**UN SDG Publishers Compact**

## Top Action Tips for Editors

1. Publishers and editors should include an explicit statement in the journal's Aims & Scope and Submission Guidelines that indicates the editor not only values and welcomes but actively seeks submissions that align with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG- related research with a specific, actionable connection to challenges and opportunities in practice.

2. Make sure that authors use appropriate keywords that correctly identify the sustainable development and SDG-related themes impacted by the article.

3. Editors should include in author guidelines that authors are required to include the implications for practitioners and policymakers in the abstract. Ask reviewers to check that authors included these implications for practitioners and policymakers in the abstract. Add a question about this on reviewer forms or include this guidance in reviewer instructions.

4. Editors should ask academic researchers to ask themselves - who is this research for? Ask academic researchers specifically to include in their Implications section the research outcomes relevant to practitioners and policymakers. Also consider asking authors to create a separate summary of thesis relevant outcomes for sharing, as appropriate, with practitioners and policymakers via plain language summaries and infographics in practitioners' and policymakers' publications.

5. See the Committee on Publication Ethics ([COPE](#)) website for information on ethical issues around waivers and discounts, the role of editors, the need to avoid conflict of interest and ensure that editors do not discriminate against authors who request assistance with APCs.

6. Guard against systemic bias that may be inherent in systems and processes for peer review, taking steps to mitigate and avoid this, where necessary[1],[2].

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[1] C4DISC: [Toolkits for Equity](#)

[2] The TRUST Code: [A Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships](#)

7. Take steps to ensure that editorial boards are equitable, culturally and geographically diverse in composition[3],[4], [5] (recognizing that someone can have more than one ethnicity and could be working in a country other than where they were born. Data may be incomplete, and nothing should be inferred simply from a person's name).

8. Be aware that authors may not be writing in their first language, which can affect all stages of the process, from research through to publication. This may mean taking additional steps to promote fairness and improve accessibility, including use of a balanced, transparent blend of human and automated processes and tools. Where Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are used, they should be checked for inbuilt bias[6], [7]

9. Specifically solicit SDG and practitioner-aligned content for special issues. These may serve as an initial step toward a goal of broad scope change.

10. Editors should bring diversity to the editorial board by appointing practitioner editors on journal editorial boards to provide practitioner perspectives and connections. Leverage academic, professional, and civil societies that often include practicing scientists and clinicians to help identify an appropriate practitioner editor. This person can: help the journal connect to practitioner organizations to hear from practitioners what are the urgent research questions for the SDG(s); help researchers connect with practitioners for joint research projects; help select content suitable for translation and dissemination to practitioner markets; help the editorial board distribute to the practitioner associations the relevant research outcomes.

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[3] For example: Taylor and Francis, Editor Resources on increasing diversity, and Emerald Publishing, Indigenous Voices

[4] Elsevier Report (2022): Making progress towards a more inclusive research ecosystem

[5] Springer Nature (2022): Addressing diversity & inclusion in peer reviewer and editorial board recruitment

[6] 'GPT detectors are biased against non-native English writers'. Cell Press: Patterns, 2023

[7] C4DISC: Guidelines on Inclusive Language and Images in Scholarly Communication