



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Invitation



Mind Matters More Than Money

Boosting Cognitive Competences for Sustainable
Development through Science and Education

HLPF SIDE EVENT

11 July 2019 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
871 United Nations Plaza, New York, Auditorium

The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require fundamental changes in human behavior. The transition towards sustainability is, however, not an adaptive response to immediate experiences. Instead, it is mainly based on anticipated trends and findings about the future consequences of our current behavior. We cannot taste, smell or see greenhouse gases, for example, and we rely on scientific models to document rising global temperatures that are too gradual to be detected by our own senses. Likewise, the loss of biodiversity and its effect on our lives is a rather abstract risk, which many people will not consider to be related to their current behavior. These examples show that an **essential prerequisite for a more sustainable behavior is the ability to understand cause and effect and to foresee consequences of one's behavior: cognitive competences, abilities and motivational skills enable individuals and communities to make informed decisions and adapt their behavior in a way that is conducive to sustainable development.**

This side event will focus on the question of how to enhance the capabilities of people and societies to make informed behavioral choices and move towards the implementation of the SDGs. We will show that **education is key for sustainable development with positive consequences for most SDGs**, including health, resilience to natural disasters, and economic prosperity: “mind matters more than money”.

To strengthen the science-policy interface for sustainable development and to facilitate interaction between stakeholders, this side event will

- present **insights from various fields of science**, such as neuroscience, psychology, cognitive and behavioral science, regarding the interconnectedness of cognitive development and the ability to make informed behavioral choices;
- discuss **concrete examples on how to boost competences in alignment with the 2030 Agenda** at all stages of life, e.g. by providing stimulating conditions in early childhood, inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- facilitate a **dialogue on governance and policy priorities** and highlight opportunities for practitioners regarding non-coercive interventions and policies for a successful sustainability transition.

Agenda

- 6:30 p.m. **Opening remarks**
Karin Goebel
Head of Department for Economic and Financial Affairs, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
H.E. Ambassador Courtenay Rattray
Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
H.E. Ambassador Jukka Salovaara
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations
- 6:45 p.m. **Introduction**
Professor Dr Wolfgang Lutz
Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (IIASA, VID/ÖAW, WU) and Member of the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS)
- 6:50 p.m. **Panel discussion**
Professor Dr Eeva Furman
Director of the Environmental Policy Centre at the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE and Member of the IGS
Dr Endah Murniningtyas
Co-Chair of the IGS and former Deputy Minister for National Resources and Environment of the Republic of Indonesia
Professor Dr Virginia Murray
Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction at Public Health England and Chair of the UNDRR/ISC Technical Working Group on Sendai Hazard Definitions and Classification
Professor Dr Frank Rösler
Senior Professor for Biological Psychology and Neuropsychology at the University of Hamburg and Member of the Leopoldina Presidium
Dr David Smith
Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development at the University of the West Indies and Member of the IGS
Facilitator: Professor Dr Wolfgang Lutz
Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (IIASA, VID/ÖAW, WU) and Member of the IGS
- 7:15 p.m. **Open exchange** on governance and policy priorities between participants and panelists
- 7:55 p.m. **Closing remarks**
Professor Dr Frank Rösler
Senior Professor for Biological Psychology and Neuropsychology at the University of Hamburg and Member of the Leopoldina Presidium

Registration is required by 8 July 2019. For the detailed agenda and RSVP, please visit <https://www.leopoldina.org/HLPF>

*Refreshments and a light buffet will be served from 6:00 p.m. Participation is free of charge.
Please feel free to share this invite within your network. For further details, please contact Dr Ruth Narmann and Christian Weidlich at internationalrelations@leopoldina.org.*



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