversified in that they provided a strong framework with the acceptance of more than 150 world leaders. However, challenges regarding their deployment were also widely discussed. To overcome the hurdles in this scenario, there was a consensus on;

- The need for a base case analysis at each local or country level, a 'differential diagnosis' before starting the implementation; prioritizing and customizing the SDG action agenda at local levels;
- The need for financing and institutional adaptations regarding the SDGs as well as deployment of new technologies;
- Collaboration of governments (both central and local), academia, business, civil society, institutions; identification of the role and importance of each party;
- Institutionalization of efforts through system design, education, taxation / incentives (for negative and positive externalities);
- Developing awareness among public (where youth is key);
- Measuring and monitoring progress while reinforcing liability;
- Communication of good examples, scientific research and data

Business perspectives were shared by the WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) Turkey (aka SKD). Challenges were discussed and initiatives were communicated.

The role of the SDSN was restated and progress to date was discussed between the Turkey, Germany, Amazon, and Mediterranean Networks.

Last but not the least, SDSN discussions in Turkey reflected an overall optimism for the SDGs, considering ways to overcome challenges and defining ways for going forward. Strong messages were developed for the upcoming G20 Summit in Antalya on November 15-16 and COP21 in Paris, on November 30 – December 11.

INTRODUCTION

Prof. Lale AKARUN, Vice Rector for Research, Boğaziçi University (BU)

Boğaziçi University, a university with 150 years of history, has been on a growth path for the last forty years, especially in graduate studies. With the establishment of the Institute of Environmental Studies in 1983, the Center of Sustainable Development and Clean Production in 2007, the Center of Climate Change and Policies in 2014, our focus on applied research on environmental studies has been growing steadily. These are accompanied with social centers (policy, peace) including the "Technology Transfer Office" for an extended sustainable development focus.

Moreover, BU embodies the principles and practices of a *green campus*, by generating wind, tidal and bio energy infrastructures at the Kilyos Campus.

BU is proud to be leading the **SDSN Turkey** and believes that SDSN's structure for networking as well as collaboration around research is vital for the deployment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof. Üstün ERGÜDER, Leadership Council Chair, SDSN TURKEY

2015 is the year of 'Sustainable Development' and hence offers unprecedented opportunities for inclusive, sustainable and stronger development.

Buttressing sustainability for development, energy and climate can overcome poverty, and promote welfare for a fair and honorable world. To achieve sustainable development; dedication, focus and collaboration are needed.

The G20 offers significant opportunity for Turkey to include SDGs in the agenda of G20 Leaders. The meeting agenda covers what kind of messages should be sent to the G20; prioritization of SDGs; new financing mechanisms to be developed; engagement of the private sector in realizing the SDGs; and how youth can be leveraged.

The SDSN is committed to the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. The intention of the day is to define problems, exchange experiences and hence be connected on a global and regional basis.

SESSION 1:

IMPLEMENTING THE SDG'S IN THE G20 COUNTRIES: FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

H. E. Ambassador Mithat RENDE, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OECD

Prof. Jeffrey SACHS, Director of SDSN I Global and Director of Earth Institute, Columbia University (Moderator)

Aromar REVI, Co-Chair of SDSN I Global and Director of Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

Jeffrey SACHS

On the eve of the G20 Summit in Turkey and the Climate Talks in Paris, it is important to pursue SDSN efforts annually. In this wonderful atmosphere of Boğaziçi University, we would like to announce the **SDSN20** which will aim to influence the G20 countries around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Every year universities from all countries will come together, and this year this organization is an historic start for future steps.

The age of Sustainable Development has officially started on September 25th with the announcement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations Summit in New York.

First, some background on the **SDG's process**;

* In the 2012 Rio +20 conference, which was held on the 20th anniversary of the very first Earth Summit, three main priorities emerged; climate change, biodiversity and the end of desertification. Unfortunately, efforts to address these problematic areas could not be realized. The United Nations then started to work on a more systematic scheme for a sustainable development. On the 25th of September 2015, UN adopted the new **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, which added a new impetus to the concept of sustainable development.

All UN member states agreed on these 17 goals. This is one of the unique examples of global co-operation between countries. The implementation agenda will start on the 1st of January 2016 and continue until 2030.

* The key of a **sustainable development** is essentially the combination of three objectives:

First, **economic development**, in other words the end of poverty. (SDG1).

The Second one is the **social inclusion**:

There is a serious division in societies. We should end the discrimination, achieve gender equality in different fields, sustain diversity and minimize the inequality. (SDG5, SDG10)

We should reduce violence. (SDG 16)

The Third and the last objective is the ecological and **environmental sustainability**. We need to combine economy with technology, the right behaviors and systems so that economic development does not wreck the planet. We need to:

Develop Sustainable Cities (SDG11)

Promote a circular economy, sustainable consumption, waste management (SDG12)

Stop human induced climate change (SDG13). Paris COP21 between November 30 and December 10 is a significant upcoming event.

Consider ocean health (SDG14)

Conserve terrestrial ecosystems; life on land (SDG15)

Governments did a remarkable job bringing these together and 17 is a manageable number, focusing on different aspects individually. Yet, there are significant challenges:

- ❖ **Ending poverty (SDG 1, 2, 6, 7)**
- ❖ **De-carbonizing the energy system (SDG 13) :** The G8 countries came together in Bavaria in June and agreed on a de-carbonizing framework. This agreement, aiming for low carbon by 2050s and no carbon at all by 2080 to keep the global warming within 2°C by the end of the millennium, is very promising and encouraging. The current figures estimate that the expected warming is already 1°C over the proposed limit. With these in mind, the hope is that these crucial goals for climate change will be confirmed in Paris. Turkey should also focus on ways for transition to low-carbon and zero-carbon pathways.
- ❖ **Sustainable food and agriculture (SDG 2, 14, 15) :**
 - Hunger: Almost a billion of people suffer from protein intake and micronutrient inefficiencies.
 - Environmental degradation, emissions from methane and nitrous oxide
 - Water usage
 - Nitrogen and phosphorus fluxes
 - Ecosystem conservation vulnerabilities
- ❖ **Sustainable cities and developments (SDG 9, 11) :** Smart infrastructure and cities are needed.
- ❖ **Sustainable industrial production and circular economy (SDG 12, 14, 15) should be promoted.**
- ❖ **Universal access to quality health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4) should be organized.**
- ❖ **Promoting job skills and employment(SDG8) obtained by social inclusion (SDG5,10,16,17) is vital.**

These are all important themes. Yet none of them are simple and all requires further research.

* There is also good news from the world:

- Progress was made on economic welfare during the **Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)**. The Poverty rate was reduced by half between 1990 and 2015 according to World Bank numbers.
 - 37% of the population was living with less than \$1.9 per day. Today it is 9%.
- The rate of economic development is correlated with the rate of education. The quality of schools is important. Asia Especially has been developing its quality of education recently.

* On the other hand, there are the not so good news:

- Social inclusion is not encouraging. **The gap between rich and poor** is increasing in the world.
- China is getting richer but also getting dirtier. To reach sustainability there should be a **balance and combination** between the economy and environment.
- Society is **"violating the planetary boundaries"** as defined by Johan Rockström, Stockholm Resilience Center⁽¹⁾. Violations of all goals are common but disregard for climate and ocean acidification are the most critical. SDG 13, 14, 15 are urging us to stay within limits of that can be tolerated by the planet.

(1) URL: <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/>

- 70% of the current energy system is based on the use of fossil fuels. Getting to 0% by 2070-2080s requires a **de-carbonization** commitment from all governments. Lead times and the accumulation of stock are challenges for this transformation. Paris is the last chance to bend the curves.

* It is important for countries to set their own goals. Every country should know where they stand in SDGs. When we look at the top 4 countries in the SDG statistics, we see Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland all of which are also countries ranking highest in social democracy measures. The USA has a large economy but it is ranked low in equality and being green. Turkey ranks close to the USA. There needs to be a good balance between the goals.

It is expected that in the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to be held March 2016 in New York, an agreement will be reached on the indicator framework and set of indicators for the post-2016 development agenda. Other agenda items include an assessment on all 17 goals. This will help to present a more simplified picture.

SDSN is a community bringing together 350 member universities with the UN's academic network with the intention of putting together norms of universal citizenship through university education. Universities need to put together research and training. Awareness, encouragement and engagement of the youth are crucial. New tools on how to reach the goals are needed.

* Now the current situation puts us through a SDG-based planning:

- **Deep De-carbonization Pathway Projects** (DDPP) should be implemented. What are the alternatives for energy? Nuclear, wind, solar or others? How will pathways and trajectory be defined?
 - DDPP, a project led by SDSN is available for National chapters.
- **Formation of a Global network** of universities, think tanks, communities, private sector is important.
- **Multi stakeholder process** is necessary. Government work is not only central but also needs to be pursued at municipal and sub-national levels.
- **Deployment of new technologies** in the fields of information technologies, smart grid, measurement and monitoring system is needed.
- **Public awareness** is a key point for the process. Public engagement is a must for a sustainable development.

The idea behind these goals is to have a work program on a global basis – hopefully. **G20 countries** carry high responsibility and importance during this process. This meeting will bring out an important message to G20 leaders. (SDSN20 Conference- Istanbul Declaration on November 12, 2015)

Mithat RENDE

This meeting of SDSN is a very timely event, for several reasons.

* The unprecedented economic crisis in 2008 brought slow growth, which was accompanied by unemployment, as well as lack of confidence in governments and markets. Some countries still suffer, like Ukraine. **Irregular migration** is a big issue. Turkey is a host to the world's largest Syrian refugee population with 2.2 million people.

* These have shown us how vulnerable and interdependent the world economies are. New ways and approaches need to be discovered, such as the **MGDs**⁽²⁾ which lifted 1 billion people out of poverty by providing food security, education and energy access.

* The UN General Assembly agreed on a 2030 Agenda. Its primary pillars should be:

Energy (**SDG7**) – Access to energy. The International Energy Agency led by Fatih Birol is working on this. Energy is the backbone of the economy. ***Energy security should be attained through affordable and uninterrupted means.***

Energy need will be increasing by approximately 1.7% annually (according to International Energy Institution's numbers). Therefore ***best sources of energy should be used*** while taking into account the challenge from the drop in oil prices; which works negatively for emissions but positively for meeting the global demand for energy.

*What is needed?

- **New technologies**
- **Investments** to boost growth in clean energy: \$90 trillion needs to be invested in clean energy.
- **New clean energy sources**: Despite the reduction in demand for coal, it constitutes only 29% of the global supply.
- Encourage **renewable energy**: Not easy.
- **Natural gas**: Constitutes half of all emissions compared to coal but it is an expensive and only a partial solution.
- **Nuclear**: Controversial but important as it brings a steady supply of base load energy.

* The International Energy Agency will be hosting an event in Paris on 17-18th of November 2015 which will bring together all Energy Ministers from different countries. Governments are working on the issue of energy. The conference in Bonn gave us hope. An outcome should be expected on;

A commitment to decrease emissions as well as on financing (especially of LIDCs – Low Income Developing Countries)

* **INDCs** (*Intended Nationally Determined Contributions*)⁽³⁾ are designed for all – developing and developed countries. INDCs are not that ambitious and furthermore, are not verifiable. The current outcome of INDCs points to a 2.7°C of warming. This indicates that there is room for improvement.

* The Role of the private sector is very important during this period.

* The French and Chinese declaration is an important global action towards climate change in the world.

* Trust between different parties is very important. Everyone should have responsibility; no free-riders should be allowed.

* The G20 commitment should be there.

What is the OECD⁽⁴⁾ doing?

* The OECD has the capacity and know-how to support the SGDs. It works to define route causes and develop better policy advice.

(2) URL: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

(3) URL: <http://www.wri.org/indc-definition>

(4) URL: <http://www.oecd.org/>

"**Policy Framework on SDG's** (Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in the SDG Framework)⁽⁵⁾" which is supported by 23 members, "**Inclusive green growth initiative project**" (A Toolkit of Policy Options to Support Inclusive Green Growth)⁽⁶⁾" , "**Aligning policies for a low carbon economy**", policy work for investments, global value chain study "Leave no one behind" are some of the projects the OECD worked on for sustainable development agenda.

* The "**World Humanity Summit**" that will be held in 2016 in Istanbul is also important for taking action in this subject.

Outcomes of the OECD conference on the 21st of October 2015:

*A workshop on the development and growth of education was organized, and was attended by the Director of OECD and many academics from Turkey

* The workshop concluded that; *'capability comes from education, innovation comes from capability, technology comes from innovation, production comes from technology and development comes from production'*. Therefore **education** is the key point for a country to develop. Equality in education is very important, though we are far from achieving that equality around the world. Around 500 million students are still being educated in under qualified schools. Education and the motivation of the teachers and academicians **are** significant factors. The use of technology should be generalized. A good combination of qualified teachers, technology and a good environment will bring out a better education. In material terms, if education stays 'as is' in the USA, 46 million people will be replaced by machines by 2040. This is why the matter is urgent.

Aromar REVI

* Most people still haven't heard about the SDG's yet:

- Are they important?
- Are they implementable?
- How do we go about implementing them?
- Are there any unfinished agendas off the list?

MDGs worked from top to bottom, whereas SDGs are from bottom to top.

* A look at social behaviors such as immigration, reveals reasons for unfinished calls. When people feel unsatisfied about a situation and when they hold doubts about their future, they start to look for alternative places to live. The SDGs are focusing on the optimal conditions we require for a good society; at least 3-4 SDG problems underlie these changes.

The climate crisis, for example, is a symptom. The cause lies somewhere else. ***We need to understand the causes.***

SDG's are very significant because;

- It is a '**Social Compact**' committed by all governments. The scale is vast.
- Leaders set a universal agenda. Nobody is left behind.
- ***There is an opportunity is to build this Social Compact at the local level.***

(5) URL: <http://www.oecd.org/development/pcd/Note%20on%20Shaping%20Targets.pdf>

(6) URL: <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/toolkit.pdf>

* There are challenges, though:

Challenge I: National governments may regard the SDGs as complicated and too many in number. Recommendations in this regard are to:

- Take SDGs as systematic questions and try to integrate as many as possible (bundling),
- Find interconnections, synergies,
- Re-imagine (for your national context)

Challenge II: Relevance versus political priorities. Recommendation is;

- Build from small steps upwards. Start from local to national to global.

Challenge III: How to implement SDGs? Recommendations are:

- Consider the value action – for example think how cardiovascular diseases can be decreased by promoting walking in cities.
- Open up multiple silos; open up talks where normally people don't talk to each other.
- Educate young people on this agenda in a systematic way.
- Critically assess your readiness in this. Many countries are in deep trouble. Similar sets of challenges apply to all type of countries.
- Get governments, private sector, civil society, academicians working together. It is hard because political readiness does not necessarily come along with cultural readiness.
- See how to align processes (consider role of SDSN).
- Assess multiple dimensions. You cannot stop at the national level. You need to consider implementing at regional levels as well.
- Set up a monitoring system. It is adequate if it can show direction. For example, follow land-use change.
- Test & learn systematically.

In time synergies should be expected from actively working together, technological innovations (even energy technology), people by re-directing institutions and re-orienting ourselves.

SESSION 2

THE ROLE OF THE G20 PROCESS TO SUPPORT THE SDG'S

Assoc. Prof. Cemil ARIKAN, Chair of the Board, SDSN Turkey (Moderator)

Adolf Kloke-LESCH, Executive Director of SDSN Germany

Prof. Vedat AKGİRAY, Executive Director of CCG (Center for Research in Corporate Governance & Financial Regulation), Former Chairman of CMG (Capital Market Boards of Turkey)

Dr. Erkin ERİMEZ, Member of Executive Committee, SDSN Turkey

1. The G20 has taken some actions so far for the existing problems. Could you give us a picture regarding these actions to help in implementing the SDGs ?

Adolf Kloke-LESCH

* Has the G20 done enough? Current institutions are not 'fit' for this transformation:

Current toning of one type of institutions is a re-affirmation of what they have been doing. This is certainly not enough. The second type of toning is denying; 'not my responsibility'. Both attitudes are dangerous and need to change.

* Scaling up is important. Talks need to be focused on all types of countries, not only low income, but also around middle income and high income countries.

* Huge implementation effort remains unchallenged. Implementation in low-income countries differs from the implementations in rich countries. We can start with a radical change in the trading systems between the richer countries, which basically is the core of the economy.

* By definition, in the G20 don't come together as blocks; therefore it is well suited for embracing the SDGs. All SDGs are inclusive of the G20. Goals around core economic activities are there; such as reducing gender inequality and reducing unemployment. These goals are in the planned agenda of the Antalya G20 summit, but **currently these G20 goals are less ambitious compared to the SDGs.**

2. Considering think tank capability in G20 countries, what could be the collaborating mechanism to develop collective solutions for implementing SDGs and what will be the role of G20 governments to encourage this cooperation?

Erkin ERİMEZ

* Considering the think-tanks in G20 countries, there is a serious capacity. **Both academic and practical knowledge is very important in this process.** Academic side has a pure academic vision with a great database. Implementation, however; may not be the strength of the academia. Practical knowledge coming from the professionals in the business life is important. On the other side linking universities with the governments and business is crucial. Universities should be innovative. Furthermore, civil society must be included in the action plan for SDG's.

* We, as ARGE Consulting, the company I am a partner in, was the knowledge partner of B20's "Governance and Sustainability" theme. We organized a workshop in the B20 Paris meeting in June 2015 at the OECD. The discussions showed that some mechanisms to diagnose and develop solutions exist but they are not widely used such as the impact assessment tool.

Another issue is that the needs are changing, like the workforce. OECD, ILO and World Bank researches show that, employment characteristics are changing. New policies should be developed to motivate people. Statistics show that the average working period for people is around 2-3 years. However the current motivation mechanisms are for people to keep working in a job for at least 10 years. Therefore new mechanisms are needed to motivate people in the workforce to achieve the SDG's. Universities should consider need for change in the education system so as to prepare students with better for professional guidance. Government needs to be taking actions to develop new education mechanisms and labor systems.

3. 17 SDGs have been developed to improve quality of life in the next 15 years. Educating people is critical to implementing these SDGs. What could be the role of G20 Education institutions particularly universities in encouraging people and societies to take action?

Vedat AKGIRAY

* We can host events like this conference to increase people's awareness. There could be new courses and programs on sustainability subject.

* Finance sector currently has a limited appetite to invest in sustainable business practices. Normally finance sector shouldn't invest in unsustainable projects. However; the industry is short term profit driven. While this is changing, it will take time.

*Laws and regulations can be prepared and enacted to encourage investment in sustainability. **People believe in sustainability but they don't take action.** Enforcement via laws could be important. Engaging with all stakeholders is necessary for a better process.

* We should do more research on design models for the goals of sustainability. Partnership approach with banks should be pursued for these models to be accepted.

4. What could be the action of G20 countries for the SDGs that have not been covered with current action agenda and how could this be improved? Do we need a separate work stream like SDG20 ?

Adolf Kloke-LESCH

* We need architectures for action that are inclusive.

* The G20 already takes some positive actions towards sustainable development. It is impossible to deal with all SDGs but leaders should emphasize the sustainability of infrastructure development. The mindset needs to be right. The G20 is both helpful and harmful. The G20 needs to check that all activities are conducive. There should not be a proliferation of unfocused issues.

* **Governmental implementation is important.** An umbrella type of working scheme is needed. Governments should utilize different groups (Woman20, Youth20, Business20...etc) to take role in the SDGs. In New York, three leaders from G20 countries (Brazil, South Africa and Germany) have joined the High-Level Group in the UN committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. What do you think about the role of business and civil societies in the G20 countries in the adoption and implementation of the SDGs?

Erkin ERİMEZ

* We should focus on the question of "how can we make these goals applicable for business and how these goals could be aligned with business strategies and life? WBCSD, SDSN and UNDP have worked together to develop the **SDG Compass**⁽⁷⁾ in which the alignment methodology has been explained.

- Actual issue for business is to create value for all stakeholders.
- Investment companies and funds do not pay enough attention to sustainability, which needs to change.
- It will take time for business sector to adopt these goals. The board's role in promoting long term thinking is crucial.
- Monitoring is very important; integrated reporting will be a good tool for monitoring and should be done.
- Working in silos should be eliminated and integrated thinking should be adopted. Collaboration between different parties should be increased.
- Inclusiveness is very important. Fair distribution of wealth in community should be obtained by providing jobs to low income communities.

6. How do you see the collaboration between universities all around the world? We have around 300 universities already in the network. How is that network working, what could the SDSN should do so that it can be successful in that respect?

Vedat AKGİRAY

* Training and education through universities is important.

* My advice would be to work through the markets dynamics (Adam Smith). We should find the right channels to make decisions. %90 of the Economy is based on the private sector, which should be utilized better for the deployment of the SDGs.

Jeffrey SACHS's comments on the session:

* The SDGs emerged because there has been a design problem in the system. This time it is a real network project that will connect everyone. The SDGs highlighted the gaps and not-to-do's as well as focused on fairly complicated institutional challenges.

(7) URL: <http://sdgcompass.org/>

* The MDG's also played an important role in the process. Even China put 15 of these goals into legislation. They would like to show the process and the results of actions to Asian countries. That is a good sign. These goals give the definitions for action items.

* It is not only the market dynamics, it is a combination of all parties' expectations and needs that will shape the action agenda.

* The G20 needs to institutionalize the process. During G20 meetings, Leaders usually talk about security, politics and economy but this time the SDGs will also be discussed. Taking these SDG's into the formal process is very crucial.

SESSION 3:

IMPLEMENTING THE SDG FOR G20

Dr. Christian KROLL, Bertelsmann Foundation: SDG benchmarking study

Prof. Mehmet ARDA, Southern Voice/SDSN Turkey: Measuring Sustainable Development to 2030

Guido Schmidt - TRAUB, Executive Director of SDSN (Moderator)

Susan NICOLAI, Head of Project; Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Guido SCHMIDT

* Australia's "**Monash Sustainability Institute**" ⁽⁸⁾ is working on implementation of the SDG's. Initially a focused study was pursued to prioritize the SDGs and what should be the role of each party in implementation of SDGs determined.

* As a guideline, national priorities and later regional priorities should be specified. Federal government, local government, business, civil society and academicians are the stakeholders in the process.

* For developing awareness, education is the key. Online education programs are useful for further penetration.

* Networks are important. For energy transformation, for example, both developed and developing country conditions should be considered; the finance community should be involved.

* We should look deeper on how transformation happens; the next 10 months are crucial (until the New York Summit).

Christian KROLL

* Two comments on the SDGs:

- We are going through unique times. The world has come out to find a common denominator.
- There is only one world to share and all countries yet have a lot to learn.

Studies are done to raise awareness and generate a blueprint.

Indicators are showing us that most countries will fail if they don't get back on track - that is respect for values like economic equality, and awareness of planetary boundaries.

For High Income countries, different sets of initiatives should be deployed for domestic sustainability, do-no-harm goals and global responsibility.

Civil society's role is crucial for raising awareness.

Tools to be deployed will lead to better performance. Seeing direct correlations, like in life satisfaction and SDGs, is motivating.

* The statistics (**Bertelsmann's study on SDGs** ⁽⁹⁾) are important to see where we stand. Countries should focus on their priority SDGs and designate a specific route for development.

(8) URL: <https://www.monash.edu/sustainability/programs-initiatives/sustainable-development/goals>

(9) URL: https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/fileadmin/files/BSt/Publikationen/GrauePublikationen/Studie_NW_Sustainable-Development-Goals_Are-the-rich-countries-ready_2015.pdf

Mehmet ARDA

We will focus on the **Post 2015 Data Test** ⁽¹⁰⁾;

* The MDGs focused on individual well-being; therefore they were not focused on development penetrated issues.

* The SDGs pursue a transformative agenda.

Data is critical. Is data available, and if so where? The MDGs helped to produce some data.

* The Post 2015 Data Test Study involved seven countries: Bangladesh, Canada, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Turkey and focused on seven goals:

- poverty,
- employment and inclusive growth,
- education, environmental sustainability and disaster resilience,
- energy and infrastructure,
- governance and human rights,
- Global partnership for development.

* The aim was to see where we were in terms of data. The best data availability for indicators was on education and poverty while the worst was on energy & infrastructure and governance.

* Overview of Turkish results shows some concerns about:

- ❖ Poverty: regional and intraregional inequalities and difficulties are crucial.
- ❖ Education: Quality rather than quantity is important.
- ❖ Employment: Productive employment should be provided.
- ❖ Energy and Infrastructure : Disaggregation is not suitable
- ❖ Governance: Perception and reporting problems prevail.
- ❖ Environment: Geographical differences, disaster deaths and renewable energy are primary.
- ❖ Global Partnership: Restrictions exist.

* After this study, new targets for Turkey (for poverty, education, employment, environment and disaster prevention, governance, partnerships) are identified and new indicators for the same goals were specified.

Susan NICOLAI

A scorecard study of the existing SDG's projection for year 2030 was done by **ODI** ⁽¹¹⁾.

* The goals that received B rating are "**reform goals**" which are moving towards the last mile. These goals are **SDG 1, SDG8, SDG15** focusing on poverty, growth and biodiversity.

* The goals that receive C-D-E on the scale are "**revolution goals**" can be considered as the unfinished part of MDGs. (**SDG 3, 4, 16, 17, 2, 6, 7, 5, 9**) It would take five to eight times more effort.

* The goals that receive F on the scale are "**reversal goals**", which are not going in the right direction and need to be reversed. (**SDG 10, 11, 12, 13, 14**) For example if environmental goals are not achieved, it can put people back into poverty.

(10) URL: http://www.post2015datatest.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Post2015_Data_Test_Turkey.pdf

(11) URL: <http://www.odi.org/publications/9895-sdgs-progress-scorecard-projecting-2030-development-goals>

What is the good news here? Vietnam had an extreme poverty rate that was around % 60 and now it is decreasing. Similarly in Nepal maternal mortality is decreasing, and in Ecuador, the growth rate is positive.

The recommendations for the SDG process are;

**** Take an early action,***

**** Recognize starting points,***

**** Inclusion is the key, leave no one behind,***

**** Learn from the top performers, all the steps should be open and shareable.***

SESSION 4:

THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN SUPPORT OF THE SDG'S

Canan Ercan ÇELİK, Chair of the Board, Business Council for Sustainable Development Turkey (BCSD)

Ata SELÇUK, Innovation and Sustainability Coordinator, Eczacıbaşı Holding (Moderator)

Ebru Dildar EDİN, Executive Vice President, Garanti Bank

Mustafa SEÇKİN, Unilever Turkey Vice President Foods & Refreshments, Board Member

As the Turkish arm of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) ⁽¹²⁾, what is your point of view on the SDG's? What kind of a road map do you have for reaching these targets?

Canan Ercan Çelik

* WBCSD TR (SKD)⁽¹³⁾ is an association that aims to introduce the concept of sustainability to the business sector. It has 48 member companies that employ around 350.000 people and contribute to one third of national income in Turkey.

* WBCSD TR has formed four different work streams in 2015-16. These groups are formed around environmental capital (which includes energy), social capital, financial capital and capacity development.

* An initial study has shown that business is not involved in most of the 17 goals. A base-case analysis was done. Some comments are:

Reporting matters.

Circular economy defines value.

Strategic monitoring is critical.

Good examples need to be shared; competitions are organized for this.

Education in collaboration with universities is important; Sustainability Management Certificate Program has been organized with Koç University.

In a proactive approach, members were notified on the goals. Baselines were defined.

Inclusion is the key in this journey. Collaboration between SDSN and WBCSD TR (SKD) is valuable.

From your corporate perspective, what is the importance of the finance sector? What is the importance of the SDGs in your sustainable development targets and what is your corporate role in this transition?

Ebru Dildar EDİN

* Political and governmental engagement is very important for the upcoming period. Finance sector is critical because of its impact on what is being financed.

(12) URL: <http://www.wbcd.org/home.aspx>

(13) URL: <http://www.skdturkiye.org/>

* Garanti Bank's SDG priorities are on climate, clean energy, life on land, water, equality, peace and partnerships.

* **"Equator Principles"**⁽¹⁴⁾ used by financial institutions must be adopted for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk. Taking joint action with other institutions is critical for competitive reasons.

* Risks should be considered: For example, to what extent hydro energy is sustainable? Clean energy should be financed with attractive terms to encourage people.

Some of Garanti Bank's initiatives are:

- CO2 emission reduction costs are considered in cash flows;
- Water risks are considered;
- No loans are granted for projects on wetlands;
- SME's are supported to improve employment rates;
- Initiatives for financial inclusion exist in the procedures (current rate is 42%);
- Women entrepreneurs are supported via various platforms;
- Services for the disabled are developed;
- Green office standards are adopted;
- Current ratio of women employees is %52 but senior level representation is significantly less. Further inclusion in promotion paths is necessary;
- Collaboration around SDGs with other financial institutions is considered;
- Data for water footprint for **CDP**⁽¹⁵⁾ is provided.

Mustafa SEÇKİN

* As commodity prices increased in 2008-09, people realized the effects of climate change.

During this time, Unilever redefined its brand around sustainability. The target was to reach out to one billion people while decreasing our environmental footprint and increasing our production from sustainable resources (current worldwide average is 55%, TR is at 75%). There is a radical target for 2020.

It is an era where action is needed – Paris talks are critical.

The mission is beyond corporate social responsibility, which is not sustainable in itself.

Consumer awareness for sustainable products needs to increase.

* Sustainability should be part of the education system and have coverage from primary school until university. Youth is critical for this transition.

* Social Media will be the media for change of the community.

* Most of the 17 goals are around hygiene, nutrition and medicine, which are factors for extended life duration. Unilever's business is very relevant here.

* Some of Unilever initiatives in Turkey are:

- **"He for She"**⁽¹⁶⁾ project which aims gender equality.

(14) URL: <http://www.equator-principles.com/>

(15) URL: <https://www.cdp.net/en-US/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

(16) URL: <http://www.heforshe.org/unilever>

- **“Lipton Sustainable Tea Agriculture Project”** ⁽¹⁷⁾ is significant for Turkey as the world’s fifth largest tea producer. Unilever on worldwide basis is using 17% of the tea. Unilever’s initiative by itself is not enough but it is disruptive for the industry. Competitions as well as extended players' commitment are needed for a bigger impact.
- Projects with SMBs, which emphasize ‘you can do it as well’ (DO).

Optimism needs to prevail. It is very important that all nations have agreed on the goals. Collaborations are critical. Setting KPIs will help.

Are we currently at the level we wanted in the society?

Canan Ercan ÇELİK

There is lack of awareness on sustainability.

Ways to improve are via sectoral dynamics. SMEs need to be supported.

Education is the key. Further trainings and educational programs should aim to reach more professionals.

Ebru Dildar EDİN

Garanti Bank has a **“Sustainability Policy Statement”** ⁽¹⁸⁾ and puts certain standards and imposes sanctions for the projects that are financed:

- For every tree cut during the project, expectation is to plant five.
- For every watt of energy produced from coal, expectation is to plant one tree.
- The Bank financed 35% of the wind power energy projects in Turkey.
- The Bank is the only bank from Turkey that is on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.
- The Bank financed women entrepreneurs with 2.8 billion TL since 2006 and is a signatory of **“Women’s Empowerment Initiatives”** ⁽¹⁹⁾

Mustafa SEÇKİN

For "Lipton" as a case; all stages of tea production have been transformed as sustainable:

- "Soil analysis laboratories" for conscious fertilizer usage not only achieved less usage but also an economic gain of ₺2-3 million. Health check-up was introduced for the Black Sea community farmers, who are effected by unhealthy conditions. (KETEM)
- Special scissors have been developed to optimize tea harvesting with less efforts.
- A water sewage facility was established for a selected community (as a prototype).
- Waste elimination facilities were also developed.
- Turkish tea was cloned, jointly with Akdeniz University.

‘Judge us’ but ‘also praise us’ as well when we do a good job!’

(17) URL: <https://www.unilever.com/brands/brand-stories/liptons-sustainable-tea-in-turkey.html>

(18) URL: http://www.garanti.com.tr/en/our_company/sustainability/sustainability_and_garanti.page

(19) URL: <http://www.weiphila.org/>

SESSION 5

THE ROLE OF SDSN NETWORKS

Prof. Jeffrey SACHS, Director of SDSN (Moderator)

Emma TORRES, SDSN Amazon

Adolf Kloke-LESCH, SDSN Germany

Prof. Angelo RICCABONI, SDSN Mediterranean

Assoc. Prof. Nilgün CILIZ, SDSN Turkey

Emma TORRES

* The mission of SDSN Amazon is to promote sustainability policy and mobilize stakeholders to advance sustainable solutions. Our vision is a robust transformative regional network that accelerates solutions for the Amazon.

Why is the Amazon important?

- The Amazon Basin has the highest biodiversity and largest resources in this biodiversity.
- This area has the largest expanse of tropical forest in the world. It is the crucial provider of the ecosystem, encompassing %15 of the total fresh water reaching oceans.
- More than 30 million people from almost 350 indigenous and ethnic groups populate this area.

So transformation should take place here!

What are the opportunities here?

- Consolidation and effective management of protected areas %40 of this region is under protection)
- Political awareness and commitment by the governments and civil society
- Increased commitment to social inclusive and sustainable economies
- Eradication of extreme poverty
- Mainstreaming sustainability issues in the business strategies
- Incorporating know-how of local actors
- Participation of multiple stakeholders in decision making process

Challenges in front of this process are in insufficient scientific knowledge of Amazon biodiversity, lack of alignment with decision makers on the strategic importance of the Amazon, and difficulties in mobilizing the financial resources.

The program;

* Involves the State of Amazon,

* Entails a vision of the future:

* Emphasizes education,

* Promotes scientific Research,

*Creates a Solutions Platform: A web-based open-access platform to map transformative sustainable development solutions is created. The goal is to reach everyone interested by data sharing in a Google map of the Amazon. An annual award for sustainable development activities is launched.

*Stresses and prioritizes communication

Adolf KLOKE - LESCH

* SDSN Germany was founded in 2014. Germany's first national sustainable development strategy was established in 2002.

* At the governmental level, the Federal Chancellery is leading on this strategy, a Council of Sustainable Development advises the government and the Federal Statistical Office is in charge of reporting. So many organizations are currently working on SDG issues.

* There are also many organizations that promote awareness of the community.

* German Government already decided to align the next strategy with the SDGs. At the EU-level all member states have already taken SDGs into their political agenda by agreeing to it in New York. In terms of global cooperation, the EU is working well on ideas but it has yet to be efficient in implementing these ideas. There should be joint projects with various partners.

* During implementation, it is challenging to bring civil society and business sector together. Business sector is good at training and consulting, so these should be followed by concrete actions.

* There should be a focus on sustainable consumption and production pattern within communities. The current refugee and migration crisis the world is facing right now has a direct link with SDGs; people's concerns should be considered.

* High income countries might be doing well on some SDGs, but there is room for improvement of social cohesion.

Angelo RICCABONI

*In the Mediterranean region the most critical point is agriculture and food resources. People have concerns about healthy food for their future.

* This area has many strengths including;

- Multi-stakeholder structure
- Multi-disciplinary nature
- Strong rootedness in Italian society
- International dimensions
- Scientific robustness
- Multidimensionality - local - national - regional

* In 2016 "Greek Conference" will be held that will gather the whole Mediterranean network.

* **The three main objectives for development are specified:**

1. Contributing to the definition of an SDGs implementation strategy for Italy:
 - There will be reports and analysis to identify strategic priorities of SDGs for both local and country contexts.
 - Annual reports will be studied to monitor the development progress.

2. Promoting knowledge and awareness about SDGs throughout the Italian society:
 - Production of a communication campaign including websites, social networks to be used on different channels
 - Organization of contest and engagement activities to start social collaborations (i.e. short film festivals)
 - Organization of education programs for schools
 - Events, seminars, publications

3. Proposing and realizing solutions for sustainable development
 - Measurement and monitoring metrics
 - Profit – non-profit hybridization projects (social entrepreneurships)
 - Research-action activities in support of groups

Nilgün CILIZ

* As SDSN Turkey we determined four main priorities with respect to the SDGs and then developed our action plan.

- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable Cities
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Universities

* Networking with different stakeholders is necessary. Priorities need to be defined.

* Government has a very important role. Different ministries should put INDC's into their action plan, currently they all have different targets. Data is critical.

* As SDSN Turkey, knowledge-sharing should be on a PPP (**Public- Private Partnership**) basis.

* Local production of energy as well as emissions is critical for Turkey. (%80 of energy resources imported; 440 million tones of CO2 emitted; %70 of this emission is from energy)

* Gender equality is increasing as the number of women in business is increasing but more support and commitment to girls' education is necessary.

* SDSN Youth was established in 2015. E-learning for students from east and south-east region of Turkey is to be enabled in 2016; this initiative is supported by Unilever. There are 185 universities in Turkey so this is a good opportunity to engage with students around sustainable development.

* A "**Green Graduates for Green Business**" initiative is planned.

Jeffrey SACHS

- * This movement is just like a "start-up organization".
- * All governments have already signed it. Universities can play a unique set of roles in the process.
- * Before starting, a "good diagnosis" is the key. For treatment to be effective the exact problems need to be identified first.
- * This is one of the unique times that 174 country presidents are in collaboration. Before the acceptance there was a lot of communication between different countries. Diversity is the best way of learning. The SDGs were formed through a sound methodology. The MDG's did not have this, so they did not work well and as expected.
- * Taxing can be a good starting point. Positive actions should not be taxed. CO2 is not being taxed right now; it has to be! Restructuring the whole taxing system can be a good way to start.
- * Academia is very important. Without research, convincing people is hard. Academia produces a lot but they are not good at sharing. They should communicate more with different sectors.

CLOSING

FINAL COMMENTS

Dr. Yılmaz Argüden, UN Global Compact, Turkey President

Two primary messages have emerged:

- Involve all / different focus / diversity;
- Be hopeful.

The reach of the MDG experience was limited but still, full of impact.

The acceptance of the SDGs by 174 countries is promising.

****Recommendations for advancing the SDGs are:***

- For private sector companies, identify the goals you need to work on, assign executives to own the process, establish KPIs and bonuses, which are based on SDG performance.
- Turkey should tailor SDG development pathways. National alliances should be leveraged. Banks should include SDGs in their credit evaluation policies.
- Incentives should be aligned with SDGs; there needs to be incentives , such as tax or subsidy incentives, for employment, youth employment, etc.
- Negative externalities should be taxed; positive ones should be incentivized. Tax systems need to be restructured.
- Systems (including universities) need to be devised for systems improvement.
- Content needs to be produced. To do that, additional resources are required for communication. Best communication strategy is through students.

The UN Global Compact, which is the largest sustainability platform, is developing incentive mechanisms. Learning by reporting is suggested. Integrated reporting is the way forward.

The sessions can be watched via:

SDSN YOUTH SESSION (NOVEMBER 12)

THE ROLE OF SDSN YOUTH

Prof. Jeffrey SACHS, SDSN

Assoc. Prof. Nilgün CILIZ, Co Chair, SDSN Turkey

Şila TEMİZEL, SDSN Youth, Turkey Network Representative

Cahit Berk Teoman, SDSN Youth, Project Leader for Education

Nilgün CILIZ

* The progress in Turkey towards a more sustainable future with the help of the rapidly growing economy is possible with close contact and collaboration with young generation which means that special attention should be given to the education sector.

Therefore we believe that youth power, young researchers and young entrepreneurs are critical for the success of future research in sustainability. We also believe that the proper holistic approach of sustainable research needs to focus on;

- Awareness activities through by education and training
- Integration of sustainable life styles for our daily activities
- Public perception through both environmentally and media friendly projects

* Considering the university campuses as the most effective communities to deliver the sustainable life style concept, we are trying to develop our sustainable campus program. As the Institute of Environmental Sciences we have launched a new course "Sustainable Development".

* Boğaziçi University is the first university in Turkey that has integrated the "Green Campus " concept into its strategic plan. Because we have already defined our managerial and technical road map we are closely in contact with students to achieve a high level of contribution. And now we have started to generate a nationwide platform with other Turkish Universities.

* As a trendsetter in BU we are facing many challenges at BU; thus, SDSN support is essential to accelerate the awareness for sustainability within the young population of Turkey.

* This event was a perfect example of the collaboration of young people to create a common understanding for sustainability research and awareness. The preparations for this event were very educative for us, so we should organize more events.

Jeffrey SACHS (final comments)

* It is important that the world agreed on these goals. It is for a better economy in a better environment.

- ❖ The first context now is the "G20 Summit". World leaders will have this issue in their agenda
- ❖ The second context is the "Paris Climate Change Conference" that will be held on the 30th of November 2015.

- ❖ The third context is the UN Security Council. The issue about refugees and immigration is an important case.

* Current crisis in Syria shows us a lot about the importance of the SDGs. Before the war started in 2011, the environmental crisis was already in place. Since 2006, there were problems related to food, agriculture and weather conditions. There was no rain and so no food for people. The government and current conditions did not answer the people's needs so they started to leave their home.

* Youth as the new voters and future of the societies has the power to change everything. More job opportunities will arise in sustainability, believe in this and try to study the subject you want to.

Şila TEMİZEL

* Global “SDSN Youth” ⁽²⁰⁾ started with the initiative of UN SDSN Australia Pacific in May 2014. The main goal of this initiative is to "Increase youth contribution to the SDGs gathering the role of the youth of the world under the roof of SDSN".

* There are four global targets of SDSN Youth;

- Education : online blog, publish online articles
- Collaboration : work with youth centers and student unions
- Policy : policy dialogues, organize conferences
- Youth Solutions: create global network of university clubs and societies within different cities and campuses

* A campaign project called "Know Your Goals" ⁽²¹⁾ was conducted in 40 countries. During this campaign 116 different events were held with more than 100 organizations and around 20.000 people attended. Turkey held five events during this campaign.

Cahit Berk TEOMAN

*As SDSN Youth our objectives are;

- **Educate young people about the SDGs and encourage them to prioritize their implementation.**
 - Main aim is to generate public support for the SDGs and hope that public support will translate into political issue to help prioritize the SDGs
 - We also seek to educate young people about the challenges of sustainable development and launching education initiatives, to use these platforms to spread awareness
- **Integrate concerns and views of young people into the pathways for achieving the SDGs**
 - We are hoping to insure that young people's concerns are heard by the policy makers and experts and that their concerns and ideas are taken into consideration in the process
- **Provide a platform for young people from different communities to connect, share ideas and experiences that address the challenges of sustainable development**
 - We strive to establish a global platform for the effective communication and sharing of information for the effective coordination of activities and projects for achieving SDGS

- We seek to connect youth from different regions and communities all around the world to each other to ensure a diversity of ideas and perspectives.

- ***Initiate and support projects that are aimed towards achieving the SDGs***

(20) URL: <http://www.sdsnyouth.org/>

(21) URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfVKkngMHig>

* What is our difference from other initiatives that have similar objectives?

- ❖ **Knowledge base**, research expertise that youth can rely on
- ❖ **Accountability**, leadership of SDSN Global is important
- ❖ **Access of global network**, diversity of perspectives
- ❖ **Multi- faceted approaches**, most of the other groups focus on only one goal
- ❖ **Credibility**, SDSN is a huge brand, it brings great value



This document was prepared by Sustineo Istanbul Team, Gülin Yücel and Gökçe Ötkün, by request and assignment of UN SDSN Turkey.