



Young SDG Innovators Expert Group: Call for Applications

The Young SDG Innovators Programme is a professional development programme launched by the UN Global Compact and running in 10+ countries around the world for high-performing young professionals (Innovators) designed to accelerate business innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme activates future business leaders and changemakers and challenges them to rethink traditional business models and unlock new business opportunities. This team of young Innovators will, over the course of the 10-month programme, work on a challenge specific to their company with the goal of designing more sustainable business models, initiatives and products that will advance the company's sustainability efforts while driving innovation and delivering tangible solutions with potential market value.

Description and Responsibilities

The Global SDG Innovation Experts will serve as a key component to the programme, contributing to the development of new ideas and solutions, promoting learning and collaboration and shaping the design and development of commercially viable SDG business solutions. Experts will leverage their specific technical knowledge to provide critical knowledge, analysis and insight for Innovators to be able to identify relevant challenges for their business and design the solutions to address them.

Selected Experts will meet with Innovator project teams at regular monthly intervals through web-based conference calls and meetings throughout the 8-month programme to provide strategic and/or technical advice and input. Experts will be invited to provide an overview of the issue area and key points and themes followed by a Q&A in which Innovator project teams are able to ask specific questions to the Experts as they related to the projects.

Experts may also participate in relevant events such as the in-person 2-day workshops (Innovation camps) and other online activities available to the Innovator teams, as well as any local or global Solutions Summits, events highlighting the outcomes of the programme and showcasing the SDG business solutions. Depending on their background, willingness and availability, experts may be invited to join other specific activities of the project such as providing input into the development of programme content; judging project competitions or facilitating workshop sessions.

Composition of the Group

The Experts Group will be comprised of established and recognized experts of high standing in one or more key areas of expertise relevant to SDGs, corporate sustainability, business innovation, and breakthrough technologies. To the extent possible, the Experts should represent all regions of the world (Africa, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and North America). Gender balance will be an important consideration in the selection of Experts. The Experts Group will be facilitated by the UN Global Compact, with the Global Operations team acting as focal point to coordinate Expert meetings.

Time Commitment

Participation requires offering 1 two-hour webinar a month to provide feedback, guidance and technical expertise to global Innovator teams and their projects. Additional, yet optional engagements include participation in in-person workshop sessions for Innovators and serving as panelists for project pitch competitions.



Benefits

As part of the Young SDG Innovators Programme, Experts have the opportunity to:

- Shape the design of commercially viable sustainable business solutions
- Contribute to the integration and embedding of breakthrough mindsets in support of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Participate in workshops and events on SDG business innovation
- Interact with a global network of other Experts, sustainability and business innovation thought leaders, professionals and corporates
- Access to the global Young SDG Innovators online platform

Field of Expertise

The UN Global Compact is looking for experts with relevant experience in one or more of the following topics:

Global Development

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Corporate Sustainability
- SDG Implementation
- Community-Led Local Development

Breakthrough Technologies

- Unmanned Air Systems
- Next Generation Robotics
- Internet of Things
- Digital Agriculture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Gene Editing
- New Realities
- The Microbiome
- Additive Manufacturing
- Autonomous Road Vehicles
- Blockchain
- Big Data

Cross-cutting areas

- Design Thinking
- Business Model Innovation
- SDG Business Solutions
- Software-based Solutions
- Design Prototyping
- Intrapreneurship
- Entrepreneurship



YOUNG
SDG
INNOVATORS



Registration as member of the Expert Group does not automatically mean selection for engagement in current rounds of the programme. Experts will be required to agree to confidentiality and to confirm that there is no conflict of interest for each round in which they are engaged.

The members of the expert groups will serve as volunteers and thus are not be paid or reimbursed for any expenses during their term.

To apply for join to be an SDG Innovator Expert, please contact the UN Global Compact for any questions (youngsdginnovators@unglobalcompact.org).