



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SIDE-EVENT

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD AFTER 2030

A multilevel and multistakeholder
dialogue on the post-2030

13.07.26
3:00–4:30 pm

Church Center for the UN (8th Floor).
777 United Nations Plaza (1st Avenue), Manhattan, NY

Organisers



Supporting institutions

Introduction

2027 marks a pivotal moment: the start of the negotiation for the post-2030 development agenda. This process unfolds against a challenging global scenario: reshaping of international relations, a deepening environmental and climate crisis, and an insufficient achievement of the SDGs. Nonetheless, a broad consensus persists across governments at all levels and among key stakeholders, committed to multilateralism and to steering sustainable development policy beyond 2030.

This side event aims to facilitate a multi-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue on the post-2030 scenario, grounded in a strong commitment to multilateralism and sustainable development.

To that end, the event will bring together actors working intensively on the localization of the SDGs. They will discuss the challenges that the 2030 Agenda has brought, the specific needs of their communities, and their expectations for the future agenda.

After an initial round of expert contributions, the dialogue will explore how national and regional governmental networks and multi-stakeholder alliances envision a possible post-2030 framework.

Program

3:00 pm

WELCOME

→ **Eduard Vallory**, chair of CATESCO

→ **Dr Clelia Colombo**, director general for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry for European Union and Foreign Action, Government of Catalonia

3:10 pm

TOWARDS A POST-2030 AGENDA: FEASIBILITY, CONTENTS AND MANDATES OF A NEW MULTILATERAL ROADMAP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

→ **Dr Marianne Beisheim**, senior researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) to prepare the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

→ **Dr Axel Berger**, managing director, SDSN Germany. Deputy director (interim), German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

3:45 pm

NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON THE POST-2030 AGENDA

→ **Taru Savolainen**, vice president, European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). Secretary general, Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister 's Office, Finland

→ **Jordan Harris**, executive director, Regions4

→ **Maria Nikolopoulou**, president, European Economic and Social Committee Sustainable Development Observatory

→ **David Perejil-Bricio**, director general for the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs, and the 2030 Agenda of Spain

4:20 pm

CLOSING

Arnau Queralt-Bassa, director of the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia and facilitator of the 2030 Catalonia Alliance

Speakers



EDUARD VALLORY

President of CATESCO (formerly Center for UNESCO of Catalonia), a civil society organization with Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council).

He is the director general of the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST). He has previously served as Director of the Barcelona School of Economics (BSE) and was the driving force behind the Escola Nova 21 alliance for an advanced education system.



CLELIA COLOMBO VILARRASA

Director General for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry for European Union and Foreign Action of the Government of Catalonia since 2024.

From 2021 to 2024, she headed the Foresight and Strategy Service at the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, focusing on analysis and foresight for innovative metropolitan solutions. Between 2019 and 2021, she led the European project on the Quality of Dual Vocational Education and Training at Spain's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

From 2016 to 2019, she managed employment and training projects at Barcelona Activa, and from 2013 to 2016 she worked as a researcher at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). Between 2011 and 2013, she served as Director of the Promotion and Development Unit at the Catalan Employment Service. From 2008 to 2011, she was a European project officer in democratic innovation for the Government of Catalonia, coordinating citizen participation projects at national and international level.

She holds a degree in Sociology, a PhD in Public Policies and Social Transformation, and master's degrees from the University of Barcelona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.



DR. MARIANNE BEISHEIM

Senior researcher at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) – the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. Her research focuses on sustainable development governance. She is an expert on the follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In September 2025 the UN SG appointed her as member of the group of independent scientists to draft the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). She is also a member of the UN-Political Advisory Board of the German Federal Foreign Office, of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef.), and of the Research Council of the United Nations Association Germany.

From 2003 till 2010, Dr. Beisheim was Assistant Professor for International Relations at Freie Universität Berlin. From 2006 to 2017, she directed a DFG-funded research project on multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.



DR. AXEL BERGER

Managing Director of SDNS Germany and Deputy Director (interim) of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).

He holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Duisburg-Essen and a master's degree from the Munich Ludwig-Maximilians-University in political science, economics and modern history.

His research focuses on a future global sustainability framework beyond 2030 as well as international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries, and the role of the G7 and G20 in global governance.

He teaches international political economy at the University of Bonn and regularly advises developing countries, development agencies and international organisations on trade and investment matters.



TARU SAVOLAINEN

Vice president of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). She works at the Prime Minister's Office of Finland since September 2022 and as the Secretary General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development since January 2026.

From 2017 to 2022, she served at the Ministry of the Environment at the Minister's Cabinet and at the Unit for International and EU Affairs. She has also worked with peace mediation and dialogue at CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation as well as an environmental adviser at Amnesty International Finland.

Taru holds a master's degree in Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki.



JORDAN HARRIS

Executive Director of Regions4. He previously served as Programme Coordinator for the EU Support project to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in the Americas. From 2019-2021, he worked as Subnational Governments for Climate Action Coordinator for the Chilean COP25 Presidency.

He worked as a researcher and professor at the Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies of the Pontificia Universidad Católica as well as the Center for Sustainable Urban Development in Chile, as an expert on issues related to climate governance, capacity building, participatory climate change planning processes, science-policy interface for decision-making, and sub-national governments.

He participated in the founding of the NGO Adapt Chile in 2013, and as National Director until 2019 led programs related to capacity building, science-policy dialogue, governance and public policy, and coordination of the Chilean Network of Municipalities for Climate Action.



MARIA NIKOLOPOULOU

President of the European Economic and Social Committee's Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO). Her role is to promote the work of the EESC on sustainable development, especially on just transition, social dialogue, gender equality and civil society participation in EU and international policy processes.

As a member of the EESC representing the Spanish trade union confederation Comisiones Obreras, she has held different positions. She previously served as Vice-President and is currently member of the Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT) Section's Bureau, she was member of the steering group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and President of the Equality Group.

In her different roles, she has been part of several EESC delegations in the UN context (HLPF, CSW, UNCCC).



DAVID PEREJIL BRICIO

Director general for the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs, and the 2030 Agenda of Spain.

He holds a degree in Information Sciences (Complutense University of Madrid), a university specialization in the Historical Profile of Middle Eastern Conflicts, a master's degree in Social Exclusion, Integration, and Citizenship, and a master's degree in International Relations and African Studies.

Prior to his appointment as general director, he was lecturer in the Department of International Relations and Global History at the Complutense University of Madrid, coordinator of the Middle East regional area at the NGO NOVACT, and researcher at Institute for Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action (IECAH). He has development his professional career around international policy, both as consultant and journalist.



ARNAU QUERALT-BASSA

Director of the Advisory council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia since October 2011. He supports the Catalan Government of in the localisation of the SDGs and facilitates the 2030 Catalonia Alliance.

Since January 2015 he is the chair the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network (EEAC). On behalf this network, he was an observer to the European Commission Multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the SDGs in the EU. From 2019 and 2022 he co-chaired the WGs on SDGs and on Climate Change of the Assembly of European Regions.

Organisers



Supporting institutions