

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 Public 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](#) [@esriagram](#)
- 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

Southern Madagascar is experiencing its worst drought in four decades that has left an estimated 1.3 million people food insecure, warns the World Food Programme (WFP). Calling it a tragedy caused by the impact of climate change at its worst, the UN agency says that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) level in children under-five in Madagascar has almost doubled over the last four months, to an alarming 16.5 per cent.



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 | [@93époque](#)
- Marina Ponti, Director of the UN SDG Action Campaign | [@pontimari](#) [@SDGaction](#)