



Presents

6th International Vision Seminar 2022

**ESG to SDG – The Roadmap for a Sustainable
World**

24th-26th February 2022



Globsyn Business School

Over the last two decades, Globsyn Business School (GBS) has uniquely positioned itself as India's first 'Corporate B-School', with its two years full-time Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) being approved by AICTE. We have received many laurels from the education fraternity from time to time and have been ranked among the Top 5 B-Schools in Eastern India as per Business India's Best B-Schools Survey 2019. In December 2021, we have been conferred the prestigious award of "Leading B-School in Eastern India" by Times Brand Icons. Established in 2002, it now has more than 3000 alumni pursuing meaningful careers in India and abroad.

Vision Seminar Series

Globsyn Business School believes that apart from becoming competent business managers, its graduates should also be responsible citizens of the society at large. Among several activities towards this end, a Vision Seminar Series was instituted in 2017 with the aim of sensitizing participants on issues of social concern where business managers and their organizations can make an impactful contribution. Accordingly, the themes of the Vision Seminars held so far have been as follows:

- 1st Vision Seminar (2017) : Spirituality in Management Education
- 2nd Vision Seminar (2018) : Women Empowerment
- 3rd Vision Seminar (2019) : Corporate Ethics and Responsible Leadership
- 4th Vision Seminar (2020) : Technology in Management in the Age of Industry 4.0
- 5th Vision Seminar (2021) : Sustainability in the Age of Disruption

Vision Seminar 2022: ESG to SDG – The Roadmap for a Sustainable World

The 6th International Vision Seminar slated for 2022 will be dedicated to the theme: ESG to SDG – the roadmap for a sustainable world.

The practice of aligning investment decision making with the societal and environmental aspects were initiated way back in the 1960s with investors excluding stocks or entire industries from their portfolios based on business activities such as tobacco production or involvement in the South African apartheid regime. The practice gained momentum and in October 2005, the United Nations

Environment Program Initiative in the Fresh fields Report coined the acronym ESG where E stood for Environmental (Climate change, Natural resources, Pollution & waste & Environmental opportunities), S stood for Social (Human capital, Product liability, Stakeholder opposition & Social opportunities) and G stood for Governance (Corporate governance & Corporate behavior). Subsequently, it became a sustainable finance and responsible investment framework in the ECOSOC Chamber at UNHQ. The ambit gradually widened over the later years and all United Nations Member States in 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which provided a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, not only for the present but also into the future. At the heart of the blueprint, are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership.

The goals require contribution from all stakeholders of the planet including the world of business. Though among the collective of 17 global goals quite a few are specifically relevant to bodies corporate, the realization of SDG is largely dependent on governmental and intergovernmental processes. Alongside SDG, the idea of ESG has been gaining ground being directly relevant to business and industry. SDG and ESG of course overlap and each of the global goals under SDG can be mapped with one or more of the three components of ESG.

Achieving SDG is the entire gamut of ESG and SDG is obviously overwhelming. The deliberations of the Vision Seminar will therefore be focused certain aspects of direct relevance to business and industry through the following four dedicated sub-themes.

Session Sub-Themes

Apart from the Inaugural and Valedictory sessions, the Vision Seminar proceedings will flow through the following session-wise sub-themes:

(i) Reducing Disparities and Ensuring Equality - The People Agenda:

Disparities in income and discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion and gender are blotches on the canvas of human civilization. The 17 UNDP Sustainable Development Goals, as mutually agreed upon by 193 nations in 2015, stresses on eradication of this menace by including Primary Education, Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities as Goal Nos. 4, 5 & 10 respectively. From the ESG point of view, these goals relate to the human capital, social aspect of employee diversity and Management Structure and Executive Compensation from the Governance angle. Of all forms of inequalities, those relating to gender are more severe because they cut across the divides of economic wellbeing and social standing. These disparities that exist in the society at large are carried over to business organizations where they translate to lack of diversity in the staff pool, poor representation of marginalized groups in top echelons and disproportionate variance in pay prospects. Rather than succumbing to such societal disparities, business leaders and leading business organizations must work towards removing or reducing them.

(ii) Mitigating Climate Change and Maintaining Biodiversity - The Planet Agenda:

It must be remembered that life on earth is dependent on the planet and not the other way round. Creation and consumption of energy which is essential to foster material wellbeing has been taken to a stage where it is causing such damage to the planet which the human race itself will not be able to

sustain. Signs of adverse impact on biodiversity are starkly evident. The world-wide call for climate action and governmental and inter-governmental efforts requires due response from business organizations. The UNDP Goal No. 7 emphasizes on affordable and clean energy and the Goal No. 13 hinges on the importance of Climate Action to achieve Zero Emission. The environmental aspect of climate change as well as bio-diversity along with the social effect of impact on local communities constitute the ESG point of view towards the planet agenda. The need is thus to adopt alternate sources of energy which are clean, factoring in their affordability and impact on local communities.

(iii) Promoting Responsible Industrialization - The Prosperity Agenda:

In addition to energy related aspects, there are many other areas where irresponsible industrialization has led to unsustainable ends. These include mindless exploitation of resources and gross use and refuse of hazardous material. Business organizations have to meet challenges in this aspect by fostering innovation that create alternative paths to reach the goals of industrialization. The UNDP Goal No. 9 thus identifies Industrialization, Innovation and Infrastructure to be an essential aspect of sustainable development. The need for responsible consumption and production by industries to ensure sustainable development is authenticated by including Responsible consumption and production as UNDP Goal No. 12. The Natural resource depletion, waste and pollution, hazardous materials, coming under the ambit of environment and consumer protection as well as data protection constituting the social aspect, are the corresponding ESG angles to these goals. Large organizations must also help smaller businesses to move in the desired direction through financial and technological support. They must also integrate sustainability into production processes, sourcing avenues and consumer offerings.

(iv) Ensuring Peace, Justice and Societal Wellbeing - The Peace Agenda:

Armed conflict or any other emergency, is a must for achieving social peace and harmony. The UNDP Goal No. 16 underlines this need. Business organizations have emerged as the most prominent growth engine for human civilization. As such, they are responsible not only to enable financial growth of its investors but also to ensure decent growth for all stakeholders including employees, vendors, customers and the community. This calls for efforts on multiple fronts. They should strive to create congenial employee relations and hospitable work environment, promote consumer awareness on its products and contribute to creating public awareness on sustainable development and healthy lifestyles. They must also stand guard against all forms of corruption in the interface with vendors, customers and the government. However, this herculean task can be expedited by the cooperation among the nations, which has become a lot convenient in the present digital era. The corresponding ESG concerns to these goals from the social angle are social opportunities whereas from the governance angle, bribery, corruption, political lobbying & donations with vested interests along with evasion of tax liabilities are the prominent issues. This essential requirement has been mentioned as the Goal No. 17 by UNDP.

Globsyn Business School, in its 20th year, will be addressing nine SDG goals (4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17) relevant to the Education Industry, in consonance with the ESG Concerns and SDG Goals.

The SDG goals and ESG concerns corresponding to the sub-themes are contained in the following matrix:

Session Sub-Theme	SDG Goals	ESG Concerns
Reducing Disparities and Ensuring Equality - The People Agenda	Goal 4: Quality education Goal 5: Gender equality. Goal 10: Reduced inequalities.	Social: Primary Education, Employee diversity. Governance: Management structure; executive compensation.
Mitigating Climate Change and Maintaining Biodiversity - The Planet Agenda	Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy. Goal 13: Climate action	Environmental: Climate change; biodiversity. Social: Impact on local communities.
Promoting Responsible Industrialization & Prosperity - The Prosperity Agenda	Goal 9: Industrialization, innovation and infrastructure. Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production.	Environmental: Natural resource depletion; waste and pollution; hazardous material. Social: Consumer protection; data protection.
Ensuring Peace, Justice and Societal Wellbeing - The Peace Agenda	Goal 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institution. Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals.	Social: Social Harmony Governance: Bribery and corruption; political lobbying and donations; tax strategy.

Pre-Seminar Workshop on Responsible Business - Guidelines and Reporting

The seminar will be preceded by a workshop on Responsible Business – Guidelines and Reporting. It will include the following:

- The 10 Principles of UN Global Compact and other international guidelines on corporate social responsibility
- Section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 on statutory provisions of CSR in India
- The 9 Principles comprising National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, India.
- Business Responsibility Reporting mandated by Securities & Exchange Board of India

The reckoning of good corporate citizenship is progressively shifting from what is made of the profit to how the profit is made. ESG and SDG provide a roadmap for a sustainable world so that the planet can survive and business can thrive. The Vision Seminar and the pre-seminar Workshop will enlighten participants on the business imperatives around people, planet and prosperity.