



Ten Grand Sustainability Challenges

Cross Cutting	Sustainability Grand Challenges (Generated from IMSS 2023 on Sustainability and Circular Economy)	UN Sustainable Development Goals	COP2028 Thematic areas
Frontline communities	1. Ocean acidification The acidity of our oceans has increased significantly due to associated chemical reactions caused by Co2 dissolving in seawater because of atmospheric pollution, this is harming marine life and the ocean ecosystem including sea-life	SDG 14 – Life below water SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation	Nature, Land Use, and Oceans
Frontline communities	2. Resource depletion The consumption of resources (renewable and non-renewal) is taking place faster than they can be replenished resulting in a shortage of key resources such as water, fossil fuel, trees, and fish which are essential for human existence	SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production	Nature, Land Use, and Oceans
Tech & innovation	3. Cleaner, greener, and safer energy Having access to energy sources which are natural, self-replenishing and associated with minimal use of harmful chemicals or radiation which leads to a zero/low carbon footprint	SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy	Just Energy Transition / Industry / Trade
Inclusion	4. Behavioural change Changing the grassroots level behaviour of people across nations in relation to sustainability and achieving the UN SDGs is one of the most important challenges that needs to be tackled, together with the identification and sharing of associated good practices of behavioural change that are leading to positive sustainability outcomes	SD4 – Quality education	Youth, Education, and Skills
Frontline communities	5. Sustainable, equitable food systems Inequitable access to food and nutrition for people who are unemployed or on low income across both the developing and developed world is leading to poor health and well-being outcomes, impacting their life chances.	SDG 2 – Zero hunger	Food and Water Systems



Frontline communities	6. Interdisciplinary collaboration The absence or collaboration and sharing of good practices on sustainability and UN SDGs is leading to a fragmented world and inequalities in development and economic and social prosperity.	SDG17 – Partnerships for the goals	Cities, Regions, and Urbanization / Transport
Finance	7. Green infrastructure The expansion of urban cities and the construction of industrial buildings and housing to accommodate growing populations and their needs is resulting in the depletion of natural habitats and green spaces, leading to environmental disasters such as flooding particularly in fast-growing economies.	SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Cities, Regions, and Urbanization / Transport
Finance	8. Measurement frameworks The incongruence in how full and productive employment with safety, job security, and equal conditions for women and men are evaluated across different nations and regions of the world is contributing to a widening gap between the rich and the poor and the life chances of the global population.	SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth	Finance / Gender Equality
Frontline communities	9. Biodiversity & ecosystem degradation Continued changes to natural habitats forced by human needs and overconsumption are leading to loss of ecological integrity and damage to eco-systems, ultimately leading to climate change.	SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production	Nature, Land Use, and Oceans
Frontline communities	10. Health inequalities Inequitable access to basic healthcare in some nations/regions is leading to severe inequalities in the quality of life and well-being of people and thus impacting their life expectancy, productivity, and socio-economic progress.	SDG 3 – Good health and Well-being	Health / Relief, Recovery, and Peace