

## The 2021 Gothenburg International Research Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 8

26-27 August 2021

The 2021 Gothenburg International Research Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 8 will take place in a blended form (physically and virtually) 26-27 August. International and Swedish researchers will gather to discuss Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 in the 2030 Agenda; to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

At the core of SDG 8 is the great challenge of achieving economic growth without compromising the environment while also ensuring respect for human rights, and labour rights in particular. We need to make sure that economic progress is inclusive and creates decent and fulfilling jobs for everyone – reflecting the UN principle of *Leaving No One Behind* – while not harming the environment. The impacts of the COVID pandemic on economies and people has caused lasting damage to long-term growth prospects and eroded living standards for hundreds of millions of people, especially in developing countries. The need to pursue further research in areas such as economic growth, work conditions and labour market with a global perspective has become increasingly critical. Although the pandemic has slowed down development, this is also the chance of *building back better*. COVID recovery and our planet's repair must be the two sides of the same coin, as expressed by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations<sup>1</sup>.

As part of [the International Association of Universities \(IAU\) Cluster on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development](#), the University of Gothenburg, has taken a lead specifically on Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Within the cluster each SDG has its lead university, resulting in a global network of universities. The purpose of [the SDG 8 Initiative at University of Gothenburg](#) is to mobilise academic work and policy interaction in local and global contexts, together with eight satellite universities globally. The satellite universities, located in low- and middle income countries, provide opportunities for dynamic research collaboration by addressing the challenges of SDG 8 from the various geographical and methodological perspectives represented.

At the beginning of this year, a number of thematic reviews and discussion papers were initiated – each one pointing at research that is directly linked to one specific target within SDG 8, and in particular research focused on issues that can contribute to the attainment of the target. These papers will form the basis for research and policy interaction as well as collaboration with other stakeholders. The Gothenburg International Research Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 8 at the School of Business, Economics and Law, in August 2021 is the main forum for disseminating the results.

The conference is hosted by the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg and co-organised by the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD), the Department of Sociology and Work Science at the Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Public Health and Community Medicine at Sahlgrenska Academy, and Global Sustainable Futures at the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development, GMV.

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<sup>1</sup>Secretary-General's address at Columbia University, 2 Dec 2020: "The State of the Planet"

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-12-02/secretary-generals-address-columbia-university-the-state-of-the-planet-scroll-down-for-language-versions>

Time (CET)	Session	Thursday 26 August			Session	Friday 27 August
9.00-9.10	Official opening (10 min)	tbc			Welcome and introduction to Day 2	Moderator
9.10-9.40	Key note (30 min)	Pam Fredman			Key note (45 min)	Steven Stone
9.40-9.55	Presentation	Gunnar Köhlin SDG 8 Initiative				
9.55-10.00	Break (5 min)			Break (5 min)		
10.00-10.20	Target paper	Rick Middel 8.2 Innovation			Target paper	Ola Olsson 8.1 Economic growth in different parts of the world
10.20-10.40	Target paper	Chiara Rinaldi 8.9 Sustainable tourism			Target paper	Heather Congdon Fors 8.7 No child labour
10.40-11.00	Presentation	Magdalena Eriksson Development in LMIC:s			Target paper	Thomas Sterner 8.4 Resource efficiency
11.00-11.05	WS info (5 min)	Moderator Marie Stenseke			WS info	Moderator Marie Stenseke
11.05-11.15	Break (10 min)			Break (10 min)		
11.15-12.15	Parallel Workshops	8.2 Innovation	8.9 Sustainable tourism	Parallel Workshops	8.1 Economic growth in different parts of the world	8.7 No child labour
12.15-13.00	Lunch break (45 min)			Lunch break (45 min)		
13.00-13.05	Welcome back	Moderator Marie Stenseke			Welcome back	Moderator Marie Stenseke
13.05-13.50	Key note (45 min)	Johannes Siegrist			Key note (45 min)	Alemu Mekonnen
13.50-13.55	Break (5 min)			Break (5 min)		
13.55-14.15	Target paper	Mattias Bengtsson 8.5 Full employment			Key note (45 min)	Chantal Line Carpentier
14.15-14.35	Target paper	Gunnar Gillberg 8.6 Youth employment				
14.35-14.45	Target paper	Lotta Dellve et al 8.8 Safe work environments			Break (10 min)	
14.45-14.55					Introduction panel session (10 min)	Moderator Gunnar Köhlin
14.55-15.00	WS info (5 min)	Moderator Marie Stenseke			Panel (75 min)	Steven Stone, Alemu Mekonnen, Chantal Line Carpentier, Johannes Siegrist, Pam Fredman
15.00-15.10	Break (10 min)					
15.10-16.10	Parallel workshops (60 min)	8.5 Full employment	8.6 Youth employment	8.8 Safe work environment		

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16.10-16.20	Wrap up (10 min) End of day Next day	Moderator Marie Stenseke			Wrap up (10 min) Summary of the conference End of day	Moderator Marie Stenseke

<b>Key note speakers</b>
Alemu Mekonnen, Dean, College of Business and Economics, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Addis Ababa University
Johannes Siegrist, Senior Professor of Work Stress Research, University of Düsseldorf
Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD), New York
Steven Stone, Chief Resources and Markets Branch, UN Environment Program (UNEP), Geneva
Pam Fredman, President of the International Association of Universities
<b>Thematic groups, target-papers</b>

<b>Researcher(s)</b>
Ola Olsson, professor in economics, Pelle Ahlerup, senior lecturer in economics
Thomas Sterner, professor of environmental economics
Rick Middel, senior lecturer in innovation and entrepreneurship (Henric Rhedin, SA)
Mattias Bengtsson, senior lecturer in sociology
Gunnar Gillberg, senior lecturer in work science
Heather Congdon Fors, NEK
Lotta Dellve, professor in work science, Helena Stensöta, professor political science, Anna-Carin Olin, professor in occupational medicine, Karin Sandén, SA
Chiara Rinaldi, researcher GRI, CFT