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OPEN ACCESS**EDITORIAL**

Tracking Sustainability Towards Achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the World Association for Sustainable Development's (WASD) flagship journal, Sustainability Tracker (ST), a publication fully dedicated to advancing research, analysis, and evidence-based monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ST is a new scholarly platform to support rigorous, transparent, and comparable monitoring of progress toward the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Launched at a critical midpoint toward the 2030 deadline, the journal responds to the growing global need for credible evidence, analytical clarity, and accountability in tracking the implementation of the 17 SDGs.

THEME AND SUBJECT COVERAGE

The central theme of the journal is global, regional, and national monitoring of the SDGs, with a strong emphasis on accountability, evidence-based assessment, and policy relevance. It foregrounds systematic tracking of SDG performance using comparable indicators, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and innovative analytical frameworks, including artificial intelligence-assisted evaluation tools.

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CONTENT

The ST aims to provide a robust and credible evidence base for assessing progress towards the SDGs, while strengthening transparency and accountability in national SDGs reporting. It seeks to support policymakers, researchers, and practitioners by offering actionable, data-driven insights that inform decision-making and policy development. By promoting comparability and benchmarking across countries and regions, the journal facilitates meaningful cross-national learning and performance assessment. It also encourages the exchange of knowledge through the dissemination of best practices, analytical case studies, and methodological innovations. Overall, the journal is designed to complement and enhance global SDGs review and monitoring mechanisms, including the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, by contributing rigorous, independent, and policy-relevant analysis. What distinguishes the *ST Journal* is its unique integration of the WASD vision with the objectives of the UN SDGs creating a coherent and purpose-driven global monitoring framework.

The journal covers interdisciplinary research related to:

- Monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation (SDGs 1–17)
- Analysis of VNRs
- SDG indicators, metrics, and performance scoring frameworks
- National, regional, and global sustainability benchmarking
- Governance, policy coherence, and institutional capacity for SDG delivery
- Data gaps, reporting inconsistencies, and methodological innovations
- Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital tools, and data-driven approaches to sustainable development
- Best practices, case studies, and comparative SDG performance analysis

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB)

All members of the ST editorial committee are truly international in terms of their interests and range of specialisation. The validated academic background that they bring to bear on the quality of reviews, as well as their geographic areas of interest, fosters a uniquely different editorial experience.

We are continuously looking for nominations for distinguished academic and professional colleagues who would be interested in joining the EAB to support ST. Please contact us via the journal website if you would like to consider joining our EAB and/or nominate any suitable person to join.



INAUGURAL ISSUE

The launch of the *ST Journal* marks a timely and significant step in strengthening global efforts to monitor, assess, and accelerate progress towards the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Introduced by the WASD, the journal responds to persistent challenges in SDG reporting, including uneven data quality, irregular VNR, and limited cross-country comparability. Building on the systematic analysis of VNR and integrating artificial intelligence with rigorous, multi-layered expert assessment, the ST Journal provides a transparent, standardised, and evidence-based platform for tracking national, regional, and global SDG performance. As the world enters the final years leading up to 2030, the journal seeks to support stronger accountability, informed policymaking, and collective learning to help ensure that no one is left behind. The ST is published by WASD in the United Kingdom, with two issues per year, and carries the ISSN 2978-2384 (Print) and ISSN 2978-2392 (Online). The journal is abstracted and indexed by major platforms and leading universities worldwide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WASD acknowledges the invaluable contributions of researchers, policymakers, academic reviewers, country experts, and development practitioners whose collective efforts underpin the ST initiative. Special recognition is extended to the contributors of VNR, as well as to the wider global community working collaboratively to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

BIOGRAPHY



Professor Allam Ahmed is a Professor of Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development; Founding President World Association for Sustainable Development; Founding Director SDGs Universities Initiatives; and Honorary Professor Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and Senior Policy Fellow Global Policy Institute, Queen Mary University of London. He is a Fellow (FCIM) and Chartered Marketer of the *Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)*, UK; Fellow (FFPH) Faculty of Public Health, UK; PhD in Economics in two years at *Edinburgh Napier University*, UK; awarded the *Royal Agricultural University (RAU)* Scholarship and Prestigious Book Prize for Best MSc/ MBA Dissertation; Listed in the *Who's Who in the World 2009-2021 and 2021* Who's Who in the World Lifetime Achievement Award, *Who's Who in Finance and Business 2009/2010* and *Who's Who in America 2012-2014* published by Marquis Who's Who, USA.