

December 16-17, 2021

**VATICAN YOUTH  
SYMPOSIUM**

**GLOBAL YOUTH  
MOVEMENTS;  
LEADING CHANGE FOR  
THE GOOD OF PRESENT &  
FUTURE GENERATIONS**







## THE CO-HOSTS

### Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS)

Founded in Rome on 17 August 1603, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences' mission is to honor pure science, ensure its freedom and encourage research. It is the only supranational academy of sciences in the world. Its headquarters are in the Casina Pio IV, within the Vatican Gardens. The aims and objectives of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences include: promoting the progress of the mathematical, physical and natural sciences, as well as its epistemological studies; recognizing excellence in science; stimulating an interdisciplinary approach to scientific knowledge; encouraging international interaction; furthering participation in the benefits of science and technology by the greatest number of people and peoples; promoting education and the public's understanding of science; ensuring that science works to advance the human and moral dimension of man; achieving a role for science that involves the promotion of justice, development, solidarity, peace and fostering the interaction between faith and reason, encouraging the dialogue between science and spiritual, cultural, philosophical and religious values; providing authoritative advice on scientific and technological matters; cooperating with members of other Academies in a friendly spirit to promote such objectives.

### UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) / SDSN Youth

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) at local, national and global scales. In 2015, the SDSN launched its official youth division (SDSN Youth) to empower youth globally to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth aims to amplify the youth's unparalleled energy and capacities for generating wide support in the implementations of the SDGs. SDSN Youth mobilizes the necessary resources and capacity building to empower youth's action.

## 2021 SYMPOSIUM

Youth leaders have an important role to play in promoting human dignity and our common home by instilling the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, and Pope Francis' social teachings in his latest speech to the Fourth World Meeting of Popular Movements – through producing awareness, expertise, entrepreneurship, and moral engagement around the world. With just 10 years left to achieve the SDGs, no country is currently on track to do so. People everywhere need to be equipped not just with technical knowledge and skills, but with a deeper understanding of the values needed to forge a peaceful and sustainable future. The Vatican Youth Symposium aims to strengthen global youth movements for sustainable development by bringing together youth leaders and experts in various fields in sessions devoted to the dimensions of youth empowerment and progressive practices and workstreams that promote the advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

Our eighth annual Symposium, taking place in a virtual setting, will convene youth leaders from around the world with the support of SDSN Youth and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. The Symposium brings together some of the world's most renowned thought leaders to connect with young people to create pathways of understanding and action - to shape a sustainable world for future generations. Leaders of civil society, faith communities, businesses, academia, celebrity activists and members of the UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocates, will join the gathering to offer their guidance and partnership with the youth leaders. As the world continues to chart out the roadmap to recover from one of the most defining moments of the 21st century, we must be even more cognizant of the realities that COVID-19 has pushed onto us and its implications for addressing the most pressing issues of our time.

The theme, "Global Youth Movements; Leading Change for the Good of Present & Future Generations" will frame sessions devoted to the dimensions of youth empowerment and intergenerational leadership with discussions on how COVID-19 presents both an enormous challenge and unforeseen opportunities for advancing sustainable development globally. Core sessions will be categorized into thematic areas split over two days and includes discussions surrounding Transformative Education and Global Citizenship, Human Rights and Dignity, Sustainable Cities & Communities, and Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Technology presenting inspiring messages of how the synergy between the creativity of younger generations and the expertise of older ones curate progressive change.





# AGENDA

## GLOBAL VILLAGE - LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
8:00am - 9:00am ET

The Global Village will provide participants with the opportunity to interact with peers from around the world, enabling them to gain broader perspectives on sustainable development and to share knowledge on their diverse set of cultures.

Advocacy can be of various forms; and this year, we invited the production team of the ActNow Film, a feature film showcasing young people from around the world talking about their lived experiences of climate change, their hopes and fears, their climate pledges, and their demands of the COP Negotiators. The film delivers a message of inspiration and hope along the lines of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need for youth to take up the mantle of change. First screened during COP26 in November 2021, ActNow showcases the views and voices of 16-30 year-olds drawn from 35 countries and was produced by Cambridge Zero, Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, the University of Bath's Institute for Policy Research and a large student team from across the world. Join us to listen to voices from around the world and to share your own voice on why stopping climate change is important to you.

- **Mr. Mir Mustafa Ali Hasan**, Deputy Project Lead, Global Events & Partnerships, SDSN Youth (Moderator)
- **Mr. Brighton Kaoma**, Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth (SDSN Youth)
- **Ms. Amy Thompson**, Head of Policy Engagement and Communications, Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath
- **Ms. Amy Munro-Faure**, Engagement Manager, Cambridge Zero, University of Cambridge
- **Mr. Jeffrey Opku**, Co-Founder, Sustainability Week Accra
- **Ms. Lizzie Coney**, MA Wildlife Filmmaking Student, UWE Bristol

## SESSION 1 - OPENING SESSION

Thursday, December 16, 2021  
8:00am - 8:30am ET

In order to create a sustainable path for humanity, leaders of all ages must heed this call to action and be equipped not only with technical knowledge, but with a deeper understanding of ethical values, sustainable development, and 21st-century skills. The opening session will emphasize the critical role of youth leadership in instilling sustainable development movements around the world.

- **Ms. Kayla Colyard**, Coordinator, Vatican Youth Symposium, SDSN (Moderator)
- **His Excellency Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo**, Chancellor, Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS)
- **Mr. Brighton Kaoma**, Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth (SDSN Youth)
- **Professor Jeffrey Sachs**, President, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- **Her Excellency Mia Mottley**, Prime Minister, Barbados

## SESSION 2 - EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, December 16, 2021  
8:30am - 9:15am ET

As disrupted education continues to affect millions across the globe we must reimagine and redesign education. This session will highlight the benefits of teaching 21st-century skills and global citizenship, sustainable development integration in school and university curriculums, and present strong cases of why transformative education is important not only to various stakeholders but to increase future leaders' motivation and ability to act ethically.

- **Ms. Amanda Abrom**, Manager, Global Schools, SDSN (Moderator)
- **Her Excellency Niki Kerameus**, Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece
- **Professor Jeffrey Sachs**, President, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- **Mr. d'Arcy Lunn**, Founder and Director, Teaspoons of Change
- **Ms. Annita Mwagiru**, Project Lead, SDG Students Program

## SESSION 3- YOUTH INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY

Thursday, December 16, 2021  
9:15am - 10:00am ET

This session will discuss the role of entrepreneurship and innovation for the SDGs, and the pressing need for technologies to continue to adapt to work alongside sustainable development solutions. Key topics will include youth-led innovation, the future of work in a post-pandemic society, sustainable business practices, and the role of technology in advancing sustainable development globally.

- **Mr. Brighton Kaoma**, Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth (Moderator)
- **Ms. Namita Datta**, Program Head, Solutions for Youth Employment, World Bank
- **Mr. Samuel Joy**, CEO, Huntr
- **Ms. Trisanki Saikia**, Project Lead, Solutions Program
- **Ms. Veenu King**, 2021 Geneva Challenge Winners; Team Buyby

## SESSION 4 - HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUSION, AND THE COLLECTIVE SAMARITAN

Friday, December 17, 2021  
8:00am - 8:45am ET

COVID-19 has presented the imperative need to recognize both the ills and strengths that have been exposed and the urgent reforms that are needed to address future challenges. This session will discuss human rights and human dignity as a core to achieving the SDGs and "leaving no one behind." Key topics will include community-based efforts to end modern slavery in its various forms, and social inclusivity in respects of race, sex, ethnicity and cultural diversity to which the needs of the most vulnerable are met. Discussions surrounding mental health and resilience in young people will also be presented.

- **Ms. Kayla Colyard**, Coordinator, Vatican Youth Symposium, SDSN (Moderator)
- **Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie**, Co-Founder, The AntiSlavery Collective
- **Ms. Gabriella Marino**, Coordinator, Vatican Youth Symposium, PAS
- **Ms. Asmita Satyarthi**, Executive Director, Global Sustainability Network (GSN)
- **Ms. Rania Ali**, Journalist & Human Rights Activist
- **Ms. Karol Arambula**, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, My World Mexico

## SESSION 5 - OUR COMMON HOME: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Friday, December 17, 2021  
8:45am - 9:30am ET

With the insurmountable pressure being placed on cities and communities, innovative, scalable solutions and measures are needed to respond quickly to the needs of its citizens. This session will discuss recent movements pushing to address sustainable development from an urban perspective. Key topics will include a holistic look at the innovations in technology and infrastructure that are making cities and their surrounding communities more livable, equitable, and sustainable.

- **Ms. Ana Ynestrillas**, Project Lead, Local Pathways Fellowship
- **Mr. AY Young**, Founder, Battery Tour and UN Young Leader
- **Mr. Edwin Namakanga**, Climate Activist, Rise Up; Fridays for Future
- **Ms. Alexandria Villaseñor**, Founder, Earth Uprising (TBC)
- **Ms. Aditi Rai**, Senior Design & Strategy Executive, Godrej Properties Limited

## SESSION 6 - CLOSING SESSION

Friday, 17 December, 2021  
9:30am - 10:15am ET

Speakers will come together to summarize the main takeaways of the Symposium and to discuss the synergies between each of the thematic areas, focusing on the vital need to encourage and empower young people and youth-led organizations. In partnership with Nova Impact, this session will also host the launch of the SDSN Youth Seed Fund Awards; the Fund is designed to identify, empower, and award outstanding innovation and creativity led by young change-makers accelerating solutions towards achieving the SDGs.

- **Mr. Mir Mustafa Ali Hasan**, Deputy Project Lead, Global Events & Partnerships, SDSN Youth (Moderator)
- **Professor Muhammad Yunus**, Founder, Grameen Bank
- **Mr. Chris Kelly**, CEO, Queen's Commonwealth Trust (TBC)
- **Ms. Chelsea Toler**, Founder, NOVA Impact
- **Mr. Jeffrey Prost-Greene**, Project Lead, Global Growth & Impact, SDSN Youth
- **Ms. Kayla Colyard**, Coordinator, Vatican Youth Symposium, SDSN
- **His Excellency Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo**, Chancellor, Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS)
- **Mr. Brighton Kaoma**, Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth (SDSN Youth)
- **Ms. Gabriella Marino**, Coordinator, Vatican Youth Symposium, PASS