



# Transforming Lives

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ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

## A message from our founder



Dear Friends,

As you know from July 1st, 2020 Dr. Sapna Narula took the role of GNSD President. I would like to congratulate her on the impressive development of our network. Despite the pandemic that paralyzed many social activities, she and her team organized numerous events which you can read in the current yearly report. I wish our new Executive Team to continue their meaningful contribution to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Marek Wosinski

## A message from our president



Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we reflect on the milestones our team has achieved together, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and hard work each one has contributed. Over the past year, we have conducted various webinars and panel discussions, and it is heartening to see the positive impact we've made on the community. Our collective efforts have truly made a difference, and I am proud to lead such a committed and passionate team.

As we navigate the post-COVID-19 landscape, I am filled with optimism about the multitude of opportunities that lie ahead for GNSD. The challenges posed by the pandemic have urged us to reassess our strategies across various domains such as health, education, peace, agriculture, livelihoods, water, waste management, and sustainable entrepreneurship. I am confident that these challenges will pave the way for innovative and impactful solutions.

In this evolving landscape, it is essential for us to redefine not only how we work and earn our living but also how we produce and consume food, and how we manage our resources and handle waste. The post-COVID world demands a shift towards sustainability, and I believe that we, at GNSD, are well-positioned to lead this change. Our existing portfolio, including Sustainability Clubs, Peace Clubs, and the Sister Schools project, has laid a solid foundation. However, our vision extends beyond —towards expanding our geographical reach and diversifying our training categories. This expansion will enable us to forge new partnerships, amplifying our impact and establishing a stronger global presence.

It is imperative to recognize that the evolving cultural paradigm in sustainable development requires the active involvement of the youth. To this end, we are committed to raising awareness, imparting knowledge, and building the capacity of young individuals to empower them to take a leading role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Undoubtedly, we will encounter unforeseen challenges on this journey, but I have full confidence in the dedication and resilience of our team at GNSD. Together, we will overcome obstacles, contribute meaningfully to sustainable development, and position GNSD as a front-runner in this vital arena.

Dr. Sapna Narula

## A message from the editor



Dear Community,

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pleasure that we present to you our Annual Report for 2021 -2022. This report encapsulates the tireless efforts, achievements, and impact that have shaped our journey over the past twelve months.

In the pages that follow, you will find a detailed account of the initiatives undertaken, milestones achieved, and the collective spirit that defines GNSD. It is a testament to the dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and the resilience of the communities we serve.

We believe in transparency and accountability, and this report aims to provide you with a comprehensive overview of how your support has contributed to our mission, each section unveils the stories that make GNSD unique and impactful.

As we look ahead, inspired by the successes of 2022, we remain steadfast in our mission. Together, we will continue GNSD's mission and work towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

Thank you  
Shweta Tyagi

# Meet our Board of Directors



**Dr. Marek Wosinski**  
Founder and Former President  
Senior Sustainability Scientist  
Arizona State University  
USA



**Dr. Sapna A. Narula**  
President,  
Professor & Dean, School of  
Management Studies  
Nalanda University, India



**Silas Ngahane, MS**  
Program Associate  
Office of the Deputy Chairperson  
of the Africa Union Commission  
Ethiopia



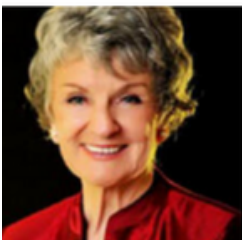
**Georgina Galanis**  
Founding Member  
Global Movement for the Culture  
of Peace  
USA



**Balraj Kumar Sikka**  
Director  
Global Agriculture System



**Dr. Joseph Ryarasa**  
Executive Director  
Never Again Rwanda  
Rwanda



**Jerrie Ueberle**  
President  
World Academy for the Future of  
Women  
USA, China



**Dr. Robert Cialdini**  
Regents' Professor Emeritus of  
Psychology and Marketing  
Arizona State University  
USA



**Muneer Ahmad Magry**  
Vice-President  
(India)



**Dr. Chen Jianrong**  
Director of the Institute for Peace  
and Conflict Studies  
Jinan University in Guangzhou  
China



**Stephen Daniel**  
Secretary  
Nigeria



# Meet our Executive Team members



**Dr. Sapna A. Narula**  
President, GNSD



**Dr. Muneer Ahmad Magray**  
Vice President, GNSD



**Stephen Daniel**  
Secretary, GNSD



**Damai Vergara -Hegi,**  
Treasurer, GNSD



**Shweta Tyagi**  
Coordinator- Social Media &  
Outreach, GNSD



**Dr. Ashima Mathur,**  
Member, GNSD



**Alejandra Molina,**  
Member, GNSD



**Dr. Anushree Poddar**  
Coordinator- Social Media,  
GNSD



**Arturo Escobedo,**  
Intern, GNSD



**Ms. Aishwarya Pradip,**  
Coordinator, GNSD

# Echoes of Tomorrow: Unveiling the Voices of the Youth

## Empathy in Action: Bridging Divides through Peace Education

An article by Daniel Stephen



In a world often marked by divisions, conflict, and misunderstanding, the transformative power of empathy stands as a beacon of hope. At the heart of building bridges across diverse communities lies the profound influence of peace education—a force that not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates empathy, fostering understanding and collaboration.

Empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, transcends borders and ideologies. It serves as a bridge that connects individuals, communities, and nations. In the realm of peace education, empathy is not a passive trait but an active force that propels positive change. By encouraging individuals to step into the shoes of others, peace education lays the foundation for a more compassionate and interconnected world.





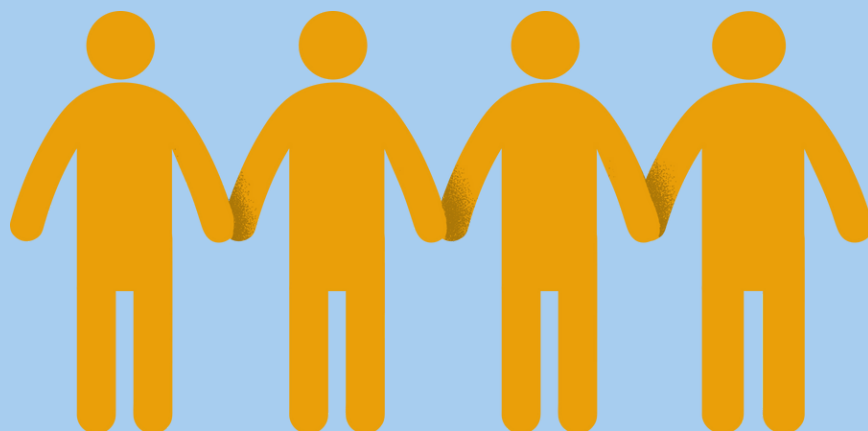
In regions marked by historical conflicts, our NGO initiated a peace club program that brings together students from communities with deep-seated grievances. Due to the pandemic, we regretfully had to put our main mission on hold in previous years, which is creating sustainability and peace clubs in schools. Despite this setback, we are actively planning to recruit more volunteers and resume this crucial mission. Through workshops, storytelling sessions, and cultural exchanges, students engage in open dialogues about their shared history.

The process of understanding each other's narratives cultivated empathy, leading to a remarkable transformation. Former adversaries become allies, recognizing the shared humanity that transcended historical animosities. While the pandemic necessitated a temporary pause in our initiatives, we remain committed to resuming and expanding our programs. Additionally, the Sister Schools Project, though temporarily halted, is not forgotten. We have plans to reactivate this impactful project in the academic year 2023/24, determined to continue fostering understanding, empathy, and sustainable peace among diverse communities.

The benefits of empathy cultivated through peace education extend far beyond immediate conflict resolution. By nurturing an empathetic mindset, individuals become active agents of change, contributing to the sustainable development of peaceful societies.

- 1. Conflict Prevention:** Empathy serves as a powerful preventive measure, dissolving the seeds of potential conflicts before they escalate. Through understanding and shared experiences, communities equipped with empathy are more resilient to divisive influences.
- 2. Community Building:** In the long run, empathy fosters a sense of community. It encourages collaboration, mutual support, and a shared commitment to the well-being of all members. Communities grounded in empathy are better equipped to address challenges collectively.
- 3. Global Citizenship:** Empathy transcends borders, turning individuals into global citizens. Those exposed to diverse perspectives through peace education are more likely to engage in global issues with a sense of responsibility and compassion.

As we reflect on the impact of empathy in bridging divides through peace education, it becomes evident that cultivating this virtue is not just a lofty ideal but a practical and achievable goal. Our NGO's programs stand testament to the transformative potential of empathy in action. By sharing stories of healing, collaboration, and understanding, we hope to inspire others to recognize empathy as a catalyst for sustainable peace.



# Webinar Series

## 1. Earthing's for Climate

Date: August 18 2021

**Background:** Webinar on Climate Change organized for school students. We at GNSD work on the implementation of SDGs by active involvement of youth.

**Speaker:** Dr. Marek Wosinski was invited to speak Earthlings for Climate. An awareness webinar on climate change.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

13 CLIMATE ACTION

**EARTHLINGS FOR CLIMATE**

Awareness Webinar on Climate Change

**Key Speakers**

**Dr. Chubamenla Jamir**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Energy and Environment, TERI School of Advanced Studies, Delhi

**Dr. Marek Wosinski**  
Founder and Former President,  
GNSD, Senior Sustainability Scientist, Arizona State University, USA

**Date: 18th August, 2021**  
Time: 10:00 AM IST

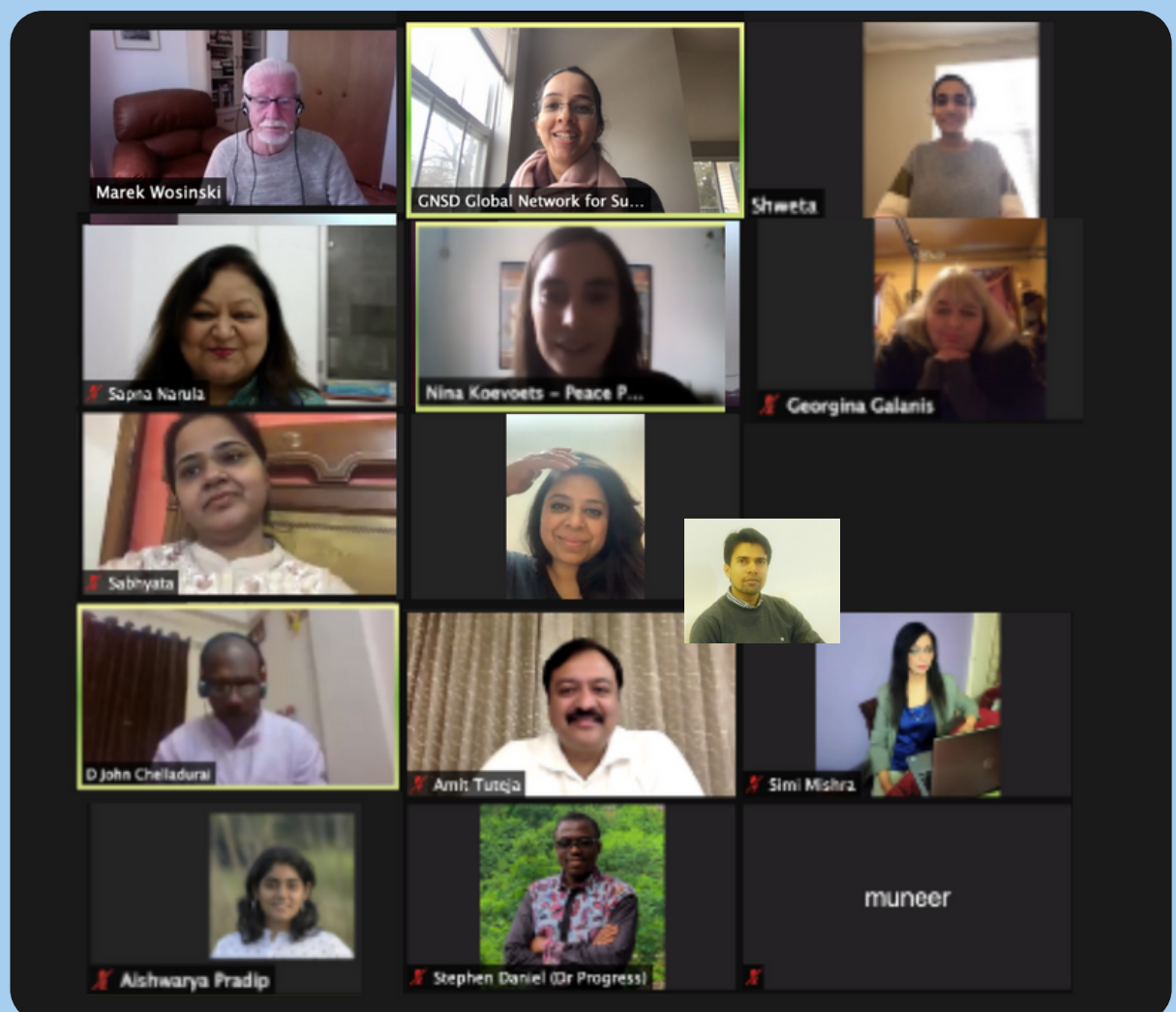
The poster features a world map background with decorative elements like leaves and a circular SDG logo. It includes the UN Climate Action icon (SDG 13) and the GNSD logo.

## 2. Happiness Unlocked

Date: April 10 2021

**Background:** As a part of the GNSD global webinar series, our team hosted a webinar on “Happiness Unlocked” for the youth of the GNSD platform. The webinar was a hit, almost 50 people participated in the webinar.

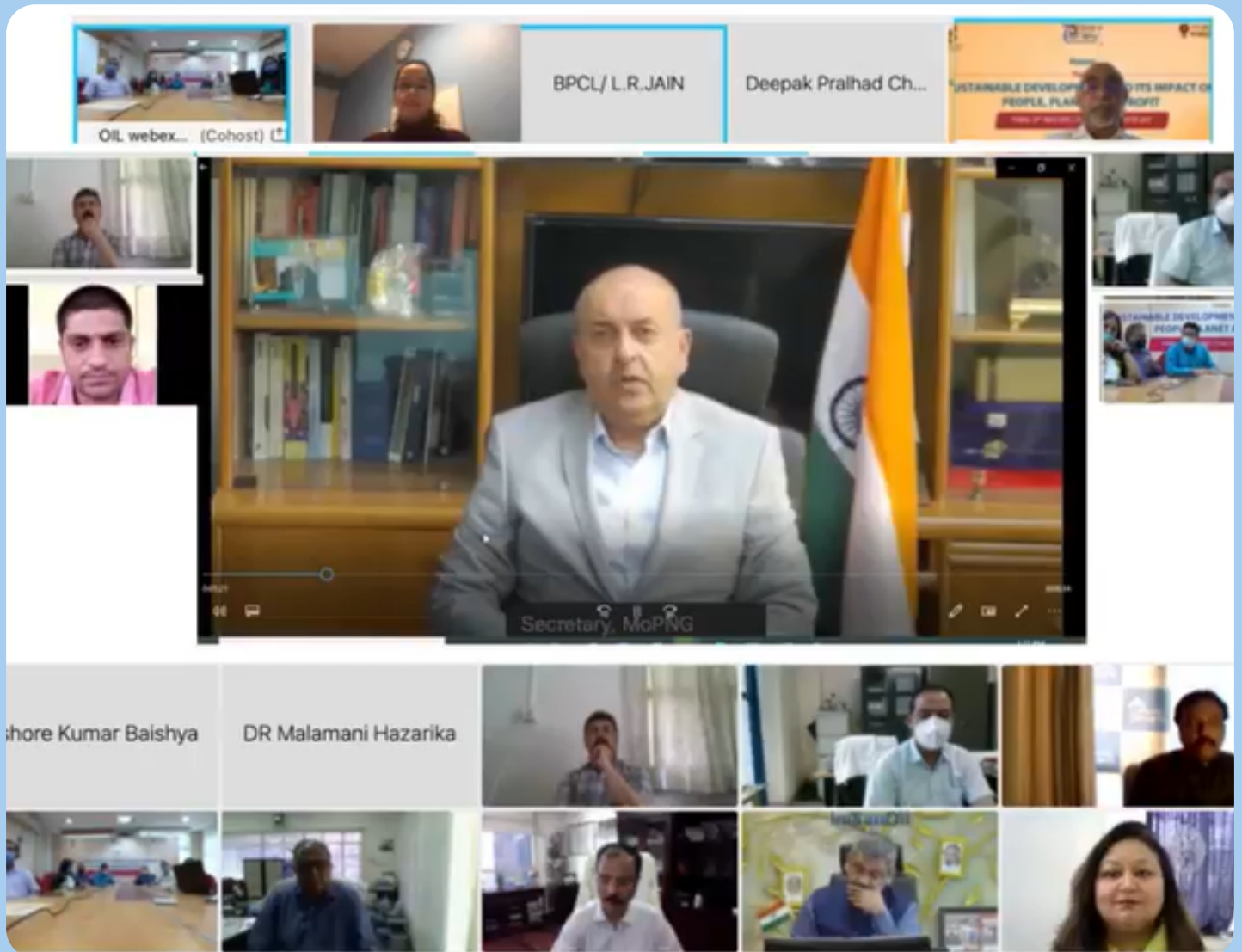
**Speaker:** Mr. Hari Pal Sharma - Certified coach for yoga and health with more than 30 years of experience in overall mind-body wellness. Connected in person with 5000+ Individuals in his journey, one-to-one interactions of academic, professional, and travel connections.





### 3. Sustainable Development and its Impact on People, Planet and Profit

(Celebrated 75 years of India's independence)



## 4. The COVID Vaccine; Exploring Different Voices and Questions

Date : Feb, 27th 2022

**Background:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and a more sustainable future for all., Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development which, is the tenant of goal 3 - achieving good health and wellbeing.

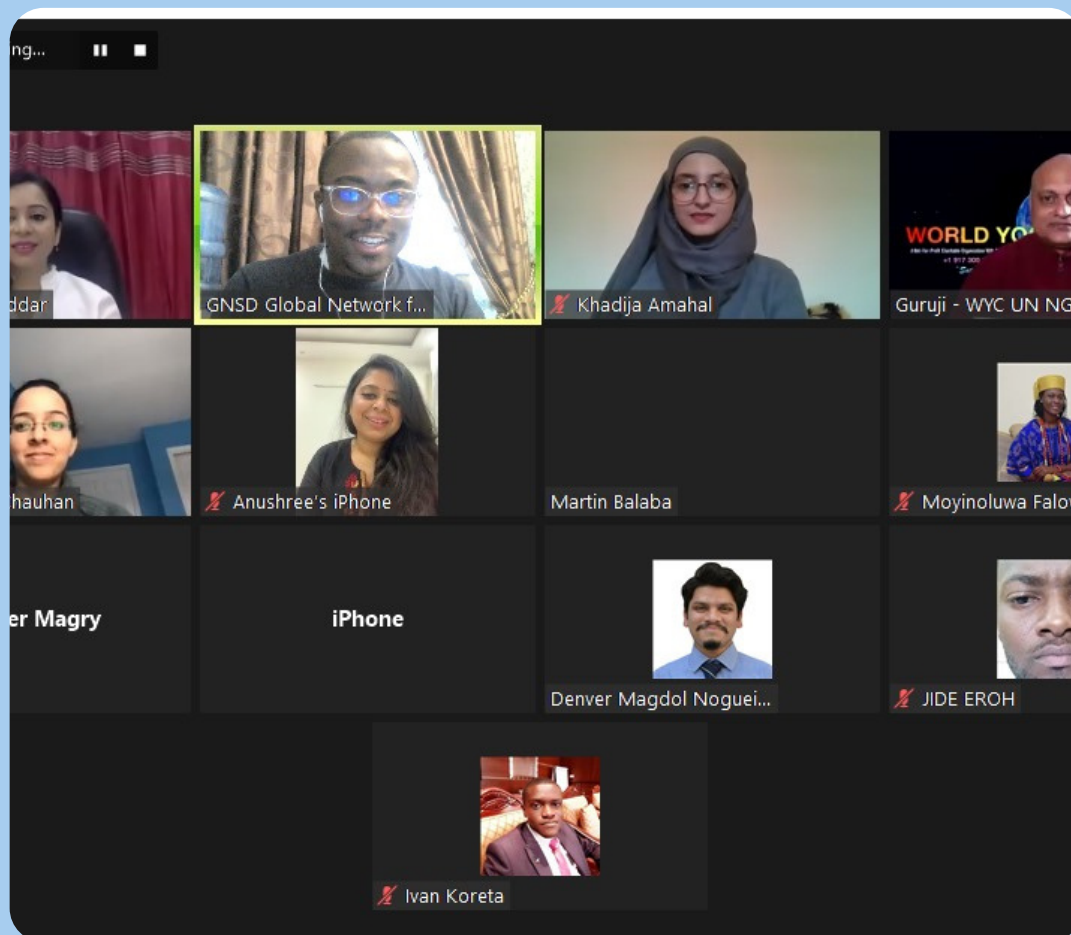
Currently, the world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other — COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilizing the global economy, and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe. COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries around the world. It hit Asia, Europe and the Americas before gradually taking root in Africa and no area has been spared, whether socially, culturally, or economically.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is sweeping across the world, everyone is hoping for a vaccine that can stop this pandemic on its track. Recently, different organizations have produce vaccines that can help curb the spread of the disease. While some welcome the development of the vaccine, others are skeptical with some going the length of spreading propaganda. The place of hearing different voices, concerns and answering questions in this context has a special meaning. Hence, the need for a round table where we can hear different perspectives and make informed decisions.



It is with this background that The GNSD, a global non-governmental organization whose mission is to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by educating young future community leaders about the principles of environmental and economic sustainability, and by involving them in the active achievement of these goals by organizing a webinar to discuss concerns around the COVID Vaccine.

**Objective:** The objective of this webinar is to open an interactive platform to hear from medical experts, youths, religious leaders, and skeptics on their thoughts around the COVID vaccine and answer questions from our audience that help them make an informed decision.



## 5. Summer School

**Date : July 10 - Aug 28 2021**

**Background:** GNSD proudly launched 8 weeks of Summer School on Sustainability. A spectacular program offering opportunities to directly learn, network, and interact with renowned academicians, and business leaders in the field of sustainability.

The Summer School was inaugurated on 4th September 2021 with a session on Global Challenges and Introduction to SDGs by Dr. Marek Wosinski, founder and former President of GNSD, followed by a discourse on Business Case for Sustainability by Dr. Sapna A Narula, President, GNSD. The summer school progressed with expert classes on every weekend till October 24th. Encompassing a total of 14 speakers and over 100 participants over the span of two months, the summer school touched upon various aspects and themes within sustainability from Climate Change, Community Building Aspects, SDG and Policy Interventions, Carbon Footprinting, Social Entrepreneurship, Project Management to Social Drivers of Sustainable Development, Waste Management, Air Quality, Energy Transitions and Changing Our Thoughts for Happiness and Success.



The valedictory function of the summer school was a memorable event, with eight participants receiving certificates for their successful completion of the program. The participants included Anu Anmol, Gagan Kapoor, Irene Tibuliwah Tinka, Dr. Jayanta Choudhury, Lalit Taneja, Ritu Bala, Vasundhara Thakur, and Vijayakumar.

Eminent guests of honor, namely Mr. Ashish Gupta, Professor B K Sikka, and Dr. Marek Wosinski, graced the occasion. They delivered valuable comments and suggestions on the participants' work, acknowledging their efforts and achievements. The guests also took part in presenting certificates to the participants, further highlighting the significance of their accomplishments during the summer school.

The valedictory function provided a platform for the participants to share their feedback on the summer school. They expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and shared insights into their learnings and takeaways from the program. This exchange of experiences added depth and richness to the event, creating a sense of community among the participants.

As the function concluded, it marked the end of a successful summer school, leaving participants with certificates and a wealth of knowledge and experiences gained during the program.



## 6. Panel Discussion

### Role of Youth in Sustainable Development

Date: Nov 30 2021

**Background:** Connecting Dreams Foundation is delighted to invite you to the Closing Ceremony of the Global Changemaker Festival. Global Changemaker Festival 2021 witnessed 90+ Hours of Celebration, 3,000 - 5,000 Global Participation, 100+ Events, 50+ Global Institutions Partners, 11+ Countries across Globe, 22+ states across India.

Prof Sapna A Narula was invited to speak on the role of Youth for Sustainable Development as part of the esteemed panel.

**Connecting Dreams**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**ROLE OF YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**POWERED BY**

**aws**

**Dr. Yamini Gupt**  
Professor,  
University of Delhi

**Dr. Sapna Narula**  
Professor & Dean of  
School of Management Studies,  
Nalanda University

**R. Jai Krishna**  
Secretary General,  
News Broadcasters  
Federation

**Devasheesh Pant**  
Director,  
Manas College of Science  
Technology & Management

**Dr. Anjali Naik**  
Director, Gyandeeep  
Growth Foundation

**Date: 30th November  
2021**  
**Time: 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM**

## **Grant Proposal for Sister Schools Project:**

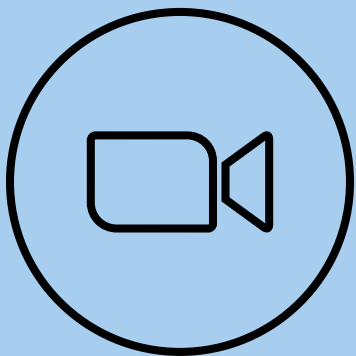
### **Development of Character through Social Engagement and Building Partnerships Across Borders (case of Nepal and Poland)**

GNSD team applied for a grant that was submitted to the Templeton Foundation. We did not receive this grant, however, our team did a great job in drafting the project summary and submitting the application. Through the Sister Schools project, GNSD intended to create partnerships between 15 schools in economically developed countries, and 15 schools in Nepal. Such partnerships open new opportunities for both parties. By creating partnerships between schools in Nepal, Poland, and USA. GNSD was planning to develop a model of extracurricular education that can be later applied in other low-income countries. Through this project, GNSD could provide participating schools with an opportunity to collaborate and engage in the development of local communities with immediate global consequences.

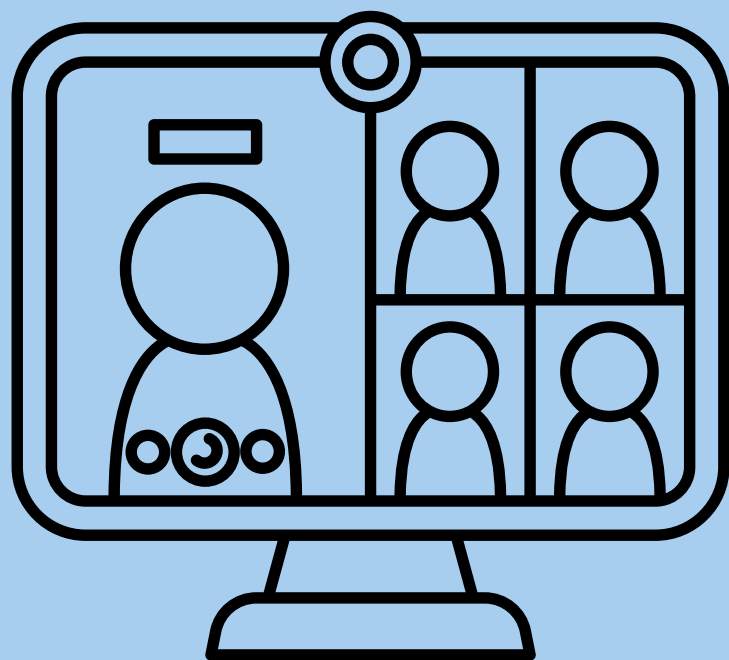
GNSD, through its partner organizations and experts in sustainable development, was planning to create educational content based on the principle “learning by doing” that could contribute to the realization of sustainable development goals by engaging the youth in the process of their implementation. Instructors from Our Climate planned to provide resources, education and training for young people about science-based, equitable climate policy solutions that build a livable world.

## 2021-2022 Activities at a Glance:

After COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on global activities, including those at GNSD. The resumption of activities in July 2020 with the appointment of Dr. Sapna A. Narula as the new president shows resilience and determination. Here are some major activities that took place at GNSD from 2021 to 2022:



- Adapting to the limitations posed by the pandemic by organizing virtual events, workshops, and conferences to maintain engagement with members and stakeholders.
- Engaging more youth in 'SDG Youth Ambassadors' platform
- Addition of new members to the Executive Committee
- Webinars and Panel discussions on SDGs
- Summer School on Sustainability
- Work on Grant Proposal for Sister Schools Project







## Our Partners

- Center for Community Based Research (Canada)
- Gandhi Research Foundation (India)
- At Quest: Sustainability Simplified (India)
- Connecting Dreams Foundation (India)
- Equicap Agri Ventures (India)
- Namaste India Travel (India)
- Collegium Civitas University (Poland)
- Institute of Applied Psychology, Jagiellonian University (Poland)
- TDJ Foundation (Poland)
- Kyiv Palace of Children and Youth (Ukraine)
- Belouga (USA)
- Our Climate (USA)
- Ramapo for Children (USA)
- World Academy for the Future of Women (USA, China, Bangladesh, and Nepal)





# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS



**We couldn't have done it  
without your generous support.**

We want to acknowledge the contributions of the people who worked tirelessly on the work mentioned within.

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🌐 [www.gnsd.org](http://www.gnsd.org)

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