What is SDSN?

In 2012, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What is SDSN Youth?

SDSN Youth is an initiative of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It was launched on 1st of June 2015 in Paris. SDSN Youth educates young people about the challenges of sustainable development and creates opportunities for them to use their creativity and knowledge to pioneer innovative solutions for the implementation of the SDGs.
**Mission Statement**

“Empowering youth globally to create sustainable solutions”

**Aims and objectives:**

1. **Educate** young people about the SDGs and lead them to pathways for achieving them.
2. **Connect** young people globally to exchange ideas, share experiences and collaborate to achieve the SDGs.
3. **Support** young people in the creation and scaling of innovative **solutions** for the SDGs.
What makes SDSN Youth unique?

There are four important factors which make SDSN Youth unique in its work:

- **Recognition and Legitimacy**: Firstly, SDSN is led by many eminent global leaders, including Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Paul Polman, Professor Johan Rockström, Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammad, Laurence Tubiana and Dr James Hansen, amongst many other prominent and well known figures. Secondly, the network was launched by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and operates under the auspices of his office. These two important and reputable affiliations not only give SDSN Youth greater global recognition but also greater global legitimacy in its work, enabling it to overcome many pre-existing biases that often exist against young people in this space.

- **Knowledge and Expertise**: As a network dedicated to mobilizing expertise, SDSN is host to hundreds of leading global experts and academics in sustainable development and its thematic areas. SDSN Youth uses this vast network of knowledge and expertise to enable an environment where projects, activities and campaigns are always informed by research and empirical evidence.

- **Networks and Reach**: SDSN is a global network of more than 450 universities and campuses, which span over 100 countries. This vast network of universities and campuses enable SDSN Youth to expand to new regions and localities which may otherwise be incredibly difficult to reach. In addition, as host to millions of students, these campuses and universities provide ample opportunity for SDSN Youth to mobilize huge numbers of young people to support the sustainable development movement.

- **Multifaceted and Holistic**: A core mandate of SDSN is collaboration and partnerships. SDSN Youth therefore focuses on multidimensional and integrated approaches to sustainable development, allowing its activities to address gaps and silos, which often emerge in local, regional and global efforts. However, most important of all, SDSN Youth is action oriented with a huge focus on creating, supporting and scaling Solutions.
SDSN Youth Membership

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth Initiative (SDSN Youth) invites university clubs and societies, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, research institutes, NGOs, science-oriented youth groups, and other organizations that have an expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development, and who commit a substantial amount of their own resources and activities to work towards research, advocacy, education or implementing solutions for sustainable development, to become official Member Organizations (MOs) of the SDSN Youth.

Qualifications of SDSN Youth Members

- Accredited university clubs and societies, youth-led/focused organizations and youth based networks with demonstrated capacities and a strong track record in education, research and/or project work on one or more themes of sustainable development in their respective campus, community, city, country and/or region;
- A demonstrated desire and ability to play an active role in local, national, regional and global problem solving and advocacy for sustainable development;
- Stated commitment from the head of the entity to become a dedicated SDSN Youth Member;
- Organizations that are focused on achieving specific goals and targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Associated with a Regional/National SDSN Center
Benefits of Membership

Attend exclusive events
Exclusive invitations to attend SDSN and SDSN Youth global, regional and national events.

Participate in projects and solutions
Participation in solutions Initiatives and practical problem solving under the SDSN Youth umbrella.

Access expertise and knowledge
Ability to leverage SDSN and SDSN Youth expertise, particularly from the Thematic Networks, for research, education and sustainable development projects.

Connect with other organizations
Access to our new online platform, which will enable your organization to communicate and interact with other member organizations of SDSN Youth from all parts of the world.

Contribute to UN agenda
Ability to contribute to SDSN Youth input into United Nations reports and publications.

Get support for your projects
SDSN Youth will provide support for promising projects, through research assistance and other means.

Connect with global leaders
Invitations to attend exclusive webinars facilitated by renowned academics and leading experts in Sustainable Development.

Reach a global audience
Get your opinions, campaigns and initiatives published on our social media, online blog and newsletter, which are distributed to our members and followers worldwide.

Recognition and branding
Be recognized as an official Member Organization of SDSN Youth.

Responsibilities of Member Organizations

The following list sets out the duties, responsibilities and expectations of all SDSN Youth Member Organizations:

- Attend quarterly conference calls held by Network Coordinators
- Attend quarterly webinars with leading SDSN figures
- Actively contribute to the SDSN Youth online platform for Member Organizations
- Participate in local and global SDSN Youth events, projects, campaigns and initiatives
- Promote SDSN Youth Membership through your social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) and mailing list.
- Share SDSN Youth Official Logo (provided by SDSN Youth) on your website
- Follow, like and share SDSN Youth’s official Facebook and Twitter pages.
Application and Nomination of SDSN Youth Members

- If your organization meets the criteria outlined in this Membership Guide, you are encouraged to apply via the SDSN Youth website
- Applications are accepted only in January, April, July and October 2017.

Application process

Stage 1: Application

- The information submitted must be accurate, comprehensive and relevant.

Stage 2: Processing

- After the recruitment period closes, Network Coordinators will review applications.
- The recommendations are then put to vote by the SDSN Youth Executive.

Stage 3: Acceptance or Rejection

- Once the Executive have voted, your organization will be notified of the results.

Stage 4: Formal Acceptance and on-boarding Process

- If accepted, your organization will be introduced to the most relevant SDSN National/Regional Center and invited to the first conference call with the Network Coordinator.

Term
Two years, renewable.

Cause for Removal

Under exceptional circumstances, a two-thirds majority of the Executive of SDSN Youth, or with the simple instructions of the SDSN Youth Global Coordinator, may revoke an organization’s membership for cause if one of the following conditions is met:

- Failure to abide by SDSN and SDSN Youth regulations and standards;
- Failure to remain an active member of SDSN Youth; or
- Activities that the Executive Director considers harmful to the functioning of the SDSN and SDSN Youth.
For more information about our network visit www.sdsnyouth.org and www.unsdsn.org.