



Call for Papers

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi Sponsored Two-Day International Conference on

“Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Post-COVID-19 World: Regional Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Options” (21 – 22 December 2023)

Date of Full Paper Submission Extended to November 30, 2023

**Venue: Department of Economics, University of Jammu,
Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India**

Background

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include 17 goals and 169 targets for development of society, economy, and environment. SDGs envisage achieving human prosperity through reducing poverty, ensuring equality, eliminating hunger, mitigating climate change, managing resources, and protecting environment. SDGs call for effective implementation of policies for achieving the targeted goals. COVID-19 pandemic affected both the developed and developing countries due to unprecedented multidimensional crisis leading to global recession. COVID-19 crisis has exposed multi-faced vulnerability in terms of healthcare, education, social protection, regional and global value chains, international production networks, tourism, financial markets, energy resources, and environmental protection. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted worldwide and challenged the life style drastically, which posed the questions to rethink a more sustainable living specifically the world we want to live in, rebuilding in a more sustainable and equitable way of life, and the role of multiple policies for this transformation and achieving SDGs in the new post-COVID 19 world. All this pose diverse challenges and opportunities to policy makers to achieve SDGs. Achieving the SDGs emphasize the role of individuals and societal transformation for sustainability and the contribution to the survival and prosperity of humanity, including critical thinking skills, and rebuilding more resilient systems. COVID-19 pandemic makes the SDGs highly relevant to address the social and economic vulnerabilities and to achieve sustainable recovery using both short and long-term integrated policies and charting a robust roadmap.

The international dimensions of SDGs specifically in the context of post-pandemic recovery should embrace the debate on the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda at the United Nations (UN), comparative performance of countries and the need for concerted effort at national, regional and global levels to ensure achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, collective actions are needed for post-COVID-19 recovery and to achieve the SDGs at national, regional and international level. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda continues to be the preeminent proposal for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient post-pandemic economic recovery and achievement of the SDGs, for which sustainable regional and global collaboration are essential. In this context, it is necessary to evaluate the cross-country performance in implementing the 2030 SDGs Agenda. The UN debate on the Progress towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly meetings on post-pandemic recovery to take stock of the progress in achieving SDGs and the pandemic impact and the experiences and responses of countries need to be disseminated. Therefore, the deliberations on cross-country experiences, policies and integrated approaches are needed to address the pandemic impact and achieving sustainable and resilient recovery and putting countries back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the middle of the pandemic and political crises, a peaceful international atmosphere and operational multilateral cooperation are crucial to achieve the SDGs. The contemporary geopolitical crises between countries are generating ambiguity to the SDG process. Trade wars between China and the United States and Russia-Ukraine war have intimidated food and energy security and restricted international cooperation to foster the SDGs. All this lowered aid funding to developing countries and constrained post-pandemic recovery and achieving the SDGs, which also emphasized greater regional and global cooperation.

Against the above backdrop, the Two-Day International Conference on “Sustainable Development in Post-COVID-19 World: Regional Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Options” aims at strengthening and scaling up the SDGs to enable present generations to meet their needs while allowing future generations to meet their own, using a balanced and integrated approach focusing on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The conference targets at understanding SDGs, generating evidence based on research and substantive good practices for advancing policies by involving multi-stakeholders including professionals and practitioners from the governments and non-governmental organizations, educational and research institutions, communities and youth, academia and other stakeholders.

Sub-themes

I. Challenges of inclusive growth

1. Recent growth trajectory and future prospects
2. Drivers of future economic transformation
3. Addressing multiple risks and challenges
4. Inclusion and reducing inequalities
5. Education and human capital development
6. Youth and demographic dividend
7. Increasing access to quality infrastructure services
8. Addressing urban inequality
9. Rural development and agriculture
10. Gender and inclusive growth
11. Digital economy and inclusion
12. Financial economy and inclusion

II. Financial transformation

1. Financial assets, banking sector, equity and bond markets
2. Transforming the financial systems
3. Averting future financial crisis and recession
4. Development of indigenous financial model
5. Avoiding overreliance on self-regulation by markets
6. Central government control of banking and financial systems
7. Institutional innovation for financial transformation
8. Development of novel financial instruments
9. Digital financial development and currencies
10. Enabling environment for financing massive infrastructure
11. Public-private partnerships and public financial markets
12. Regional financial integration

III. Managing substantial urbanization

1. Urban transformation and development
2. Urbanization, higher education, and technological innovation
3. Urban buildings and transportation
4. Energy consumption and carbon emissions
5. Quality and efficiency of urban centers
6. Energy-efficient, safe and livable cities
7. Urbanization and reliance on mass transit
8. Urban risks linked to inequality, slums and social breakdown
9. Urban financing and management
10. Long-term urban planning and vision
11. Urban governance and decentralization
12. Urban local governments and accountability
13. Market financing of urban capital investments

IV. Tackling energy intensity and natural resource use

1. Reducing excessive reliance on energy imports
2. Energy efficiency and diversification programs
3. Eliminating energy subsidies
4. Switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy
5. Water resilience and land sustainability for food security
6. Technological breakthroughs and food consumption patterns
7. Synergy between energy efficiency and total factor productivity growth
8. Improving the efficiency of natural resource use
9. Low carbon economy and carbon neutral future

V. Entrepreneurship, innovation and technological development

1. Harnessing technology, innovation and entrepreneurship
2. Frontier entrepreneurship and innovation
3. Breakthroughs in science and technology
4. Frugal innovation to meet the needs of poor
5. Novel technologies and future of labor markets
6. Quality education, skills development and entrepreneurship

7. Skilling, upskilling and reskilling the labor force
8. Bolstering the technical and vocational education
9. Future of educational digitalization
10. Novel business development models

VI. Governance and institutions

1. Good governance and transformation of institutions
2. Improving quality and credibility of institutions
3. Tackling rising corruption
4. Stronger institutions for sustained economic growth
5. Compatible institutions for urbanization and sound financial sector
6. Effective governance for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation
7. Transparency, accountability and enforceability of institutions

VII. Switching from growth to welfare

1. Novel policies to promote broader social well-being
2. Achieving self-satisfaction and happiness
3. Improving women and child welfare
4. Welfare of the ageing society
5. Welfare of the disadvantaged social groups
6. Social inclusion, social cohesion and political stability
7. Personal satisfaction and harmony with nature

VIII. Priorities for states

1. Increasing growth performance of laggard states
2. Promoting faster and more inclusive growth
3. Reducing inequalities through better education for all
4. Infrastructure development and transformation of institutions
5. Developing business environment and openness for trade promotion
6. Reducing inequalities in fast growing states
7. Skills development of existing and future labor force
8. Developing credible and predictable institutions

IX. Interstate cooperation and economic integration

1. New vision to transform financial systems
2. Promoting stability and minimizing volatility in the markets
3. Addressing challenges of rapid urbanization
4. Improving efficiency of energy use and natural resources
5. Promote innovation and entrepreneurship
6. Enhancing productivity and competitiveness
7. Reducing vulnerabilities to external shocks
8. Stability of financial system
9. Addressing climate change, and peace and security
10. Promoting trade and investments
11. Interstate labor mobility across states
12. Reducing interstate disparities in income and opportunities
13. Collaboration in technological development and energy security
14. Facilitating free interstate trade and investment flows

X. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and post-pandemic economic recovery

1. Cross-country and regional comparative performance of SDGs and impacts of COVID-19
2. Lessons learnt from cross-country and regional comparative experiences to address the COVID-19 pandemic
3. Regional cooperation and integration in addressing the pandemic crisis
4. Experiences of integrated policies in addressing the pandemic impact and achieving the SDGs
5. Short-run and mid- to long-run policies to addressing pandemic impact
6. Policies to ensure availability of timely and reliable data for development of robust policies to recover from COVID-19 pandemic and reach the SDGs

XI. COVID-19 pandemic, political crises, SDGs and regional and international cooperation

1. Regional and global synergies for post-pandemic recovery and to achieve the SDGs
2. Multilateral and global partnerships to improve aid funding
3. Regional and international support for short-run economic recovery and long-term development
4. Regional and global economic cooperation and technological innovation
5. Regional economic collaboration and partnerships to support supply chains resilience
6. Regional cooperation in sustainable trade and investment
7. South-South and regional cooperation in financial technology and development of regional digital markets
8. Regional cooperation in transport connectivity and trade promotion
9. Regional integration for resilience and green economic recovery
10. Regional monetary and financial coordination for post-pandemic economic recovery and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Targeted participants

Professionals, Academicians, Researchers, Ph. D students from universities/research institutes, governments and non-government organizations and their affiliated institutions and networks

Paper Specification

- The papers must focus on a specific topic/SDG or multiple SDGs.
- The papers focusing on comparative perspectives of different SDGs/States/Union Territories/regions of India/South Asia/Asia/countries/ or in-depth country-specific paper are encouraged.
- The papers should be based on detailed analysis of data and application of relevant research techniques and methodologies.
- The papers based on the quantitative or qualitative research methodologies are encouraged.
- Purely theoretical papers are not solicited.

Registration Fee, Accommodation, and Travel

There will be no registration fee and the outside participants (one person per paper) will be provided accommodation in the University Guest House or other suitable guest house(s). The participants have to cover the travel cost at their own.

Timeline

Full Paper Submission: November 30, 2023

Early submissions are encouraged. Papers should include the authors' name, affiliation and Email and the corresponding author.

Acceptance Notification: December 05, 2023

Authors of accepted submissions will be notified by 05 November.

The corresponding author will be invited to present at the conference. The corresponding author is also expected to serve as a discussant for another paper.

Evaluation

All submissions must be original and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Paper submissions will be evaluated in terms of their originality, analytical rigor, and policy relevance.

Submission Guidelines

Title: Maximum 25 words;

Abstract: 300 words maximum;

Keywords: Maximum 6 keywords;

JEL Codes: Maximum 6;

Manuscript length: 6000-8000 words including references and footnotes but excluding figures and tables.

Paper Format

Title, authors' name(s), affiliation, Email followed by abstract, keywords, JEL codes, Introduction, Review of Literature, Theoretical Framework, Objectives and Methodology, Results and Discussion, Conclusion and Policy Implications, Limitations and Future Research Directions

Language: English;

References style: APA 7th edition;

Text font: New Times Roman;

Document type: MS WORD

Publication

- The selected papers will be published in peer-reviewed/open access international journal(s) and/or an edited volume with ISBN number published from an international reputed publisher.
- The publication of the selected papers will be without any publication fee/paper processing charges.
- Editorial/peer review process for publication in journal(s)/edited volume will be initiated within one week of receipt of the paper and acceptance for presentation in the Conference.
- The edited volume may be released at the conference and the publication of selected papers in journal(s) will be subject to rigorous peer review process.
- **Evaluation:** The publishing process will be in double-blind peer review system and non-tolerance of plagiarism.

Submission of Paper: Prof. Falendra Kumar, Conference Convener, Department of Economics, University of Jammu, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir – 180 006, India at Email: icwaconf.sdgs.2023@gmail.com