

Webinar Report



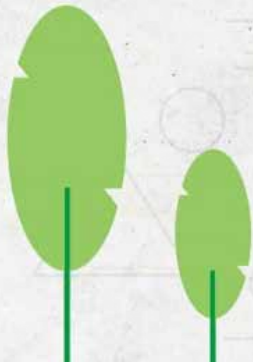
UNLOCKING CLIMATE SOLUTION

11TH
JAN
2024
THURSDAY

After COP 28

JOIN

Our Online Webinar and Explore
Actionable Strategies for a
Sustainable Future




8 PM

Online
Zoom


8 Speakers



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Introduction

Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN) is a network launched among youth professionals and experts from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) working on Sustainable Development Goals. It is keen to assist local government, local and international Organizations, private sectors and to support the United Nations to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab World as well as educate youth about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provide practical volunteering opportunities, amongst other activities, to unleash their potential while being an active world citizen.

AYSDN seeks to establish unified and multi-tributary platform to achieve effective investment of youth energies and to use them in a constructive manner to contribute to bridges of cooperation and exchange of experiences for a stimulating and supportive environment for Youth contributing to their active participation in the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

AYSDN's vision is achieving an integrated youth system that supports young leaders in achieving the objectives of sustainable development and highlighting their abilities and abilities in a professional manner that contributes to enhancing their leadership role in community development.

AYSDN seeks to achieve the following goals:

- 1- Working to provide the right solutions to the problem of youth participation's lack in achieving the goals of sustainable development.
- 2- Preparing and providing consultancy, research, studies, strategic plans and efficient personal experiences in the field of sustainable development.
- 3- Conducting workshops and organizing conferences.
- 4- Issuing publications that achieve the objectives of the network.
- 5- Encourage various youth initiatives related to sustainable development
- 6- Cooperate with all local and international civil society organizations and official bodies in the implementation of projects related to sustainable development.
- 7- Activate the role of local and international youth networks.
- 8- Implement awareness campaigns that involve youth in achieving the goals of sustainable development.
- 9- Launching the first electronic magazine specialized in the field of sustainable development from a youth perspective.
- 10- Launch a youth forum that will serve as a meeting space, exchange and dialogue for young people from the Middle East and North Africa on sustainable development.
- 11- Creation of an information bank in the field of sustainable development.

AYSDN contributed to the preparation and arrangement of several training and awareness-raising webinars related to sustainable development and and climate matters and was able to reach a wide range of audiences of all ages, especially young people, as well as worked to provide them with capacity building. Among the network's work is arranging events on the ground and virtually to support issues of sustainable development goals and climate matters, in particular, of their types, participating in local and international forums, networking with many institutions and organizations for these sensitive issues, and concluding cooperation with them in various frameworks.

Executive Summary

On Thursday, January 7, Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network held a webinar entitled “Unleashing COP 28 Solutions,” with the presence of 8 prominent climate activists. The objective of the webinar was to propose and discuss radical solutions with the modern audience at the webinar, where greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the future are major risks for the earth and future generations are the most affected.

The webinar sought to provide ample and sufficient space for attendees to discuss questions and inquiries about climate, climate change, and gas emissions. One of the most important purposes of the webinar was to clarify more ideas about the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) held in Dubai last month.

And this has not been the only webinar of AYSDN, as the network works to provide its audience and youth interested in climate and climate change with many webinars on a regular basis to share thoughts, guide and provide them with the latest updates regarding such matters. AYSDN is also working to hold other future webinars, capacity-building trainings, and environmental awareness sessions, etc. using an advanced methodology and in the presence of the best trainers and researchers and activists on climate subjects.

It is worth noting that webinars are crucial for climate change matters as they provide accessible education, facilitate global collaboration, and mobilize action. They offer a platform for raising awareness, disseminating accurate information, and fostering connections among experts, policymakers, and stakeholders worldwide. By engaging participants in interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing, webinars inspire individuals and organizations to take concrete steps towards mitigating climate change and advocating for sustainable practices. They play a vital role in building a well-informed and engaged global community ready to address the urgent challenges of climate change.



Mariam
Madi



Farah
Al-Asaad



Mohammed
Al-Yatari



Sally
Al-Naeem



Tareq
Hassan



Hafidh
Ali



Saed
Hanani



Hayder
Aljoher



Musheer
AlSharaabi



Speakers of the Webinar



Tareq Hassan

- Head of Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN)
- Climate Change Activist
- Master's degree in Sustainable Development Goals



Farah Al-Asaad

- Climate Change Activist
- Founder of Syrian Climate Radio
- An active member of YOUNGO



Saed Hanani

- Co-founder and Public Relations Manager of AYCV Network



Musheer AlSharaabi

- Managerial Director at AYSDN
- Education Officer at (SDP)
- A Fellow in One Million Leader in the Middle East and North Africa program (OML - MENA)
- Climate Change Activist



Hayder AlJoher

- Environmental Activist
- President of the Green Space Organization



Sally Al-Naeem

- Owner of Green Space establishment
- A pioneer in the field of hydroponic agriculture
- A researcher, and activist in the environmental and climate sectors



Mohammed Al-Yatari

- Activist and advocate for climate change
- Program Coordinator at AYSDN



Webinar Topics/Discussions

The webinar held several discussions on topics of climate change and results of COP28.

On this section, most highlighted topics/discussion are mentioned

The Role of Sustainable Development as an Important Role for Society & Individuals

Ms. Farah Al-Asaad has taken this discussion into consideration, as she stated that the role of sustainable development is that of society and individuals in balancing current needs with those of future generations through sustainable economic, social, and environmental development. At the cultural level, education and awareness-raising on the importance of sustainable development are essential elements. Education and awareness-raising are aimed at raising awareness and knowledge about the concept of sustainable development and promoting associated values and principles, such as social justice and human rights. Overall, the role of sustainable development requires a balance between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable and inclusive development. Joint action, awareness-raising, education, and community participation are the most important elements for the successful realization of the role of sustainable development.

The Role of NGOs in Influencing COP28 & Role of Arab Countries

Engineer Tariq Hassan spoke about the role of NGOs in influencing the COP28 's decision-making process. Mr. Hassan has confirmed as he was told that next year's Climate Change Summit (COP29) will be held in Azerbaijan.

Mr. Hassan also spoke that Arab States have played an important role in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, representing their regional interests and priorities. Arab countries often emphasize the need for climate adaptation, sustainable development, and financial support for vulnerable nations. Their participation is crucial in shaping global climate policies and fostering international cooperation to address the challenges of climate change in the Arab region and beyond. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on the role of Arab States at COP29, it is advisable to refer to official announcements and updates from the UNFCCC and relevant regional organizations closer to the conference date.

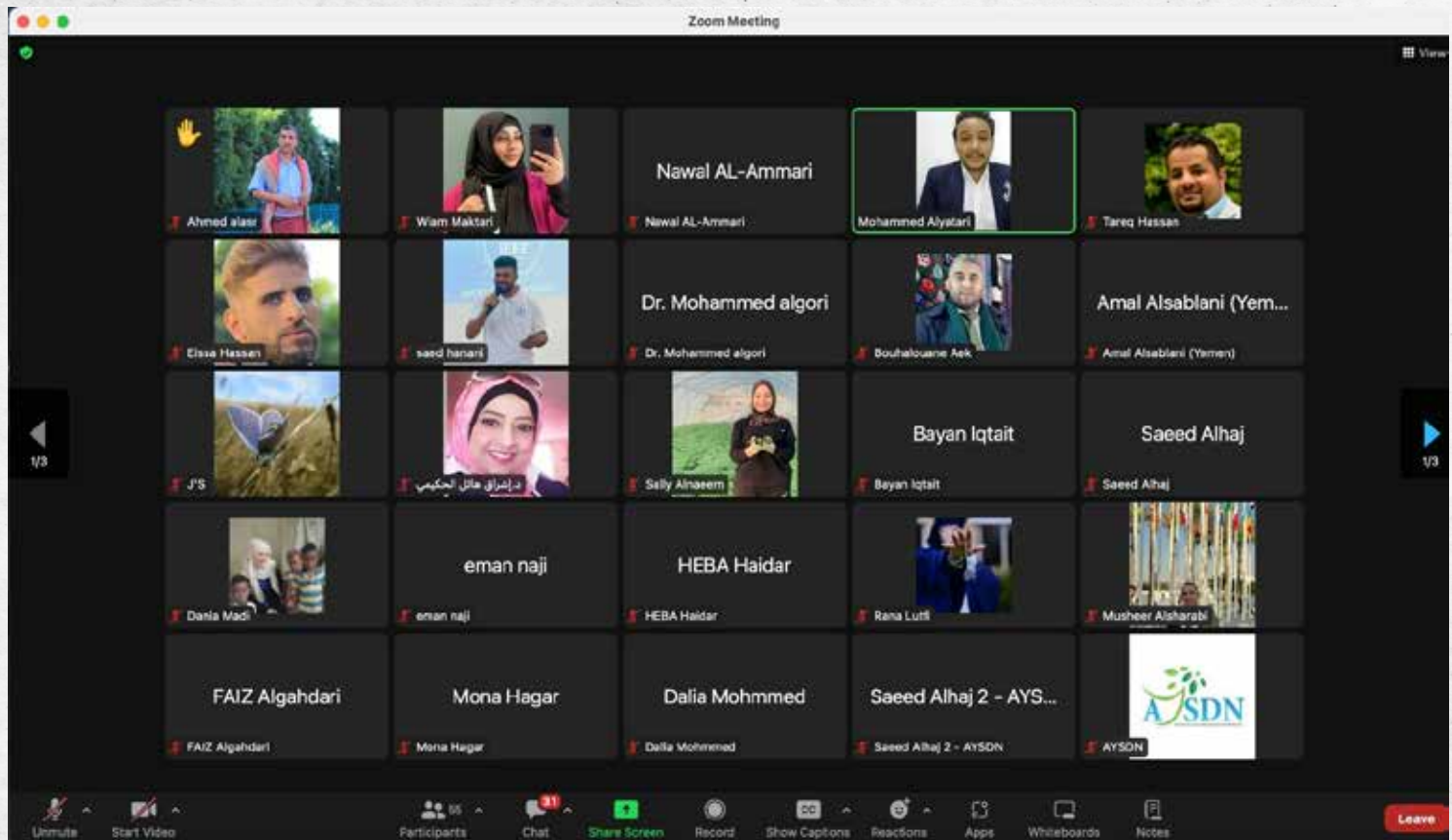
Engineer Tareq Hassan emphasized the importance of cooperation between Governments, companies and civil society, youth and governmental and non-governmental organizations through joint efforts between the public and private sectors to achieve comprehensive progress towards real climate action. This represents a critical opportunity because it is a fossil fuel age and a just and effective orientation towards renewable energy.

Role of Youth in Climate Change and COP28

Mr. Musheer Alsharabi stressed the importance of young people's role in bringing about significant change in climate change at the Arab and foreign level. and that they are the leaders of future generations, as well as the need to empower young people's basic skills and use them for climate change. Youth were among the groups most affected by climate change. They are also able to confront them, the primary driver of change and to build a more sustainable future.

Through global movements and strikes, young people raise awareness and demand action from decision-makers, driving the urgency of climate change to the forefront. They also contribute fresh perspectives and creative ideas, driving innovation in renewable energy, sustainable practices, and circular economy approaches. By engaging in intergenerational dialogues and partnerships, youth foster inclusive decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and inspiring collaborative efforts to create a sustainable and just future. Their activism, solutions, and collaboration at COP28 have the potential to drive transformative change and accelerate efforts to combat climate change.

In summary of what Mr. Musheer has mentioned at the webinar, youth play a crucial role in climate change and COP28 through their activism, raising awareness, proposing innovative solutions, and fostering intergenerational collaboration. Their voices and actions contribute to shaping climate policies, inspiring change, and driving a more sustainable and equitable future. It is crucial to empower and include youth in decision-making processes to leverage their expertise, energy, and commitment to tackle the urgent challenges posed by climate change.



Climate Change and its Impact on Youth & Individuals

The webinar has discussed climate change as it affects young people and communities significantly. This includes increased health risks, negative economic impacts, a lack of natural resources, population displacement, and changes in social systems. Adaptation to these challenges requires sustainable action and community cooperation to address climate change.

Addressing the challenges of climate change and its impact on youth requires a multifaceted approach. Solutions include transitioning to renewable and clean energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable practices, promoting climate-resilient infrastructure, investing in education and awareness programs about climate change, fostering environmental justice and equity, and actively involving youth in decision-making processes. Collaboration among governments, communities, businesses, and individuals is essential to implement these solutions effectively and create a sustainable future that safeguards the well-being and rights of young people.

One of the Most Modern Techniques for Water Conservation is Water Harvesting

Ms. Sally Al-Naeem has explained the necessity of water harvesting as a process of sustainable and economic technique as it contributes to reducing dependence on groundwater and other water sources. It also reduces floods and improves water quality in the surrounding area. Of course! Water harvesting is a modern water conservation technique that has proven to be effective for water sustainability. It is implemented through the collection and storage of rainwater or other sources such as rivers, waterfalls, and streams. When water harvesting is applied, the collected water is directed to a storage system such as reservoirs, underground pits, or water fields.

Sally also mentioned that these waters are subsequently used for various purposes, such as agricultural irrigation, groundwater harvesting, and non-drinking water uses. The adoption of water harvesting techniques is an important step in addressing water challenges and promoting the sustainability of water resources for present and future generations.

8. Renewable Energy for Climate Change

Reduction

Mr. Mohammed Al-Yatari assisted the audience in comprehending a wider idea of renewable energy. He took part in explaining that renewable energy is one of the most important resources contributing to the reduction of climate change. Renewable energy is sustainable and based on renewable natural sources such as the sun, wind, water, and geothermal heat. By using renewable energy rather than contaminated fossil fuels, greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change are reduced. Thus, renewable energy contributes to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, improving air quality, and protecting the environment.

While renewable energy sources hold great potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, several challenges hinder their widespread adoption. One primary challenge is the existing infrastructure heavily reliant on fossil fuels, making the transition to renewable energy complex and costly. Additionally, renewable technologies such as solar and wind power are intermittent, reliant on weather conditions, and require effective energy storage solutions to ensure consistent supply. The initial high costs associated with renewable energy infrastructure, limited grid integration, and varying policy frameworks across different regions further impede its deployment. Overcoming these challenges necessitates significant investments in research and development, supportive policies, grid modernization, and international collaboration to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and achieve substantial emissions reductions on a global scale.

Palestinians Presence at COP28

Mr. Saed Hanani spoke about the role of Arab meetings during the COP28 in supporting the Palestinian cause during the conference. One of the highlights of the speaker's focus was:

- Palestinian presence at the climate summit.
- The importance of young people in making change and creating a new climate environment.
- The impediments currently faced by the Palestinian people.
- The importance of the agricultural sector and the advanced agricultural systems for water supply.

Mr. Saed Hanani explained the points he focused on, saying that the climate summit held in Dubai solidarity with the Palestinian cause, and there was a large Arab presence that had never existed before. and there was a great thirst by the attendees of the climate summit to be in Arabic. He also mentioned the Palestinian people's difficulties in providing clean drinking water and, after the distance due to clashes, it was expressed that the place that had reached me by about half an hour, was currently reaching me by about 3 hours.

He also said that the presence of Arab organizations is very important as they have contributed and played a great role in the creation of a clean climate environment. He also stated that the agricultural sector is very important as it is the most consumed sector, and the use of advanced agricultural systems to provide water, and he said that one of the latest technologies to conserve water is water harvest.

Green Initiatives

Professor Haider Eljoher spoke about the role of green initiatives. One of the most important points of focus was:

Plastic pollution has severe detrimental effects on the environment. Single-use plastics, when not properly managed, end up in landfills or pollute ecosystems such as rivers, oceans, and forests. Plastic waste poses a threat to wildlife through ingestion and entanglement, and it also contributes to the release of harmful chemicals into the environment. To mitigate this damage, it is crucial to reduce plastic consumption, promote recycling and waste management practices, and develop sustainable alternatives to plastic.

Mr. Aljoher stressed the great importance for the environment and human well-being. Green spaces, such as parks, gardens, and urban forests, play a vital role in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing urban heat island effects, and improving air quality. They also provide habitats for biodiversity, conserve natural resources, and contribute to the overall health and quality of life for communities. Green spaces offer recreational opportunities, promote mental and physical health, and enhance social cohesion, making them integral components of sustainable and resilient cities.

He ended his discussion by saying that addressing plastic pollution, providing green spaces, promoting green projects, and supporting initiatives that prioritize green spaces are all vital for environmental sustainability and human well-being. These efforts contribute to reducing environmental damage, enhancing biodiversity, mitigating climate change, improving community health, and fostering a more sustainable and resilient future.

Audience Discussions & Input

After speakers have completed their parts of discussions, there were many questions / suggestions / inquiries given by the audience and most notably, a question was asked by speakers about sites that help them learn more about climate change, and the latest speakers responded that there are a lot of sites, most notably YOUNGO, AYSDN, UNDP and other sites.

There was also a request by a listening audience that there were a lot of voluntary initiatives in Yemen, especially in Sana'a and that these youth initiatives are exploited in the work of climate change. Young people need support, guidance and empowerment in the cause of climate change. "Because the work of existing initiatives is being developed by decision makers and is not being considered, although they are making great efforts to carry out their activities

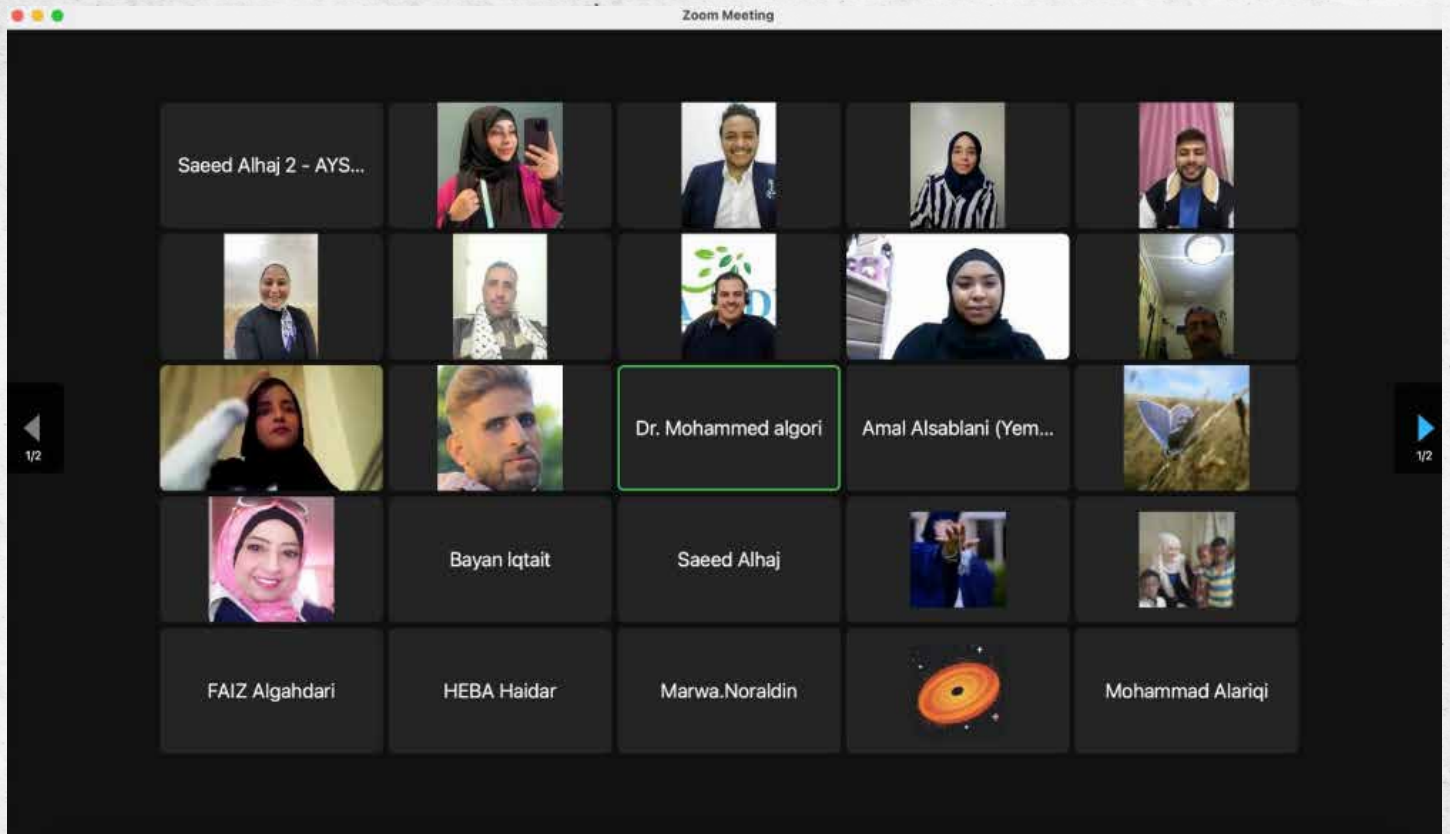
One of the attendees expressed his hope of the work of youth volunteer initiatives, support and guide so that the work of all initiatives will be focused on climate change issues, which will greatly assist the work of organizations and institutions working in the field of climate change

Conclusion

In conclusion, the webinar on climate change solutions provided valuable insights into the urgent need for collective action to address the challenges of climate change. The discussions emphasized the importance of collaboration among governments, businesses, communities, and individuals to implement effective solutions. Key takeaways include the transition to renewable energy sources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, adoption of sustainable practices, and investment in education and awareness programs. The webinar highlighted the critical role of technology and innovation in driving sustainable solutions, such as renewable energy technologies and sustainable agriculture practices. It also emphasized the need for a just transition to a low-carbon economy, ensuring social equity and supporting affected communities and industries. Financial and policy support, alongside continuous learning and action, were identified as essential components of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The webinar also underscored the urgency of addressing climate change through collaborative and multilateral efforts. It emphasized the role of technology, innovation, and sustainable practices in driving solutions, as well as the importance of a just transition and social equity. The discussions highlighted the need for financial and policy support to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices and emphasized the significance of continuous learning and action at all levels. Overall, the webinar provided a comprehensive overview of climate change solutions, emphasizing the need for a holistic and inclusive approach to achieve a sustainable and resilient future.





The audience who attended this webinar on climate change solutions experienced a sense of empowerment, inspiration, and hope, which contributed to their overall happiness. By gaining valuable insights and knowledge about effective strategies to address climate change, they were equipped with actionable information to make a positive impact in their personal lives, communities, and professional endeavors. The discussions and presentations instilled a sense of purpose and urgency, motivating the audience to actively engage in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Additionally, the networking opportunities provided during the webinar allowed participants to connect with like-minded individuals, potential collaborators, and experts in the field, fostering a sense of community and support. Overall, the audience left the webinar feeling empowered, optimistic, and determined to contribute to a sustainable future, which greatly enhanced their happiness and well-being.

Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network is committed to organizing a series of impactful activities and webinars online in the future. These initiatives aim to further engage and educate a diverse audience on pressing global issues, including climate change, sustainability, and environmental conservation. Through these online platforms, we will provide accessible and inclusive spaces for knowledge-sharing, dialogue, and collaboration. The network's webinars will feature expert speakers, interactive discussions, and practical tools to empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed to take action in their own lives and communities. By offering a variety of topics and themes, the network aims to cater to a wide range of interests and provide opportunities for individuals to deepen their understanding and engagement with these critical issues. Through its upcoming activities and webinars, AYSDN aspires to inspire, inform, and mobilize a global community of change-makers who are committed to building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.