

# **The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – driving the sustainability research agenda**

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Greenleaf Publishing  
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# **People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace: 2015 - 2030**

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly, being the Heads of State and Representatives of 193 nations globally, agreed to endorse the 17 Goals and 169 Targets known as the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.

The SDGs are an agenda for people, planet, prosperity and the encouragement of peace, worldwide, to 2030, and build on the Millennium Development Goals, agreed in 2000.

# No longer *why*, but *how*?

“The business environment is undergoing profound changes...at the same time, society is increasingly demanding that companies become more accountable for their actions, exhibit a greater sense of social responsibility, and embrace more sustainable practices. **What business needs today is much different from what it needed yesterday or will need tomorrow.**”

Not surprisingly, the same factors impacting business also are changing higher education. **Business schools must respond to the business world’s changing needs** by providing relevant knowledge and skills to the communities they serve.”

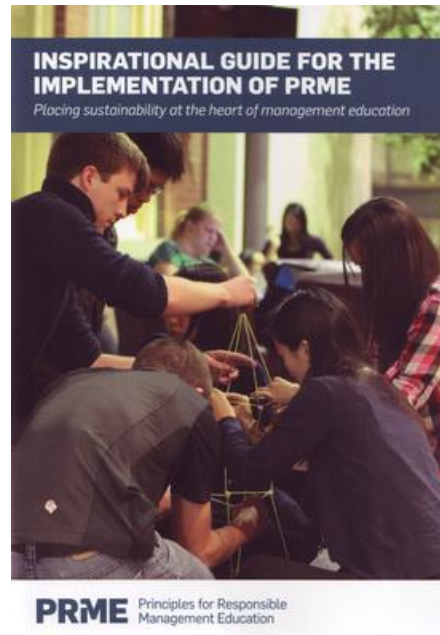
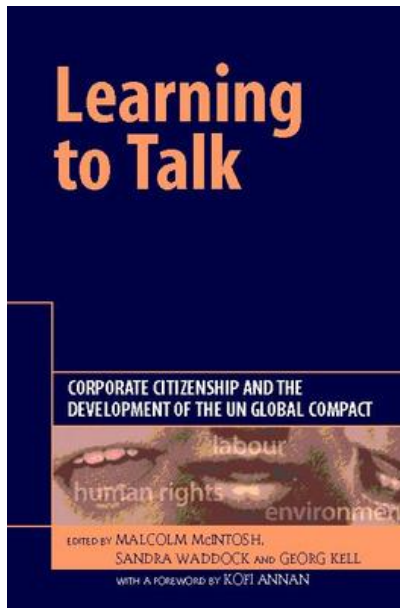
AACSB Accreditation Standard 2016 Revision

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# Greenleaf and the SDGs

Greenleaf has worked closely with various UN bodies for many years; we published the first title on the UN Global Compact in 2004, and the original Inspirational Guide for the Implementation of PRME, 2012. We are pleased to work with WASD and other partners on sustainability research.



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# The publisher's role

**Solicit** – encourage the documentation of relevant research and practice

**Collect** – put structures in place (editors, advisors, reviewers) to collect material

**Organize** – into books, journals and other appropriate structures

**Disseminate** – make available and discoverable, in different media and formats, in hard copy and online. Add metadata.

**Index and archive** – make available for tomorrow's researchers and practitioners, as well as today's



# SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The **Sustainable Organization Library** has more than 600 search results on poverty, from **Greenleaf Publishing** and **partner titles** including:

- *Socially Responsive Organizations and the Challenge of Poverty*
  - *Base of the Pyramid 3.0: Sustainable Development through Innovation and Entrepreneurship*
  - *The Business Solution to Poverty: Designing Products and Services for Three Billion New Customers* (Berrett–Koehler)
- *Protecting the Poor: A Micro-Insurance Compendium (Vol. II)* (ILO)



# SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The Sustainable Organization Library has more than 200 search results relating to sustainable agriculture, and food security, drawn from **Greenleaf Publishing** and **partner titles** including:

- *World Sustainable Development Outlook: Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century*
- *Changing the Food Game: Market Transformation Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture*
- *Halving Hunger: Still Possible? Building a Rescue Package to Set the MDGs Back on Track (Oxfam)*
- *Bridging the Divide: The Reform of Global Food Security Governance (Oxfam)*



# A global focus for research and practice

The SDGs are **credible** – the United Nations is generally seen as a non-partisan body, spanning narrower interests

The SDGs have **measurable** targets – unlike the Millennium Development Goals

The SDGs can be **applied** to all contexts and nations – not just the developing world

The SDGs are **closely linked** to the three UN bodies representing business (the Global Compact), business education (the Principles for Responsible Management Education, PRME) and Financial Services (Principles for Responsible Investment, PRI)

The SDGs will **shape** investment, policy and development activities for years to come

# Higher Education - what next?

1. Establish a research agenda – encourage, promote to and provide resources for your researchers
2. The SDGs will engage students – encourage all levels of students to explore them in project work and research
3. Think about a specific focus – can you build world-leading expertise in, say, Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) or Peaceful and Inclusive Societies (SDG 16)?
4. Find – or become – a champion. Lead an implementation team. Get the SDGs onto your research planning agenda and your top executive team agenda.
5. Universities can shape and contribute to national policy. Use the SDGs as a lever into government policy-shaping and think-tanks

# Business and professions - what next?

1. Show you care – the best graduate talent will be choosy about where they work, so show you are engaged with the agenda.
2. Convene a working group to explore how to engage with the SDGs in your organization. Arm yourself with knowledge resources.
3. Set 5 things to do by a specific date – there are lots of tangibles within the 169 targets.
4. Be a champion. Lead an implementation team. Get the SDGs onto your top executive team agenda.
5. Scenario-plan. If some of the SDG aims are implemented (trade liberalisation, reduction of food waste, removal of fossil fuel subsidies etc) what opportunities or threats would that create?

# Engage with us

We work as a publishing partner with WASD

We work as a publishing partner with PRME

We are seeking publications on and around the SDGs

We are happy to discuss collaborations on and around SDG issues

Talk to us!

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[www.greenleaf-publishing.com](http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com)

For more information on the SDGs, see:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics>