

Workshop Announcement

Scaling SDG Societal Actions and Shaping the Post-2030 Sustainability Agenda



When: Monday 30th November to Tuesday 1st December 2026

Call for participation in the SDG workshop

1. Introduction and context

Makerere University and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) are pleased to announce a planned two-day workshop on ***Scaling SDG Societal Actions and Shaping the Post-2030 Sustainability Agenda***. SDGs provide a shared global framework for addressing interconnected environmental, economic and social challenges. Implementing SDGs is closely linked to international frameworks including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the Paris Agreement on climate change (2015), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Together, these frameworks provide a foundation for advancing sustainable development, strengthening resilience and inclusive societal transformation. Although the SDGs have been widely embraced by governments and other development actors, their achievement requires a *“whole-of-society approach”* involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), higher education institutions (HEIs), civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, development partners and local communities.

Evidence presented in the Sustainable Development Report 2025 indicates uneven progress towards the SDGs globally, with many Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries continuing to face significant challenges. These circumstances underscore the need to strengthen locally grounded, evidence-informed and collaborative approaches that can accelerate SDG implementation and support the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Higher education Institutions (HEIs) are important knowledge brokers and agents of societal transformation. However, the effectiveness and wider societal impacts of HEIs contributions on SDGs remain insufficiently understood. Building on lessons emerging from NORAD-funded projects, this workshop will examine how HEIs contribute to SDG achievements at scale. The workshop is a great platform to share successes registered, lessons learnt and challenges experienced. The workshop will also facilitate shaping priorities for the post-2030 sustainability agenda. Thus, we invite researchers, academics, policymakers, practitioners, civil society organizations, development partners, private sector representatives, students and community actors to participate in the planned two day SDG Workshop.

2. Objectives of the workshop

1. To synthesize emerging knowledge and evidence from higher education institutions on their contributions to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Strengthen collaboration and knowledge co-creation among key actors within the SDG ecosystem, including universities, government institutions, civil society, private sector, development partners and communities.
3. Catalyse higher education-led action to scale up SDG implementation and contribute to shaping the post-2030 sustainability agenda.
4. Disseminate SDG-related research findings, innovations and good practices and promote their uptake in public policy, professional practice, community initiatives and institutional processes.

3. Discussion issues at the workshop

- Role of Higher Education Institutions in accelerating SDG implementation at scale.
- Lessons from institutionalization of SDGs and their implementation in collaborative projects/partnerships.
- Translation of SDGs and other global frameworks at the local or grassroots level.
- Institutional, national and community-level pathways for SDG transformation.
- Emerging gaps and priorities for the post-2030 sustainability agenda.

4. Target group

The workshop targets individuals and institutions that have been working on SDGs. The workshop will be transdisciplinary in nature and will bring on-board a diversity of interested participants from academia, industry, government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), policy actors, practitioners, local communities and grassroots agencies.

5. Outputs and outcomes

- A synthesized body of evidence documenting SDG related knowledge, innovations, institutional contributions, societal impacts and good practices emerging from research and collaborative projects.
- A synthesis publication on the SDGs, consolidating key insights, research findings, experiences and recommendations emerging from the workshop.
- Evidence to inform future programme design and funding priorities, supporting development partners and funding agencies in identifying effective, scalable and context-sensitive interventions
- A policy brief highlighting key findings, policy implications and actionable recommendations for accelerating SDG implementation and informing post-2030 sustainability discussions.

- Strengthened partnerships among the ecosystem of actors in the SDG delivery i.e. HEIs, government, civil society, development partners and community
- Strengthened South–South–North collaboration networks with renewed commitment to joint SDG action.
- Shared understanding lessons from Agenda 2030 and key insights relevant for shaping the Post-2030 Sustainability Agenda.

6. GORILLA conference

This workshop will precede the 4th International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change, which is slated to take place at the same venue from 2nd to 4th December 2026. You are encouraged to submit an abstract (<https://gorilla.mak.ac.ug>) to participate in the conference

7. Registration and information for the workshop.

You are invited to participate in the workshop through attendance, presentation, sharing experience and networking. Details on how to register for the workshop are found at: <https://gorilla.mak.ac.ug>. You can also get more information from the following contacts.

Organizers and Contact

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