



## Rules & Submission Guidelines



### *For the Pitch Competition*

Organized by **SDSN Youth**, the Sustainability Impact Forum (SIF) is a 2-day hybrid event centered around a Pitch Competition, open to youth aged between 18 and 30 years old.

The Forum will be inaugurated on **28th - 29th June 2023, in Milan, Italy**. The Pitch Competition will be complemented with skills workshops and SDG-related panels / roundtables.

Hybrid, global event with estimated 400+ attendees (100+ onsite and 300+ online). Targeted to be an annual recurring event starting from 2023, an **Impact report** will be published alongside the event, highlighting past year achievements and goals for the coming year.

The Forum aims to empower youth to develop and operationalize robust and sustainable SDG solutions by creating a lasting space for intergenerational and multi-sectoral (private, public, social) dialogue / partnerships. In the long-run, the Forum seeks to build a community of socially conscious problem solvers.

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### Here are the six topics comprising of 19 questions

#### **(1) Education, gender and inequality**

- SDG 4 & 5: What are possible solutions to ensure gender equality in education?
- SDG 5 & 16: What role does “respect for diversity” play in ensuring peace, justice and strong institutions? And how do we ensure it?
- SDG 4: How to levy education to reduce inequality?

#### **(2) Health, well-being and demography**

- SDG 3 & 12: How can resource efficiency, circularity and decoupling be incentivized in the public health sector?
- SDG 3: What can be done to establish consistent quality and functioning of public health services globally?
- SDG 2 & 3: How can cross-national and international cooperation be improved to end undernutrition and malnutrition?



### (3) Energy decarbonization and sustainable industry

- SDG 7 & 13: What adjustments to new energy-related innovations and technologies have to be made to scale-up transnational decarbonization?
- SDG 8 & 9: What can be drivers of economic growth and innovative capacity in a world with sustainable consumption and production practices?
- SDG 11: How do social service programmes have to be designed to ensure sustainable, safe, affordable and accessible energy?
- SDG 7, 8 & 9 : What can be done to develop sustainable finance and what is its role in sustainable systemic transformation?

### (4) Sustainable food, land, water and oceans

- SDG 2 & 14/15: What are strategies to protect life on land and below water while feeding a growing world population?
- SDG 6 & 9: What are innovative ways to include circularity of water in industrial processes?
- SDG 9: How can agricultural practices be created most efficiently while protecting biodiversity, water and other resources?

### (5) Sustainable cities and communities

- SDG 11: How can cities or urban spaces be designed to be safe, smart and create a high quality of life?
- SDG 15: How can protecting biodiversity reduce criminality in cities and communities?
- SDG 3: How can mental health be improved in cities?

### (6) Digital revolution for sustainable development

- SDG 10: What are strategies to ensure no one is left behind in the digitalized age?
- SDG 13: How can we decarbonize digital systems and servers?
- SDG16: How can the digital revolution promote transparency and accountability of institutions while protecting citizens' privacy?

Participants to the Pitch Competition **will be required to select at least one question** for which they will have to develop a solution or improve an existing one according to the timeline described below.

## ✔ Participant Eligibility Requirements

- A. **Age:** Participants must be between 18 and 30 years old at the time of their application.
- B. **Team size:** 1- 5 persons. We recommend to compose teams of 3 - 5 persons from different disciplines and geography, as the development of the solutions will require a multidisciplinary approach.
  - **Team matching:** An individual participant who is interested in working in a team but has no team mates can sign up individually and indicate that they would like to be matched with another team or individual with similar topic preferences.
- C. Teams and team members that progress through each of the competition levels **must remain consistent.**
- D. A Team Member who leaves the team at some stage will only be allowed to rejoin the team if the other members agree unanimously. All team members must comply with the Competition Code of Conduct.

## 🔧 Solution Eligibility Requirements

- A. Solutions must have disruptive potential, be aligned with the SDGs and be technically feasible.
- B. **Relevance:** The solutions must answer the question the participants have decided to focus on.
- C. **Solution phase:** The proposed solutions can be at any development stage, they can be an idea, a pilot project or an existing project that needs further development. They do not necessarily have to be unpublished.
- D. The submitted proposals should:
  - Define the problem and enhance understanding of the technical, socio-economical, legal/regulatory and political aspects that complicate the problem
  - Identify the needs/interests of various stakeholders involved
  - Evaluate existing gaps and offer concrete solution(s) to mitigate and bridge the gaps
  - Expound on the barriers and opportunities to utilize existing business assets/capabilities and industry offerings to solve the problem / implement the proposed solution(s)
  - Elaborate clearly on how the solutions can support the development of the region/country

- E. **Topic change:** If a participant / Team wants to change topic once the Competition has started, they must get the approval of the Forum Organization Committee.

## ! Solution Submission Requirements

- A. All entries must be submitted online using the following link:  
<https://www.sustainabilityimpactforum.com/>
- B. Submission deadlines:
- 28th April 2023: Submit an *intermediary* version of the solution
  - 12th May 2023: Submit the *final* solution
- C. We strongly recommend participating teams to submit their application ahead of the deadline, to avoid last minute technical glitches. *Late or incomplete applications will not be considered*
- D. Language: All submitted proposals must be in English or have English subtitles
- E. All submitted proposals must include:
- The number of Team Members
  - Information about every Team Member, including:
    - First and last names
    - Country of origin (and residence if different from the country of origin)
    - The Youth Organization they belong to, and their role within the organization
  - The selected Pitch Competition question (and its reference) being addressed
  - Information about the solution:
    - Geographical focus: Is it global, or tailored for a specific country or region?
    - Development stage: Which development stage is the solution at? (e.g., pilot project or an existing project that needs further development)
  - Executive Summary (2/3 pages in PPT format) that addresses the following:
    - About the solution design:
      1. Solution rationale: What is the problem the solution is trying to solve? Why is this problem important?
      2. How and to what extent will the proposed solution address the issue?
      3. Who will benefit / not benefit from the proposed solution?
      4. What are the pros/cons of the proposed solution?
    - About the solution implementation strategy / roadmap:
      1. How can the proposed solution be implemented?



- What are the potential opportunities and challenges to implement the proposed solution?
  - What are the key resources (people, assets, capabilities, etc.) needed to operationalize the solution?
- F. Accepted solution proposal delivery method and file formats:
- Video (less than 12 minutes): JPEG, MP4 only
  - PPT presentation (less than 15 slides): PDF only
  - Word document (less than 20 pages; double spaced; Arial font, size 11; normal margins): DOCX or DOC only
    - *\*Page/word limits here are exclusive of the executive summary.*
- G. Accepted executive summary delivery method and file format: PPT presentation (1- 3 pages), saved as PDF only

## Judging Process

- A. Evaluation Criteria:
- Innovative capacity (level of novelty, disruptive potential),
  - Implementation feasibility and sustainability,
  - Alignment with the SDGs,
  - Relevance to the selected Pitch Competition question,
  - Presentation quality
- B. Review process:
- The solutions will first be reviewed by the Forum Organization Committee according to the above criteria.
  - During the Pitch Competition, a distinguished panel of SDSN Youth members, high-level dignitaries, business leaders, SDG advocates and young leaders will judge each entry. Each presentation must last less than 15 minutes.
- C. Judges will not be assigned to review an entry where there is an obvious conflict of interest or in cases where the judge is institutionally affiliated with an entrant.

 **Important Dates**

The duration of the event will be between March - June 2023

- **21st February - 13th March 2023:** Call for Applicants.
- **18th March 2023:** Selected participants will start developing solutions (or adapting existing ones) to the chosen topic/question. *Participants can work by themselves or in teams of 2 - 5 persons.*
- **28th April 2023:** Final deadline to submit an intermediary version of the solution.
- **12th May 2023:** Final deadline to submit the fully designed solution.
- **End of May 2023:** Announcements of the 15 selected solutions which will compete during the Pitch Competition.
- **\*28th - 29th June 2023:** Pitch Competition at the 2023 Sustainability Impact Forum (SIF). *Top 3 Winners of the pitch competition will be selected and announced at the end of the Forum.*
- **Post-Forum Phase:** Selected project(s) start implementation, supported and monitored by the Forum Organization Committee.

 **Sustainability Impact Forum & Pitch Competition**

- A. Only Teams who submit their work within all the deadlines (including the intermediary one) and whose solution submission abides by the above guidelines and rules will have their solution reviewed by the Forum Organization Committee.
- B. The Forum Organization Committee will review the submitted solutions.
- C. Only 15 solutions maximum will be chosen. The Team whose solutions will have been selected will be able to attend the Forum on site and have their costs (accommodations, airplanes tickets and food) covered by the Forum Organization.
- D. The selected solutions will be presented by their respective Team to a Jury during the Forum's Pitch Competition.
- E. Three solutions will be retained by the Jury.
- F. The judges' decision is final.
- G. The winning solutions will benefit from the support of the Forum Organization Committee and its partners so that they can be implemented and/or nurtured (if already existing). A follow-up of the progress made over the coming year will be performed and the results will be presented at the next Forum in 2024.
- H. All Teams who will present during the Pitch Competition will be issued a Certificate of Participation.

 **Use & Reproduction Rights**

- A. The property rights over the proposal do not belong to SDSN Youth nor the other entities who co-organize the Forum, only to the authors.
- B. The audiovisual materials (pitch videos) submitted during the competition will be used for communication purposes. Written proposals shall remain private unless permitted otherwise by authors.
- C. The entrant agrees to clear all licenses, copyrights, and permissions to ensure that the submission can legally and ethically be presented. If an entity other than the entrant owns the rights to all or part of the submitted solution, the entrant must attach written consent from the owner or an authorized representative of the owner to the entry form.

 **Code of Conduct**

Participants undertake to uphold and promote SDSN Youth values and principles. This undertaking includes:

- A. Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all professional matters and being conscious of the implications of the work and choices on the environment, social inclusion, and economic development;
- B. Upholding, demonstrating, and promoting the values of the United Nations, including impartiality in professional settings, fairness, honesty and truthfulness, in daily activities and behaviors;
- C. Treating all colleagues with respect, dignity, honesty and fairness;
- D. Committing to generating a team work environment where the dignity, safety and comfort of each individual is upheld and which is free from violence, harassment, exploitation, discrimination and intimidation against individuals.

 **Questions or Concerns?**

 Email us at [SIF@sdsnyouth.org](mailto:SIF@sdsnyouth.org) with subject title *"Rules & Submission Guidelines Issues"*

**Most Importantly, Have Fun!** 😊