



## SDG Lab What's Next series: Placing Future Generations at the Centre of Long-Term Sustainability

*A high-level event ahead of the 2023 SDG Summit, in partnership with the Geneva Graduate Institute*

WHEN: Monday, 12 June, 14:30h – 16:30h

WHERE: Graduate Institute of Geneva (IHEID), Auditorium A2

[Register](#)

### Context

Future generations are by definition at the heart of sustainable development. As stated in the 1987 “[Our Common Future](#)” report, sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of *future generations* to meet their own needs.” In spite of this definition, actions and discourses made in the name of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and long-term sustainability seem to be stuck in a short-term mindset.

A recent 2023 brief by the UN Secretary-General entitled “[To Think and Act for Future Generations](#)” reminds us that “[p]rivilege and poverty both transmit powerfully across generations” and urges us to **act with future generations in mind to fight inequality**. This is an important recognition of the structural nature of inequality, one which cannot be overcome by individuals, communities, or even countries alone. The struggle for **equality calls for a long-term perspective**, one that uses *hindsight* to account for injustices of the past coupled with *foresight* to understand how to transform our societies and re-design systems around human and planetary centred values so that they become just and inclusive, now and in the future.

Through an inter-generational dialogue, this **event will discuss what's next in the quest for equity and solidarity amongst generations**, including those not yet born, and how to strengthen long-term sustainability in a systematic way, by approaching sustainability through the lens of inter-generational impact.

## Format

The conversation seeks to capitalize on International Geneva's expertise as a hub for forward-looking multilateralism and sustainable futures, and to **build momentum ahead of the SDG Summit that will take place in September in New York**. The SDG summit will act as a mid-point, high-level governmental and multistakeholder forum to take stock on the SDGs and accelerate action towards 2030.

As part of a partnership between the Graduate Institute and UN Geneva, this so "What's Next?" dialogue series aim to unpack new perspectives and insight on the SDGs and long-term sustainability. Through interactive dialogues, sustainability actors from the Geneva ecosystem and beyond will share their perspectives on what's next in this dynamic and evolving space.

## Speakers

- Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, UN Geneva
- Ms. Marie-Laure Salles, Director, Geneva Graduate Institute
- H.E. Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kingdom of Thailand
- Ms. Shefali Nandhra, Development Studies MA Student, Geneva Graduate Institute, and Podcaster
- Mr. Quentin Knight, Climate Youth Delegate, Switzerland

The event will be moderated by Ms. Özge Aydoğan, Director, SDG Lab, UN Geneva.

## Programme

14:30 – Welcome by Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute

14:40 – Opening remarks by UNOG DG

14:50 – Inter-generational dialogue and Q&A with speakers (above) moderated by SDG Lab Director

16:00 – Closing

*Followed by an apero*