



UNITED NATIONS MEDIA ADVISORY 8 JULY 2021, NEW YORK

From Beirut to Milan, United Nations launches series of timely conversations on local solutions to global challenges

#SDGLIVE

What is the prospect for long-lasting peace in Lebanon as we near the first anniversary of the Beirut bombing? How can communities in Southern Madagascar recover and build resilience to climate change-induced drought and food insecurity? How can good, reliable data help achieve sustainable development? How do we foster a culture of sustainability through music and sport?

At this year's UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which will take place from 6 to 15 July, the UN SDG Media Zone, a global platform for dynamic conversations co-curated with media organizations on all things sustainable development, will launch a series of local and regional conversations under its new sub-brand, SDG Media Zone +.

The new platform was created to highlight issues unique to local communities and showcase scalable local solutions to global challenges through inspiring conversations between community change-makers and experts. Anchored on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SDG Media Zone + conversations will take viewers around the globe through the lens of those transforming the world - one country and community at a time.

The SDG Media Zone, established in 2016 to mark the first anniversary of the adoption of the SDGs, is an initiative of the UN Department of Global Communications, created in collaboration with the Pvblic Foundation. It brings together voices from the UN System and partners, amplified through media alliances, including with the members of the SDG Media Compact.

All SDG Media Zone + sessions will be available on UN Web TV. Please join the conversation online using the hashtag #SDGLive. All digital media assets for HLPF, including for the SDG Media Zone +, are available on a dedicated Trello board.

SDG MEDIA ZONE + PROGRAMME

8-15 JULY 2021 | Global Challenges, Local Solutions: SDG Action Around the World

8 July | Long-lasting Peace and Justice in the Middle East

The 2020 devastating explosion in Beirut killed more than 200 people, injuring over 6,000 others and leaving many more homeless. Moreover, Lebanon saw up to \$4.5 billion in damages. Nearly one year after the blast, experts from the United Nations and the World Bank discuss the prospects for peace and justice in the country.



Interviewer:

• Nadim Ladki, Editor-in-Chief, The Daily Star Lebanon | @nadimladki @dailystarle

Guests:

- Joanna Wronecka, UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon | @UNSCOL @JWronecka
- Saroj Kumar Jha, Regional Director of the Mashreq Department, World Bank Group | @SarojJha001 @worldbank

9 July | Sustainable Transportation - The Race to Net Zero

New York City will once again host the Formula E racing (10-11 July) - one of the most compelling global racing series featuring race-to-road electric vehicles and sustainable mobility technologies. As the only sport certified net zero carbon since inception, we explore Formula E's quest to counteract climate change by accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles.



Interviewer:

• Conor Lennon, UN News | @conoralennon @UN_News_Centre

Guests:

- Lucas di Grassi, Racecar Champion and UN Environment Clean Air Advocate | @lucasdigrassi @unep
- Julia Pallé, Sustainability Director, Formula E | @FIAFormulaE

12 July | Clean Energy in Africa

From cooking fuel alternatives to solar power innovations, many Africans are rising to the challenge of solving age-old issues across the continent, while carving a clear path to a sustainable future. In this session, we ask expert/s about the prospect and growth of clean energy in Africa.



Interviewer:

Kingsley Ighobor, UN Africa Renewal | @Klington @africarenewal

Guest:

• Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO, Sustainable Energy for All | @DamilolaSD @SEforALLorg

12 July | Data for Good - Analyzing SDG Progress and Challenges

The United Nations, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Esri, and the PVBLIC Foundation join forces to help empower governments, businesses, and civil society to work together quicker, more effectively, and efficiently through a growing network of SDG Data Hubs. Following the launch of the SDG Progress Report (6 July), experts talk about the role of data in achieving the SDGs with a deep dive into the importance of geospatial data and data visualization.



Interviewer:

• Enrique Acevedo, Correspondent, CBS News | @Enrique_Acevedo @60Minutes @CBSNews

Guests:

- Alix Cantave, WK Kellogg Foundation | @WK_Kellogg_Fdn @kelloggfoundation
- Charles Brigham, Esri | @Esri @esrigram
- Greg Scot, UN Statistics Division | @UNStats @UNDESA

13 July | Health Challenges in Small Island Developing States

Following the World Health Organization's SIDS Summit for Health, experts discuss the unprecedented health challenges countries in the region face, including from the impacts of climate change, ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the high prevalence of noncommunicable diseases.



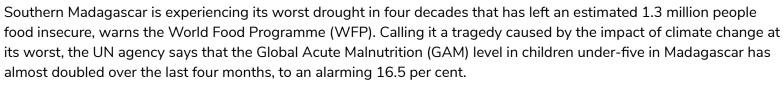
Interviewer:

Daphne Ewing-Chow, Senior Contributor, Forbes | @daphneewingchow @forbes

Guest:

• Dr. María Neira, Director, Public Health and the Environment Department, World Health Organization | @DrMariaNeira @WHO

14 July | The Invisible Crisis: Climate Change Drives Hunger in Southern Madagascar





Interviewer:

• Teresa Welsh, Senior Reporter, DEVEX | @tmawelsh @Devex

Guest:

• Shelley Thakral, Regional Communications Specialist, World Food Programme | @sthakral @WFP

15 July | Concert for People and the Planet

Musicians around the world continue to lend their voice and talent to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG Action Campaign partners with renowned Italian artists - Margherita Vicario, Populous and Epoque - ahead of the UN Food System (26 July) and the Climate Conference (30 September) pre-summits as well as the G20 Summit (30 October) in Italy, to launch a music activation in Milan called, Play:Fair for People and Planet, on 17 July to further amplify the music industry's support for sustainability and a healthier planet. The activation will culminate during the UN General Assembly high-level week in New York (17 to 28 September).

Interviewer:

• Mia Ceran, Will Media | @miaceran @will_ita

Guests:

- Janine Tshela Nzua (Epoque), Musician | @93epoque
- Marina Ponti, Director of the UN SDG Action Campaign | @pontimari @SDGaction