

# SDGS LEARNING, TRAINING & PRACTICE

2020 EDITION REPORT

A SERIES OF CAPACITY BUILDING AND  
KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOPS HELD AT THE MARGINS  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL  
FORUM (HLPF) JULY 2020



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

# SUMMARY

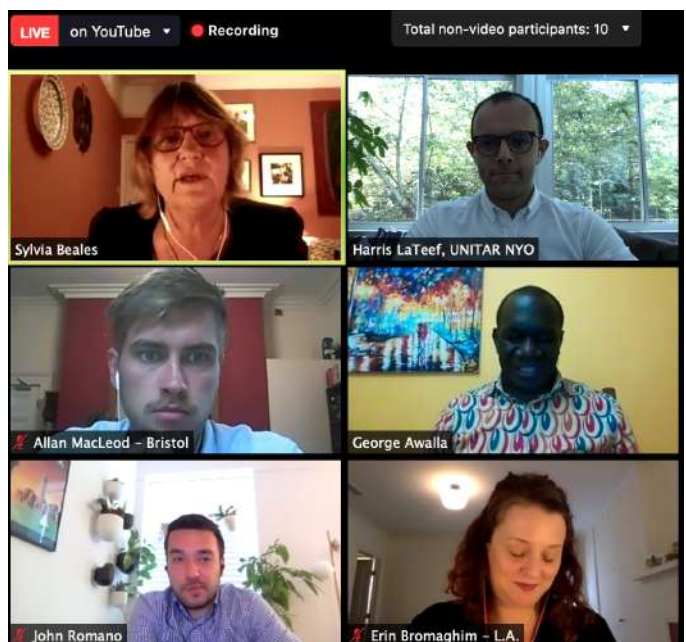
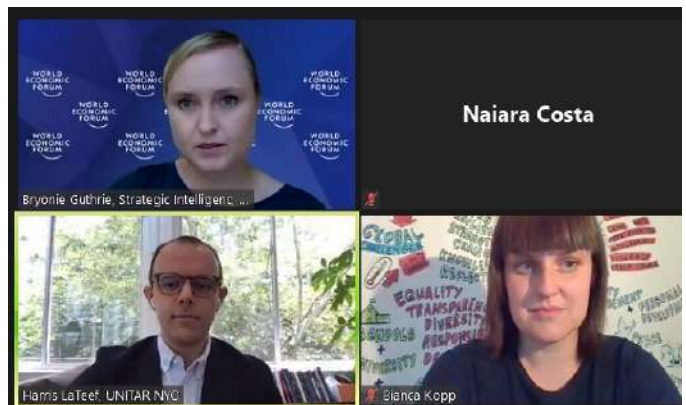
## Report

The 5th Edition of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice was held from 7 – 13 July 2020 in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [2020 edition of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice](#) was aimed at advancing knowledge and skills acquisition; networking; sharing experiences and peer to peer collaboration; learning about practical actions and best practices; capacity building and sharing practical policy integration and coherence approaches. The sessions provided a space for HLPF participants to acquire practical knowledge while exchanging views on challenges faced and lessons learnt.

## I. BACKGROUND

The implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require access to knowledge, not only for policy makers and leaders but also committed and engaged individuals around the world to ensure nobody is left behind. The [SDGs Learning, Training and Practice](#) are a series of capacity building and knowledge workshops held at the margins of the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) featuring speakers and experts from academia and other sectors on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs. The SDG Learning, Training and Practice is organized by the Division of Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).



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## II. THEME

The courses were centered around enhancing capacity of stakeholders on the six entry points showcased in the [2019 Global Sustainable Development Report \(GSDR\)](#):

- Human well-being and capabilities
- Sustainable and just economies
- Food systems and nutrition patterns
- Energy decarbonization and universal access
- Urban and peri-urban development
- Global environmental commons

All sessions were live streamed and materials remain publicly available [online](#).

## III. SELECTION OF LEARNING SESSIONS AND PROGRAMME

UN DESA/DSDG and UNITAR lead an open call for the submission of course proposals from stakeholders from different sectors. In total, 57 applications were received and reviewed based on their merit, relevance to the HLPF theme and the six entry points and expertise of organizers and willingness to produce the desired output. The 2020 SDG Learning, Training and Practice comprised [10 learning sessions](#), organized by almost 40 partners from different sectors and fields of expertise.

## IV. LEARNING AND TRAINING SESSIONS

This section brings information about all the 2020 SDG Learning, Training and Practice sessions. All materials are currently available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020/SDGsLearning>.

DESA/DSDG and UNITAR are grateful for the collaboration of all the partners engaged in the 2020 edition of the SDG Learning, Training and Practice.

The 2020 SDG Learning, Training and Practice sessions received 4,327 registrations in total (see Annex 1 for full analysis of registrants).

3,254 participants joined the ten live sessions using the Zoom Webinars platform and the live streams and recordings on UNITAR and DESA/DSDG's YouTube accounts accumulated 9,013 views by 13 August 2020.

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# ACTUAL ATTENDANCE ON

## *Zoom/YouTube views:*

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SESSION	ZOOM	YOUTUBE
1	500	3496
2	250	962
3	300	653
4	300	868
5	340	639
6	190	386
7	314	543
8	320	516
9	440	658
10	300	292
<b>TOTAL ZOOM PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>3254</b>	
<b>TOTAL YOUTUBE VIEWS (as of 13 August, 2020)</b>	<b>9103</b>	

A feedback survey was sent to all registrants of the events (see Annex 2 for the complete analysis of the survey). 287 feedback inputs were received. Overall, 97% of responding attendees reported that they were very or somewhat satisfied with their experience at the 2020 SDGs Learning, Training & Practice sessions. 89% of responding attendees reported that the content of the sessions was relevant or useful to their work. 99% of responding attendees reported that they are very or somewhat likely to participate in an event organized by UNITAR and DESA/DSDG in the future.

A second feedback survey was shared with organizers of the learning sessions, which also provided insightful recommendations, especially considering the virtual format of this edition (see Annex 3 for detailed survey results). 22 feedback inputs were received. Overall, organizers were pleased with the execution and attendance of their events, with 95% of respondents reporting satisfaction with their event and 100% of respondents reporting that they would consider reapplying to facilitate future editions of SDG Learning, Training & Practice. The survey highlighted the event time limitation and coordination between several partner organizations as the main challenges in the planning and execution of their sessions.

# TUESDAY, July 7th

## LEARNING SESSION 1:

Opening of the SDG Learning and Training: Learning and Training for SDG implementation in the COVID-19 era

The objective of this session was to launch the 2020 edition of the SDGs Learning, Training & Practice and discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and how the SDGs can contribute to these challenges.

Organized by:  
DESA/DSDG and UNITAR



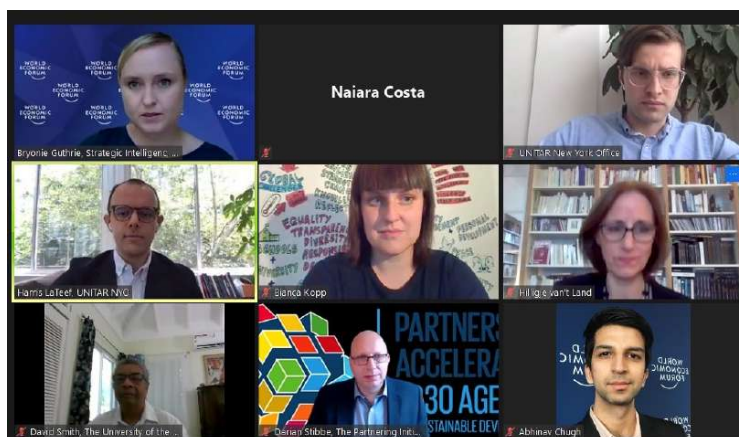
## LEARNING SESSION 2:

Developing transformational partnerships to catalyze SDGs implementation

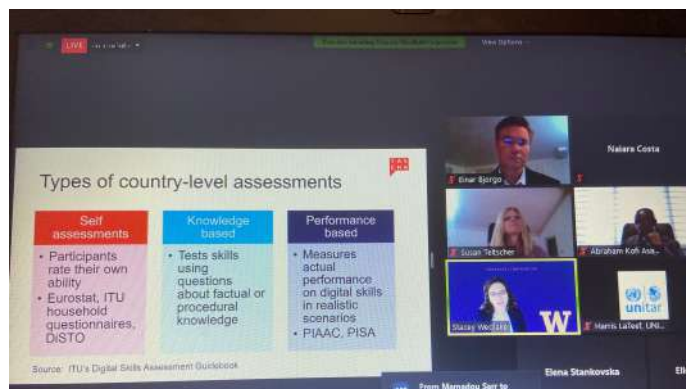
The objective of this session was to provide an introduction to how multi-stakeholder partnerships can facilitate system transformation. It examined how the SDGs, specifically SDG 4, 16 and 17, exist within complex systems and partnerships and leveraging various aspects of those systems are required to transform them in a positive way.

Organized by:

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Office for Sustainable Development), UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Economic Forum and The Partnering Initiative.



# WEDNESDAY, July 8th



## LEARNING SESSION 3:

Accelerating action through digital technologies: strengthening digital skills and capacities for human wellbeing.

The objective of this session was to highlight the importance of digital skills and capacity for achievement of the SDGs. It presented methodologies to carry out national digital skills assessments that can inform Government and other stakeholders.

Organized by:  
UNITAR and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

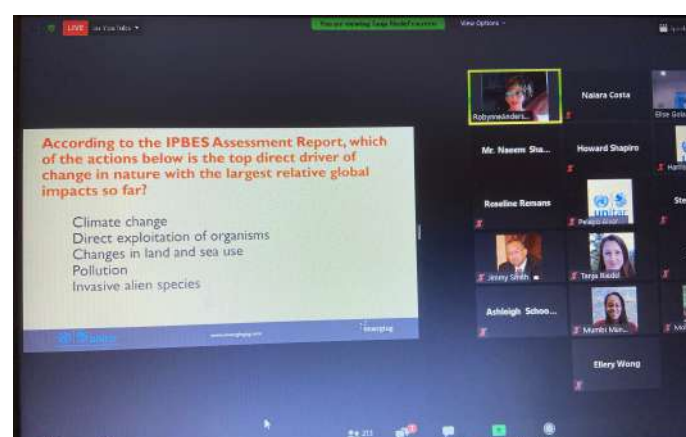
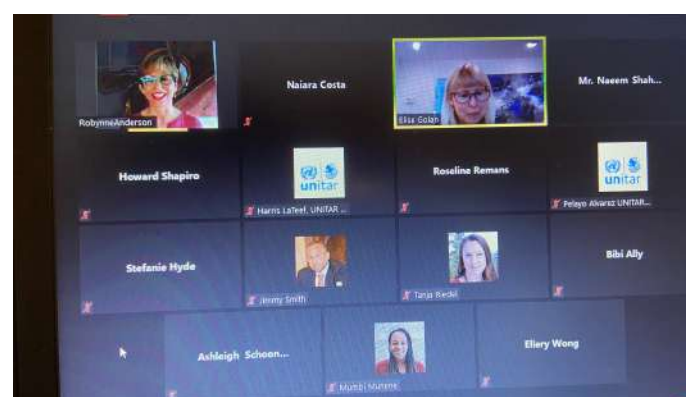


## LEARNING SESSION 4:

Food systems and nutrition patterns: Biodiversity, Resilience and Food Security.

The objective of this session is to discuss how disasters impact the environment and food systems and how to increase food production for a growing global population while preserving biodiversity, protecting the environment, mitigating the impact of disasters and adapting to climate change.

Organized by:  
Emerging ag, as secretariat of the Global Pulse Confederation, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)



# THURSDAY, July 9th

## LEARNING SESSION 5:

Global Environmental Commons:  
Co-designing solutions to integrate  
SDGs into policies and practices  
thru education and capacity  
development

The objective of this session was to provide the opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to address global environmental commons and on how to take immediate actions towards the integration of SDGs in their policies and practices.

Organized by:

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Government of Japan, Sulitest and Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University.



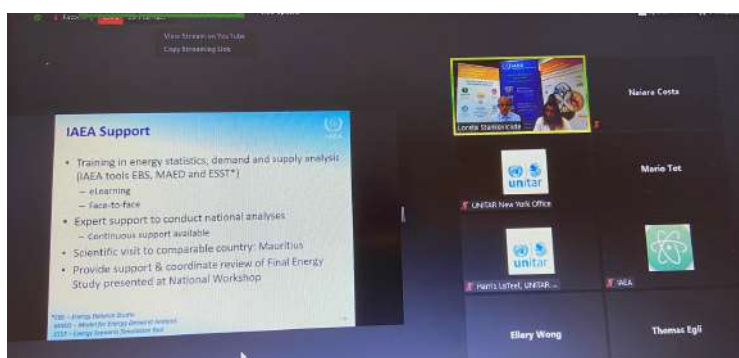
## LEARNING SESSION 6:

Energy decarbonization and  
universal access: Participatory  
Science and Stakeholder Capacity  
Building in Sustainable Energy  
Development

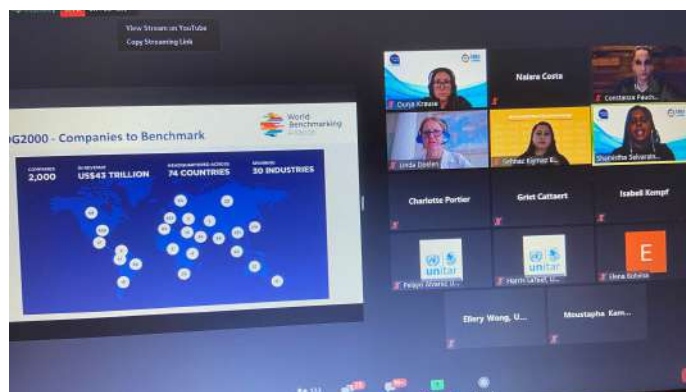
The objective of this session was to enhance participants' skills and knowledge on sustainable energy planning, discuss key elements of an effective capacity building, present example case studies with focus on energy decarbonization and universal access, demonstrate the benefits for stakeholders using participatory science to achieve SDGs and finally, present methodologies, toolbox, road maps and project-based learning technologies.

Organized by:

International Atomic Energy Agency and NGO Objectif Sciences International



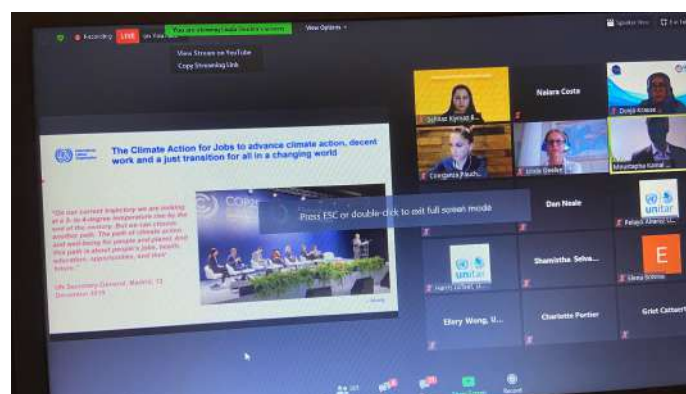
# FRIDAY, July 10th



## LEARNING SESSION 7:

### Sustainable and just economies: Lessons learned from the COVID-19 Crisis and enabling factors for the SDGs

The objective of this session was to bring together information and experiences from different schemes of work on the issue of sustainable economies. These diverse experiences allowed participants to have a broader understanding into various perspectives and issues under this heading, as well as provided them with tools to enable and support critical perspectives in these issues.



Organized by:

ILO Green Jobs Programme, International Women's Rights Action, Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Women's Major Group (WMG), World Benchmarking Alliance, UN Global Compact, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Research Institute for Sustainable Development (UNRISD).

## LEARNING SESSION 8:

### Urban and peri-urban development: Tools for SDG Localization

The objective of this session was to build partnerships and improve capacities of representatives of different level of governments to implement transformative actions towards the achievement of the SDGs. In particular, the training presented tools that support the follow up and review of SDG implementation at local level.

Organized by:

European Commission - Joint Research Centre





# MONDAY, July 13th

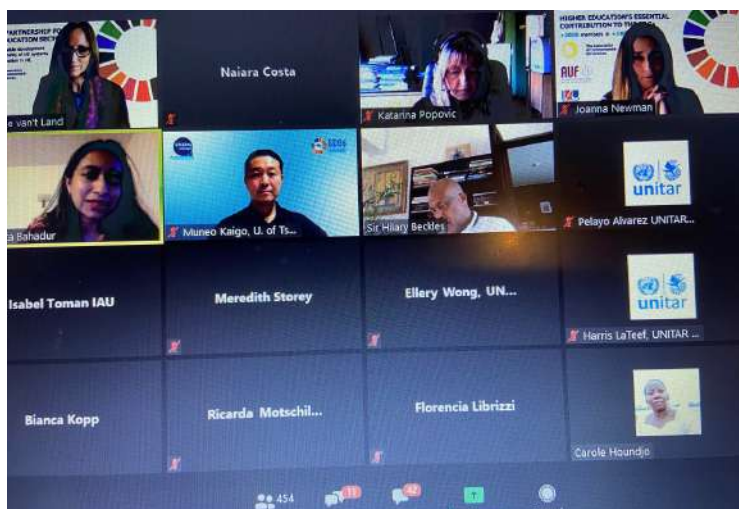
## LEARNING SESSION 9:

Teaching, Learning and Integrating the SDGs at universities and beyond - Linking to the Decade of Action

The objective of this session was to present approaches, resources and methods for education for sustainable development and integrate it to a wide variety of educational contexts.

Organized by:

International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), International Association of Universities (IAU), SDG Academy, L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).



## LEARNING SESSION 10:

Preparing for the second reporting cycle: Empowering Actors, Improving Coordination and strengthening SDG Data Reporting

The objective of this session was to provide an essential opportunity to connect a number of groups and networks who are directly involved in ensuring effective monitoring of the Goals, supporting data gathering efforts as well as mobilizing civil society stakeholders for joint monitoring and reporting to promote solutions that leave no one behind. The session aimed to address the question: “How can we build effective joint approaches for monitoring & data gathering on the SDGs?”

Organized by:

Permanent Mission of Denmark, UK Office for National Statistics, Action for Sustainable Development, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, TAP Network, Bristol City Office and Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles.



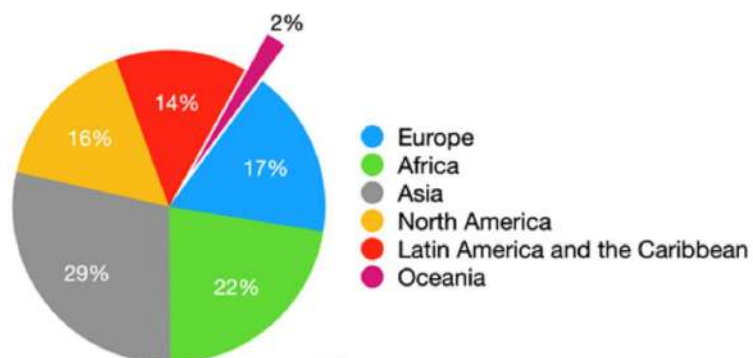
# ANNEX 1:

## *Analysis of Registrations*

### Session Registration Breakdown:

SESSION	REGISTERED	SESSION	REGISTERED
1	2431	6	1994
2	2335	7	2806
3	2229	8	2325
4	2059	9	2882
5	2663	10	2811

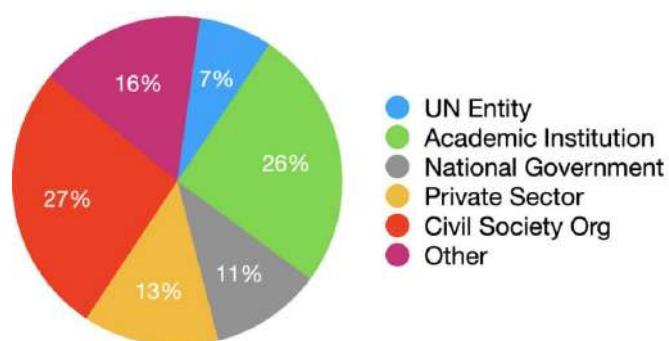
### Regional Breakdown:



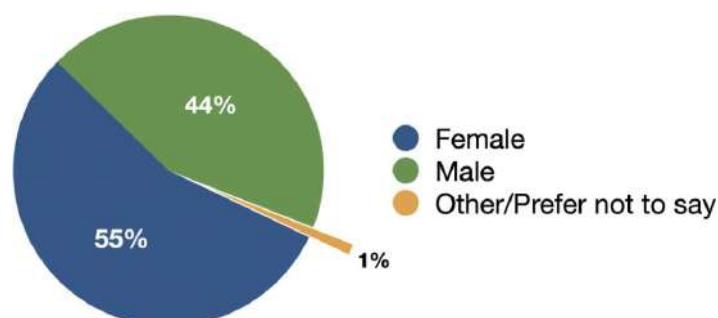
### Actual attendance on Zoom/YouTube views:

SESSION	ZOOM	YOUTUBE
1	500	3496
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### Organizational Breakdown:



### Gender Breakdown:



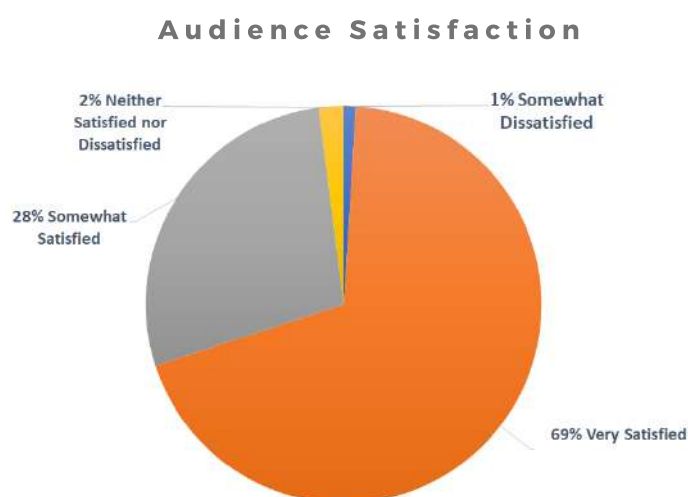
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## ANNEX 2:

### *Analysis of Feedback*

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This analysis reflects the outcomes of a survey sent to all 4,327 registered participants to the 2020 SDGs Learning, Training & Practice workshops in order to understand overall satisfaction in performance, relevance to the audience's work/studies and additional inputs regarding virtual learning. 287 feedback inputs were received. The main outcomes are reflected below.



Survey Outcomes: Out of the 287 total respondents, 276 attended at least one workshop and 11 did not.

**From those that have attended sessions, 80% indicated that they attended at least three sessions during the week. 97% of responding attendees were very or somewhat satisfied with their overall experience of the 2020 edition of SDGs Learning, Training & Practice**

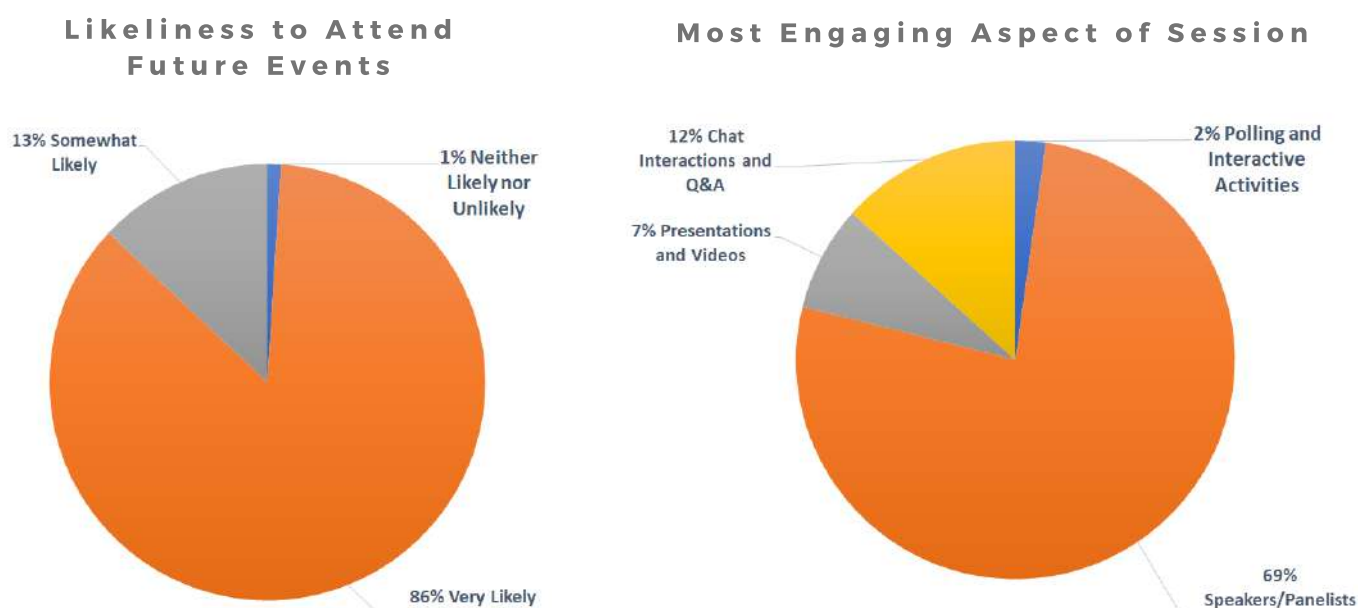
**89% of responding attendees found the content of the webinar to be relevant to their work.** From these positive responses, some highlighted how the content informed their work:

- “Provided insights on methods and tools to improve reporting at local and country level”
- “Application of climate resilient projects and risk reduction strategies on climate impact, Economic recovery plan for post COVID-19 pathway, Action plan on carbon neutrality and zero carbon economy by 2050.”
- “It has provided ways for implementation of SDGs even as the world battles with COVID-19. The areas that requires more effort and attention towards achieving SDGs by 2030.”
- “I am a university professor, so I found several of the presentations exceptionally beneficial for purposes of the integration of the SDGs in curriculum, research and partnerships.”
- “Brought latest information in the respective fields. Shared cases from different countries and regions.”
- “It informed me of how inclusivity should be enhanced in order to achieve SDG's.”

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**Responding attendees ranked speakers and panelists as the most effective and engaging aspect of the sessions.** Presentations and videos, chat interaction and Q&A, and polling and interactive activities followed on the ranking of most effective ways of engagement.

**95% of responding attendees found Zoom an effective and user-friendly platform to host the online learning series.**



**99% of responding attendees responded that they are very or somewhat likely to attend an event organized by DESA/DSDG and UNITAR in the future.**

**Highlights** - Responses for additional feedback, comments or suggestions for future SDGs Learning, Training & Practice workshops and virtual learning opportunities:

- “Maybe more structured teaching. Should be a bit of 101 background before jumping into a dialogue.”
- “Participation Certificate to the attendees will be a great motivation for them to engage more in the informative webinars, workshops, sessions etc.”
- “Providing biography of the guest speakers ahead of a training session with their contact information is critical to continue the conversation and to collaborate.”
- “For future workshops, I suggest that the courses be translated simultaneously into other United Nations languages other than English. This will provide a better understanding of the high-level presentations by leading experts on global economic issues.”
- “I sincerely appreciate to use of live streaming for those who were unable to connect through Zoom. Also, the recording for reference.”

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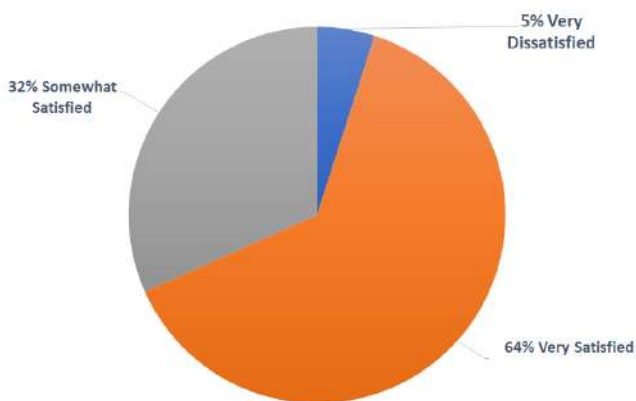
# ANNEX 3:

## *Organizing Partners Survey*

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This analysis reflects the outcomes of a survey sent to all organizing partners of the 36 organizations that were involved in the planning and execution of the 2020 edition of the SDGs Learning, Training & Practice workshops. The survey aimed to better understand overall satisfaction regarding event execution, effectiveness of support provided by UNITAR and DESA/DSDG and challenges faced during planning and adaptation to an online teaching platform. 22 feedback inputs were received. The main outcomes are reflected below.

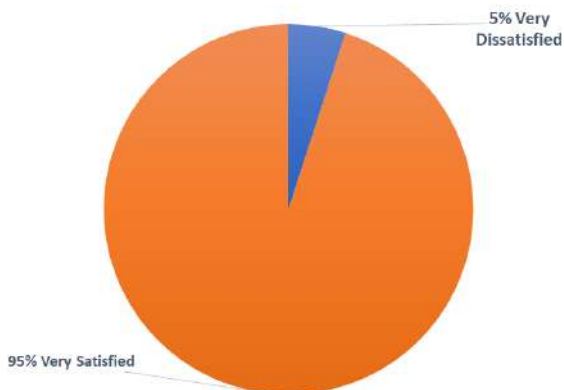
### Satisfaction with Session



### Survey Outcomes:

**95% of responding organizing partners were very or somewhat satisfied with the outcome of their session at the 2020 SDGs Learning, Training & Practice.**

### Satisfaction with UN Support



**95% of responding organizing partners were very satisfied with the support provided by UNITAR and DESA/DSDG to organize their workshop.**

### Elements of organizational support ranked by usefulness to the organizing partners:

1. Preparatory organizational meetings
2. Registration and attendance
3. SDGs website platform
4. Marketing materials (flyers and digital cards)
5. Day-of event facilitation
6. Publicity and outreach

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### Main challenges faced by organizing partners (in order):

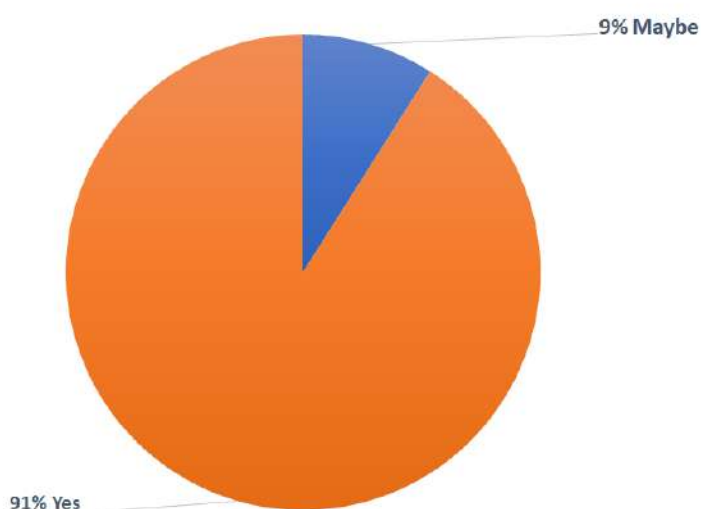
- 1.Coordinating many partners in one session & duration of the workshop (would need more time)
- 1.Adjusting to theme proposed for the session
- 2.Limited time for the organization of the session
- 3.Facilitating learning in a virtual setting instead of in-person workshops
- 4.Lack of clarity about how the main HLPF would be held
- 5.Adjusting to the EDT time zone

### Main advantages for organizing partners to host a session at the SDG Learning, Training & Practice (in order):

- 1.Opportunity of hosting a 'Special Event' during the 2020 HLPF
- 2.Opportunity of working in partnership with other organizations in setting up the learning session & Possibility of amplifying the outreach to a broader audience
- 3.Support from UNDESA and UNITAR in promoting the session
- 4.Having the recording of the learning session available at UN platforms

**Based on their experience this year, 91% of responding organizing partners reported that they would be interested in applying to facilitate SDGs Learning, Training & Practice workshops in the future.**

Interest in Reapplication?





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