



GSN New Year Conference, Abu Dhabi, 2025 Conference Pack

Welcome to The Global Sustainability Network's Flagship Conference 2025, Abu Dhabi!

As we step into 2025, we are united by an urgent mission and a shared hope. With just five years until 2030, the milestone set by the UN to achieve a world free from modern slavery and human trafficking, a world with decent jobs, equality, a future of freedom and justice.

2030 may feel out of reach, but we believe that with bold action, relentless work, and collective determination, we can ignite the momentum needed to dismantle exploitation and create a sustainable world. Together, we embody the expertise, values, leadership, and power of a global network determined to make every second of the countdown to 2030 count. Come and see how you can make a difference through your contacts, your contribution and your commitment.

Event Details:

Location: Zayed Higher Organization (ZHO), 91 Al Ri'ayah St, Shakhbout City, Abu Dhabi 23647.

Date & Time: Tuesday, 14th January 2025

Registration 9:00am

This is a (free) ticketed event so please register [here](#) to attend!

The Zayed Higher Organization (ZHO) is dedicated to empowering and supporting People of Determination (individuals with disabilities). It provides services such as rehabilitation, education, and inclusion programs across the UAE. It aims to enhance the quality of life and promote equal rights for People of Determination. ZHO focuses on integrating individuals into society through specialised services, assessments, and support systems. It promotes awareness, advocacy, and provides training. For more details, visit [ZHO's website](#).

For those staying at (or near) the St Regis hotel on the Corniche (see page 3 for rates) we will be operating transportation from the hotel to the conference venue approx 8.20am departure. Please email sarah@gsgoal8.org to reserve your place for this transfer service.

9am Registration

9.15am Welcome from the Founders, Raza Jafar & Bishop Alastair Redfern

9.30am Session 1: Job Creation and Vulnerability

This session explores innovative strategies for empowering vulnerable communities through education and employment to be less susceptible to exploitation and modern slavery. Esteemed panellists will discuss tools for empowerment, challenges faced by marginalised groups, and practical solutions for fostering equitable job creation in today's labour market.

Panel to include: **Scott Cunningham** (chair), Technology Entrepreneur, investor, and global & change leader.
Pir Muhammad Sadiq, Hereditary spiritual leader & Chairman of The Luaripak Group
Andrew Baird, CEO, Education for employment
Deodat Maharaj, Managing Director, UN Tech Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTB)

10.15am Keynote Speaker: His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence for the UAE. With an introduction by **His Excellency Abdullah Abudalee Al Humaidan**

11am Break

11.15am Session 2: People of Determination—Learning from the Challenges

This session focuses on the experiences of People of Determination (Individuals with disabilities), addressing their vulnerability to exploitation and the transformative potential of inclusion. Discussions will highlight the role of education, employment, and community support in driving sustainable impact, with input from inclusive practitioners and change-makers in business.

Panel to include: **Dr Catherine O' Farrell** (Chair) Founding Partner, Incluzon
Marilena di Coste CEO & Founder of The Butterfly, Disability Advocate
Dr Sameera Alobeidli, Director of Strategy and Business Development, NMC Assetco Limited

12 noon: Open session

Curated by co-founder Bishop Alastair Redfern, this session will feature insights from key supporters and Global Sustainability Network (GSN) members, including humanitarian photographer **Lisa Kristine**. We will explore actionable solutions, foster collaboration, and discuss strategies to drive progress as we approach the critical 2030 deadline. The discussion will focus on the key pillars of the Global Sustainability Network: Government, Faith, Academia, Media, and NGOs/Civil Society. Additionally, we will share our vision and plans for 2025 and beyond.

1pm: Light Lunch and networking

2pm: Tour of ZHO Facilities:

After the morning sessions, attendees are invited to tour ZHO's facilities to witness first-hand the incredible work being done.

2.40pm END

Exclusive Sunset Event in Dubai

For our speakers and donor members we are hosting an exclusive welcome sunset gathering onboard a private yacht in Dubai Marina on **Tuesday, 13th January, from 4:00 PM**. This is a unique opportunity to connect, contribute, and celebrate our shared mission. To join us you would need to be one of our speakers or make a financial donation to the charity. please contact sarah@gsngoal8.org for more info.

HOTELS

We have block booked rooms at The St. Regis in Abu Dhabi, night of Sunday 12, Monday 13, Tuesday 14, Wednesday 14. The St. Regis is part of the iconic Nation Towers is located in the heart of Abu Dhabi on the spectacular Corniche, minutes from the Marina Mall and many of the embassies, oil and gas companies and other business institutions in the city. They pride themselves on blending authentic Arabian hospitality and the St. Regis brand. You can use and collect Marriot Bonvoy hotel points here is you are part of the club. The hotel is respected as a business and social hub for Arabian royalty, corporate executives and leisure guests from all over the world

We have available the following rates including all local taxes and breakfast per night:
Superior City view AED 1,111.50 for single occupancy, AED 1,235.00 for double
For a Superior sea view AED 1,235.00 for single occupancy, AED 1,358.50 for double

[BOOK HERE](#)

BENEFITS INCLUDED FOR ALL IN-HOUSE GUESTS

- ◆ 24-hour signature St. Regis Butler Service Abudhabi.butler@stregis.com
- ◆ Welcome amenity and bottled mineral water in the room
- ◆ Daily local newspaper
- ◆ Pressing of two items
- ◆ Private dedicated check-in and check-out for VIPs
- ◆ Complimentary wireless high-speed internet access
- ◆ Access to the St. Regis Spa Abu Dhabi, outdoor swimming pool and private beach
- ◆ Iron and ironing board upon request
- ◆ Bose I-Pod docking station
- ◆ Dedicated concierge team
- ◆ Welcome drink upon arrival

Incredible suites also an option, contact the hotel and mention GSN to explore other room options.

To learn more about property facilities, please scan QR code:

CHECK-IN /CHECK OUT

Earliest check in time is 3pm. Latest check out time is 12pm.

You have until 23rd December to make the booking using this special rate.

AIRPORT TRANSFER (IF REQUIRED)

- ◆ Limousine Service (maximum 3 guests / car) can be provided from / to as follows:

Abu Dhabi International Airport

- ◆ Mercedes Viano/GMC Yukon: AED 525 per way
- ◆ BMW7 series or similar: AED 400 per way

Dubai International Airport

- ◆ Mercedes Viano/ GMC Yukon: AED 1,000 per way
- ◆ BMW7 series or similar: AED 900 per way

Please contact the hotel directly for a transfer service.

The St. Regis Abu Dhabi
Nation Towers, Corniche
Abu Dhabi, P.O. Box 60476
United Arab Emirates

