



#K4SD

2019 GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

## Knowledge for Sustainable Development: the Research-Policy Nexus

Bonn, Germany | 23-25 October 2019

Supported by Conference Partners



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### CALL FOR SESSIONS

The Global Development Network (GDN) and its conference partners invite interested organizations to submit session proposals for the upcoming Global Development Conference entitled *Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Research – Policy Nexus*. The conference, scheduled for October 23-25, 2019 is kindly supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-organized in partnership with the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), and Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research/ Innovation Campus Bonn (ICB).

### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The GDN Global Development Conference is a prestigious event, held in a different region each year. It connects developing countries' researchers, especially young academics, with the world's most influential researchers and decision leaders on a common platform, where they can share their research and discuss the most pressing challenges in sustainable social and economic development. This GDN flagship event will target around 400 participants, drawn from a diverse group of researchers, policymakers, representatives of international organizations, civil society, development practitioners and the private sector, with the vast majority from developing countries, which is the trademark of this conference. This 2019 conference also marks GDN's 20th anniversary since our launch in Bonn in 1999.

The 2019 Global Development Conference in Bonn will question how the current system of development research responds to the need to effectively inform and guide development policies in addressing new and old development challenges and facilitate sustainability, and explore ideas and ways to make it work better. It will showcase high level, inclusive, evidence-

based debates on current development challenges and priorities. It will share knowledge for development by highlighting innovative, high-quality, original and topical research on development, and provide developing countries with a voice in shaping global policy debates on sustainable development. Organizers will provide networking spaces for global actors, facilitate debates and discussions as well as publish key highlights and outcomes emerging from the conference.

## **SESSION PROPOSALS**

Session proposals can be submitted by one or more academic institutions, networks, policymakers, the private sector and civil society actors. Exploring the research-policy interface in pursuit of Sustainable Development, sessions should address one of the four interrelated themes of the conference:

### **1. From research to sustainable development action: interdisciplinary research, knowledge sharing, evidence brokering**

How can and does social science research (economics, sociology, political science, anthropology, etc.) contribute to sustainable development action (theoretical, conceptual discussion, or careful case studies of specific examples)?

How – and how much - has our understanding of “development” improved over the last two decades?

How much has development research contributed to better development policies? What drives the supply of, and demand for, development research and evidence, more broadly? How does that differ between developing and developed countries?

### **2. Global and shared challenges of sustainable development**

What are the substantial and operational knowledge gaps that may hamper the pursuit of the SDGs?

How can research and other forms of knowledge address the shared development challenges of developing and developed countries (i.e. climate change and adaptation; migration; inequality; conflicts; health etc.)?

### **3. Next frontier challenge: Big Data, AI, digital transformation**

How do technological change and innovations (AI, Big Data, digital transformation, bioscience, institutional innovations, etc.) impact social science research and its usefulness for policy making and how shall social science provide guidance to harnessing technological change and innovations?

#### 4. Greater local ownership and sustainability: implications for research policies and funding

How can one improve research policy and funding's response to developing countries' sustainable development related challenges and support greater local ownership?

Detailed description of these sub-themes, and the research questions under each theme can be found in the conference concept note available at [www.gdn.int/conference2019](http://www.gdn.int/conference2019).

#### Guidelines and Selection

Those interested should submit the title and abstract of their session (max 500 words) **by May 31, 2019, 11:59 pm IST** through [this](#) link on the GDN conference page. The names and affiliations of the panelists along with a short bio should also be included, as well as the individual titles of their presentations (if known). The format of the 90 min. session is flexible and at the discretion of the organizers.

Session proposals will be selected by the conference Organizing Committee on the basis of their relevance and quality, and potential to generate meaningful debate during the conference. Selection will be guided by some of the following criteria: expected contributions to one or several of the themes introduced above, policy salience, academic content, innovation in proposed approaches, expertise of the panelists, diversity. Sessions including multidisciplinary or multi-sectoral perspectives are also welcome.

The selected session proposals will be featured during the parallel sessions of the conference and acknowledged in the program, banners and all other relevant conference communication. There is a management fee of US\$2500<sup>1</sup> for booking a session at the conference, payable to the organizers once the session plan is accepted. Please note that this fee does not include travel and accommodation costs for the panelists.

For any queries, the conference secretariat can be contacted via email at [conference@gdn.int](mailto:conference@gdn.int).

#### Scientific Committee

**Joachim von Braun** – Director, Center for Development Research (ZEF), and Professor of Economic and Technological Change, University of Bonn

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<sup>1</sup> The fee covers the room rental, IT equipment and technical support, lunch and coffee breaks, registration materials and communication. For sessions deemed particularly promising by the selection committee, the fee may exceptionally be partially or fully waived at the motivated request of the session organizers, based on budget constraints.

**Benjamin Buclet** – Director, Center for Research and Expertise on Education and Development (CREED), France

**Sir Peter Gluckman** – Former Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA), and President-elect of the newly formed International Science Council

**Heba Handoussa** – Managing Director, Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID)

**Ravi Kanbur** – T. H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and Professor of Economics, Cornell University

**Habibul Haque Khondker** – Professor at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

**Anjali Mahendra** – Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange, World Resources Institute (WRI) Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities

**Katharina Michaelowa** – Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich

**Celia M. Reyes** – President, Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)

**Shlomo Weber** – President of New Economic School, Moscow, Leading Scientist, Center for Study of Diversity and Social Interactions, Moscow, and Professor Emeritus, Southern Methodist University, Dallas

### **Organizing Committee**

**Jörg Faust** – Director, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval)

**Pierre Jacquet** – President, Global Development Network (GDN)

**Dirk Messner** – Head, United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn

**Ramona Angelescu Naqvi** – Director of Strategic Partnerships, Global Development Network (GDN)

**Jakob Rhyner** – Scientific Director of the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research/Innovation Campus Bonn (ICB), Professor of Global Change and Systemic Risks, University of Bonn

**Imme Scholz** – Acting Director, German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)