

Report: Learning and Dialogue Webinar

Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies

Title: Understanding the SDG transformations, identifying opportunities and defining the role of SDGs advisory bodies in SDG transformation

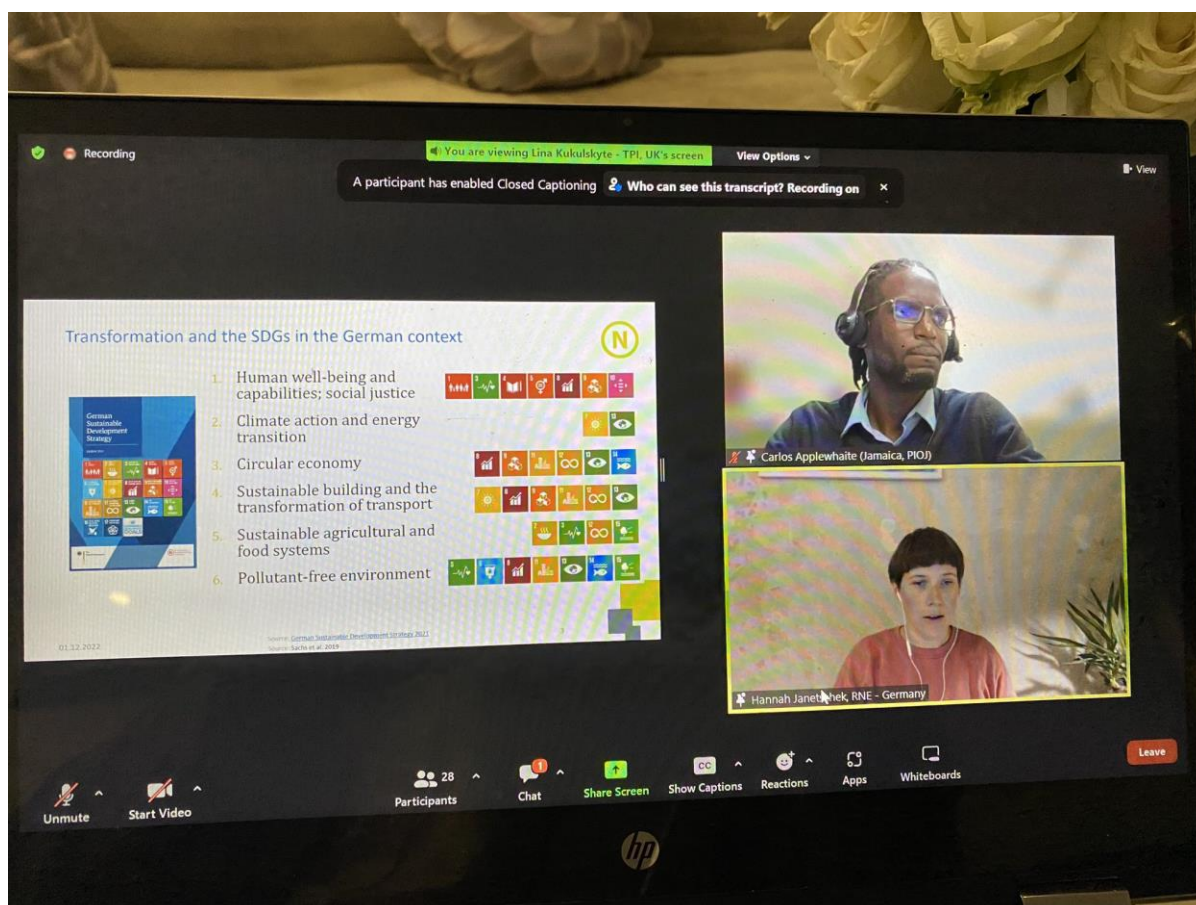
Date: 01 December 2022

Time: 13:00-15:00 UTC | 14:00-16:00 CET | 15:00-17:00 SAT

Host: The Secretariate - Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies

Facilitator: Carlos Applewhaite (PIOJ),

Recording: Full Event Recording Available for [Download](#)



Recording

You are viewing Lina Kukulskyte - TPI, UK's screen

A participant has enabled Closed Captioning

Who can see this transcript? Recording on

Transformation and the SDGs in the German context

1. Human well-being and capabilities; social justice
2. Climate action and energy transition
3. Circular economy
4. Sustainable building and the transformation of transport
5. Sustainable agricultural and food systems
6. Pollutant-free environment

German Sustainable Development Strategy

01.12.2022

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Bartsch et al. 2021

Carlos Applewhaite (Jamaica, PIOJ)

Hannah Janetschek (RNE - Germany)

Unmute Start Video

Participants 28

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Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a "comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets." This implies that transformation towards sustainable development is required to tackle positive and negative interdependencies between different objectives within the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. For policymaking, such transformations are challenging, as they require decrease of action and increase of new activities – both developments usually do not happen at the same time and cause insecurity and instability for affected stakeholders. Policymaking is required to provide public services and social-economic security, but also to act as an enabler of citizen-led activities and collective learning that have a transformative impact. The opportunities and roles for SDGs advisory bodies in sustainability transformation are to be explored, as they are located at the interface of local actors and national sustainability policymakers.

Objectives

The learning and dialogue webinar was positioned to expand and understand the six key transformation areas, developed in the [Global Sustainable Development Report 2019](#), as well as identify opportunities and roles for SDGs advisory bodies in these transformations. The six key transformation areas are 1) Human well-being and capabilities, 2) Sustainable and just economies, 3) Sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition, 4) Energy de-carbonisation with universal access, 5) Sustainable urban and peri-urban development, and 6) Securing global environmental commons.

The session framed the dialogue by focusing on the following key questions:

1. How are the 17 SDGs and their targets clustered into six transformation areas and what levers are essential for activating these transformations?
2. How can we adapt the six transformations to national circumstances: a) with regard to monitoring SDG progress as well as b) delivering integrated policy-making?
3. How can SDGs advisory bodies support their governments in these transformations?



Layout and Dialogue Facilitation

A moderated dialogue, which facilitated a discussion among the Global Forum network members, regarding SDG transformations in multiple contexts and identified opportunities for network members to play an essential role in their national context.

Amongst the outcomes of the webinar, is a deepened shared understanding and defined role of SDGs advisory bodies in SDG transformation. The following topics were explored by the panel speakers:

- Unpacking the SDG transformation and opportunities for SDGs advisory bodies to play a catalytic role, **Dr Eeva Furman** (*Finnish Commission for Sustainable Development*)
- Utilizing the transformation areas in monitoring and measurement of SDG progress (with example from Colombia?), **Ivonne Lobos-Alva** (*Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI Bogotá*)
- Adapting the six transformation areas to national policymaking. What does it mean for policy processes and what role for national advisory bodies? – with examples from Germany, **Dr Hannah Janetschek** (*German Council for Sustainable Development*)

Moderating the learning and dialogue webinar was **Carlos Applewhaite**, a development professional with experience in governance, trade, and macroeconomic development (*Development Analyst at the Planning Institute of Jamaica*).

Discussion One (1)

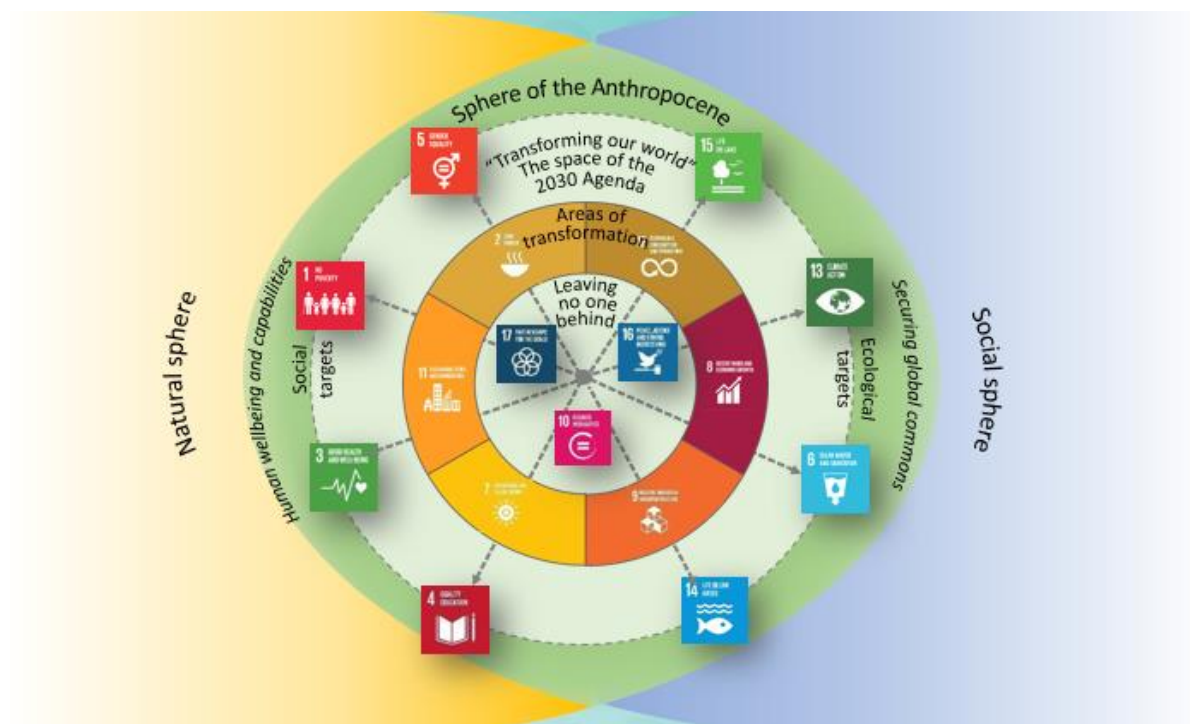
Unpacking the SDG transformation and opportunities for SDGs advisory bodies to play a catalytic role (with examples from Finland)

Panellist: Dr Eeva Furman

Dr Eeva Furman commenced dialogue by outlining the discussion items, to frame the key three talking points. First was an introduction to the sustainability transformation, second were examples from Finland and third, an engagement with participants, assessing tailored measures for different national contexts.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the [war in Ukraine](#) have hampered the progress thus far achieved. There are also four alarming trends, hindering the achievement of the 2030 agenda:

- Rising inequalities
- Biodiversity loss
- Climate change
- Growing amount of waste



Arising from the [GSDR 2019](#) report is the interlinkages amongst the SDG goals. This reality presents mutual advantages and potential impediments. The interdependence of nations has taught us that both challenges and transformations are in the hands of several actors and that in fact, an inclusive collaboration is better for achieving desired results when addressing positive change.

When we rethink of the powerful actors in the international marketplace of states versus corporations, today we can see both countries and corporations advancing their strategies and winning in their desired fields. The sad reality is that when our leaders compromise sustainability and transformative actions, it is the humans, animals and the environment who lose. When we allow only the minimum amount of sustainability, the scale easily favours the economy, and it may appear as if economic advancement is prioritised.



As a collective, coordinated by SDGs advisory bodies, we need to halt this trend. When we prioritise SDGs in a transformative form, it is advisable to collate the individual goals and centre them as effective systems in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In Finland, the house of sustainable transformation is employed as a model. The foundation of the “house” is referred to as the global environment commons, the pillars of management, which are advised to not be compromised, are economy, food, energy and urban systems and lastly the roof is referred to as the well-being and capabilities (build on the models of sustainability).

In 1993 Finland formed the National Commission on Sustainable Development, led by the prime Minister and it has consistently been tasked with accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. Processes are in place to assess and monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

Elaborate dialogue is available for [Download](#)

Discussion Two (2)

Utilizing the transformation areas in monitoring and measurement of SDG progress (with examples from Colombia)

Panellist: Ivonne Lobos-Alva

Ivonne Lobos-Alva introduced the subject by highlighting the value of assessing the milestones achieved thus far by our governments and our partners as we report the mid-way implementation of the SDGs. The reports can support SDGs advisory bodies with reviewing strategies and assess where transformative actions may be necessary levers for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The theme of interlinkages amongst the SDG goals re-surfaced, as introduced initially by Dr Eeva Furman, Ivonne Lobos-Alva highlighted the review process as a crucial one for SDGs advisory bodies to systematically analyse the implementation of the SDGs in terms of the “ripple effect” impact which results (positive and negative) may share amongst the SDGs in the different context of different nations and societies. Data is mentioned as crucial in monitoring progress and thus should be a high priority area of focus for the SDGs advisory bodies, in order to effect oversight.

Challenges for Transformative Areas in the Follow-Up and Review

- Mobility and gender
- National implementation and data availability overshadows regional and local monitoring
- Adherence to policy and national development strategies (context and country specific)
- Defined finances and budgets earmarked for the achievement of a harmonised local to national strategy

Baseline assessments can support the assessment of the implementation impact from national to regional and local contexts. Since the adoption of Agenda 2030, trends indicate the national commitments have been the focal point, however now that we're moving beyond the national monitoring and review, it is equally relevant to review how local governments are progressing, especially because they are closer citizens and communities. From case studies, workshops and research pursued in the Latin America region, it was observed that cases with multi-stakeholder engagements proved to be achieving successful progress results in implementing the SDGs. Pereira is highlighted as the first city in Colombia to present a Voluntary Local Report. This is a huge milestone as it helps SDGs advisory bodies with connecting the most local level of society to the monitoring and implementation of the global sustainability goals.

Elaborate dialogue is available for [Download](#)



Discussion Three (3)

Adapting the six transformation areas to Germany's national policy-making. What does it mean for policy processes and defining the role for national advisory bodies.

Panellist: Dr Hannah Janetschek

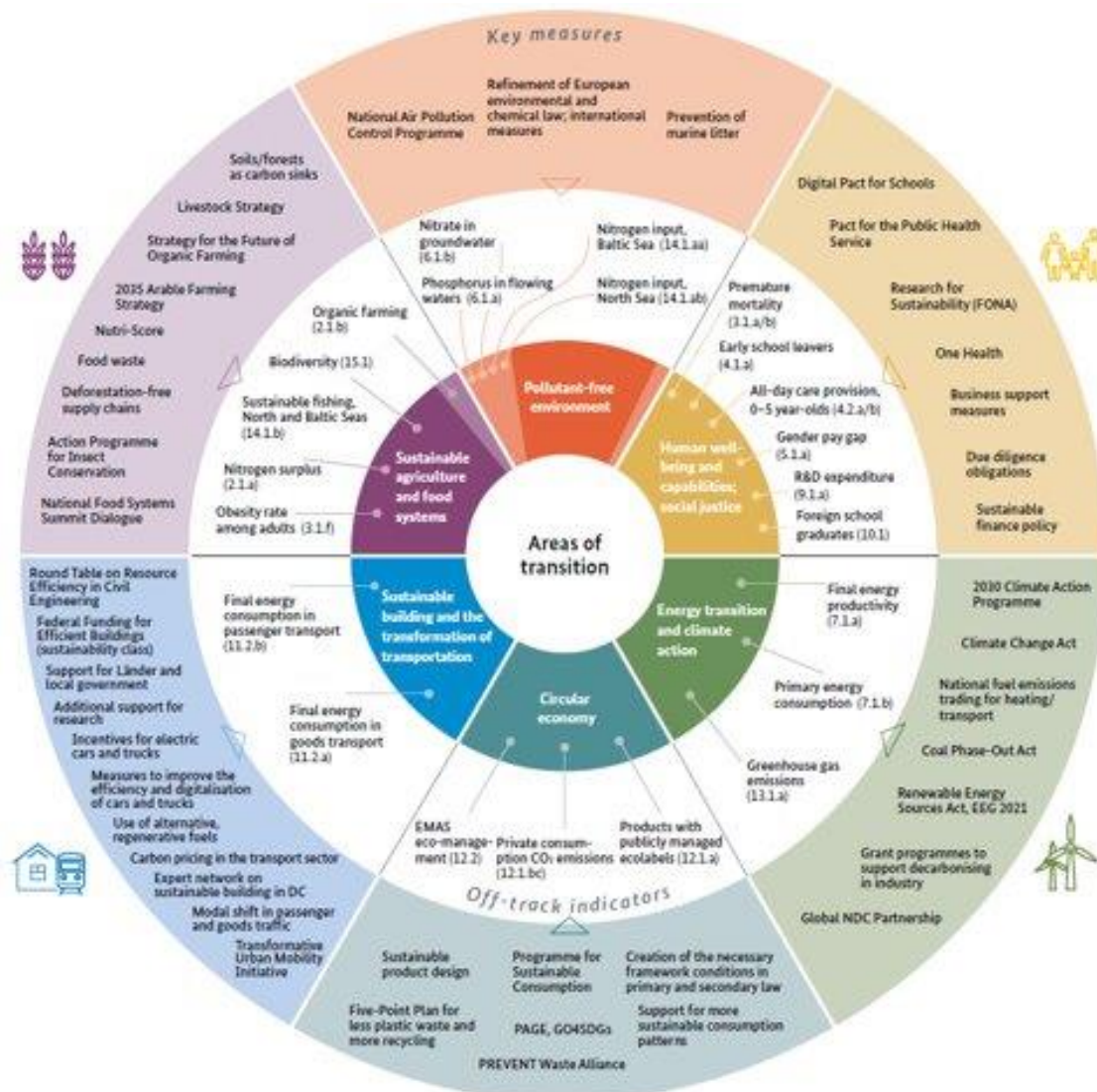
Dr Hannah Janetschek introduces the subject by encouraging the assessment of elements affected by compromising sustainability and transformative actions. A few interconnected elements are themed together:

1. Sustainable agricultural systems: Energy and farmers
2. De-carbonisation of energy systems: coal VS renewable energy
3. Sustainable housing and buildings: private home and government entities
4. De-carbonisation of industry: circular economy and digitalization

In 2016, the German sustainable strategy – which is the national sustainable development policy guiding frame, was arranged according to the 17 SDGs and in 2021 the strategy was revised to include stakeholder collaboration. The German government has included the transformation areas in the revised German sustainable strategy and clustered the SDGs into each theme area.



Germany's government has also elevated their commitment to the SDGs by mapping the six transformative areas, aligned them to reports of results achieved and recommended policy interventions to minimise and eradicate the gaps:



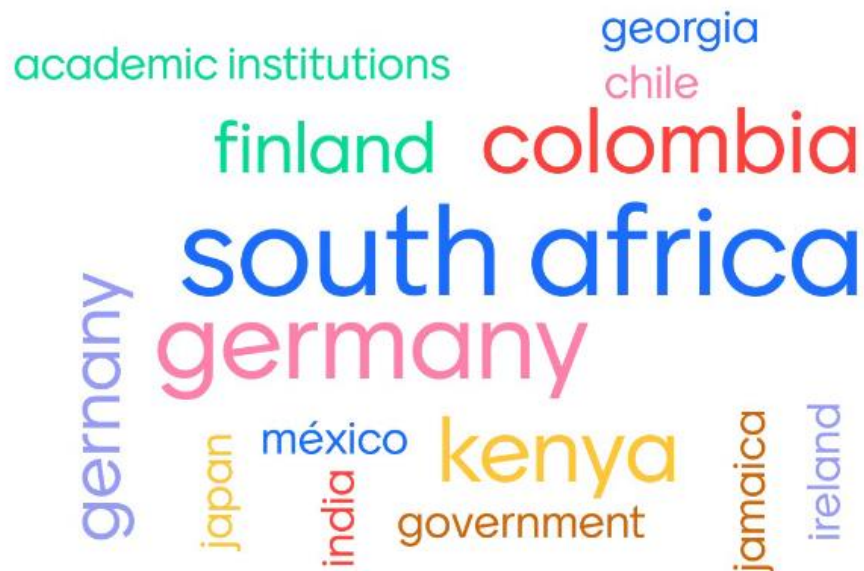
The mapping exercise and its recommendations is however not spared of criticism as it is guaranteed that the various clustered ministries, responsible for the implementation of the SDGs, will agree to integrate budgets and strategies to align towards Germany's Circular Economy (International Transformation Area of Economic Systems).

Elaborate dialogue is available for [Download](#)

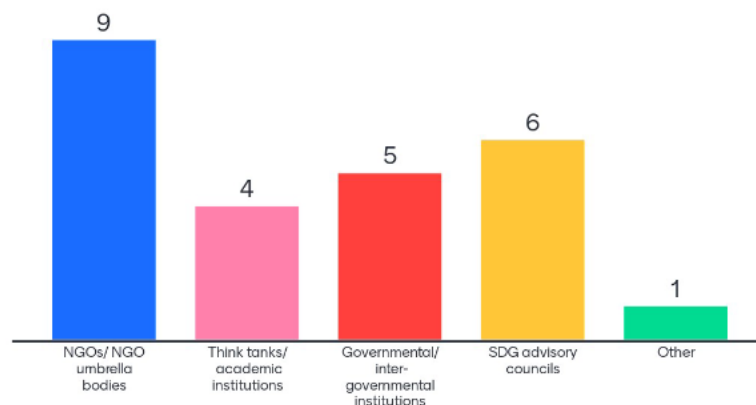
Conclusion

In the spirit of learning and dialogue, attendees were continuously engaged as they posed live and scripted questions to all three panellists and through collecting reactions from menti.com. To follow will be a display of some of those reactions and feedback shared.

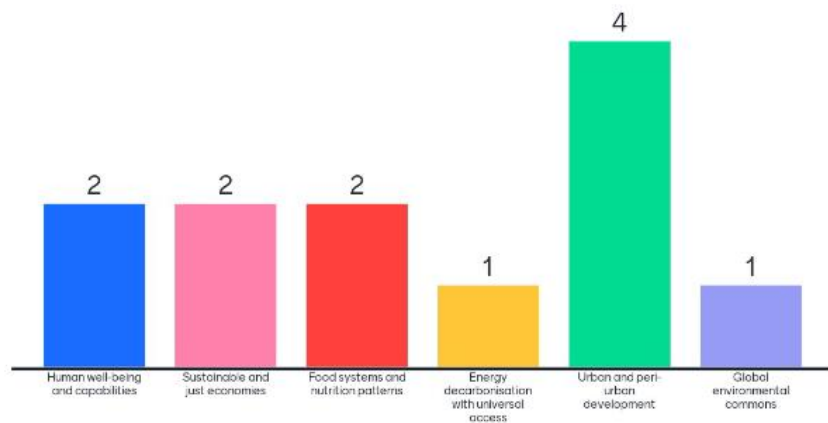
Which country do you represent?



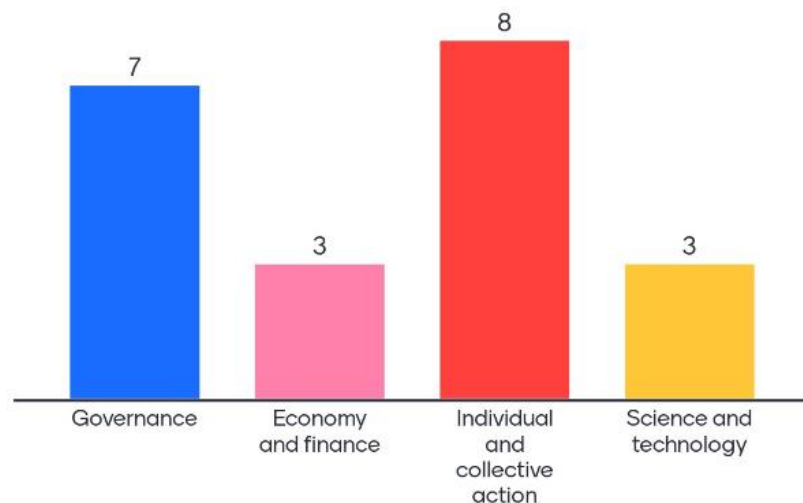
What type of organisations are you affiliated with:



Which SDG transformation entry points (action areas) are you interested in?



Which SDG transformation levers are relevant to your organisation?





What is the role of SDG Advisory bodies in SDG transformation?

Mentimeter

Communicate about transformation	Involve stakeholders	Build the link between gov t and citizens
the role is to facilitate a shared understanding and build a common purpose	Compass function	The role of the SDG advisory bodies should be multisectoral articulation to facilitate an ecosystem that can facilitate the acceleration of the agenda through concrete actions.
negotiate conflicting interests for transformation	focusing on ground up evidence	local advocacy work on SDGs, especially when national spaces are harder to influence

What is the role of SDG Advisory bodies in SDG transformation?

Mentimeter

Advocacy, facilitate policy coherence, promote sound data management and reporting systems, promote engagement	Support with tools and methodologies for improved decision-making	By discussing difficult topics, leading by example
Coordination, monitoring, oversight, knowledge and data sharing.	cultural change	Bring best practices to the territory in the implementation of SDG agenda
Also highlight where perspectives differed - so also showcase problematic areas	Putting social, environmental and economic well-being at the center of sustainability strategy	promote innovation and technological change

What is the role of SDG Advisory bodies in SDG transformation?

Mentimeter

The role of SDG Advisory bodies in SDG transformation is crucial in terms of connecting knowledge and different stakeholders in one table to further advance transformative agendas.
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The Secretariat of the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies expresses heartfelt appreciation to our attendees and panellists for the support and expert knowledge sharing as we convened the learning and dialogue webinar: Communities of Practice (CoP) - SDG Transformative Action.

As we continue to convene learning and dialogue webinars in the future, we will update the global forum community.