Comments on draft SDSN report "An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development"

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	Overarching Comments on the draft text
1	Good to limit the number of "sustainable development challenges" to ten with three goals in each.
2	Our overarching focus is around education and the importance it plays in enabling goals to be met and targets reached.
3	There is always a difficulty in combining aspirational vision with achievable measures. However a vision is needed to engage action towards that accomplishment. The danger is if the aspirational goals will never be achievable or if it will never be reached.
4	Business As Usual Trajectory is an interesting measure – we are pleased to see academia being a key actor in this measure.
5	Global cooperation is difficult to achieve when a high level of violence and war affects the world.
6	End extreme hunger including poverty – the ability of technology to reduce isolation cannot be underplayed. IT also enables education to reach individuals and empowers them to make better choices and to prompt action to resolve issues rather that suffer though them (eg hunger and poverty). The cycle of cooperation is also important- eg small grants from affluent members of a country given to poorer members of another country.
7	Achieve development within planetary boundaries – we note and agree on the influence that the education of women and girls plays in reducing population growth. Highly educated women reproduce at later stages of their lives and have less children.
8	Ensure effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood –we find this very important. High quality education providers must be created for all levels of learning. The spirit of international cooperation is particularly important in helping to develop these institutions and to raise the standards of education. Should education providers be provided with priority status for immigration in all countries? Of critical importance is education for refugees who are often marginalised in terms of access to education.
9	Education has an important part to play in reducing discrimination and improving gender equality. Education is an important tool in reducing violence thought human rights education and awareness.
10	Disaggregated data highly important for metrics in establishing baselines and showing progression towards meeting goals or not as the case may be.
11	Targets are holistic. Is it better to have achievable goals – such as initially reducing by a percentage or improving by a percentage? Such aspirational targets are not achievable.
12	The role of education and technology needs to be highlighted for each of the goals and targets. Can it be included in the preambles for each challenge?
13	The four dimensions of sustainable development – we believe they should be five with

	education being the fifth?
	A lack of quantifiable targets makes achievement difficult. Perhaps target s can be quantified with qualifying riders about application. Lack of quantification makes it difficult to observe progress. The use of disaggregated data would surely assist this measurement?
	Change does not occur without vision (or aspiration), but equally change is not completed without actionable steps. There must be a destination and a path for a journey to end or progress. If it is too impossible, it is like being in a travel agent's business reading a travel brochure. If it is achievable then you have booked a journey or a hotel – because you believe you will get there.
	In terms of setting goals, they do need to take into account that those decision/actions s must be made at the national and regional level, even on occasion the local level. There must be some flexibility or recognition that not all targets apply to all countries or are achievable. Progress towards them is more important than failing to act as the bar seems too high.

Comments on Specific Sections		
Page No.	Line No.	Comment
6	45-47	The y impact not only future leaders but those that implement their policies, plus provide the information for informed decision-making on other influential individuals through a broad cross-reach of communication
20	18-24	This is very important!
22	7-9	We would argue that education is also crucial in creating sustainable development
23	25-30	Goal 4 should include education being made publicly available about human rights. Plus increase technologies such as internet access and sharing of information across borders – that will decrease social isolation and increase education and awareness. It allows voices to be heard