

REPORT 2020





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This Report has been prepared with extensive advice and consultation of Members of the SDSN Leadership Council, Members of SDSN Secretariat and representatives of our partner organizations. These individuals serve in their personal capacities, so the opinions expressed in this report may not reflect the opinions of their host institutions. They are also not necessarily in agreement with every detail of this Report.

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SDSN Youth is an initiative of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network; a program launched by UN Secretary-General in 2012 to mobilize global expertise around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





Partners

The following partners have collaborated with the Youth Solutions Program:































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QUOTE BY JEFFREY D. SACHS



"The Solutions Report demonstrates again that it is a powerful tool in advancing and accelerating youth innovation all over the world. Young people are crucial leaders of change, and we need their ideas and solutions now more than ever in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030. During one of the most difficult times for the world population, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, these young innovators succeeded in pivoting their ideas and adapting successfully to the world's critical challenges. Let us learn from these successes, and shine a light on their creative ideas and solutions."

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

"Today, many young people not only ask for sustainable development but are at the forefront of building it, with energy and passion, creativity, and the ability to innovate. They are also able to inspire, through concrete examples, the world of institutions and businesses made up of us adults. It is necessary to multiply the initiatives that make young protagonists and for this reason, we are proud to renew our collaboration with SDSN Youth and the Youth Solutions Report that showcases brilliant ideas to some of the most difficult global sustainability challenges."

Mario Cerutti, Chief Institutional Relations and Sustainability Officer, Lavazza

"We are currently facing three major crises: A health crisis, an economic crisis, and not least the climate crisis. This very extraordinary and serious situation for world society requires everyone to join forces and think innovatively. By empowering young talents around the world, UNLEASH and SDSN Youth both play a valuable role in creating the new solutions that we need to overcome the crisis. The Youth Solutions Report stands out as an outstanding tool in this fight and I am pleased to learn that it once again includes solutions provided by UNLEASH talents."

Flemming Besenbacher, Chairman of UNLEASH

"We have a long way to go to achieve the SDGs and we desperately need young people to be fully engaged in the task. The Youth Solutions Report casts light on some of the most innovative work being done by young people around the world and serves as an important tool for informing and inspiring others to play their part"

Ross Hall, Learning Societies Co-Lead at Jacobs Foundation & Friend at Ashoka "Our capability to thrive, in harmony with all the other species, as well as to achieve a better life and a better world, depends on our ability to embrace change, break the status quo and evolve. It's when we are young that we have the energy, the courage, and the ambition to question things and change them...when we are old, we rather tend to accept things as they are and preserve the existing.

Thus, every youth initiative to change society for the better is a celebration of hope. Providing our support and guidance to these initiatives is the clearest sign that we are finally transitioning from the age of information to the age of knowledge. The Youth Solutions Report is a celebration on steroids: it honors youth applying its core capabilities to the challenges of global development, and at BABELE we are proud to be part of this crew so that we can implement this vision together."

Emanuele Musa, Co-Founder & CEO, Babele

"We find ourselves today in a layered global crisis which has – at its heart – a deficit of leadership and solutions around the world. Young leaders have the capability, clear eyes, enthusiasm, energy, and intellect to lead today. Their social enterprises and initiatives already make a difference around the world, and I am given hope and renewed faith by the actions of our young people. The future cannot wait for these impressive leaders."

Oliver B. Libby, Chair & Co-Founder, The Resolution Project

"In this "Decade of Action", it is crucial to have young committed leaders, bright ideas and a strong empowerment of new generations to enable a truly sustainable development.

For this reason, education on global citizenship, innovation, and digital transformation is key.

The Barilla Foundation strongly supports the SDSN Youth Solutions Report and encourages youth to reshape the future, starting from our daily food choices, becoming concrete actors of change for our wellbeing and the one of the Planet."

Anna Ruggerini, Operations Director, The Barilla Foundation "Seedstars is happy to partner with UN SDSN Youth and support The Youth Solutions Report to empower the next generation of innovators for sustainable development bringing positive change, and amplify their solutions. Both organizations deeply care about the impact young people can bring through entrepreneurship, global innovation and technology in solving global challenges and helping the world achieve the Global Goals. Together, it is our collective responsibility to engage, promote and advocate for, and inspire the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs to take responsibility, building SDG-focused solutions, sustainable businesses and innovative technologies for the future. We must not forget that sustainability is the only insurance policy for our planet, and these stories you see in the report gives us hope for a better and sustainable tomorrow."

Anurag Maloo, Head of Partnerships (Asia-Pacific), Seedstars

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