



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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The Role of Young Academies in Achieving the UN SDGs

GYA issues joint statement with 36 national young academies and academy initiatives

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, are a universal framework specifying the agenda for global development until 2030 in a variety of fields. The SDGs are also universal in that they call on all countries to be actively engaged in the promotion of peace and human well-being, while also protecting the planet. Since their inception, the SDGs have been the topic of many meetings, conferences and journal articles, but the question still remains: How can the knowledge community and young academies in particular best contribute to attaining them?

GYA Member Eva Alisic (Australia) sees a major role for young academies in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs on both the national and global levels. Young academies could act as instigators and stimulate the science arena to work towards finding answers to the real knowledge questions entailed within the SDGs. Furthermore, she points out that the SDGs are strongly interdisciplinary. Since young academies tend to be interdisciplinary by nature, they can therefore be active stimulators.

Currently, Eva is the Co-Chair of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) project on 'Improving Scientific Input to Global Policymaking', which focuses on the global science community's contribution to the SDGs. The project broadly aims to raise awareness of the SDGs and to strengthen the global science community's capacity to support the implementation of the SDGs, with a focus on how the science academies can play their part in this system. One outcome of this project has been a

guide for academies, 'Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Merit-Based Academies', published in 2017. The Guide was developed following a survey of IAP members, National Young Academies and the GYA in 2016/17, in which the IAP requested more clarity on how to contribute to the SDG-related UN processes and structures.

When it comes to the SDGs, however, more than just individual GYA members are active. In 2017, the GYA together with 36 national young academies and academy initiatives issued a Statement titled 'The role of Young Academies in achieving the UN SDGs'. The document unequivocally states that Young Academies can and should play a central role in conceptualising, developing and implementing strategies towards achieving the SDGs. It also calls on policy-makers and senior academies of science to work alongside the young academies and scientists in their regions towards a 'global science' that drives sustainability.

Statement Text

<https://globalyoungacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Statement-RoleYoungAcademies-SDGs-Oct2017.pdf>

UN Sustainable Development Goals

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

InterAcademy Partnership SDG Project

<http://www.interacademies.org/36061.aspx>