



**GENEVA**  
**TRIALOGUE**  
Scaling Open Innovation for the SDGs

# Scaling Open Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Online - 18 March 2021

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# An Overview

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The 2021 Geneva Trialogue on Scaling Open Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) continued and promoted the discourse and action towards the SDGs’ implementation, by featuring the collective progress being made by academia, international organizations and the private sector since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and since the previous Trialogue edition on Scaling Education for the SDGs, which took place in 2019.

In its third edition, the biennial event co-hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the University of Geneva, brought together 35 old and new Geneva Trialogue partners from International Geneva, from the European Crowd4SDG project, from the Geneva Tsinghua Initiative and from the University Global Coalition, who presented novel perspectives and solution paths within the SDGs’ course of action.

Overall 50 representatives from international organizations, academia, companies and start-ups, introduced ways to scale open and collaborative innovation among all stakeholders in order to maximize the capacities and potential to achieve the Global Goals, to a global audience of 520 participants joining from around the world.



Open innovation by the UN

Open innovation in the UN

Open innovation for the UN

Financing Open Innovation

Integrating Open Innovation

Connecting Open Innovation

Sustaining Open Innovation

# The theme “Scaling Open Innovation for the SDGs”

The 2021 Geneva Triologue considers open innovation as the practice of people working together in tackling problems and finding concrete resolution paths through the mobilization of collective intelligence locally and globally.

In the spirit of creating awareness of connected initiatives and opportunities that promote, use and produce open innovation as a practice and methodology in a variety of areas associated with different SDGs’ global challenges, the 2021 Geneva Triologue was reflected and implemented around 7 key themes for all stakeholders to scale Open Innovation for the SDGs.

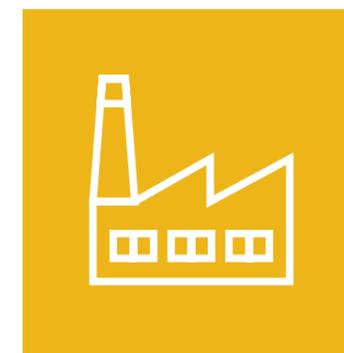
On 18 March 2021, 7 panel discussions took place, each dedicated to one of the Open Innovation themes.

The morning sessions were focused on Open Innovation coming from a United Nations collective initiative to mobilize youth at scale, Open Innovation developed in the UN Geneva ecosystem and utilized for the UN and other international organizations whose needs should effectively be addressed.

The afternoon sessions presented different aspects of the course of action leading to scaling open innovation; Financing Open Innovation as practice to support education for the SDGs, Integrating practical advantages of open innovation to increase opportunities of innovation with a focus on early career starters, Connecting Open Innovation for the new ecosystem for learning through knowledge and research, and Sustaining open innovation as an acceleration method to help innovation projects reach full potential.



Academia



Private Sector



International organisations

# Opening Ceremony

The 2021 Geneva Trialogue on Scaling Open Innovation for the SDGs kicked off by the Director of the University of Geneva Geneva-Tsinghua Initiative (GTI), Francois Grey. Following welcome remarks, the GTI Director highlighted the connection this year with the Open Geneva Festival and thanked the 35 international partner organizations of the Geneva Trialogue, giving the floor to the Rector of the University of Geneva, Yves Flueckiger.

The Rector recognized the effort put by the Geneva Tsinghua Initiative and GTI to adapt the event this year to an online format, emphasizing on the 2021 theme which showcases the progress made since the 2 previous Trialogue editions and which focuses on the desire to move from words to actions as quickly, and as openly as possible. The Rector stressed the University's support to the University Global Coalition, serving as an example of a collaborative platform for Open Innovation.

Nikhil Seth, UNITAR's Executive Director, talked about the increasing opportunities for collaboration, partnerships and collective action during the Covid-19 times, to make progress towards achieving the SDGs despite the circumstances. He explained that the Trialogue is not an event to just continue the dialogue, but an opportunity to prioritize, feature and put in practice the course of action to help foster innovation for the SDGs, aligning with the systematic goal of UNITAR to scale up innovation for the SDGs in this urgent UN Decade of Action. The Executive Director concluded by highlighting the importance of bringing academia to the table of discussions and actions on Open Innovation for the SDGs through the University Global Coalition of more than 150 institutions from around the world.

The welcome ceremony continued with Irina Bokova, former Director-General of UNESCO between 2009 and 2017. Mrs. Bokova reflected on the previous Trialogue editions, in particular the 2019 one of Scaling Education for the SDGs where a rich diversity of approaches were presented and that the progress is now evident, with new networks for SDG education having been established since then. Mrs. Bokova concluded with a quote from Jean Piaget, a distinguished professor of the University of Geneva and one of the first directors of the International Bureau of Education, the predecessor of UNESCO, stressing out the importance of delivering education for sustainability; "Only education is capable of saving our societies from possible collapse, whether violent, or gradual."

The 2021 Geneva Trialogue welcome ceremony ended with Martina Hirayama, the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation, underlining that sustainable development and the transversality of topics for economic advancement, social solidarity and ecological responsibility is critical to shaping the federal policy. The State Secretary provided examples of sustainability promotion and understanding through different innovative vocational, educational and training programmes and activities the Confederation supports across Switzerland, while she acknowledged support and alignment with the University of Geneva and the Rector, Yves Flueckiger, agreeing that personal responsibility, initiative and social awareness belong to the fundamental and distinct qualities of the universities.



Welcome ceremony - Panelists featured  
Nikhil Seth, Executive Director, UNITAR  
Francois Grey, Director, Geneva Tsinghua Initiative, University of Geneva  
Yves Flueckiger, Rector, University of Geneva  
Irina Bokova, Former Director-General, UNESCO

# The University Global Coalition



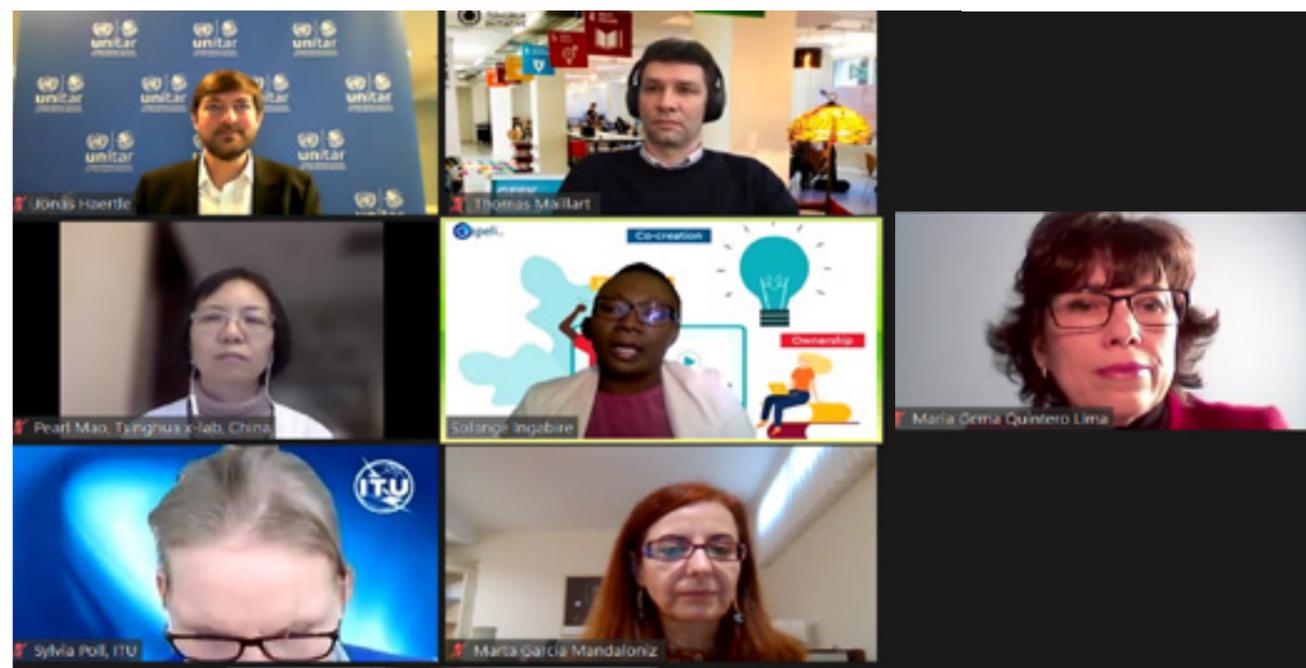
For the first time, the Geneva Triologue featured the theme of Open Innovation by the UN through the collective initiative of the [University Global Coalition \(UGC\)](#), a collaborative platform of more than 100 globally engaged universities and higher education associations working in partnership with UNITAR and other stakeholders in support of the SDGs since 2019.

In Fall 2020, UNITAR and the University of Geneva launched the first Working Group of the UGC, on Open Innovation for the SDGs, co-chairing regular meetings with global member institutions. UGC is the first UN initiative to bring universities to the table of discussions and action for the SDGs at global scale and which progressively engages academia to students' and youth mobilization for the SDGs through open innovation through the dedicated Working Group.

Some of the topics the members work on, include (i) the redesign of youth's role in society for taking action over the SDGs through culture empowerment, localisation of the SDGs' impact, community building, co-creation with students and through open innovation activities, (ii) scaling collective engagement in universities through open innovation practices like hackathons, (iii) ensuring inclusivity and sustainability of open innovation systems e.g. building sustainable and inclusive makerspaces, building entrepreneurship without precarity etc. (iv) building long term corporate engagement in open innovation.

The 2021 Geneva Triologue was a milestone for the UGC Working Group on Open Innovation for the SDGs. The session "Mobilizing Youth at Scale: Open Innovation for the SDGs" featured open innovation initiatives from universities, academic institutions and international organizations on the session's topic, following a global call for proposals to select best open innovation projects. The vision, challenges and potential solutions for scaling the projects were highlighted, while the panelists engaged into the discussion of how we can ensure the engagement of youth as main drivers of change and on ways we can connect open innovation projects to reach and mobilize youth.

In the event's closing ceremony, the President of the University Global Coalition Angel Cabrera, and the Vice-Rector of the University of Geneva, Stéphane Berthet, announced the agreement to extend the organisational partnership of the Geneva Triologue, as an annual flagship event co-partnered with UNITAR. The next Geneva Triologue event will take place in 2022.



#### Sessions' panel hosts and panelists featured:

Jonas Haertle, Chief, Office of Executive Director, UNITAR (panel host)  
Thomas Maillart, Senior Lecturer, Geneva School of Economics and Management / Manager of Geneva SDG Solution Space / Director of Open Geneva Association (panel host)  
Pearl Mao, Director, Tsinghua x-lab, Tsinghua University  
Solange Ingabire, Co-founder, Geneva Action Platform for Engaging, Learning and Information (GAPELI)  
Sylvia Poll, Head, Digital Society Division, International Telecommunications Union (ITU)  
Marta Garcia Mandaloniz, Legal Clinic Co-director and Associate Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid  
Maria Gema Quintero Lima, Legal Clinic Co-director and Associate Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

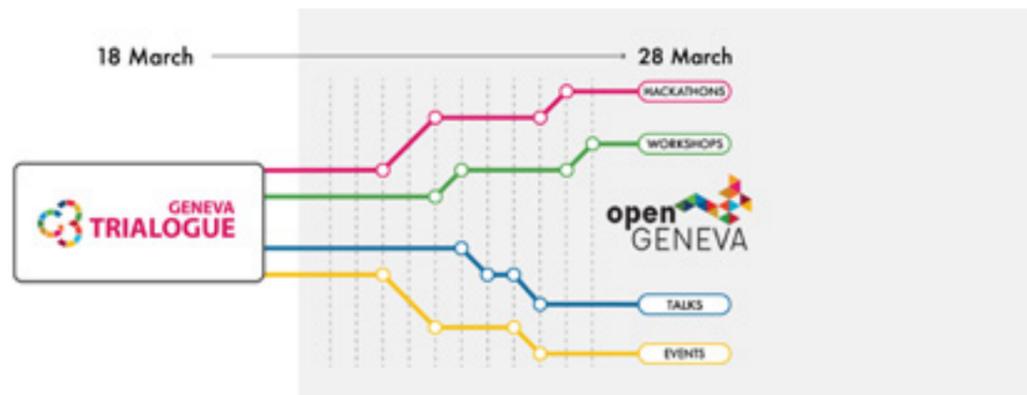
# Launch of the 2021 Open Geneva Festival

Another novelty of the 2021 Geneva Triologue was the [connection with the Open Geneva annual Open Innovation Festival](#). Open Geneva is a non-profit association whose mission is to promote and stimulate open innovation in Greater Geneva by bringing together innovators, bringing their ideas to life, communicating about their projects and supporting their development in the fields of art, science, technology and society.

On 18 March, the Geneva Triologue launched the Open Geneva Festival to continue the discussions on Scaling Open Innovation for the SDGs in practical and hands-on ways, practicing open innovation through hackathons and interactive workshops. For the first time, the Open Geneva Festival attracted international participation, expanding beyond the Geneva region, involving at the same time UN organizations and the [European Crowd-4SDG project](#).

The Open Geneva Festival was launched in the Geneva Triologue closing ceremony by the Secretary General of the State and Canton of Geneva, Nicholas Niggli and the President of the Open Geneva Association, Thomas Maillart. With the Geneva Triologue on Scaling Open Innovation for the SDGs being the launching event of the Open Geneva Festival, a Networking session to connect the event's international participants with the Festival's events was organized with the Festival's hackathon organizers, sharing and exchanging knowledge on 10 different sustainability challenges. In total, 60 Triologue participants joined the networking session.

The 2021 Open Geneva Festival was launched on 18 March and hosted 32 hackathons in 10 days, until 28 March 2021. Notably, the first hackathon in partnership with UNITAR, UN Habitat and the the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was organized by UNITAR - Franklin University Master students on "Food as a Nexus for Synchronic Urban and Rural Development", where UN experts participated and mentored 20 international participants.



Event of Franklin University Switzerland and UNITAR during the Open Geneva Festival 2021

Networking Session on the Remo Platform during the Geneva Triologue



# Global reach

The Geneva Triologue attracted global participation reaching more than 500 participants from 70 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific, North and South America and Australia.

Our international audience included a wide array of innovators, from the fields of Sustainability, International Development, International Relations, Law Healthcare and Global Health, Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Finance, STEM, Business, Language Services, and Media Communications.

Our participants came from 357 institutions, including universities and academic institutions, government organisations, international organizations, NGOs and non-profit organisations and private sectors. Students, professors, researchers, interns, volunteers, consultants, entrepreneurs, project managers, analysts, specialists, mentors, directors, CEOs, Founders and Heads of offices and departments participated. 256 participants came from universities and academic institutions, 26 from government organizations, 80 from private entities, 100 from International Organizations, 86 from NGOs and non-profit organizations and 40 as self-employed entrepreneurs.

 <p>8:30 - Welcome to the Geneva Triologue UNITAR &amp; University of Geneva</p>	 <p>14:00 - Blended Finance for Open Innovation and SDGs Geneva Center for Philanthropy</p>
 <p>9:00 - Mobilizing Youth at Scale: Open Innovation for the SDG University Global Coalition - Working Group on Open Innovation for the SDGs</p>	 <p>15:00 - Scaling Internships with International Organizations and Innovation Hubs Geneva Tsinghua Initiative</p>
 <p>10:00 - Open Innovation in the UN Geneva ecosystem UN SDG Lab</p>	 <p>16:00 - Engineering the new ecosystem for Learning: Scaling through knowledge and research CRI-Paris</p>
 <p>11:00 - Open Innovation and Digital Skills for the SDGs UNOG, UN Library Geneva</p>	 <p>17:00 - Helping Youth Innovators turn Ideas into Action Crowd4SDG</p>
 <p>13:00 - Online Networking Event SDG Solution Space</p>	 <p>18:00 - Closing Session University of Geneva &amp; UNITAR</p>

## Global Participation

Geneva Triologue 2021 gathered panelists, partners, and participants from 70+ countries, with backgrounds in sustainable development, blended finance, education, private sector engagement, and open innovation.



### Attendees

**500+** entrepreneurs, young professionals, careered diplomats, students, professors, consultants, and a diverse array of innovators



### Countries

**70** represented across all sessions



### Institutions

**357** represented across all sessions:

- 170 academic institutions
- 110 international organizations
- 70 private sector entities



### Industries

**10+** career fields represented across all sessions



### Panelists

**50** professionals, innovators, and members of academia from International Geneva and around the world



### Organizing Partners

**35** members of:

- academia
- international organizations
- the private sector

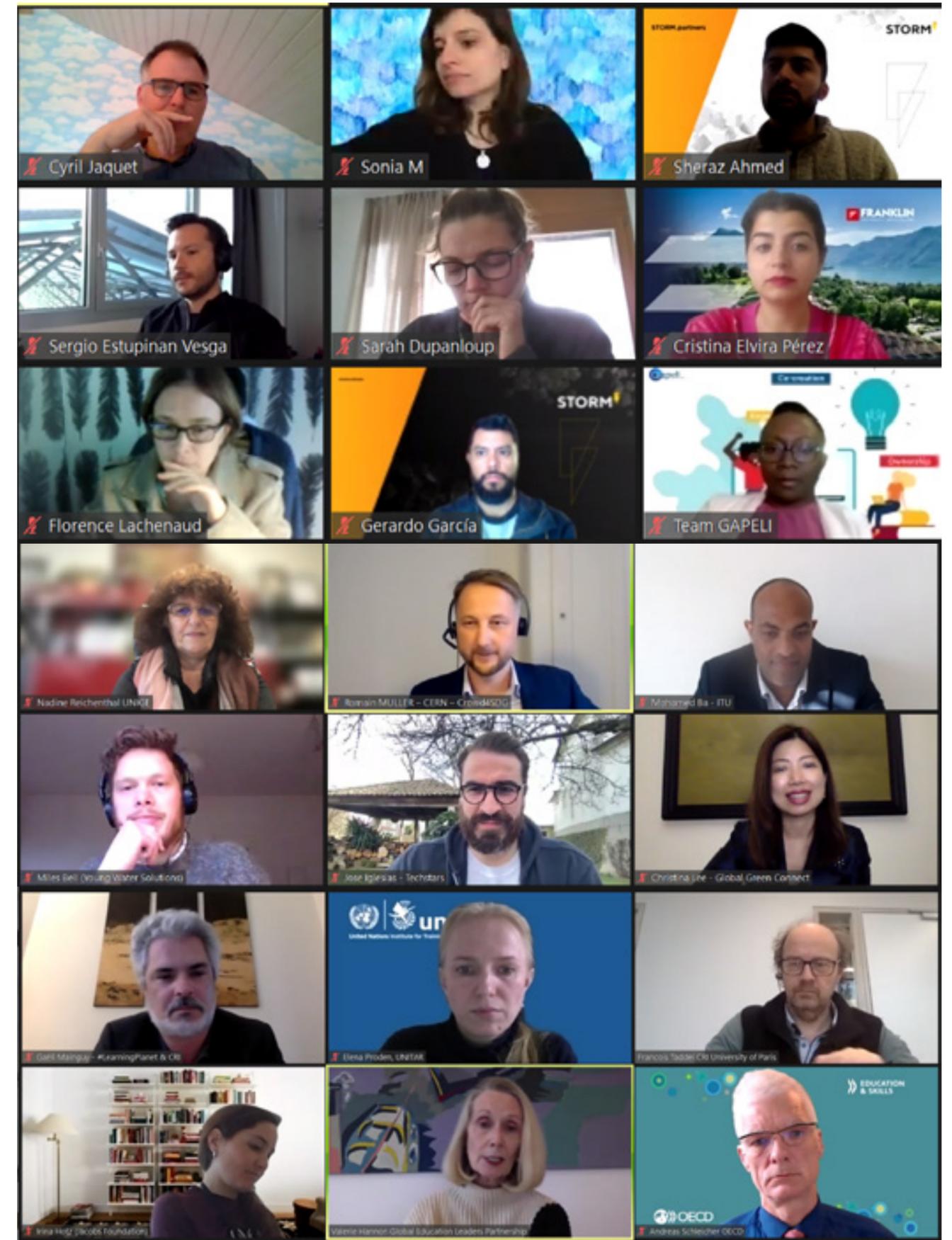
# Event Material and next Geneva Trialogue

The 2021 Geneva Trialogue under the theme “Scaling Open Innovation for the SDGs” presented novel aspects, featured the progress made since the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and celebrated the opportunities offered out of meaningful and potent collaborations between stakeholders from academia, international organisations and the private sector in International Geneva and at global scale.

Keeping the 2021 momentum for scaling open innovation for the SDGs, the Geneva Trialogue will continue onwards on an annual basis, as a flagship event of the University Global Coalition in partnership with UNITAR and the University of Geneva, to systematically feature and celebrate the work and progress on addressing sustainability challenges with open innovation practice and spirit, connecting at the same time with the annual Open Geneva Open Innovation Festival.

We warmly thank all partners and international participants for making this a remarkable day and for setting the stage for a hopeful future towards the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

See you at the 2022 Geneva Trialogue!



[Highlight video](#)

[Session recordings](#)

[Photo gallery](#)

# Detailed Programme and Partners

8:30 - Welcome to the Geneva Trialogue

9:00 - Mobilizing Youth at Scale: Open Innovation for the SDG

University Global Coalition – Working Group on Open Innovation for the SDGs

10:00 - Open Innovation in the UN Geneva ecosystem  
UN SDG Lab

11:00 - Open Innovation and Digital Skills for the SDGs  
UNOG, UN Library Geneva

13:00 - Online Networking Event  
SDG Solution Space

14:00 - Blended Finance for Open Innovation and SDGs  
Geneva Center for Philanthropy

15:00 - Scaling Internships with International Organizations and Innovation Hubs  
Geneva Tsinghua Initiative

16:00 - Engineering the new ecosystem for Learning: Scaling through knowledge and research  
CRI-Paris

17:00 - Helping Youth Innovators turn Ideas into Action  
Crowd4SDG

18:00 - Closing Session



Welcome

8:30 CET Opening session



## Panel host

**Francois Grey**, Director, UNIGE Geneva Tsinghua Initiative

## Panelists

**Yves Flückiger**, Rector, University of Geneva

**Nikhil Seth**, Executive Director UNITAR

**Irina Bokova**, former Director-General, UNESCO

**Martina Hirayama**, Swiss Confederation

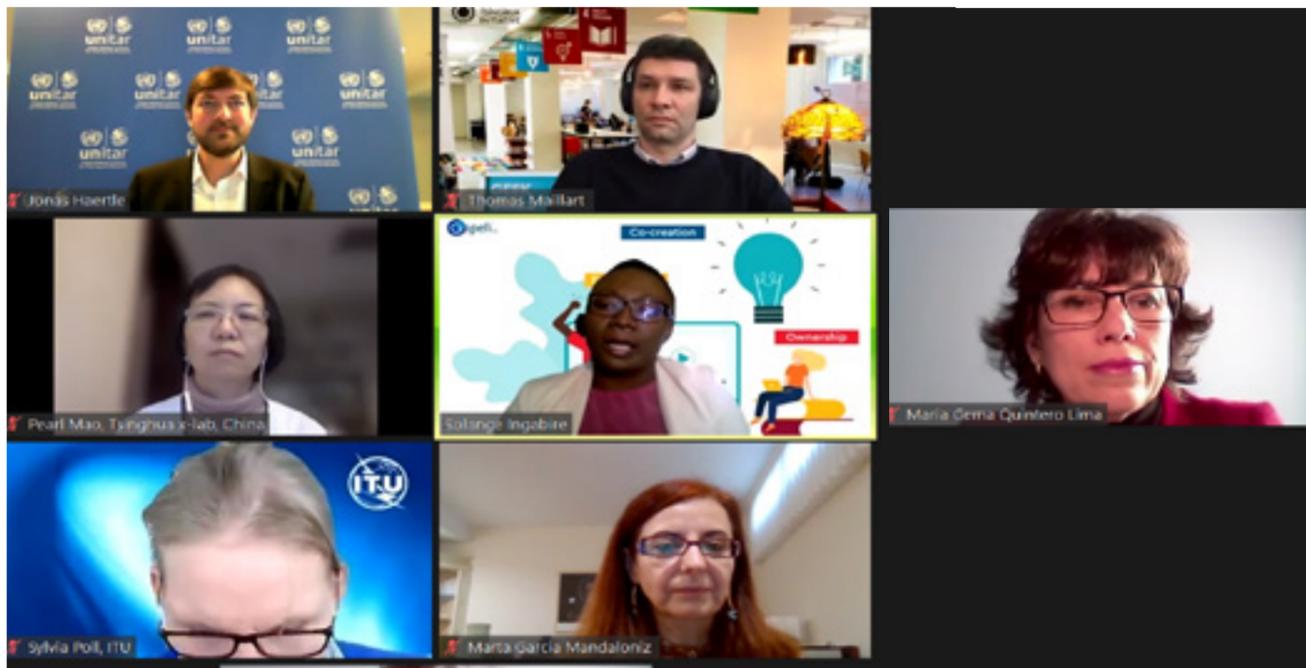


# Open innovation by the UN

## 9:00 CET Mobilizing Youth at Scale: Open Innovation for the SDGs

ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL COALITION

This session featured open innovation projects and initiatives from universities, academic institutions and international organizations on youth engagement and mobilization for the SDGs. The vision, challenges and potential solutions for scaling the projects were highlighted, while the panelists engaged into the discussion of how we can ensure the engagement of youth as main drivers of change and on ways we can connect open innovation projects to reach and mobilize youth.



### Panel hosts

**Jonas Haertle** has 15+ years of proven track record in partnership building at the nexus of the UN, business and academia, developing solutions to global and local sustainability challenges, with a particular focus on the SDGs. In his current role as Chief at UNITAR's Office of Executive Director, he manages strategic projects in the Executive Director's office and supports the Executive Director.

**Thomas Maillart** is a senior lecturer of the Geneva School of Economics and Management and leads hands-on and challenge-based learning at the SDG Solution Space, a maker space at the heart of International Geneva that conveys an open source spirit and a culture of innovation as a fun, collective practice to foster the SDGs. Thomas Maillart is also the president of the Open Geneva Association, which organises the annual Open Innovation Festival in Geneva.

### Panelists

**Sylvia Poll** Since January 2020, Sylvia Poll is the Head of the Digital Society Division in the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This Division focuses on digital inclusion, ICT applications and digital innovation ecosystems. Before that, she was for five years the Head of the ITU Project Support Division. Sylvia Poll was the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland from 2010 to 2014, where she was the main focal point for Costa Rica, on sport for development and peace, as well as ITU, WIPO, WHO and IOM. Prior to this position, she was the Latin America Regional Manager of Executive Programs at the INCAE Business School and a manager at a Costa Rican communications company. Ms. Poll was also an accomplished elite swimmer and represented Costa Rica in two Olympic Games. Since 2010 she is a Member of the international organization "Peace and Sport", as one of their "Champions of Peace", a special Sport Ambassador, to help build sustainable peace through sport. Ms. Poll holds a Master in Business Administration and an Executive Master in International Negotiations and Policy Making.

**Maria Gema Quintero Lima** is an Assistant Professor in Labour and Social Security Law at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. B.A. in Law. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid 1998; Master Degree in Social Security Law Universidad Carlos III de Madrid 2002; Ph. D. In Law Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. 2005. Her main areas of expertise are social security law (retirement, family benefits), labor law (salary, work life balance) and inclusive growth and new forms of corporate social responsibility within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2030 Agenda) CoDirector of Legal Clinic of University Carlos III of Madrid. Vicedean of Equality, Diversity and Sustainability, law and Social Sciences Faculty.

**Marta Garcia Mandaloniz** is an Associate professor of Commercial Law at University Carlos III of Madrid (UC3M) since 2007. Graduated in Law, Master Degree in European Law and Ph D. in Law (cum laude) at UC3M. Her doctoral thesis received an extraordinary award of a doctorate in law and an honorable mention of the europa award. Her main areas of expertise are entrepreneurship, business financing, innovation and business digitization. She is codirector of the Legal Clinic of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law of the UC3M.

**Pearl Mao** is the Director of Tsinghua x-lab, School of Economics and Management (SEM), Tsinghua University Pearl has initiated Tsinghua x-lab, a non-profit educational platform for Tsinghua University since 2013. Under her leadership, the x-lab provides innovation and entrepreneurship related education, services and resources for students, alumni and faculty members of Tsinghua, aiming to cultivate and improve the innovative and entrepreneurial cognition and ability, promote integration and cooperation among cross-disciplinary teams, and develop innovation program partnership with various corporations and international universities. Prior to this position, she served the School as Executive Director of MBA Programs and Director of Career Development Center. Before joining Tsinghua SEM, Pearl had 10-years professional experience in business development, operations management, and international investment with multinational companies both in China and the United States. She received her International MBA degree from Thunderbird, School of Global Management in Phoenix, AZ, USA and a BS in Biology from Wuhan University, China.

**Solange Ingabire** supports the Gapeli team with Operations, Business Development and partnerships.

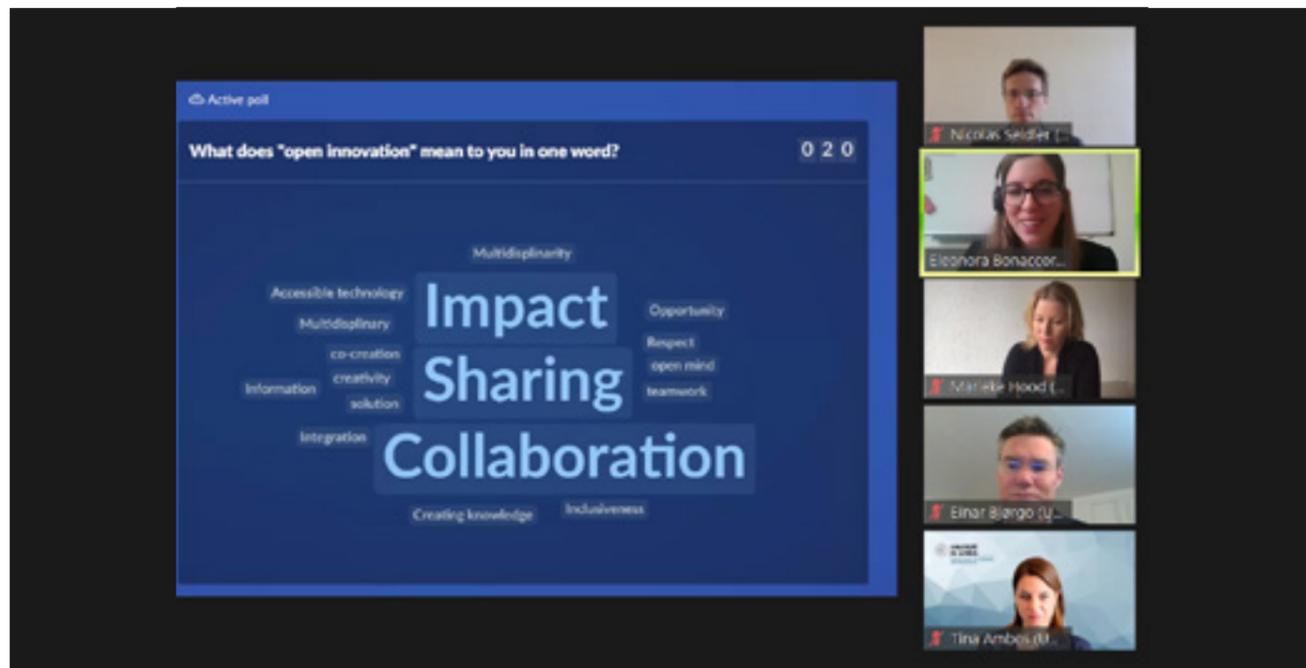


# Open innovation in the UN

10:00 CET Open Innovation in the UN Geneva ecosystem

ORGANISED BY THE UN SDG LAB

This session looked at the growing open-innovation ecosystem that is evolving within and around IOs in Geneva, while highlighting at the same time the importance of a cross-sectoral approach (academia, private sector, IOs) for scaling-up innovation in the region.



## Panel host

**Eleonora Bonaccorsi** is a young professional who is enthusiastic about public policy, the SDGs and international relations. At the Lab, she focuses on the Geneva 2030 Ecosystem, helping to manage the network of actors in Geneva committed to implementing the Global Goals. She also supports the Lab with research, event organization and database and project management. Her past activities include conducting research at the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at National Defense University and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

## Panelists

**Tina Ambos** is Professor of International Management and the Director of the i2i Hub for Intrapreneurship and Innovation. Before joining the University of Geneva, she was a professor at the University of Sussex and the management faculty's Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange. Earlier she held the chair of the Department of International Management at Johannes Kepler University Linz (Austria), as well as positions at WU Vienna, the University of Edinburgh and London Business School. She received a Venia Docendi (Habilitation) and a Ph.D. from WU Vienna. Tina's research and teaching interests include global strategic management and innovation in the context of multinational corporations, technology start-ups and international (non-for-profit) organizations. Her research in this field is regularly presented at the leading conferences and has been published in top international academic as well as practitioner journals.

**Nicolas Seidler** is the Executive Director of the Geneva Science-Policy Interface (GSPI), launched by the University of Geneva with the support of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 2018. Backed by leading research institutions in Switzerland and Europe, the GSPI is an independent, neutral platform that strives to enhance scientific engagement with global governance actors within the Geneva ecosystem. By supporting collaborations between scientists and policy actors, the GSPI contributes to facilitate the emergence of effective, evidence-informed policies and solutions to complex global problems. In his previous position as Senior Policy Advisor at the Internet Society, Nicolas Seidler developed an extensive network of collaboration and engagement with international organisations and NGOs in Geneva and abroad. He led the organisation's policy implementation in the fields of Digital Rights and the Internet of Things. Nicolas obtained a Masters in International Relations from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in 2007, and a Masters in Communication and Media Sciences from the University of Geneva in 2009.

**Marieke Hood** holds a Master's degree in management from EmLyon Business School and a Master's degree in urban planning and development from University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She began her career in strategy consulting, where she advised local, regional and national governments on economic and innovation policy. She has a specific interest in assessing the methods and mechanisms that policy-makers use to accelerate economic development in their regions, such as innovation clusters, incubators, accelerators and technology transfer platforms. In 2012, Ms Hood joined the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs at the Embassy of Switzerland, first in Paris and until recently in London. In her latest capacity as the head of Swiss Business Hub UK + Ireland, she supported business and R&D ventures between Swiss and UK corporates and start-ups. She has led projects on artificial intelligence and data-driven technology with applications in healthcare, life science and performance engineering. In August 2020 she joined GESDA, where she heads operations, private-sector innovation and public affairs.

**Einar Bjorgo** has over 20 years of work experience in international organizations. A Ph.D. in geophysics and a M. Sc. in meteorology, he enjoys matching technologically innovative solutions with practical benefits. As Director of UNOSAT (United Nations Institute for Training and Research Operational Satellite Applications Programme) he ensures impact of earth observation in core decision making of the United Nations, while at the same time serving Member States with innovative capacity development. He puts significant focus on developing partnerships with a wide range of public entities, UN organizations, NGOs, private sector, academia, research organizations and foundations. Recently, this resulted in having the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent access the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters. Leading UNOSAT involves frequent interaction with media and outreach to the general public. With the recent addition of UNITAR's Capacity for the 2030 Agenda Unit to the Division, we have a solid base for helping UN Member States reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

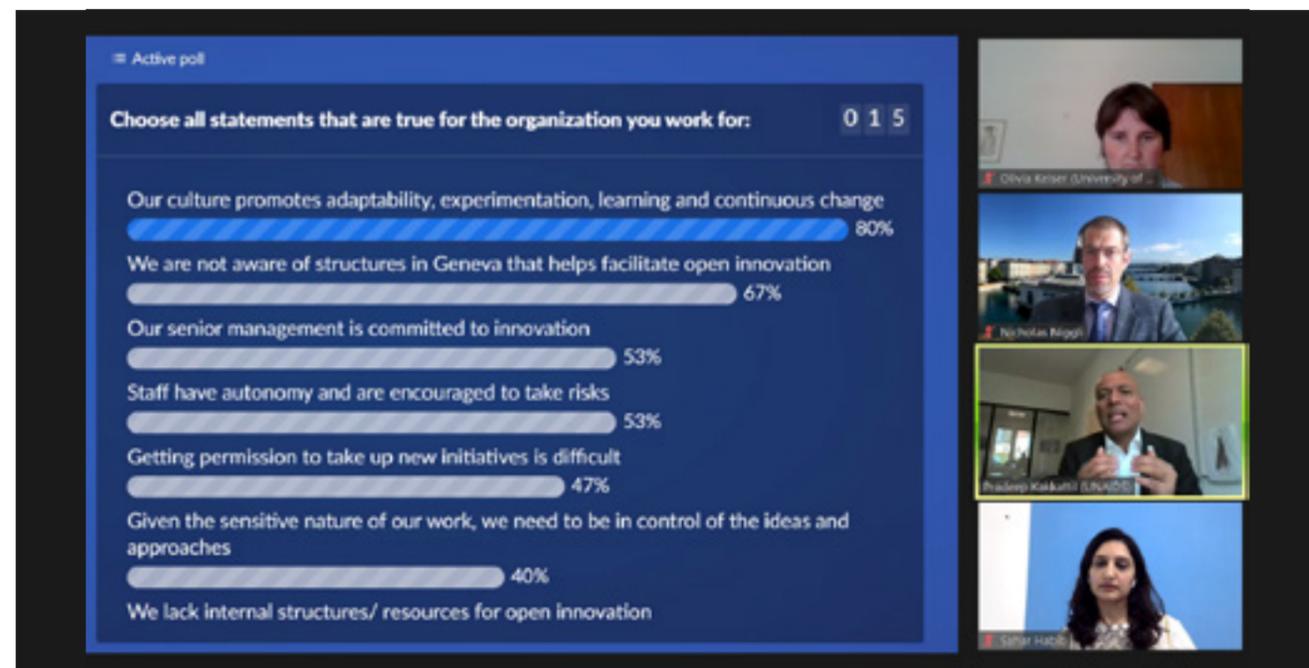


# Open innovation for the UN

11:00 CET Open Innovation and Digital Skills for the SDGs

ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL COALITION

This session looked at how Open Innovation - partnering with civil society and other key stakeholders, through agile processes like hackathons and short-term fellowship programmes - can enable institutions to rapidly implement and adapt new digital tools and services to their needs.



## Panelists

**Nicholas Niggli** is Deputy Secretary General, Republic and State of Geneva, Department of Economic Development. His mission is to strengthen Geneva's ecosystem and to strategically position it to benefit from the opportunities of the digital age but also the emergence of sustainable development economics. Since 2012, Nicholas has also been lecturing on complex negotiation dynamics, leadership, intercultural communication and global governance at the Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies, Geneva. From 2013 to 2017, Nicholas was Head, Economic, Finance, Science & Innovation Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK while also leading the multilateral Association of Economic Representatives in London as Chairman. From 2002 to 2013, he was a senior trade negotiator covering the WTO. From 2007 to 2012, Nicholas was Chairman of the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, leading negotiations to improve disciplines for this key world economy sector. From 2007 to 2013, he was also Chairman of the WTO Pension Plan Management Board, leading the retirement age renegotiation of the WTO international public service. Nicholas holds 1st Class Honours Masters Degrees in Economic History & International Relations.

**Olivia Keiser** Olivia Keiser studied biology at the University of Basel with a focus on epidemiology and then moved to Lausanne where she worked at the data centre of the Swiss HIV Cohort Study for several years. In parallel she completed a Master in Statistics at the University of Neuchâtel. In 2006 Olivia joined the University of Bern to do her PhD on outcomes of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in several Southern African countries. In parallel she continued to work on HIV- and Hepatitis C projects in high-income countries using data of the Swiss HIV and the Swiss Hepatitis C Cohort Studies. After completing her PhD in 2009, Olivia became the head of the research group « HIV and hepatitis » at ISPM Bern. In 2017 she was awarded an SNF professorship and she and her group joined the Institute of Global Health in Geneva. The group takes an interdisciplinary approach and combines mathematical modelling (including cost-effectiveness analyses), analyses of cohort data, systematic reviews and qualitative research techniques.

**Sahar Habib** is in charge of the communications for Code for Pakistan, an organisation aiming to create open source solutions to address the needs of citizens.

## Panel host

**Pradeep Kakkattil**, as the Director of the Programme Partnerships and Fundraising Department, oversees programmatic and political partnerships, including UNAIDS' engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, political and parliamentary engagement and UNAIDS' fundraising efforts. Pradeep Kakkattil joined UNAIDS in India in 1999 and has since worked in various capacities. He served as the Deputy Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific between 2012 and 2015 and served as a senior adviser to the UNAIDS Executive Director between 2015 and 2017. In that capacity, he coordinated the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS in 2016.

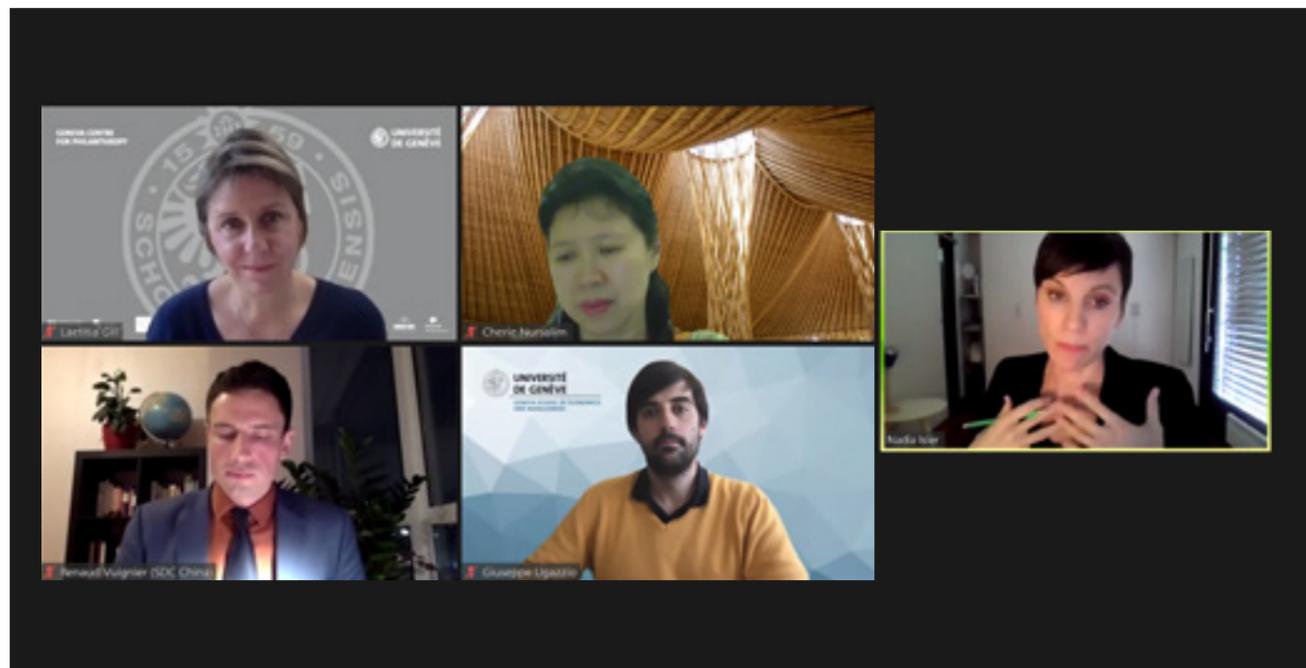


# Financing Open Innovation

14:00 CET Blended Finance for Open Innovation and SDGs

ORGANISED BY THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR PHILANTHROPY

This session discussed the role of philanthropy in supporting education for the SDGs. The panellists engaged in a variety of topics, such as philanthropic giving for educational equity, engaging philanthropy with local realities, education and philanthropic return, and education for philanthropy.



## Panel host

**Laetitia Gill** With a Master's degree in Management, Laetitia Gill is recognized as an expert in the field of social innovation, CSR and philanthropy. She has fifteen years of experience in the development, implementation and evaluation of business strategies as well as in the creation and facilitation of training modules on the theme of partnerships. For 10 years, she served as the Secretary General for a group of 20 philanthropists, in charge of selecting projects, developing effective local community engagement programmes and impact measurement

## Panelists

**Renaud Vuignier** is a public entrepreneur driven by a passion for innovation and impact as well as the current Deputy Head of International Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in China for the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). His previous experiences include working as a policy consultant for UNDP, as a senior analyst for Conexkt.world and as a scientific collaborator at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO.

**Nadia Isler** is the co-founder and Director of the SDG Lab. She has a long career in diplomacy and international development with field experience in bilateral cooperation and in multilateral affairs. Nadia started her career with Médecins Sans Frontières and the Swiss Red Cross before joining the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation where she served for several years in Eastern Africa working primarily in the field of public health. She then joined the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a diplomat where she acted as Deputy Head of Development Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York, before leading on development affairs and the SDGs at the Swiss Mission to the UN in Geneva. Education: BA Arts & Masters in Contemporary History, University of Geneva, Post Graduate Certificates, Harvard School of Public Health & Harvard Kennedy School.

**Cherie Nursalim** is Vice Chairman of Giti Group, a diversified group with real estate development, manufacturing and consumer lifestyle presence partnering with the world's renowned brands throughout the Asia Pacific region. She is also a special advisor in the government of the Republic of Indonesia. Ms Nursalim is the Vice Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). She is a board member of Publicis Groupe, IMAGINE, the Business and Sustainable Development Commission Global Blended Finance Taskforce, and Partnering for Green Growth (P4G). She chairs the Southeast Asia Chapter of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and Tsinghua University Southeast Asia Center based in Kura Kura Bali. Ms Nursalim is the co-founder of the United in Diversity Foundation. Ms Nursalim serves on the Advisory Boards for Columbia University, MIT Sustainability Initiative, Research Center for Climate Change for University of Indonesia. She also serves as a board member of the Singapore Science Center, the World Green Building Council, the Global and Asia Philanthropic Circle. Ms Nursalim receives her Bachelor in Engineering Science and Economics from Oxford University, her Master in Business Administration from Columbia Business School, and is a Harvard Kennedy School WEF Young Global Leader alumnus.

**Giuseppe Ugazio** is a behavioral scientist with strong interests in understanding the neuro-psychological mechanisms that drive complex human social behaviors. He uses interdisciplinary experimental methods to probe the affective, cognitive, and behavioral control mechanisms underlying social decision-making. In particular, he has focused on understanding how these decision mechanisms compete and interact to drive choices related to sacred moral values, honesty, and norm-compliance. More recently he has been investigating how to harness the insights from my research, and the behavioral sciences more broadly, to improve individuals' social decisions, for instance to increase honesty. In his current position in Behavioral Philanthropy, he will expand my research portfolio studying how to use insights from behavioral sciences to better characterize philanthropic behavior. The goal of this research is to make philanthropy more efficient and appealing, so that it can better contribute to improve the well-being of individuals and society.

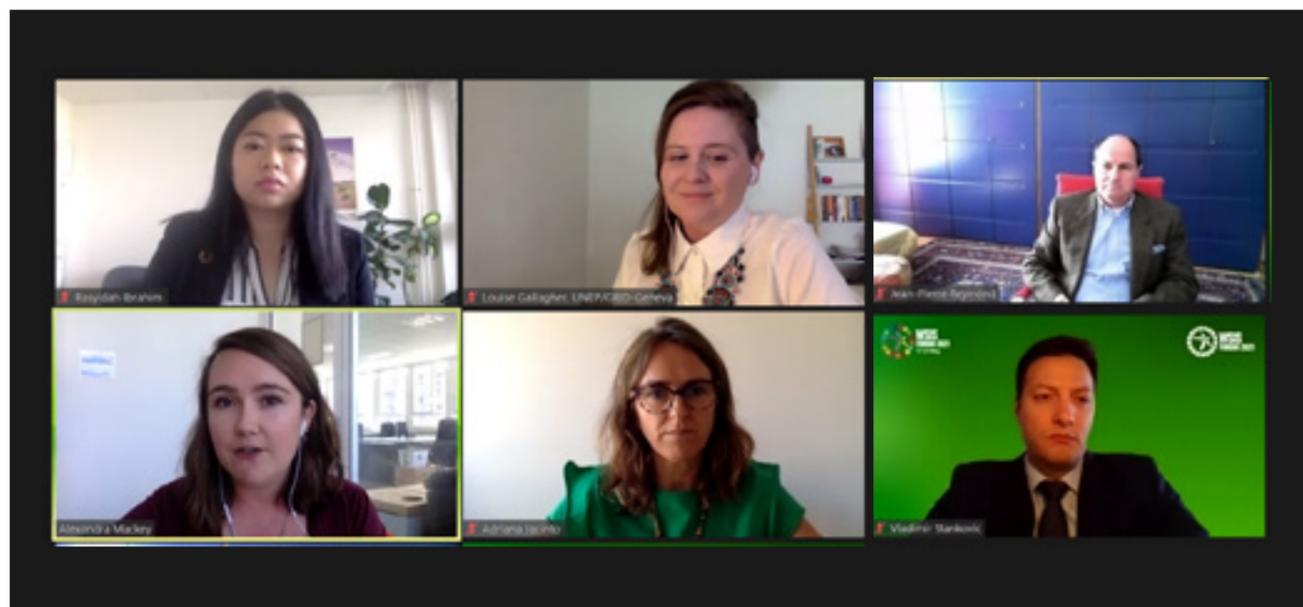


# Integrating Open Innovation

## 15:00 CET Scaling Internships with International Organizations and Innovation Hubs

ORGANISED BY THE GENEVA TSINGHUA INITIATIVE

This session looked at the intersection of innovation and internships in International Organisations, Geneva-focused but applicable in many other places. The panelists discussed on the current situation of innovation and internships and the importance of identifying ways to collaborate even better to increase opportunities for innovation and early career starters.



### Panel host

**Louise Gallagher** is the environmental governance lead for UNEP/GRID-Geneva's Global Sand Observatory initiative. Louise has worked at the nexus of sustainable development themes over the past fifteen years in various roles at UN Environment, WWF, and the University of Geneva, among other organisations. She holds a PhD from University College Dublin, specialising in environmental policy analysis. At UN Environment, Louise worked on fisheries subsidies reform at the WTO, the waste and circular economy chapter in the Green Economy Report (2008) and the first Global Chemicals Outlook (2011). In 2012, she founded WWF's green economy programme in the Greater Mekong region, supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development outcomes in major transboundary landscapes across the region. Her research and teaching at the UNESCO Chair of Hydropolitics, University of Geneva focussed on sustainability assessment approaches that open up deliberative policy and local action opportunities in multilevel water, energy and food resource governance from 2017 to 2020.

### Panelists

**Adriana Jacinto**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Jean-Pierre Reymond** is a Swiss career diplomat. He is currently Chargé de mission and Head of Innovation partnerships at the Swiss Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. He focusses on innovative forms to foster climate action and he is the Global Coordinator of 2050Today. His field of activities covers as well digital cooperation and enhanced SDGs implementation. Ambassador Reymond chaired from 2017 to 2019 the Intergovernmental process to strengthen respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. He previously served as Minister with the function of Deputy Head of Mission of Switzerland in Egypt between 2014 and 2017. He worked before in Brazil in the same capacity (2010 - 2014). He was Deputy Director General for Africa and Middle East at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern (2007 - 2010) and before that Director for the General Assembly of the United Nations and ECOSOC. He also served in Brussels (EU) and in Damascus. Mr. Reymond holds a Master's degree in Arabic, Egyptology and Sanskrit (University of Geneva).

**Vladimir Stankovic** is an International civil servant working for ITU, the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies - ICTs, facilitating the implementation and follow up of the World Summit on the Information Society process. An experienced international relations specialist with a demonstrated history of working for the governments and intergovernmental organizations with 15+ years of progressive UN experience in New York, Belgrade and Geneva, dedicated to promoting international cooperation, good use of technology, ethical information society, UN values and ITUs objectives to connect the world. Responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Geneva-Tsinghua Initiative internship program with WSIS and ITU.

**Alexandra Mackey** is part of the 2018 cohort of the MIHDS and an intern at the Zoé Environment Network.

**Rasyidah Ibrahim** is part of the 2019 cohort of the MIHDS and an intern at ITC

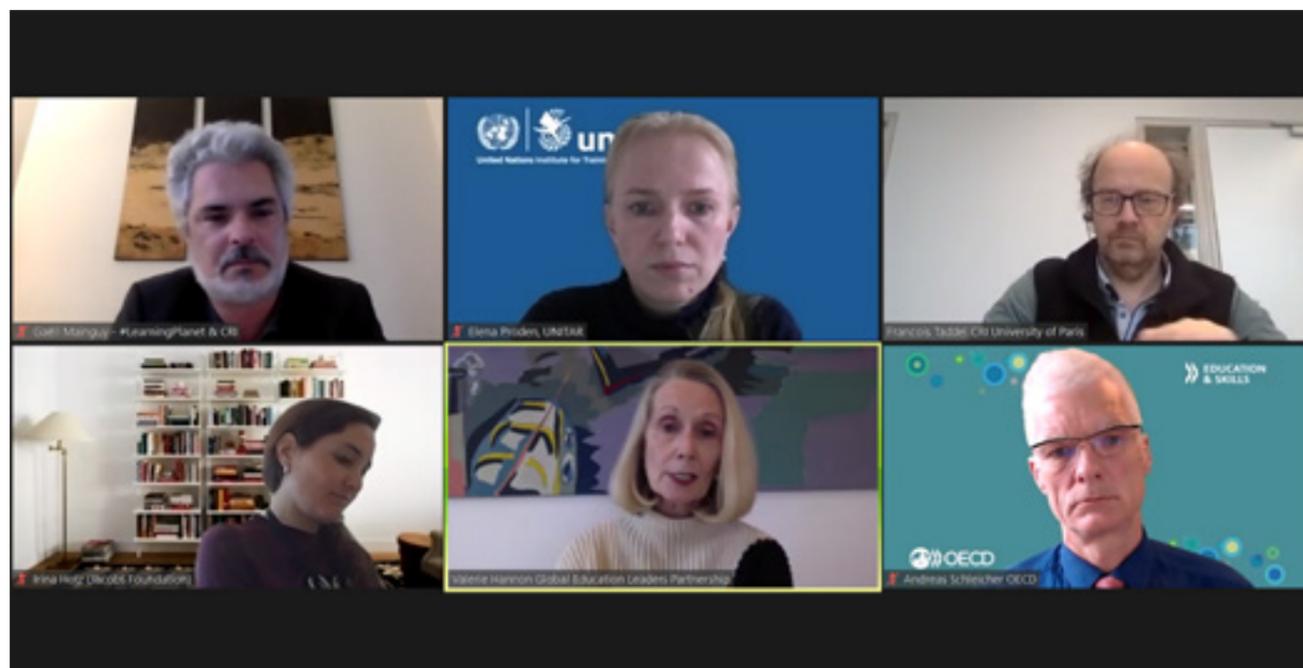


# Connecting Open Innovation

**16:00 CET** Engineering the new ecosystem for Learning:  
Scaling through knowledge and research

ORGANISED BY CRI-PARIS

This session looked at gaps and hurdles that are limiting wider adoption of collective problem-solving approaches in learning institutions (K12 and universities), weaving perspectives from educators/social entrepreneurs, policy-making, academic and private sectors. Special focus was given to the research and knowledge needed to frame these emerging practices to facilitate scaling.



## Panel host

**Gaëll Mainguy** Director, Development and International Relations, CRI-Paris

## Panelists

**Valerie Hannon** is a global thought leader, inspiring systems to re-think what 'success' will mean in the C 21st, and the implications for education. The co-founder of both Innovation Unit and of the Global Education Leaders Partnership, Valerie is a radical voice for change, whilst grounded in a deep understanding of how education systems currently work. Formerly a secondary teacher, researcher and Director of Education for Derbyshire County Council; then an adviser in the UK Department for Education (DfE) during the Blair years, she now works independently to support change programs across the world. Currently, she is also Senior Adviser to the OECD in its Education 2030 project. Valerie is a regular keynote speaker and facilitator at international conferences and workshops, drawing upon her substantial research and publications. Valerie is the 2020 author of The Australian Learning Lecture on the subject of The Future School, which will appear as a new book in late 2021.

**Elena Proden** is a Senior Specialist leading the Strategic Implementation of the 2030 Agenda team at UNITAR supporting UN Member States in strategic planning, data and M&E for the SDGs through advisory services, training and learning and overseeing the UNSDG:Learn initiative with a focus on access to SDG learning and new services such as SDG competency based self-assessments and personalized Learning Pathways.

**Andreas Schleicher** is Director for Education and Skills at the OECD. He initiated and oversees the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments that have created a global platform for policy-makers, researchers and educators across nations and cultures to innovate and transform educational policies and practices. He has worked for over 20 years with ministers and education leaders to improve education. Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said that Schleicher "understands the global issues and challenges as well as or better than anyone I've met, and he tells me the truth". Former UK Secretary of State Michael Gove called Schleicher "the most important man in English education" - even though he is German and lives in France. He is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the "Theodor Heuss" prize, awarded in the name of the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany for "exemplary democratic engagement". He holds an honorary Professorship at the University of Heidelberg.

**Francois Taddei** François Taddei co-founded the Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity (CRI), where he directs a UNESCO and Sorbonne Paris Cité Chair on the Science of Learning, supported by an Excellence Initiatives in Innovative Education (IDEFI) fund, devoted to training those who seek to reinvent learning and teaching methods and research. He leads the Frontières du Vivant Doctoral School of the universities of Sorbonne Paris Cité, Paris Diderot and Paris Descartes, which welcomes students wishing to explore the borders between disciplines and addresses the frontiers of learning and the discoveries made possible by the development of new technology.

**Irina Hotz** is Co-Lead of the Learning Societies Portfolio at the Jacobs Foundation. With a background in the private sector and a degree in political science and economics, she spearheaded the cross-sectoral partnerships with the Foundation's corporate partners in Côte d'Ivoire before taking a senior management role across multiple countries. Based in Côte d'Ivoire and Zurich from 2015-2019, she supported the development of the TRECC program in Côte d'Ivoire, contributing to the local education and learning ecosystem and successfully structured and managed its partnerships with the private sector. Irina Hotz has a political science degree from the University of Lausanne, a master's degree from University of Neuchatel in Economic Policy and is alumnus of INSEAD's executive education program on management."

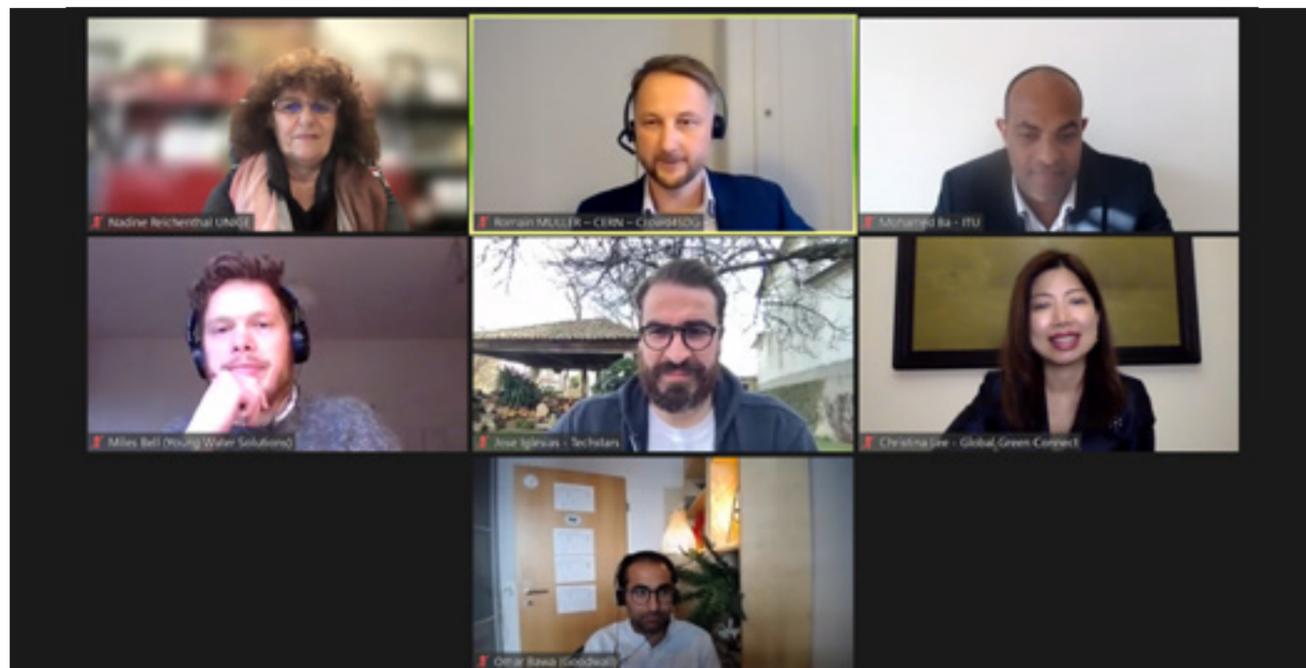


# Sustaining Open Innovation

17:00 CET Helping Youth Innovators turn Ideas into Action

ORGANISED BY THE CROWD4SDG

This panel reflected on maximizing youth innovation projects' capacities to help them reach their full potential. The panelists discussed about the challenges to enable youth innovation projects and the opportunities leading start-ups, established entrepreneurship actors and international organizations offer to overcome these challenges.



## Panel host

**Romain Muller** holds a MSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Imperial College London. Having started his career as researcher on speech recognition algorithm, he then moved into managing high technology projects in a variety of sectors (consumer goods, banking, ICT). In an unexpected manner he came across European Affairs and he loved it instantly. Having worked as Research Manager for the European Aircraft Manufacturers Association, he went on managing European projects addressing innovation in Air Transport. With this experience he joined the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) as Project Officer to look after the Knowledge and Innovation Community EIT Digital. Directly prior to joining CERN, Romain was the Chief Project Officer of the European Business Aviation Association, programme managing a portfolio of projects in this very innovative transport sector. Romain joined CERN in November 2017 and is working at the EU Office to support existing and identify new EU project opportunities. Romain enjoys dancing and discovering cultures throughout the world.

## Panelists

**Christina Lee** is a seasoned media professional turned impact & social entrepreneur in 2012. Christina is deeply passionate about sustainability, education and business. She set up a sustainability consulting, Global Green Connect, and founded a purpose driven social enterprise, GGEF, since 2013. Christina is an advisor for Tsinghua x-lab, mentor for the Open Tsinghua SDG Hackathon, Summer 17 Open Hackathon by University of Geneva. Christina was named one of the Asia's Top 30 'Eco Warriors 2019' by social media network, Green is the New Black. Christina holds a master's degree in management from Macquarie University (MGSM), Sydney. An avid sports enthusiast, she was honoured to be a torch bearer for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

**Mohamed Ba** is the senior coordination for digital innovation ecosystems at the International Telecommunication Union, the UN specialized agency for ICT/Telecommunication. His role is to help strengthen ITU Membership innovation capacity that accelerate digital transformation of society. His passion is to help communities unlock their potentials through stakeholder empowerment and connecting opportunities to resources. Prior to joining ITU, Mr. Ba spent several years in the private sector including working in Silicon Valley and internationally. He is an expert on innovation policy and the development of platforms focused on innovation, ICT and telecommunication.

**Omar Bawa** is the Co-founder and Head of Product of Goodwall. He started Goodwall to inspire the next generation to become the best version of themselves, achieve more and impact society positively. He is a TEDx speaker, Forbes30Under30, Kairos Fellow and served on the Editorial Board of the United Nations Magazine. He studied Law at the IHL and University of Geneva, Intellectual Property at the WIPO Academy and Marketing (MOOC) at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

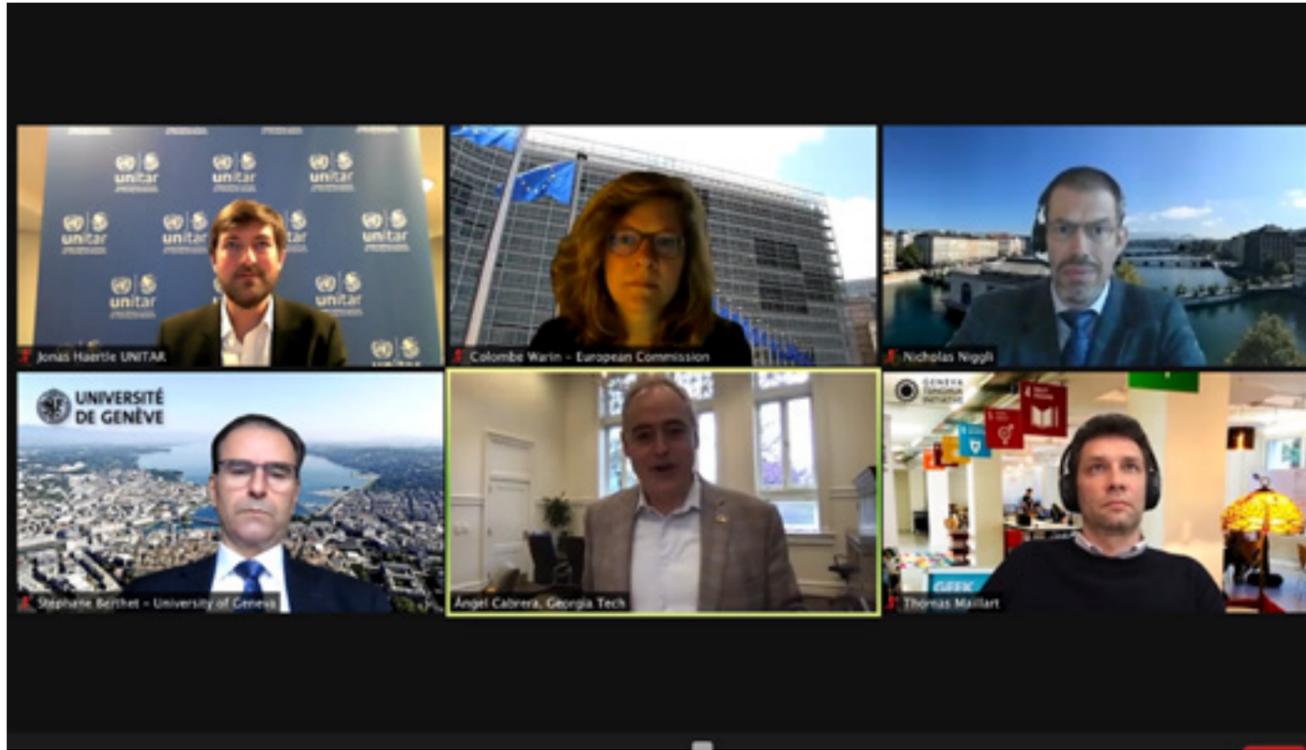
**Nadine Reichenthal** is a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship at the University of Geneva and Lausanne (Switzerland), where she develop Accelerator Program's She is involved in numerous structures supporting entrepreneurial or intrapreneurial projects, as a trainer, coach or expert, in Switzerland and abroad. She is active in about ten countries in Africa, mainly for the program of the International Trade Centre (ITC-ITC), a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Nadine co-founded the entrepreneurship program Graines d'Entrepreneurs for teenagers and participated in the implementation of the federal certificate for SME managers by validation of prior learning (VAE), originally intended for spouses of craftsman.

**Jose Iglesias** believes that entrepreneurship can happen anywhere. His true passion is to build entrepreneurial ecosystems worldwide, connecting entrepreneurs, investors, corporations and cities. At Techstars, Jose Iglesias have the unique privilege to indulge in all the above. Techstars is the global platform for investment and innovation. They have over 2,000 portfolio companies, 48 mentorship-driven accelerator programs in four continents, work with over 70 large corporations and support over a thousand Startup Weekend and Startup Week programs per year. As Senior Director of Community, Jose Iglesias lead a globally distributed team supporting grassroots community and ecosystem engagement across the world, helping to deliver entrepreneurial education & awareness to every corner of the world. "

**Miles Bell** is passionate about all things water and holds an MSc in the Science and Governance of Water from King's College London where his research focused on community-based water resource management. During his 7 years in the water sector, he has worked at a range of consultancies and NGOs in international development, hydropower and water management research. In his role at Young Water Solutions, Miles manages multiple editions of the Young Water Fellowship, a programme of training, seed funding and mentorship, that empowers water and sanitation entrepreneurs to launch their social businesses.



18:00 CET Closing session



### Panel Host

**Jonas Haertle**, Chief, Office of Executive Director, UNITAR

### Panelists

**Angel Cabrera**, Co-Founder, UGC & President, Georgia Tech

**Stéphane Berthet**, Vice Rector, University of Geneva

**Colombe Warin**, Project Officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

**Nicholas Niggli**, Deputy Secretary General, State of Geneva

