

PRESS RELEASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS IN BONN

New UN organization welcomed in Bonn: United Nations System Staff College – Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development officially inaugurated

Germany, Bonn, 3 March 2016 - The family of United Nations agencies in Bonn, Germany, has grown bigger. Today the “Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development” of the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) was officially inaugurated at the UN Campus Bonn. New education and training opportunities will be offered for United Nations staff globally, government counterparts, civil society and the private sector in the field of “Sustainable Development”.

At the occasion of the official opening the Director of the UNSSC headquarters based in Turin, [Dr. Jafar Javan](#), states, *“We are grateful that the UNSSC Knowledge Centre has become reality here in Bonn. The centre will be at the forefront of the global efforts to provide education and training in the field of “Sustainable Development”. The Agenda 2030 is transformative and we need all people and parts of the society to understand the needs of society and the planet. It is simply a pre-condition to become agents of change.”*

[Dr. Simon Koppers](#), Head of Division United Nations of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) expresses his satisfaction, with the establishment of the UNSSC in the midst of the UN Bonn family, *“as a host country, we want to create an enabling environment to make the Sustainable Development Goals develop their potential. We believe that in this moment in time there is a great need for such an institution, providing this know-how about the 2030 Agenda. Hence we are pleased to support the creation of the UNSSC Knowledge Centre.”*

The Head of the UNSSC office in Bonn, [Patrick van Weerelt](#), adds, *“The team is delighted to facilitate executive learning on sustainable development in an innovative and inspiring environment provided here by the German authorities to the United Nations. We will be greatly benefiting from the rich landscape of governmental and non-governmental organizations, highly potential partners that make the location Bonn unique – a powerhouse for sustainable development.”*

[Christiana Figueres](#), in her current capacity as the Chair of the United Nations Organizations Heads of Agencies Forum in Germany welcomes the new organization on behalf of the UN Bonn family, *“The United Nations in Bonn has grown to a creative centre that already plays a key role in international sustainability policy. The work of the UN agencies in Bonn with their common aspiration - Shaping a sustainable future – will be greatly complemented and bring a new ground for cooperation also among the UN agencies here in Bonn.”*

Pictures of the event: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unbonn/albums/72157663066522123>

Background on UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development

What is the UN System Staff College?

The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is the pre-eminent learning arm of the UN system. Through the delivery of courses and learning initiatives, the UNSSC equips UN Staff and partners with the skills and competencies they need to meet current and future challenges. The UNSSC helps the United Nations become more effective by fostering a common leadership and management culture across the system. To date, services have reached, on average, 7000 beneficiaries across the globe each year.

What is the Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development?

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development supports UN implementation of the Agenda 2030 through learning, training and knowledge management. The complexity of the Agenda 2030 to simultaneously advance equitable economic, social and environmental development requires the UN to strengthen its facilitative leadership, knowledge management and learning capabilities with a view to better support global, regional and national efforts to implement the sustainable development agenda.

Why is it in Bonn?

There is a distinct value added of the partnership with the Federal Government of Germany, German academic institutions and think tanks, and Bonn-based UN institutions. The establishment of the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development particularly in Bonn is the result of the commitment of the Federal Government of Germany to sustainable development and to the United Nations, the solid constellation of German and international expertise and resources available in Bonn, as well as the expanding presence of UN bodies dealing with critical elements of the sustainable development agenda.

What do they do?

Based on the multiple economic, social, environmental, political and legal factors underpinning the sustainable development agenda, and to remain true to the principles underpinning the Agenda 2030 (such as national ownership, universality, rights-based and partnership driven) the work of the UNSSC Knowledge Centre will be organized around six key – distinct but interdependent – building blocks:

- a) **LEARN: The SDGs E-Academy.** The UNSSC Knowledge Centre will provide an online learning environment on the sustainable development goals, in partnership with, among others, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN).
- b) **SUPPORT: UNCT Sustainable Development Learning Support.** The UNSSC Knowledge Centre, in close coordination with others, will assist UN Country Teams in their efforts to implement the Agenda 2030.
- c) **PARTNER: Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development.** Together with other UN partners the UNSSC Knowledge Centre will help the UN and its partners to better engage in constructive partnerships. (e.g. to better facilitate South-South and Triangular Cooperation projects, build up the capacity of the UN system to work with the private sector).
- d) **MEASURE: Measuring Sustainable Development Progress.** The UNSSC Knowledge Centre will provide an extensive suit of learning offerings on data and development, data visualization, results-based management as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- e) **LEAD: Leading in Sustainable Development.** New challenges and means of implementation require new ways of working. The UNSSC Knowledge Centre, will create a space where UN leaders, civil society representatives, and executives from the private sector enhance collaborative knowledge to become agents of change.
- f) **COMMUNICATE: Sustainable Development LIVE.** The UNSSC Knowledge Centre will therefore actively pursue a knowledge management strategy that aims to engage alumni and the larger community in continuous discussions around the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

What kind of courses will be offered from Bonn this year?

May 2016

- Political Economy Analysis for Strategic Planning to implement the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/political-economy-analysis-strategic-planning-implement-agenda-2030-sustainable-developme>

June 2016

- The Human Rights-based Approach to Development Programming
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/human-rights-based-approach-development-programming>

July 2016

- UN Country Programming in the context of the Agenda 2030
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/un-country-programming-context-agenda-2030>
- UN Emerging Leaders Experience
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/un-emerging-leaders-experience-july>
- Monitoring & Evaluation Training
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/monitoring-evaluation-training-november>

August 2016

- United Nations Summer Academy - Shaping a Sustainable Future
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/united-nations-summer-academy-shaping-sustainable-future>

September 2016

- UN Catalytic support to south-south and triangular cooperation in implementing the Agenda 2030
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/un-catalytic-support-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-implementing-agenda-2030>
- Leading in Sustainable Development
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/leading-sustainable-development>

October 2016

- Integrating Anti-Corruption into UN Programming Process
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/integrating-anti-corruption-un-programming-process>

November 2016

- Engaging with Faith Organisations and Communities in Development and Humanitarian Work
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/engaging-faith-organisations-and-communities-development-and-humanitarian-work-1>
- Communicating as One
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/communicating-one-november>
- Monitoring & Evaluation Training
<http://www.unssc.org/home/activities/monitoring-evaluation-training-november>

Who can subscribe?

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre offers its courses primarily to UN staff. However, the Agenda 2030 is transformative at its core, and requires sustained partnerships with non-UN actors such as government officials, development banks, philanthropic foundations, private sector executives, civil society representatives and academia in the field of sustainable development. The engagement of all actors is essential for the successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Knowledge Centre therefore believes it is critical to open up a significant number of its learning offerings to non-UN audiences with a view to facilitate joint learning.

How does it fit into the landscape of UN Organizations in Bonn?

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre will perfectly fit the UN family's educational efforts in Bonn. With the UN University as well as UNESCO's International Centre for Education and Vocational Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC) UN Bonn has already two entities promoting skills for work and life for greening technical and vocational education as well as research in several fields of sustainable development.

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

More than 150 world leaders adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit at the UN Headquarters in New York last September a new sustainable development agenda. The summit outcome document, entitled "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", was agreed on by the 193 UN Member States in August 2015 and has now been formally adopted. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 global goals and 169 targets for sustainable development and expands over the next 15 years. It will serve as the launch pad for action by the international community and by national governments to promote shared prosperity and well-being. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) build on the achievements of the concluding Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 2000-2015). The ambitious agenda is unique in that it calls for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income. It recognizes that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with a plan that builds economic growth and addresses a range of issues. Centred on areas of critical importance - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership - the goals tackle issues like consumption, education, health, biodiversity, climate change, environmental protection, resilience as well as sustainable cities and communities.

How is the work of UN Bonn entities fitting into the 2030 Agenda?

The United Nations in Bonn (UN Bonn) is right on target of the adopted development agenda, since its scope of work is covered in the SDGs. With nearly 1000 staff members across 18 UN agencies, the Bonn-based entities work towards a sustainable future in the fields of climate change, land degradation, biodiversity and ecosystem services, wildlife conservation, volunteerism, health, human security, disaster risk reduction, tourism, education and training. This includes not only the sustainable use of natural resources and their preservation for future generations but also the global fight against poverty: http://www.unbonn.org/20150928_UNBonn_Information_SDG_EN.pdf