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AGENDA 2030: FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH LIFESTYLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (LiFE)

(ONLINE AND OFFLINE MODE)

5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE SOCIETY FOR PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

November 16-17, 2026

VENUE: GIFT CAMPUS, SREEKARIYAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA-695017

ORGANIZERS

SOCIETY FOR PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY, INDIA

www.paths.co.in

GULATI INSTITUTE OF FINANCE AND TAXATION (GIFT)

www.gift.res.in

NALANDA UNIVERSITY

www.nalandauniv.edu.in

Motivation and Background

The world stands at a critical juncture, with less than six years remaining to the 2030 deadline. The progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been uneven, fragile, and increasingly threatened by a convergence of crises such as climate-induced uncertainties, post-pandemic fiscal stress, geopolitical fractures, and widening development inequalities. The United Nations SDG Summit (2023) confirmed what the data had long suggested: that at the current pace, nearly 30 per cent of SDG targets risk reversal by 2030. Transformative, accelerated, and financed action is no longer optional, rather it is existential.

Against this backdrop, two distinct but complementary frameworks have emerged as pathways to recalibrate the sustainability agenda. India's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), introduced at COP26 in 2021, positions individual and community behaviour change, mindful consumption, sustainable production, and pro-planet choices as a bottom-up driver of environmental transition, recognising that systemic change must be anchored in cultural transformation. The European Green Pact, Europe's flagship strategy for climate neutrality by 2050, represents the institutional and regulatory architecture of a top-down green transition of binding targets, carbon pricing, just transition funds, and sustainable finance taxonomies. Together, these frameworks illuminate the full spectrum of the challenge, from grassroots lifestyle shifts to sovereign fiscal mechanisms.

Financing remains the central constraint. The annual investment gap for SDG achievement in developing countries is estimated at USD 4.2 trillion (UNCTAD, 2023). Mobilising this required financing through climate bonds, blended finance, innovative fiscal instruments, and reformed multilateral development bank mandates while ensuring its equitable distribution across the Global South, is the defining fiscal challenge of this decade.

Relevance and Conference Objective

This conference convenes scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society representatives to interrogate the pathways, tensions, and innovations at the intersection of lifestyle transitions, green regulatory frameworks, and sustainable finance all assessed against the benchmark of Agenda 2030. It is particularly timely given the ongoing UN Summit of the Future (2024), the Financing for Development Conference (2025), and the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, all of which demand coordinated intellectual and policy engagement.

The conference seeks to: (i) advance rigorous academic and policy analysis of the drivers of and barriers to SDG achievement; (ii) critically evaluate the LiFE framework as a behavioural and governance instrument; (iii) assess the Green Pact's global externalities and lessons for developing economies; (iv) identify innovative and equitable mechanisms for financing the sustainability transition; and (v) produce actionable recommendations for multilateral, national, and subnational actors across the Global South and North alike.

Suggested Conference Tracks

#	Track Title	Scope and Focus
I	LiFE and Behavioural Transitions	Governance and grassroots dimensions of Mission LiFE; behaviour change as climate policy; circular economy and sustainable consumption; cultural and community-led environmental transitions; evidence from the Global South.
II	Green Pact: Architecture and Global Spillovers	EU Green Deal policy instruments, carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAM), sustainable finance taxonomy, and just transition frameworks; implications for trade, industrialisation, and regulatory sovereignty in developing countries.
III	Financing Sustainable Development	SDG financing gaps and innovative instruments: green bonds, blue bonds, blended finance, and debt-for-nature swaps; reform of multilateral development banks; sovereign climate funds; climate justice and conditionality in development finance.
IV	Climate Governance, Equity, and the 2030 Agenda	SDG interlinkages, trade-offs, and synergies; loss and damage finance; adaptation finance and climate vulnerability; fiscal federalism and subnational sustainability governance; gender and intersectional equity in sustainable development policy.
V	Technology, Innovation, and Green Transitions	Clean energy transitions and technology transfer; digital public infrastructure for sustainability monitoring; green industrial policy and economic complexity; evidence-based pathways for decarbonisation in agriculture, manufacturing, and urban systems.

Note: While the listed themes are indicative, we welcome all scholarly research exploring the financial dimensions of the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

About: Society for Pathways to Sustainability (PathS)

Established on March 29, 2022, the Society for Pathways to Sustainability (PathS) is a charitable organization dedicated to advancing sustainable development through interdisciplinary research and policy advocacy. With a diverse membership of over 233 researchers, academicians, and policymakers, the Society translates empirical findings into strategies that enhance global well-being. Its core focus areas include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender equality, environmental management, financial inclusion, and public policy planning, ensuring a holistic approach to modern sustainability challenges.

The Society is distinguished by its extensive history of impactful conferences. PathS has organized ten major events to date: the First International Conference on Higher Education and SDGs (Haryana, 2022); Second on Green Finance (New Delhi, 2023); Third on Economic Growth (Meerut, 2023); and the Fourth and Fifth on SDG Strategies and Policies (Panipat and Rewari, 2024). These were followed by a National Conference on Building Sustainable India (Indore, 2024), the Sixth International on the Circular Economy (Jodhpur, 2024), the Seventh focused on Agenda 2030 (Nigeria, 2025), the Eighth on Theory and Practice (Shillong, 2025), and the Ninth on Holistic Sustainability (New Delhi, 2026).

Beyond academic dialogue, PathS actively engages in grassroots outreach through sustainability awareness camps in states such as Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and Assam. To support its mission and join its professional network, individuals can apply for Life Membership at a fee of ₹10,000. For those interested in participating in their ongoing efforts to bridge systems, societies, and cultures, further information and resources are available at their official website, www.paths.co.in.



About: The Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)

GIFT is located at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and is a premier autonomous institution of the Government of Kerala recognised by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). It was established in 1992 and renamed in 2009 to be called the Centre of Taxation Studies named after one of the most renowned economists, Professor Iqbal Singh Gulati. The institute is a specialised research, training and consultancy centre of excellence in the field of public economics hence playing the role of bridging the gap between theory and the actual fiscal policy. It provides the input that is essential to the State Government on matters relating to public finance, taxation, and fiscal federalism and its interdisciplinary faculty, which includes economics, law, and commerce, has been involved in national-level policy debates and the adoption of reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Academic activities of the institute include a demanding PhD-level course in Social Sciences, as well as a flagship course Post-Graduate Diploma in GST (PGD-GST), which aims to prepare practitioners and officials to become more competent professionals. The organisation is also a platform of knowledge dissemination; it publishes the quarterly journal Kerala Economy, Kerala Tax Reporter and regular news about the Indian economy. Its pillars of research focus on the public revenue, expenditure, debt management and gender sensitive budgetary management, hence making fiscal governance equitable and sustainable. The institute remains central in strengthening the fiscal structure of Kerala and South India through extended training programmes and policy research based on evidence.



About Nalanda University

Nalanda University: Nalanda University is inspired by the legacy of the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara, a celebrated center of learning established during the reign of Emperor Kumaragupta (413–455 CE). Known for its inclusive and interdisciplinary approach, the ancient university attracted scholars from across Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Eminent thinkers such as Nagarjuna, Dharmakirti, and Shantideva were associated with it, while the Chinese scholar Xuanzang studied there in the 7th century.

Revived as a modern institution, Nalanda University was established under the Nalanda University Act, 2010, and began functioning in 2014. Its global vision is supported by an intergovernmental MoU signed at the 8th East Asia Summit in 2013, with participation from 18 countries. The University promotes inter-civilizational dialogue and seeks to reconnect historical Asian linkages through interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Nalanda offers international master's, PhD, and short-term programs, attracting a diverse global student body. It is also India's first net-zero campus, emphasizing sustainability through eco-friendly infrastructure. Through its Sahbhagita initiative, the University actively engages with nearby villages to promote livelihoods, education, and sustainable development, reflecting its commitment to inclusive growth.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR CONFERENCE

Instructions for Authors

The interested participants may send an extended abstract of research paper (upto 1000 words) or a poster by **July 31, 2026**. The extended abstract should contain the following sections: Introduction (200 words), Methodology/ Conceptual framework (150 words), Rationale/justification of the study (100 words), Results and discussion (200 words) and Expected outcome and policy implication (350 words).

The decision for acceptance of the abstract shall be conveyed on **Augusts 20, 2026**. Full research paper in MS-word format (Times New Roman, Font-12, line spacing 1.5 and up to 8000 words (including references and appendix) in APA style or Chicago style) may be sent by **September 30, 2026**.

Link for sending extended abstract:

<https://forms.gle/sTAaKo7bWwjfiHbm8>

Email address for any query:

conferencegiftpaths@gmail.com

Best Paper Awards

Best paper awards will be given to encourage quality research in each track. The best paper awards will be given to those participants who adhered to all guidelines of the conference abstract, registration and full paper as per deadline.

Publication Opportunities

Selected quality papers shall be considered for publication in an Edited Book (ISBN) from a reputed international publisher or an International Journal. The publication of a paper will be subject to the referees' decision and submission of a copyright agreement and zero plagiarism report.

A list of peer reviewed journals, UGC care listed journals and Scopus / WoS listed journals will also be displayed on the conference website for the publication of quality manuscripts submitted and presented in the conference as per the respective journal policy and APC (if any).

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

The registration form along with the payment details will be sent with the acceptance of the abstract. The registration fee includes participation in all technical sessions, conference kit, copy of the book, certificates, and refreshments. For the online participants, it includes the certificate of paper presentation and twin-share accommodation (15th November evening to 18th Morning). Registration and payment details follow abstract acceptance.

MODE	ACCOMODATION	PATHS MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	ONLINE
SAARC PARTICIPANTS	WITH ACCOMMODATION	INR 3000	INR 5000	INR 2000
	WITHOUT ACCOMMODATION	INR 2500	INR 3000	
FOREGIN PARTICIPANTS	WITHOUT ACCOMMODATION	USD 100		USD 50
CORPORATE/INDUSTRY PERSONS	WITH ACCOMMODATION	INR 15000		INR 5000
	WITHOUT ACCOMMODATION	INR 10000		
ACCOMPANYING PERSON / GUESTS	WITH ACCOMMODATION	2000		

Note:

- The non-refundable registration fee is per author.
- All authors and co-authors must register separately, but those submitting multiple papers need only register once.
- Only registered authors will be issued certificate of participation.

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