

HAMBURG
SUSTAINABILITY
CONFERENCE



Global Alliances for a Shared Future

REPORT 2026



›We must not stand idly by
and watch as the cooperative,
rules-based order is weakened,
undermined and shattered.‹

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal
Republic of Germany



1 — GLOBAL ALLIANCES FOR A SHARED FUTURE

The Power of Cooperation: Driving Progress Together

At a time when old certainties about the global economy, international cooperation and sustainable development are being challenged, the Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC) is designed as a space for implementation, a place where political leadership, economic strategy and cross-sector cooperation come together as a force for tangible sustainable transformation. The HSC serves as a trusted space for leaders from governments, the private sector, civil society and academia to turn ambition into action and pave a crucial pathway toward achieving Agenda 2030 while providing strategic foresight for what comes next.

Strengthened by its year-round approach, the HSC is both a platform for collaboration and a forward-looking process that helps shape the next phase of global sustainability and economic development. As international cooperation is under strain, geopolitical fragmentation intensifies and the multi-lateral system faces pressure, the future of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends on more than political commitment—it also depends on how markets evolve, how risk is shared and how regulatory systems align with long-term sustainability goals.

A Platform for Implementation

The HSC is not defined by declarations, but by implementation. It brings together leaders to test ideas against reality, forge practical partnerships and leave with commitments intended to deliver lasting impact. HSC 2026 set out to mobilize public and private investment for sustainable development, harness technological innovation for people and planet, strengthen resilience in fragile contexts and renew international cooperation through practical partnerships.

These ambitions were reflected in a series of concrete milestones. Scaling Capital for Sustainable Development (SCALED) advanced new blended finance models, while Innovative Capital Mobilization in Africa (ICAMA) announced a landmark pension fund investment to unlock institutional



capital for African start-ups and SMEs. The UNDP also unveiled its Blockchain Advisory Group, furthering digital innovation for development finance.

Building on the 2025 Hamburg AI Declaration, the Conference showcased progress on inclusive artificial intelligence and explored how new technologies can accelerate sustainable development across Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). Other initiatives aimed to advance child nutrition, support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in fragility-affected settings and

›These are very challenging and complex times, and no nation alone, no region by itself, will be able to provide the responses we need.«

Laura Chinchilla, Former President of Costa Rica and Co-Chair of the South-North Commission on Development

expand the Global Alliance Against Inequality, recognizing that fragility, conflict and climate shocks increasingly affect global stability and shared prosperity. A defining milestone was the launch of the South-North Commission on Development, bringing together leaders from across regions to help shape the global agenda beyond 2030.

›We do not wait for stability to happen. We create stability.«

Alexander De Croo, UNDP



Photo top: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Trade Organization; Laura Chinchilla, Former President of Costa Rica; Olaf Scholz, Former German Federal Chancellor; Reem Alabali Radovan, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; and moderator Ali Aslan; at the Launch of the South-North Commission on Development / Photo bottom left: New Alliance Talks Stage in the Chamber of Commerce / Photo bottom right: Solution Pitch at HSC 2026.

A woman wearing a teal lace dress and a matching headscarf is smiling and looking towards the left. She is standing in a room with ornate, dark wood paneling and a large framed painting in the background. To her left, the back of a person in a white shirt is visible, and to her right, the back of a man in a dark suit and glasses is visible. The overall atmosphere is formal and professional.

›What we need is a good dose of constructive discomfort—constructive in that we actually address these challenges head-on, without being on the defensive. Because outside these walls, in real lives, things are incredibly painful.‹

Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations

Photo: Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations; in conversation with Achim Steiner, Chair of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference; Reem Alabali Radovan, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; and Jochen Flasbarth, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

A Space for Collaboration and Action

At a time when international cooperation is under increasing pressure, the HSC demonstrates that dialogue remains most valuable when it leads to action. Building on trusted dialogue, the HSC enables new alliances, mobilizes investment, advances innovation and strengthens cooperation where collective solutions matter most. The HSC 2026 program was curated to

strengthen international and cross-sector cooperation in times of disruption while highlighting the private sector's role in accelerating global transformation through scalable innovation and capital mobilization. It also built on alliances formed in previous years, providing updates and launching new commissions that extend earlier achievements.



Photo: Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Nigeria; and Niels Annen, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany.



Resilient Economies, Technology and the Future of Our Planet

Resilient economies are built by both private and public actors working to transform a nation's financial, technological and environmental sectors. The sessions under this theme explored how sustainable prosperity can be advanced by accelerating transitions in energy, industry, cities and nature, while fostering innovation, quality jobs and long-term competitiveness. Technology remains central to this agenda, with the potential to strengthen decision-making, increase transparency and expand sustainable investment. Sessions also examined how responsible innovation, nature-based solutions and sound policy frameworks can help ensure the benefits of technological progress are shared more equitably.

The HSC 2026 program was organized around three thematic pillars that advance a shared vision of sustainability rooted in human and planetary wellbeing. Together, they explored how cooperation, multilateralism and investment can accelerate sustainable development in an increasingly complex world.

»Trees are one of the biggest carbon sinks, so you can see why investment in trees is not a cost, but a benefit.«

Philip Osano, CIFOR-ICRAF

»There's never going to be a world without poverty in a world without nature.«

Valerie Hickey, World Bank Group



Photo top left: **Anacláudia Rossbach**, UN-Habitat, at the Future Talk, Rethinking SDG-Reporting: How AI Revolutionizes Local Sustainability / Photo center: **Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven**, GIZ; **Katie Hoard**, Anheuser-Busch InBev; and **Eckart von Hirschhausen**, Healthy Planet Healthy People Foundation; at the Future Talk, Shock-Proofing the Water-Economy Nexus / Photo bottom left: **Juan Carlos Jintiaich**, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, at the Solution Talk, The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF): A Paradigm Shift in Nature Finance / Photo bottom right: **Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi**, African Center for Economic Transformation, at the New Alliance Talk, Mobilizing Innovative Capital for Entrepreneurs in Africa: ICAMA Live.





›Let us forge alliances that are stronger than the crises we face. Let us work together for a peaceful, just and sustainable future. Not someday. Not somewhere. But here and today.‹

Reem Alabali Radovan, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

›**Sustainability is not losing relevance. If anything, it is being put to the test.**‹

Achim Steiner, Chair of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference



Risk, Uncertainty and Conflict

Geopolitical instability, protracted crises, climate stress, debt burdens and technological disruption are reshaping the global landscape. Risk is no longer an exception to manage but a defining condition for policy, investment and international co-operation. Sessions in this thematic pillar examined how these pressures interact to increase fragility and threaten long-term development, from internal displacement and conflict to biodiversity loss, water insecurity and economic instability. Discussions explored how stronger institutions, strategic investment and cross-sector partnerships can anticipate future shocks, protect development gains and build resilience while creating opportunities in some of the world's most vulnerable settings.



Photo top: HSC guests in conversation / Photo center left: **Uju Rochas-Anwukah**, Federal Republic of Nigeria, delivering remarks at the New Alliance Talk, *The First 1,000 Days: How Child Nutrition Shapes a Lifetime* / Photo center right: **Sheikha Haya Abdulrahman Al-Thani**, Qatar Fund for Development, at the Future Talk, *Advancing Stability, Resilience, and Governance in Syria and the Region* / Photo bottom: **Carl Skau**, World Food Programme (WFP).



›**We need to act with even more speed, agility and scale.**‹

Masato Kanda, Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Ensuring the Future of Human Collaboration: Multilateralism and Governance

In an era of fragmentation and renewed geo-political polarization, multilateralism remains indispensable yet increasingly contested. Declining trust, strained institutions and domestic political pressures weaken collective problem-solving at a time when shared risks are increasing.

The conference sessions within this thematic segment examined how multilateralism can evolve to reflect a more multipolar world, where EMDEs exercise greater agency in shaping international cooperation. The discussions explored reforms to global governance, alliances that extend beyond traditional blocs and new partnership models that strengthen trust while respecting diverse national priorities and development pathways. Together, this thematic pillar examined how multilateral institutions can better translate shared commitments into meaningful action and deliver practical solutions to today's interconnected global challenges.

»Without greater international cooperation, without mutual trust, we will not be able to master global challenges such as climate change or the fight against hunger and poverty.«

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Photo left: **Reem Alabali Radovan**, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; and **Nardos Bekele-Thomas**, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD); at the HSC Women Leadership Circle Dinner / Photo center: An impulse from the audience at the Solution Talk, Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships as a Catalyst of North-South Innovation / Photo right: **Bayo Akomolafe**, Dancing with Mountains, at the session, Reimagining Global Cooperation: Inclusive Development in a Reordered World.



»As the world fragments, the answer is more inclusive cooperation.«

Alexander De Croo, UNDP



›Behind closed doors, I think everybody wants to do the best for their country. That does not mean doing the worst for others.‹

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Trade Organization

3 — HSC YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Next Generation Voices & Fresh Perspectives

The HSC is a future-focused conference committed to fostering a just and inclusive transition toward a sustainable future—one that is shaped collaboratively with those who will be most impacted by it. The next generation of voices is essential to that transition, and the HSC Youth Ambassador Program serves as a platform to turn their ideas into action. This annual initiative empowers young leaders from EMDEs to actively participate in the conference, contribute their expertise and help shape the global sustainability agenda.

Youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow—they are key agents of change today. Yet young voices from EMDEs remain significantly underrepresented in international policy and sustainability dialogues. The HSC Youth Ambassador Program addresses

this imbalance by providing a platform for young changemakers to contribute their perspectives, shape the conversation and influence global action.

Composed of 16 representatives from 14 countries, the HSC Youth Ambassadors collaborate with decision-makers across sectors to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout the conference, they contribute as speakers, moderators and participants in plenary sessions, panels, side events, networking opportunities and media partnerships, ensuring youth perspectives are reflected across the HSC. Their engagement continues throughout the year through roundtables, expert dialogues and collaborative initiatives that help advance the HSC mission and strengthen international cooperation.



Photo: Alexander de Croo, UNDP, at the meet-and-greet with the HSC Youth Ambassadors.

›In Timbuktu, climate change is a daily reality. Every flood or drought reshapes our lives, yet young people continue to lead solutions often without the resources they deserve.‹

Ahmed Ag Mohamed, Jeunes Voix du Sahel Mali, and UNICEF Youth Delegate

›Sustainability is not only about protecting the environment; it is about finding opportunities amid uncertainty. In a country shaped by overlapping crises, what gives me hope is seeing young people transform uncertainty into action and continue building the future they want to live in.‹

Carole Nassredine, HSC Youth Ambassador

›We cannot solve challenges we do not understand.‹

Ly Tran, HSC Youth Ambassador

4 — FOSTERING LEADERSHIP

Empowering Diverse Perspectives

The HSC Women Leadership Circle launched at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference 2026 as a new flagship initiative, spearheaded by HSC Council Vice-Chair and former Vice-President and Foreign Minister of Panama, Isabel de Saint Malo. The initiative creates dedicated spaces for women leaders from government, international organizations, business, civil society and academia to connect, exchange experiences and strengthen cross-sector collaboration on sustainability challenges. More than 40 women leaders participated, alongside HSC Youth Ambassadors who joined all three events to foster intergenerational dialogue and bring youth perspectives into the discussions.

The inaugural initiative focused on ›Women Leading the AI Transformation‹ and featured three interconnected formats: a Solution Talk exploring the role of AI for women's health, a side event focused on women's leadership in shaping the future of artificial intelligence and a high-level networking dinner that offered opportunities for collaboration.

The launch marks an important step in strengthening women's leadership within the HSC. By fostering dialogue, visibility and partnerships, the HSC Women Leadership Circle reinforces the HSC's commitment to inclusive leadership and provides a growing platform for women leaders to drive sustainable transformation.



›Women count—and yet the data does not count all women.‹

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women



›Gender equality in the digital age isn't just about access. It's about agency. It's about ensuring young women are not only using digital tools but co-creating the systems and policies that shape our futures.‹

Jacquiline Msambila, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Tanzania, and HSC Youth Ambassador



›Sustainability is not just a buzzword. It is becoming more practical, moving from declarations into systems, finance, technology, data, supply chains, markets and public institutions. It is becoming increasingly embedded in all these sectors.‹

Juliana Rotich, Kehmet Consulting, and Vice Chair of the HSC Council

Photo top left: Isabel de Saint Malo, Vice Chair of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference and Initiator of the HSC Women Leadership Circle / Photo top right: Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women, at the Solution Talk, AI for Health Equity: Advancing Better Health for Girls and Women. / Photo bottom left: Jacquiline Msambila, HSC Youth Ambassador, at the Solution Talk, AI for Health Equity: Advancing Better Health for Girls and HSC Women / Photo bottom right: Juliana Rotich, Kehmet Consulting and Vice Chair of the HSC Council, at the HSC Women Leadership Circle Dinner.

5 — HSC PARTNERS

Partners in Progress

The Hamburg Sustainability Conference is co-created with a diverse group of forward-thinking partners, including private sector actors and institutions committed to advancing long-term sustainable development. Their strategic input, financial support and shared ambition help enable breakthrough initiatives and translate ideas into tangible impact.

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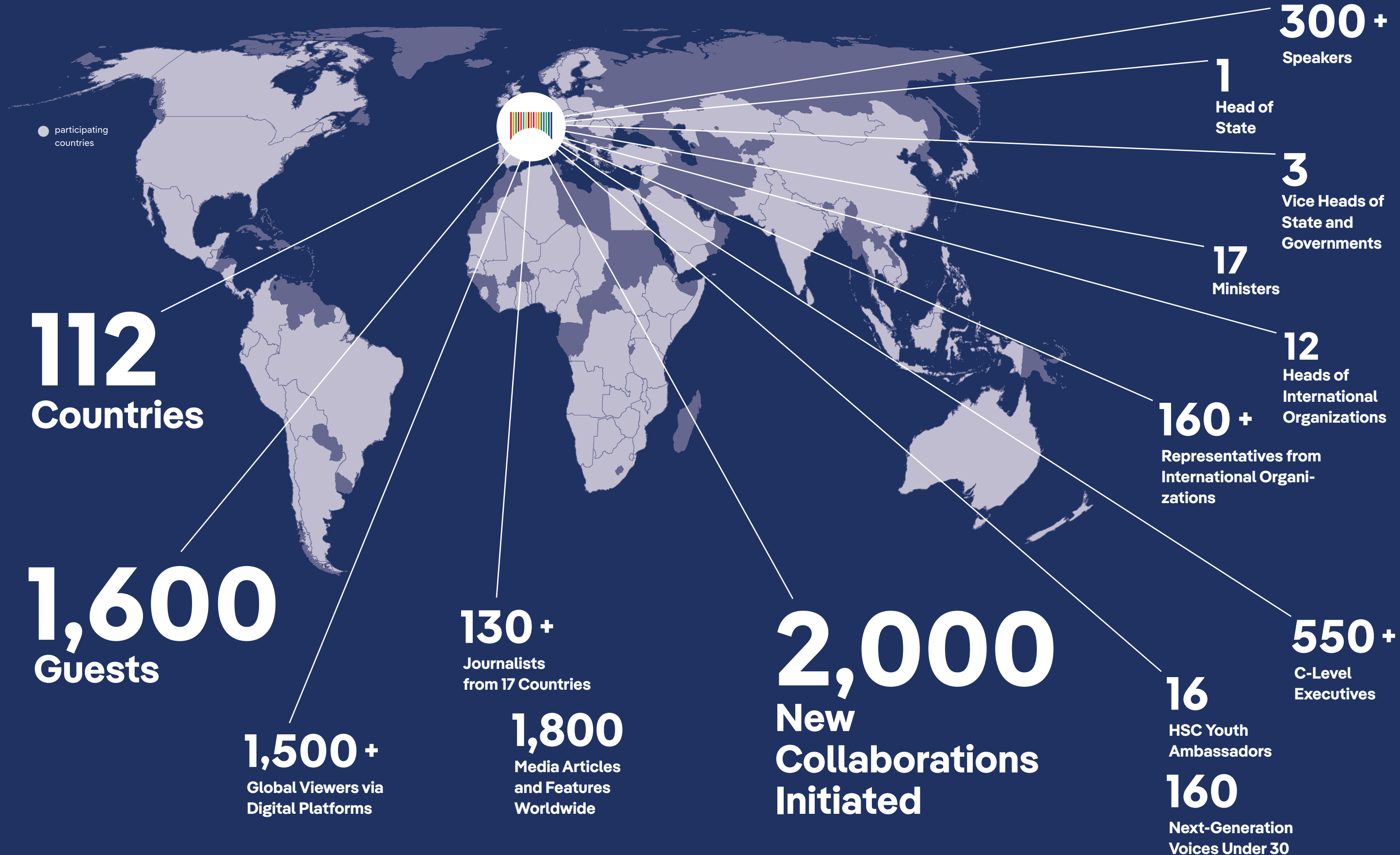
NIKKEI Asia

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THE BANKER
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Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development BMZ
United Nations Development Programme UNDP
Michael Otto Foundation
Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

African Development Bank AfDB · Amref Health Africa · Auma Obama Foundation Sauti Kuu · Ban Ki-moon Foundation · Behörde für Umwelt, Klima, Energie und Agrarwirtschaft Hamburg BUKEA · Bhumi Sewa Networks · Brunswick Group · Business Association for Latin America LAV · Business Empowerment Hub AiDiA · CapaCITIES · Cardano Foundation · Climate KIC · Climate Policy Initiative CPI · Council on Foreign Relations CFR · Country Platforms Hub · Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Republic of South Africa · Deutsche Bank · Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU · Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ · Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer DIHK · Dorsch Global · DZ Bank · East Asian Association OAV · ESRI Europe · Eurasia Group · European Federation for Transport and Environment · European Policy Centre EPC · EY · Federal Foreign Office · Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy BMWF · Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety BMUKN · Federal Ministry of Finance BMF · Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom FCDO · Future of Development Cooperation Coalition FDCC · Gates Foundation · German Commission for UNESCO · German Institute of Development and Sustainability IDOS · German Water Partnership · German-African Business Association · Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero GFANZ · Global Perspectives Initiative · Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil · Government of Kenya · Government of St. Kitts and Nevis · Green Guarantee Group · Hamburg Chamber of Commerce · Helmut Schmidt University / University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg · HyaPak · ICLEI Europe · IFAT · IMPACT Kenya · Initiative for Nature-Aligned Transition · International Chamber of Commerce ICC · International Finance Corporation IFC · International Institute for Sustainable Development IISD · JUST · ADD AI · Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung · Kuehne Climate Centre · Kühne Foundation · Kühne Logistics University KLU · Lloyd's Register Foundation · Michael Otto Foundation for Sustainability · Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, French Republic · Mombasa County, Republic of Kenya · Monash University · Moody's Ratings · Munich Security Conference · Namati · NYU Center on International Cooperation CIC · Observer Research Foundation ORF · Observer Research Foundation Middle East ORF ME · Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance · Otto Group · Propel · Rare Europe · Robert Bosch Stiftung · Sahara Ventures · Scaling Capital for Sustainable Development SCALED · Senate Chancellery Hamburg · ShEquity Partners · Siemens Stiftung · Southern Voice · Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation AECID · Stellar Development Foundation · Stiftelsen Världsnaturfonden WWF Sweden · Stiftung Gesunde Erde Gesunde Menschen · Stiftung Mercator · Stockholm Environment Institute · Supporters of the UN Development System Alliance UNDS Alliance · Taskforce on Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures TISFD · Team Malizia · Technical University Hamburg · The Nature Conservancy TNC · The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD · TMG Think Tank for Sustainability · TURBOO GmbH · UN SDG Action Campaign · United Nations Human Settlements Programme UN-Habitat · UNDP Climate Promise · UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning · UNICEF · United Nations Capital Development Fund UNCDF · United Nations Global Solutions Hub UNSH · United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities UNITAC · Universidade Estadual de Goiás UEG · University of Hamburg · Volkswagen Foundation · Wakanda Food Accelerator · Welthungerhilfe · Wildlife Conservation Society WCS · Wilo-Foundation · World Agroforestry ICRAF · World Bank Group · World Business Council for Sustainable Development · World Resources Institute WRI · Wuppertal Institut · youturn – Modular Biodiversity Systems



Forging New Alliances for a Sustainable Future

Now in its third year, the Hamburg Sustainability Conference once again served as a platform for advancing concrete solutions to global challenges. Among its key outcomes was the launch of the South-North Commission on Development, co-chaired by former Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla and former German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, which will inform and inspire new global achievements beyond the 2030

Agenda. The conference also propelled new initiatives, declarations and alliances while tracking the progress of commitments made in its first two editions. Notably, sessions addressed urgent global challenges, including the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the recent Ebola outbreaks and concerns around representation and data protection in AI.



Photo: Reem Alabali Radovan, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; and Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations; at the Future Talk, Bridges not Barriers UN80 and the Fight for the Future of Multilateral Cooperation Livestream.

Launch of the South-North Commission on Development

Co-chaired by former Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla and former German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, the Commission brings together players from all regions of the world to develop solutions to global challenges, strengthen multilateralism and foster new forms of international co-operation.



Photo top: **Olaf Scholz**, Former German Federal Chancellor; **Laura Chinchilla**, Former President of Costa Rica; **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, World Trade Organization; and **Reem Alabali Radovan**, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; at the Launch of the South-North Commission on Development / Photo center: **Beza Haile**, HOPE-SBH; at the New Alliance Talk, *The First 1,000 Days: How Child Nutrition Shapes a Lifetime*. / Photo bottom: **Jennifer Chapman**, Minister of State for International Development and Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom; and **Sidi Ould Tah**, African Development Bank Group; at the Future Talk, *Navigating the Hormuz Crisis: Forging a Collective Response*.

›When we unite around a shared purpose—progress is not only possible—it is inevitable.‹

Beza Haile, HOPE-SBH



Ending Child Malnutrition: The 1,000 Days Initiative for Food Security

The German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), private sector partners, partner countries, UNICEF and the World Food Programme launched a joint call to action to advance concrete measures that improve nutrition for children worldwide during the first 1,000 days of life.

Joint Declaration on the Strait of Hormuz

Germany, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and UNDP presented a joint declaration on the impact of the Strait of Hormuz blockade on the Global South. The declaration calls for coordinated support to address rising energy, food and fertilizer prices and to strengthen resilience in vulnerable countries.



›It is one of the biggest necessities for all of us to understand this completely new world.‹

Olaf Scholz, Former German Federal Chancellor and Co-Chair of the South-North Commission on Development

›There's a lot of private capital available to invest in sustainability. But unless there's commercial returns, it's philanthropy.‹

John Denton, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)



Photo top right: Nick Anstett, FinDev Canada; Martin Ewald, SCALED; Christiane Laibach, KfW; Niels Annen, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany; Patricia Victoria Peña, Global Affairs Canada; Peter Maurer, Zurich Insurance; and Udo Riese, Allianz Investment Management; at the New Alliance Talk, SCALED: A New Era of Sustainable Investing / Photo bottom left: Christiane Laibach, KfW / Photo bottom right: Chacko Thomas, Tata Sons, at the New Alliance Talk, Competitiveness and Decarbonization in the Green Industrial Transition.



Ebola Outbreaks: Solidarity & Coordination

Government representatives from African and partner countries, together with international organizations, met to discuss the Ebola outbreaks. Participants reaffirmed concrete support measures and called for continued close coordination to contain the outbreaks.

SCALED Milestone on Private Investment Mobilization

The SCALED initiative brought together Germany and Canada as public partners and Allianz, La Caisse and Zurich Insurance Group as private sector partners. The new investment services company aims to mobilize private capital through standardized, scalable blended finance vehicles.



Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI for the SDGs: Progress Update

The alliance behind the Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI for the SDGs, comprising nearly 60 endorsing organizations, presented its progress on implementation and impact. The progress update highlighted concrete use cases, welcomed new endorsers and outlined next steps that include open-source development, local language solutions, capacity building and locally driven AI ecosystems.

›The idea is to ensure that we have all the companies in these diverse businesses having a North Star and pulling towards it.‹

Chacko Thomas, Tata Sons

The Global Alliance Against Inequality

Launched at HSC 2025, the alliance aims to address systemic income, wealth and opportunity disparities. It seeks to elevate inequality on the global policy agenda by fostering evidence-based solutions and cross-regional cooperation. This year, it welcomed new members and agreed on a joint statement.

Joint Communiqué on Closing the Global Skills Gap

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), SAP, the World Bank Group and GIZ signed a Joint Communiqué addressing geopolitical tensions and demographic shifts reshaping global labor markets. It highlights employment, skills development and talent mobility as key drivers of competitiveness and resilient growth.

»It's not enough to develop great AI if no one can apply it in their jobs.«

Christian Klein, SAP



»What matters now is to seize this momentum and move swiftly into implementation.«

Michael Otto, Otto Group

Photo top: **Michael Otto**, Otto Group; in conversation with **Catherine Russell**, UNICEF / Photo bottom left: **Vera Songwe**, Liquidity and Sustainability Facility; **Christian Klein**, SAP; **Gilbert F. Houngbo**, International Labour Organization; **Reem Alabali Radovan**, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; **Paschal Donohoe**, World Bank; and **Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven**, GIZ; at the Signing of the Joint Communiqué on Closing the Global Skills Gap / Photo bottom right: **Hamdiya Ismaila**, Savannah Impact Advisory; and **Anna Sophie Herken**, GIZ, at the New Alliance Talk, Mobilizing Innovative Capital for Entrepreneurs in Africa: ICAMA Live.



ICAMA: First Implementation Successes

Following its launch at HSC25, the Innovative Capital Mobilisation in Africa (ICAMA) initiative mobilizes private capital for start-ups and small businesses across Africa with a focus on innovation and job creation. In Ghana, USD 35 million has already been committed to support investment.

›The challenges of our time do not stop at national borders. We are living in a world in transition. Crises and conflicts are increasingly intertwined.‹

Reem Alabali Radovan, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Hamburg–Saint Kitts and Nevis Skills Partnership

Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Stadtreinigung Hamburg agreed to establish a new skills partnership aimed at equipping the next generation's workforce with tools to address environmental challenges. A trainee pilot project will commence in August 2026.

Other Notable Agreements, Signings & Announcements

Additional key outcomes at HSC 2026 include recommendations from an international alliance of 22 Member States handed

to UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed by Minister Alabali Radovan; UNDP's launch of the first climate insurance product in Latin America and the Caribbean; a GIIF–DEG partnership with MSIG; an MoU between FSDAi, FSD Africa and GIZ on capital mobilization; a GIZ–Equity Group Holdings partnership on investment; an MoU between GIZ and Anheuser-Busch InBev on water security; a UNDP Call to Action on sustainable economies; the Hamburg Declaration for Strategic African Diaspora Engagement; and an agreement between GIZ and the Savannah Institute for Innovative Finance on GIZ's contribution to Ci-Gaba's Technical Assistance Facility.



Photo left: **Peter Tschentscher**, First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg; at the High-Level Opening of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference 2026. / Photo right: **Clayticia Daniel**, Ministry of Environment of Saint Kitts and Nevis; **Katharina Fegebank**, Senator and Second Mayor, Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg; **Geoffrey Ian Hanley**, Deputy Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis; **Kristian Kuen**, Stadtreinigung Hamburg; together with Stadtreinigung Hamburg workers at Rathausmarkt Future Garden in front of Hamburg City Hall.

›Tangible global progress can only be achieved through close cooperation and joint action.‹

Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Achim Steiner, a man with glasses and a dark suit, is speaking at a podium. He is gesturing with both hands. The podium has a microphone and a glass of water. The background features vertical stripes in blue, yellow, orange, and pink. The podium has the text 'HAMBURG SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE' and a colorful logo.

›We can choose to see the diversity of perspectives and interests as a source of division—or we can recognize it for what it is: an essential capacity for tackling the systemic challenges of our time.‹

Achim Steiner, Chair of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference

A Year-Round Framework for Development

The HSC organizes roundtables throughout the year to extend its impact beyond the annual conference. Bringing together between 15 and 100 experts and stakeholders, these sessions help implement concrete solutions, sustain new alliances, prepare breakthroughs and place HSC priorities in high-level global forums. Held across the world, including Nairobi, Berlin, Munich, Delhi, São Paulo, Brussels, Washington, D.C., as well as in digital formats, the HSC roundtables foster trust, sharpen agendas, deepen understanding of policies and agreements and create spaces to further develop practical and evidence-based solutions to sustainability challenges.

In 2026, HSC roundtables supported the development of new ideas, strengthened

existing partnerships and helped shape the HSC program. These exchanges explored global sustainability frameworks beyond 2030, the future of international cooperation, EU–Latin America green partnerships and practical approaches to investment, risk-sharing and local value creation. Youth Ambassador roundtables in Nairobi and Berlin gave young leaders a role in shaping the program by identifying barriers, policy priorities, session ideas and possible post-HSC initiatives. At the same time, engagements at forums such as the Raisina Dialogue and World Bank Spring Meetings brought HSC priorities into wider international discussions, connecting sustainability, development, security, finance and trade communities.



»We need to move from diagnosis to implementation by bringing Emerging Markets and Developing Economies, middle powers and the private sector into shaping solutions that actually deliver.«

Isabel de Saint Malo, Vice Chair of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, and Initiator of the HSC Women Leadership Circle

Blueprints for a Better Economy

Building on key discussions from the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, the HSC Future Economy Day explores the challenge of achieving a sustainable economic transformation. In 2026, leaders from business, international organizations, finance and sustainability initiatives examined how the digital and AI revolution can accelerate this transition. Across the three panels, discussions highlighted that a successful twin transition requires ecosystems in which businesses, public actors, innovators and investors work together to harness digital innovation for sustainable growth.

Realizing this potential also depends on finance. Closing the sustainable investment gap, especially in developing countries, requires not only capital but also harmonized standards, local relevance, de-risking tools,

climate-resilient debt clauses, credible carbon markets and stronger partnerships. Alongside financing, circularity has emerged as a third lever, becoming an increasingly important business strategy for resilience, innovation, resource security and long-term competitiveness.

Organized by business for business, this additional conference day brings together stakeholders from the private and financial sectors to explore challenges and opportunities from the perspective of people in finance, global trade and local economies. It also welcomes participants from politics, civil society and academia within the HSC network to exchange ideas and scale best practices, advancing the HSC Mission Goal 1: ›Activate the private sector for SDG commitment‹.



Photo: Moderator Katie Gallus; John Denton, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); Tatiana Molcean, UNECE; and Samed Ağırbaş, Zero Waste Foundation; at HSC Future Economy Day. © Kati Jurischka / Handelskammer Hamburg

Organizers



Partners



›What gives me confidence is that we have excellent ideas, technological expertise and entrepreneurial drive worldwide.‹

Michael Otto, Otto Group



Impressions from Rathausmarkt
Future Garden 2026



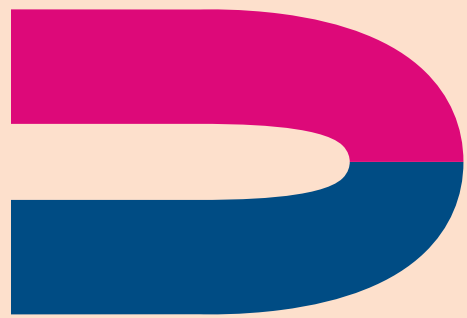
9 — RATHAUSMARKT FUTURE GARDEN

Making Sustainability Accessible

As a joint initiative of the Hamburg Sustainability Week and HSC, Rathausmarkt in front of Hamburg City Hall was transformed into an interactive green space where the public could experience sustainability in practice. The Future Garden welcomed more than 8,000 visitors, including conference participants, local community members, sustainability advocates and other visitors, through workshops, outdoor activities, screenings and information sessions. From exploring different types of seeds according to their shape with Hamburger Klimaschutzstiftung to repairing outdoor gear with Globetrotter, the program offered accessible ways to engage with sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Cube featured HSC livestreams and selected films from local partners, while the Dome hosted panels and workshops on topics

including the future of sustainable development, equality of opportunity and circular transformation.

The Rathausmarkt Future Garden welcomed guests and panelists including Nils Annen (German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development), Juliana Rotich (Vice Chair of the HSC), Auma Obama (2nd Patron of the Week), Ilya Espino de Marotta (Administrator of the Panama Canal), Sonja Stuchtey (Land-banking Group), Katja Kirchstein (WWF) and Metin Hakverdi (SPD Hamburg), alongside more than 50 partners. Through its combination of global perspectives and local engagement, the Future Garden demonstrated how sustainability can become tangible, participatory and relevant to everyday life.



10 — HAMBURG SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

›For Hamburg, the 17 Goals are not just abstract ambitions but a daily responsibility that guides our actions.«

Katharina Fegebank, Senator and Second Mayor, Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

We're Shaping the Future. Together.

The Hamburg Sustainability Week invites Hamburg residents, community organizations and local changemakers to engage with the city's most pressing sustainability issues through the lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Its goal is to drive local transformation, foster

collaboration and develop solutions to the challenges of our time. At the same time, the Week provides citizens with opportunities to learn about sustainability issues and contribute their ideas to a growing network of people actively shaping the future.



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HAMBURG
SUSTAINABILITY
WEEK



Photo below: **Katharina Fegebank**, Senator and Second Mayor, Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.



Local Action for Global Challenges

This year, the Hamburg Sustainability Week returned with an expanded program, featuring nearly 250 events across 35 neighborhoods, involving 150 partner institutions and attracting more than 10,000 visitors. At St. Katharinen Church, visitors experienced Helios, a seven-meter immersive art installation of the sun by British artist Luke Jerram. Other hands-on activities, creative projects and open dialogues span-

ning youth engagement, dance, visual arts, circular furniture systems and more brought sustainability to life. Strong partnerships helped bring the Week to diverse audiences, with contributions from figures such as Luisa Neubauer, Eckart von Hirschhausen, co-initiators of the HSC, Alexander De Croo and Michael Otto, as well as the Chair of the HSC Council, Achim Steiner.



Impressions from the Hamburg Sustainability Week, captured across the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

Creating Access, Safety and Lasting Impact

Sustainability, inclusion and accessibility are embedded into every aspect of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference. We value the diversity of our community and rely on different perspectives and experiences to foster creative and inclusive solutions. We promote innovative and effective measures that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen our resilience to climate change.

Climate Protection & Energy Efficiency

The HSC works to reduce its environmental footprint by monitoring logistics, travel and energy use across the Conference. We

encourage participants to choose the least carbon-intensive modes of transport, prioritize energy-efficient technical equipment and work with local suppliers to reduce transport-related emissions. All catering is vegetarian and regionally sourced.

Sustainable Design & Circular Materials

The HSC embraces circular design principles wherever possible. Approximately 70% of materials from our previous events are reused, including structural components for our stages, backdrops, banners and branded furniture. Printed materials use CoffeeCup Paper, made from 25% upcycled

coffee cups and 75% recycled paper, while the Pangea typeface helps reduce the environmental impact of printing.

Responsible Partnerships & Inclusive Participation

Clear diversity criteria ensure the HSC is inclusive and accessible, with strong participation from EMDEs and meaningful representation of youth and women. All HSC partners must meet our standards of partnership engagement. Our funding and co-creation partners undergo a due diligence process we developed with the UNDP.

Green Events Seal

Since 2024, the HSC has partnered with Network Green Events to strengthen its sustainability performance. We use KPIs to measure progress, identify opportunities for improvement and report transparently on our sustainability journey. Following an independent audit, the Hamburg Sustainability Conference 2025 received the Premium Seal, the highest level of certification for sustainable event management.



A photograph of four women in professional attire engaged in conversation at a formal event. The woman on the far left is smiling and looking towards the center. The woman next to her is also smiling and looking towards the center. The woman in the center is looking towards the woman on the far right. The woman on the far right is gesturing with her hands while speaking. They are standing in a room with ornate wood paneling and large windows in the background.

›The best investment
anyone can make is
investing in people.‹

Hind Kabawat, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of
the Syrian Arab Republic

Photo: Laura Chinchilla, Former President of Costa Rica and Co-Chair of the South-North Commission on Development; Isabel de Saint Malo, Vice Chair of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, and Initiator of the HSC Women Leadership Circle; Hind Kabawat, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour of the Syrian Arab Republic; and Catherine Russell, UNICEF; in conversation.

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