

# The contribution of SDGs to Global Governance:

What do we really know?  
What can we expect?



## ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES | 18 & 19 March 2021

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) have had a sizeable influence in the agenda and the discourses of global governance. References to SDGs can be found in a wide range of international negotiations and institutions, from **climate change** to **food security**, from **human rights** to **health**. They have also been endorsed at all the other levels of **policy making** –by the European Union, national governments, and local authorities. In moments of deep polarization and politicization of international and domestic politics, SDGs have emerged as a broadly consensual project across continents, topics and scales. **They also represent an approach to governance based on the setting of goals widely accepted as important and legitimate by a multiplicity of stakeholders.** It is shared goals, not precisely crafted legal obligations, that are expected to drive policy changes, and their traction depends precisely on their consensual character. And since such goals by-pass the language of state-centric international law, also non-governmental actors can embrace them –be that NGOs, companies, or universities.

Still, **research on the dynamic of SDG is still emerging, and many questions remain open as to existing difficulties, or to its performance.** This webinar series presents three roundtables that will look at SDGs as a vantage point to understand them as a new mode of global governance, and possibly learn lessons to improve or reform it. Each roundtable is composed of four leading scholars to discuss a particular dimension of SDG strategy: leadership, instruments, and multilevel governance. **The perspective of global cities will be emphasized in the webinars, also considering their participation in global governance processes.** The panels are organized during two days, each one having 75 min. of duration maximum.

**Webinars are open to the public, and local scholars are invited to moderate each session.**

### Coordinators:

Oriol Costa (UAB-IBEI) and Jacint Jordana (UPF-IBEI)

### THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021

15:00 CET **Panel I. Who is leading the global governance of SDGs?**  
**Moderator: Charles Roger (IBEI)**

Benedicte Bull (University of Oslo)  
Axel Marx (Leuven Centre for Global Governance,  
Leuven University)  
Marianne Beisheim (SWP)

Language: English

[REGISTRATION FORM \(Panel I\)](#)

16:30 CET **Panel II. Instruments of Global Governance: expertise, meta-governance, and goal-setting**  
**Moderator: Oriol Costa (UAB-IBEI)**

Frank Biermann (Utrecht University)  
Anne Ellersiek (Science Platform Sustainability 2030)  
Louis Meuleman (Vice chair of the United Nations Committee  
of Experts on Public Administration - CEPA)

Language: English

[REGISTRATION FORM \(Panel II\)](#)

### FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2021

16:00 CET **Panel III. Governança multinivell i Objectius de Desenvolupament Sostenible: el paper de les autoritats locals**

**Moderator: Andrea Bianculli (IBEI)**

Andrea Noferini (UPF & IBEI)  
Agustí Fernández de Losada (CIDOB)  
Robert Kissack (IBEI)  
Arnau Queralt (Consell Assessor per al Desenvolupament  
Sostenible)  
Miquel Rodríguez (Ajuntament de Barcelona)

Language: Spanish & Catalan

[REGISTRATION FORM \(Panel III & Closing remarks\)](#)

### Closing remarks

Laia Bonet (Barcelona Deputy Mayor, 2030 Agenda,  
Digital Transition, Sports and Territorial and Metropolitan  
Coordination)

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