



NEWSLETTER: MAY 2023

1. Join the conversation at this Upcoming Events:

**[How to write for non-academic audiences](#) to achieve progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
A DORA@10 Event: May 17th, 4pm UTC.**

[Register here](#)

A practical, hands-on workshop exploring how to make research more accessible to non academic audiences and how research assessment reform can support these efforts. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from a range of experts on how to write for non expert readers, with practical advice and guidance.

Driving progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals needs engagement and input from across all parts of society. Research and education helps us to understand, explore, and engage on key issues and to explore ways to address challenges we are facing across the globe. However, the outputs of research can be hard to understand and utilise for those who are not academic or expert. The broader reform of research assessment offers us an opportunity to incentivise communication modes and formats that drive greater public engagement, with plain language summaries and practitioner abstracts two formats that are helping more readers to engage with research to find answers to the world's most pressing problems.

Join the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative SDG Publishers Compact Fellows, the Open Climate Campaign, and OpenPharma for a co-convened practical workshop which will offer advice and guidance on when and how to write for non academic audiences.

For the best experience we recommend that registrants join the event live but we appreciate that this won't always be possible. All registrants will receive a follow up after the event including slides and resources.

Help us to promote this event by posting on social media or sharing [this announcement](#).

2. Catch up on what we've been doing in Recent Events:

a) 2nd Solutions Summit: Focus on Researchers, Authors, Educators, Reviewers, and Editorial Boards

The recording, slides and resources from the Summit can be found [here](#).



This virtual event focused on the top recommended actions and trends to better align academic research, education materials, and the sharing of research findings with making the world a better place through connections to the Sustainable Development Goals. We discussed how to improve your research agendas and outcomes through enhanced communications with practitioners.

b) London Book Fair

At the invitation of [ALPSP](#), the SDG Publishers Compact Fellows ran a session at the Research and Scholarly Publishing Forum at LBF on April 20th. 'The SDGs and Publishing' session gave an introduction to the SDGs and offered practical guidance for publishers on how to contribute to the SDG Publishers Compact, with a deck filled with links to industry action groups, tools and resources.

The slide deck can be accessed [here](#).

After the session the Fellows met several publisher representatives working to have their organizations sign the SDG Publishers Compact, and comments received from the organizer included this positive feedback:

"On behalf of our team, I would like to get in touch to give you all a huge 'thank you' for delivering a meaningful participation at the Research and Scholarly Publishing Forum 2023. I heard plenty of positive feedback about your panel on "The SDGs and Publishing". Your enthusiasm and hard work made our audience's experience unforgettable!"



3. Workstreams

Fellows meet on a weekly basis, and a number of sub-groups meet independently, working on projects such as:

- a) *Equity and inclusion* - an important principle underlying all SDGs, with relevance to all strands of work by Compact Fellows.
Workshop planned for late May where Fellows will discuss wording / outputs
- b) *Taxonomy* – this project is now part of the *STM SDGs Academic Publishers Forum*, focusing on providing industry standard tagging of SDG content using search terms, rather than a taxonomy, with contributions from Fellows.
- c) *The Joint Task Force on Outcomes and Impacts*, co-chaired by Gerald Beasley with Kathleen Ng (and now Duncan Ross from Times Higher Ed), had its first virtual meeting in September 2022 and regularly brings members of the SDG Publishers Compact Fellows together with members of the HESI Rankings, Ratings and Assessment Action Group. Its mission is to explore one of the most important and challenging recommendations in the RRA's *Assessments of Higher Education's progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, vol. 1, i.e., "Where possible focus on outcomes, not outputs - outputs alone may not be supporting the institution to achieve the SDGs." The JTFOI hopes to produce a summary of its findings by July 2023.
- d) *Fellows* regularly speak at in-person and virtual conferences, seminars and other events, promoting research into the SDGs and raising awareness of the SDG Publishers Compact and the resources available from the Fellows and others.

4. Share information on sustainable development

If, as a member of the Compact Fellows Virtual Community, you have material that you would like to share with others in the Community or announcements about upcoming events that you would like to make, please send to [hesicompactfellows@gmail.com](mailto:hесicompactfellows@gmail.com) and they will be considered for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

Our Top Action Tips provide useful tools for putting policy into action and helping researchers, authors, publishers and others take practical steps towards improving sustainability.