

SOS NEWSLETTER

SECURE OUR SUSTAINABILITY

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October 2021

Dear Reader,

The last quarter of 2021 could turn out to be decisive for the ongoing sustainability transformation. The UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) is around the corner. As laid out in the Paris agreement (COP 21), the parties have committed to increase their ambitions to curb greenhouse gas emissions every 5 years. Conceivably, it's the last such period in which the goal to stay below 1.5 °C or at least 2 °C of warming still appear feasible.

In this context, it will be interesting to see how youth groups like Fridays for Future might influence the upcoming negotiations and how they will further shape the political landscape.

The German elections are over and are leading to a major shift in power. Two new parties are likely to partake in the new coalition government. The liberal FDP and the Green Party, both very popular among young voters. This new coalition is likely to shape the urgent transition in the country responsible for the over 92 billion tons of historic CO2 emissions (5.5%) - a solid rank #4 behind the US, China, and Russia ([Our World in Data 2019](#)).

A quick transition of power from the era of Merkel towards new leadership, together with a solid commitment to the Paris Agreement and the SDG's would be a good signal towards the world community, but negotiations are ongoing.

If so, Germany, the world's 4th biggest economy, could finally shape up to take the leading role on sustainability many have ascribed to it in the past, but which it largely failed to fulfill.

In harmony with these important trends, we published our QuickLooks on topics and organizations dealing with similar issues like Youth Groups and Climate Coalitions.

Further, Michael Marien took a look at the "Our Common Agenda" report of the Secretary-General and adjacent publications by the UN that have not received enough attention and gain further relevance in the context of COP 26.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and find the time to explore our content.

Friedrich Hirler

Managing Editor

P.S. To learn more about our work between newsletters, follow us on our social media (links below) and visit our [website](#).



Quick Looks

Easy-to-digest articles that introduce an important topic and some of the leading organizations working in that field.



Youth Groups

The hope for resolving our world's greatest problems is nested in future generations: in the power of youth and organized youth groups. Since adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (2015), recognition of young people as a positive force in preventing and resolving conflict, and building sustainable peace, has gained significant momentum.



Climate Coalitions

In 2015 The United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals as the "2030 Agenda." It marked the moment when climate change and sustainability action finally rose to the top of the UN priorities. Furthermore, in 2019, two summits were held (2019 Sustainable Development Summit and 2019 Climate Action Summit) to coordinate political action and reassure the parties' commitment towards the 2030 Agenda.

The IPCC is widely known for its extensive assessment of climate change and what should be done. Far less known are the many NGOs and research institutes that promote mitigation and resilience. The Subject Index of The Security & Sustainability Guide lists more than 175 organizations that focus solely or primarily on some aspect of climate change.



Migrants & Refugees



Climate Security

According to the UN, the “growth in the number of international migrants has been robust over the last two decades, reaching 281 million people living outside their country of origin in 2020, up from 173 million in 2000 and 221 million in 2010.” They currently “represent about 3.6 per cent of the world’s population.”

Climate Security centers its attention on the “maintenance of the local and the planetary biosphere as the essential support system on which all other human enterprises depend.” Rather than a theoretical concept, security is a practical matter to all of us and Climate Security is an increasing concern. Many organizations are crucial for thinking about climate and security. Some of the major organizations are listed here.

[Read more Articles](#)

Reports



[Our Common Agenda: Review of Five UN75 Reports](#)

The 75th birthday of the United Nations, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, prompted the 2020 Declaration that “much more remains to be done,” and that “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our roadmap and its implementation a necessity for our survival.

Six action areas for a common agenda:

1. Global Solidarity at the center of the global transition
2. A Renewed Social Contract
3. Ending the War on Science
4. Measuring Economic Progress in a different way
5. Young People and Future Generations need to shift into focus
6. An effective and inclusive multilateral system is needed

[Find out more!](#)

Other Recent Reports



[Sustainable Development Outlook 2021: From Anguish to Determination](#)



[Capital as a Force for](#)

([UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs](#), 20 Sept 2021, 150p).

The third annual Sustainable Development Outlook (SDO), noting that the "COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted significant setbacks upon the progress made towards achieving the SDGs, leading to a profound distress in the international community. However, despite these setbacks, it is possible to convert anguish into determination."



[Whither the Arctic Ocean? Research, Knowledge Needs and Development en Route to the New Arctic](#)

([BBVA Foundation](#), Paul Wassmann, March 2021, 260p)

This multi- and transdisciplinary report/book dives into the vast pool of knowledge surrounding the impact of climate change on the Arctic Ocean and the continents around it.

[Good: Capitalism for a Sustainable Future](#)

([The Force for Good Initiative](#), Ketan Patal, Chair; Oct 2021, 148p)

The report estimates the necessary fiscal stimulus in the advanced economies reaching nearly 28% of GDP, but the figure drops to 6.5% in middle-income countries and to 1.8% in the least developed countries. To meet the SDGs by 2030, an estimated US\$116-142 trillion is needed, with a funding gap of \$84-101 trillion.



[World Energy Outlook 2021](#)

([International Energy Agency](#), Oct 2021, 386p)

Since 1998, this flagship IEA publication has provided reliable, scientifically-backed "insights into global energy supply and demand" as well as the "implications for energy security, climate targets and economic development." WEO 2021 provides a valuable guide to the "opportunities, benefits and risks ahead" against the backdrop of a vital moment for clean energy transitions; the Glasgow COP26 conference on climate change.

[More Reports](#)

Partnership Announcement



A Partnership for Collective Goals

We are happy to announce a partnership agreement with the [Global Goals Directory](#). This start-up initiative focuses on accelerating the progress of "the UN Sustainable Development Goals by supporting and facilitating collaboration and partnerships between non-profit organizations, private companies, think tanks, universities, and governments."

They are engaged in mapping the landscape of SDG-focused organizations in Germany. The mapping along these global goals is partially done through automated tools like Natural Language Processing (NLP) and web scraping.

Their application is still in beta status, but shows very promising results that improve a more reliable mapping of organizational landscapes. Their technology is open-source and can be applied to other regions and use-cases.

[Learn more](#)

Friends of the SSG

Many people have supported us over the years with insights, ideas, and good advice. Still, we are a small project and always seek people that are willing to donate their most precious resource: Time. One of them has lately been Thomas Reuter, which among other things is supporting our ongoing search for funding with valuable input and ideas.



Prof. Dr. Thomas Reuter:

(Board and Executive member, WAAS; Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne)

"The SSG is very valuable as a map and a key to better understand the organisational landscape of activism and public awareness raising around the two core issues of human security and sustainability, which are intricately linked and interdependent. Any sense of security we may have outside a socially and ecologically sustainable way of living, is a false sense of security. Moreover, if we allow sustainability to be compromised to the point of systemic failure, the security implications are no less than dystopian. Mutually Assure Security (MAS) is simultaneously a prerequisite for sustainability, because it sets the conditions for trust, joint commitment and cooperation at all levels. The SSG can assist by making actors in these related fields more aware of each other's work, and thus lays the groundwork for greater cooperation in the pursuit of shared goals and to a sense of belonging within one movement for security and sustainability."

Upcoming Events

- **[26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP26\), 31 Oct-12 Nov 2021](#)** (Glasgow): Brings world leaders together with the goal to accelerate action towards the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is accompanied by many other parallel events e.g. the [Global Conference on Health and Climate Change](#) on the 6th of November.
- **[Geneva Peace Week, 1-5 Nov 2021](#)**: The flagship initiative of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, with 30 interactive online sessions on "From Seeds to Systems of Peace: Weathering Today's Challenges".
- **[International Conference on Social Robotics, 10-13 November 2021](#)** (Singapore): 'Robotics in our everyday lives', emphasising on the increasing importance of robotics in human daily living and the social and ethical implications.
- **[13th Halifax International Security Forum, 19-21 Nov, 2021](#)**: More than 300 delegates from over 70 countries.
- **[Reuters Next: A new Vision for a Better Tomorrow, 1-3 Dec 2021](#)**

(Online): Host over 40,000 participants from around the world who will examine many future relevant topics.

- **[International Polar Foundation's Arctic Futures Symposium, 6 - 7 Dec 2021](#)** (Brussels): An annual conference that brings together Arctic stakeholders.
- **[Tenth NPT Review Conference 2020, 4-28 Jan 2022](#)** (New York): On nuclear risk reduction and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Was rescheduled due to COVID-19.

Please suggest other important events at info@securesustain.org. Thanks!

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