



Lead authors: Reinhard Mechler (IIASA), Anne-Sophie Stevance (ISC), Teresa M. Deubelli (IIASA)

Contributors: Anna Scolobig (IIASA), JoAnne Linnerooth-Bayer (IIASA), John Handmer (IIASA), Jenan Irshaid (IIASA), Gordon McBean (Western University, London, Canada), Ricardo Zapata (Consultant, UNDP), Marc Gordon (UNDRR), Maria Ivanova (Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston), Leena Srivastava (IIASA), Luis Gomez-Echeverri (IIASA), Stefan Hochrainer-Stigler (IIASA), Thomas Schinko (IIASA), Adebayo Olukoshi (IDEA), Sirkku Juhola (Univ. Helsinki) and many others



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Building pathways to sustainability in a post-COVID world

- **IIASA & ISC partnership** combining the strengths and expertise to define and design sustainability pathways through a multi-stakeholder dialogue, that will enable a more equitable post-COVID world
- **Global hub** for consultation, deliberation, and collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and representatives from civil society and private sector around four key interconnected themes:
 - Governance for sustainability
 - Strengthening science systems
 - Resilient food systems
 - Sustainable energy



Responding to COVID19

The rules of **good governance**
apply now
more than ever!

Reports, policy responses and webinars on the public governance response to Covid19

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
CONTRIBUTING TO A GLOBAL EFFORT

Covid-19 'infecting' Sustainable Development Goals

As the world prepares for a global economic crisis, reflecting on the SDGs becomes all the more important

By SOUMYA BHOWMICK

"The pandemic represents a rare but narrow window of opportunity to reflect, reimagine, and reset our world."



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Newsroom

Good governance essential for authorities to successfully tackle COVID 19

Opinion: Let's not return to business as usual



The coronavirus crisis has provided us with the opportunity to make our economies more sustainable. We should be courageous and seize this moment for the environment, says DW's Neil King.

Is COVID-19 Earth's cure for climate change?



The coronavirus pandemic has led to a huge reduction in pollution and greenhouse gases, with economic activity suspended to prevent the spread of the disease. But not all environmentalists are optimistic about what it could mean for the planet's future. ▶

Op-Ed: Rebuilding After COVID-19, Our Chance for an Equitable Clean-Energy Economy

It outlines hundreds of policy recommendations for addressing and adapting to impacts due to climate change and is centered on 12 key pillars ...

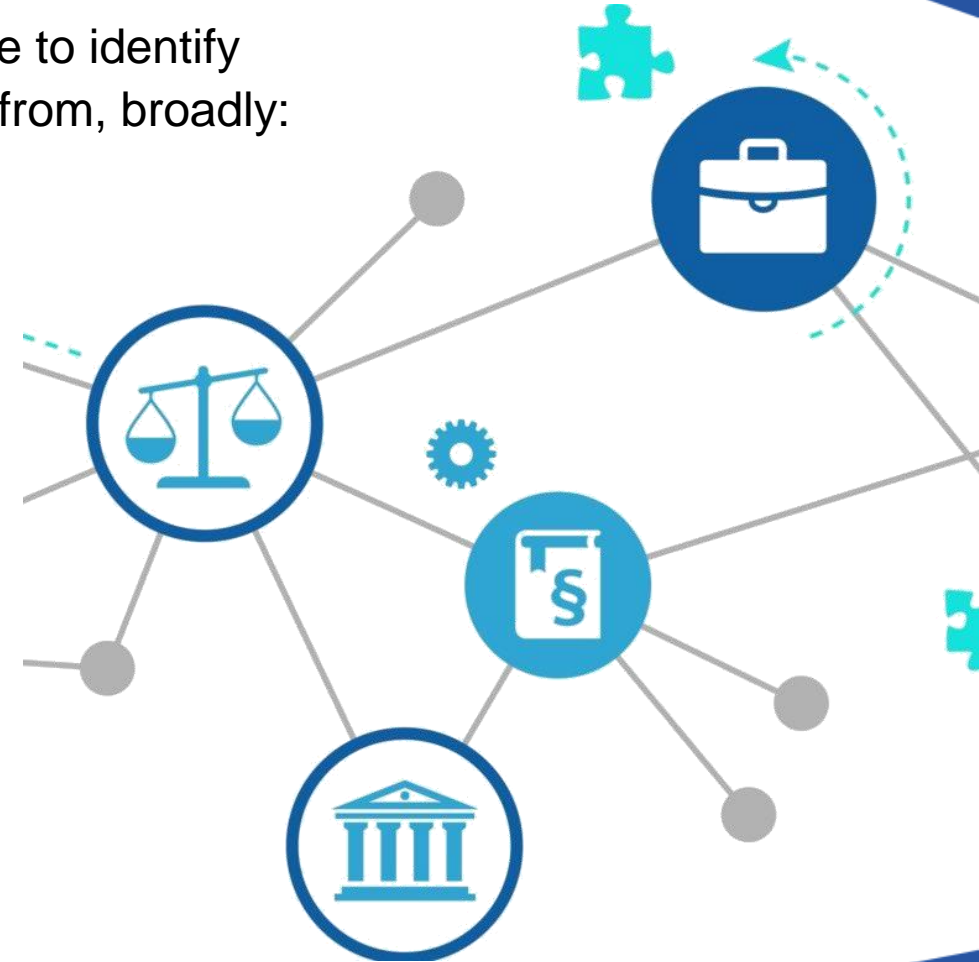
Narrative: learning from Covid-19 for Sustainability Transformations



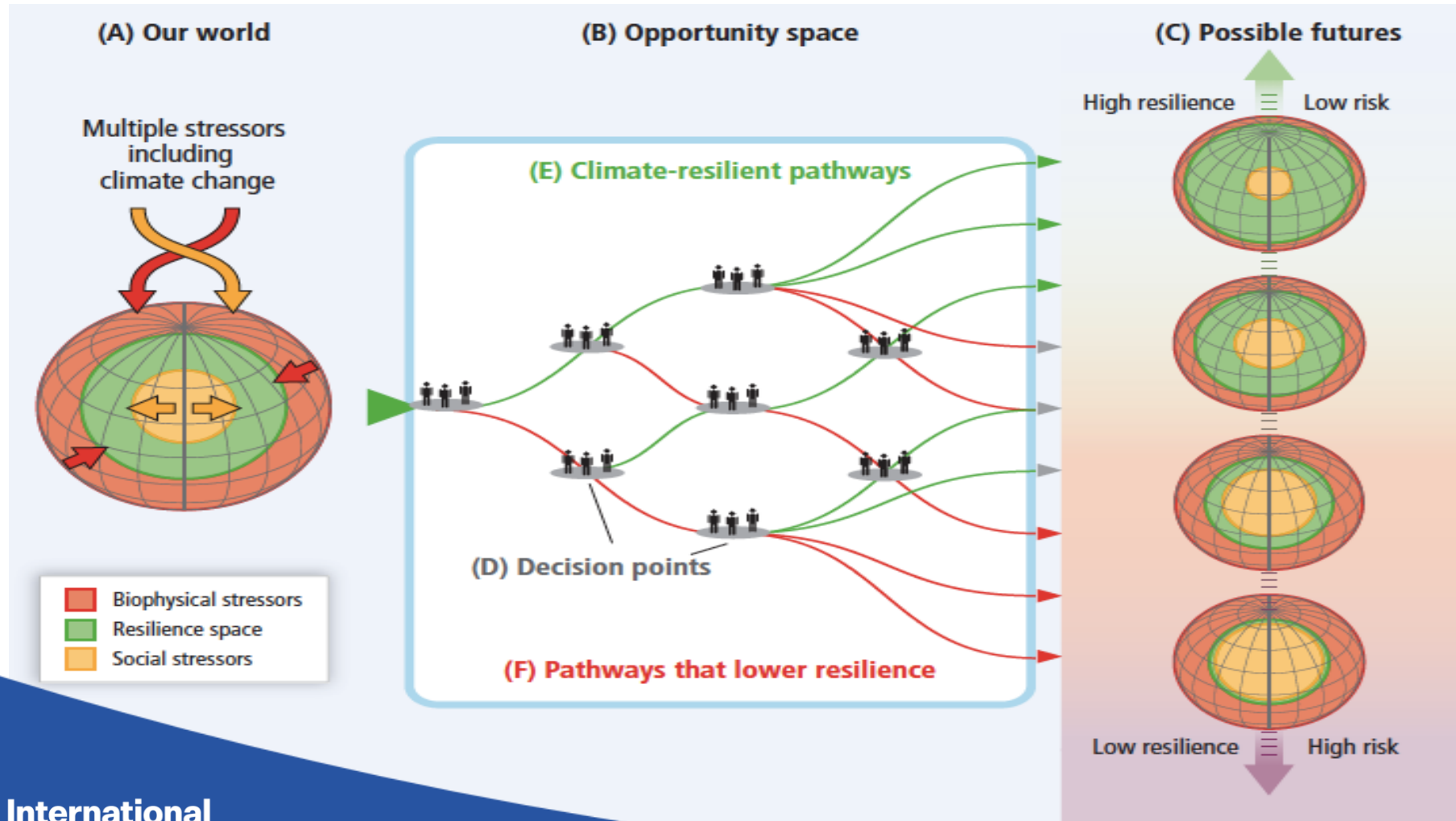
COVID-19 has shown that current socio-ecological trends **bring us to a world that is facing increasing systemic risks** in addition to **being unequal and unsustainable**. Learning how intertwined human and natural systems are and how a local threat can quickly become a global crisis, our consultations with leading experts, advisors and policymakers have shown that realizing sustainable development is an **imperative to systemically reduce risk, build resilience and secure long-term development gains**.

Process and Outputs

- Literature review and synthesis
- Three intensive and representative consultations on each theme to identify and develop the transformations within reach, with participants from, broadly:
 1. Science / academia / research communities
 2. Practice community: private sector, finance, NGOs
 3. Policy and decision-makers / influencers
- Advisory Board sounding out the directions in which the initiative was heading and the evolving messages
- Options synthesis and report dissemination



Pathways towards resilience: Decisions in the opportunity space

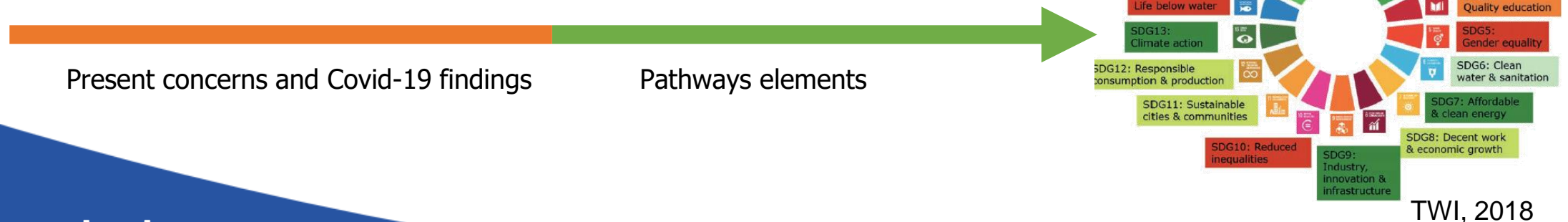


IPCC, 2014



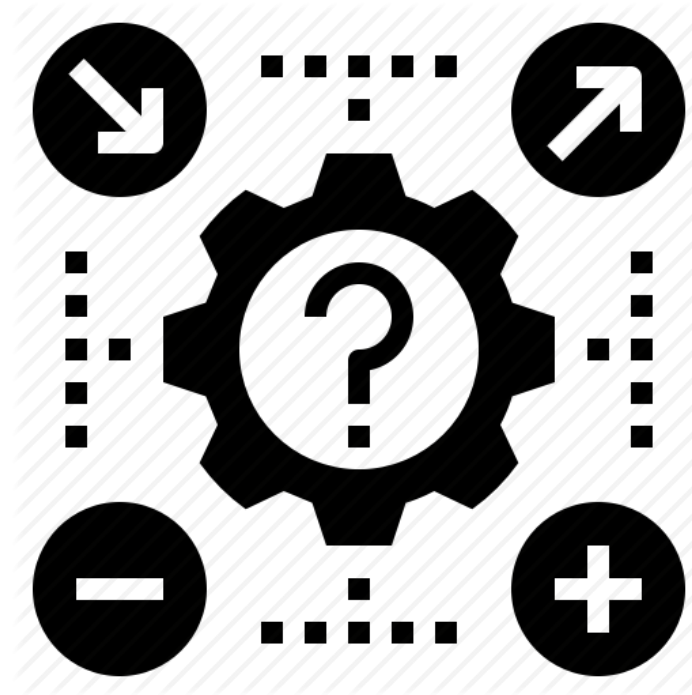
Pathways exercise

- Consider feasibility, enablers and entry points for shortlisted policy options
- Time dimension: next 10 years (SDG ambition period)
- Prioritize and enable options from the consultations shortlist:
 - **Global governance** enhanced at global and regional scales to shift development towards sustainable and resilient pathways in view of increasing compound and systemic risk
 - **National governance** involving to upgrade compound and systemic resilience governance

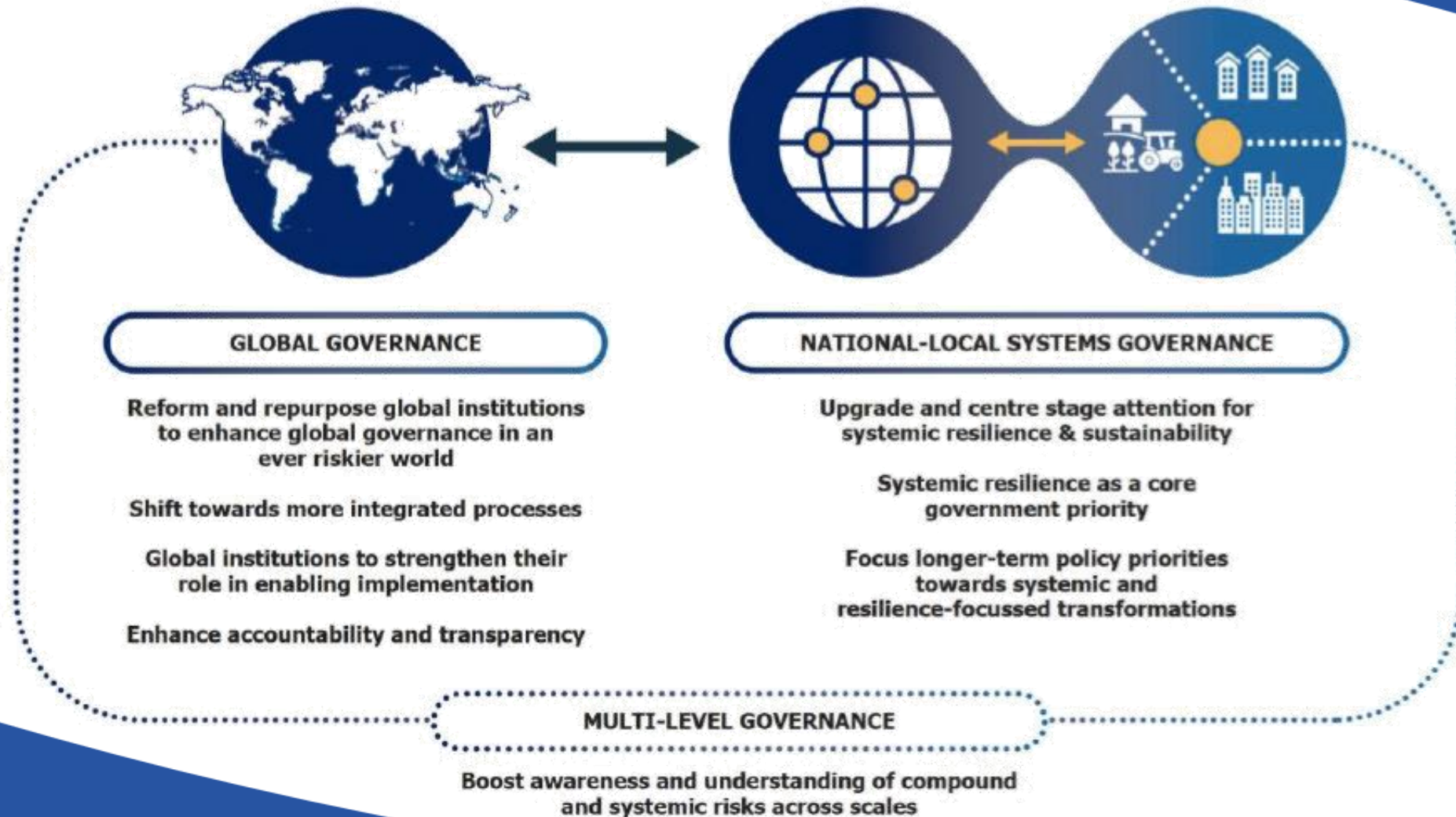


Guiding questions:

What is necessary? What is doable? What is needed to make it happen?



Options for enhancing governance for sustainability

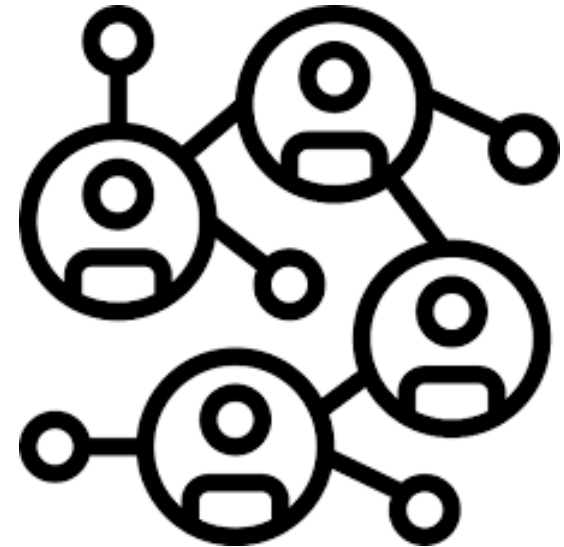


Global Governance: Reform and repurpose global institutions to enhance global governance in an ever-riskier world

Learning: Today's global challenges (COVID-19, climate change, ...) characterized by interconnectedness → international system based on "specialized agencies" increasingly unfit to respond to today's interconnected problems

Options:

- Shift towards more integrated processes (e.g. regular coordination platforms, incl. crisis provisions)
- Strengthen science-policy-society interfaces for evidence-based, participatory decision-making (e.g. advisory bodies with regular/on-demand consultation arrangements, participatory platforms)
- Build accountability and transparency provisions into more integrated governance arrangements (e.g. through safe-guarded mechanisms for sharing data, monitoring & evaluating of objectives)
- Cooperate in mission-oriented ways to drive action in multi-stakeholder coalitions (e.g. EU Sustainable Recovery Alliance)



Multi-level Governance: Boost awareness and understanding of compound and systemic risks across governance arrangements at all scales

Learning: COVID crisis shows a need for understanding, accounting and managing social and environmental externalities and risks. Shared understanding and experience of risk from the individual and community level is needed to drive collective action at all scales.

Options:

- Launch a **multi-level global risk and resilience dialogue** generating bottom-up and top-down awareness raising and mapping of risks (and underlying drivers) and strategic embedding of and resilience in strategies and plans.
- Alignment of investments with the SDGs and managing long-term risks.
- Extend on-going process related to the Taskforce on climate-related financial disclosures into an **all-risk SDG disclosure mechanism** addressing other global commons and social goals
- Science-based targets and metrics, business and societally-relevant scenarios



Governance in National Systems: Make systemic resilience & sustainability a core government priority

Learning: Addressing vulnerability and building resilience create multiple dividends; failure to invest in that reduce our collective capacity, across countries and across generations, to thrive and cope with crises

Options:

- Make systemic resilience a core government priority by moving it to the center of government (CoG): from risk managers to resilience offices through the following actions
- **Ensure shorter-term Covid recovery packages integrate sustained investments into SDGs and SDG wide resilience and lead to longer-term transformations to build forward rather than back**
 - Devise science-based tracking mechanism assessing the alignment of the green fiscal recovery packages with the SDGs and systemic resilience



Way forward



The thematic and Synthesis reports are available on IIASA's and ISC's websites



IIASA and the ISC plan to continue working towards Transformations Within Reach by:

- Deepening the analytical basis of our suggested areas for action to precipitate the required transformations
- Defining the pathways for success
- And to ensure continuous and dynamic engagement towards potential implementation plans



Building a multi-stakeholder platform

IIASA and IIASA further commitment: Belmont Proposal submitted etc.

<https://covid19.iiasa.ac.at/isc/>

