**CALL TEXT for CRA: Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SSCP)**

1. **Background and Rationale**

The Belmont Forum welcomes transdisciplinary proposals to its collaborative research actions (CRA) on systems of sustainable consumption and production (SSCP). Existing models of consumption and production are unsustainable, failing to ensure that basic needs are met and resulting in worsening ecological conditions. The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the dominant economic model of today as fragile and inequitable. An important lesson to be learned from this crisis is that social changes can occur quickly. Equally important, however, is the knowledge that as we move forward, sustaining such changes will require institutional reforms and meaningful public involvement.

As a result, research focusing on sustainable, resilient, and just systems of consumption and production is currently a critical societal need. Such an endeavor requires a comprehensive engagement of natural, physical, and social scientists as well as stakeholders and leaders from industry, government, and organizations at the local, regional, and global levels the world over.

In recent decades, the research on sustainable consumption and production that informs government and industry policies has tended to focus on singular, micro-political issues rather than addressing consumption and production as a socio-technical system. In the absence of a systemic diagnosis, it is no surprise that these efforts have had limited impact.

This is a call for an international community of transdisciplinary SSCP researchers, comprising top scientists the world over, who are well connected to institutions of policy and practice. Such an approach to sustainable research would also attract substantial funding owing to the inter-connected nature of a transdisciplinary project. The creation of this community is essential for not just the coordination and synthesis of current research but also setting an agenda for future research.

1. **Main Themes of SSCP**

We have organized this call for the CRA around four key themes. Proposals to the Belmont Forum SSCP CRA must address one of the following four themes or cut across some or all of them.

1. **Transdisciplinary research to help transition to green economies with sustainable systems of consumption and production**

Transitioning to SSCPs will be essential in supporting green economies with circular practices of consumption and production, building on available and emerging science and engineering solutions. Technical solutions, however, are often limited to specific domains and lack the requisite societal support for widespread deployment and acceptance. Fundamental scientific and technological research for SSCP thus needs to be integrated with applied and social sciences in order to encourage and facilitate collective and individual action. Moreover, transdisciplinary research that involves a broad spectrum of stakeholders, from producers, consumers, governments to NGOs, expands the scope of scientific discourse while delivering practical and innovative solutions to foster transformational actions toward sustainability. The scope of scientific discourse includes, but is not limited to: metrics and tools for assessing green economies, food and agriculture system, circular societies, and SSCP; the multilevel systems of lifestyles, consumer behavior, supply-chains, trade, policies, political institutions, and governance systems; and alternative narratives for well-being within planetary boundaries.

1. **Sustainable and Resilient industries and their governance systems**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of many industries, leading to increasing calls to “build back better.” The extractive sector has an enormous negative environmental impact and features the worst cases of global economic inequality. Furthermore, low-cost manufacturing creates low-quality, unnecessary, or underutilized throw-away products that add to the planet's ecological burden. As a result, the need of the hour is to extend the producer's responsibility to cover a product's life cycle and supply chain. We also need more aggressive formal and informal industrial governance systems to encourage transitions to resilient industries. Such a transition could shape a more sustainable future through advanced analytics and process efficiencies in a new era of automation and digitalization. Convergent transdisciplinary research can help redesign industries and various provisioning systems to be more sustainable, resilient, and equipped with enhanced adaptive capacity.

1. **Social Inequality and Environmental Justice**

Social inequality and environmental injustice are not new phenomena in the contemporary political economy. Yet, their prevalence and intimate relationships with systems of governance have not been adequately addressed in SSCP research. As the uneven distribution of benefits and risks between the global North and South in the current consumption production system poses a challenge to normative categories of fairness and equity, it is necessary to investigate the flow of products and wastes at a planetary scale. On a smaller scale, we also need a better understanding of economic and social divides between urban and rural regions. This may address aspects of participative democracy. Overcoming these challenges requires the development of alternative models of governance, redesigning global systems in order to avoid the traditional patterns of unequal development. Such an exercise, of envisioning justice-centric models of governance, addresses not only lower-income countries looking to "leapfrog" to more sustainable pathways but also the more developed nations that need to shift to an effective green economy. In the performance of such an exercise, adequate attention should be given to societal power dynamics and hierarchies as well as the roles of culture and religion. The focus must be a structural overhaul.

1. **Integrating new technologies, policies, and practices into everyday life**

Individual and collective behaviors and practices of consumption and production are intricately linked to culture, tradition, and societal hierarchies. Aiming at a sustainable system for consumption and production means assessing the critical role that new technologies such as ICT play in reshaping consumption and production behavior. In order to model changes in consumer behavior accurately, such technologies need to be investigated at different levels, from the local to the regional. The role of digital platforms and "smart" technologies also deserves further attention. The focus has to remain the shifting unsustainable consumption and production decisions.

1. **Call statement**

Proposals will be due on 2022 Mid Oct.

This call will fund three-year projects starting in 2023 Early months.

Descriptions of funding and in-kind support available for this call are featured in organizational annexes. Please review the annexes and contact the appropriate program representative to determine the eligibility of your proposed project.

All projects should include 3 funding agencies from 3 different countries listed in the annexes (eligibility criteria). Wide-ranging geographic participation is encouraged in order to increase the scalability and applicability of project outcomes.

Consortium partners that are not eligible for funding from any of the participating funding agencies can participate in the project at their own expense.

Participants are allowed to seek assistance for engaging with scientists and institutions of capacity-building in developing countries.

1. **Eligibility Requirements**

All projects must implement integrated expertise from social sciences, natural/climate sciences, and the humanities. Furthermore, projects are required to co-develop with inputs from various stakeholders. “Stakeholder” is broadly interpreted for this CRA, drawing from a breadth of sectors, including but not limited to the public sector, intergovernmental, management and policy, citizenry, the private sector, and NGOs. The added value of the international consortium and the national investment should be clearly demonstrated.

To meet the Belmont Forum Data Policy and Principles, all proposed full projects for the SSCP require a data management plan. If needed, templates for these plans are available on the Belmont Forum website. The plan should include information about the types of data, information, models, software, workflows and code, and other digital products being generated by the project. It should outline accessible archives or any other repository where these products and accompanying metadata are housed.

The Belmont Forum Open Data Principles are intended to improve and promote the dissemination of knowledge, access to data, and the capacity to reuse. This helps to improve the efficiency of scientific discovery and maximize the return on research funding. The funded CRA SSCP projects are expected to make their best efforts to ensure open access to data as soon as possible. Awarded projects will be checked for compliance with open data procedures at mid-term and end-term valorization events using information provided to the Belmont Forum grant operations (BFgo) reporting system.

Successful projects are expected to participate in coordinated activities throughout the lifespan of the project including Kick-Off, Mid-Term, and End-Term activities to be held at the [Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress](https://sri2022.org/). The expenses for these activities should be accounted for in the budget to allow participation from at least three Research Consortium members.

1. **Post-award requirements**

The kick-off, mid-term, and end-term valorization activities will be held at accessible international locations. Please plan for at least three project consortium members representing different knowledge systems (natural/climate, social/humanities, and stakeholder perspectives) to attend.

Awarded projects must adhere to the Belmont Forum Open Data Policy. Program coordinators will check for compliance with the open data policy at the required mid-term and end-term valorization events.

Awarded projects will also submit integrated annual reports into the BFgo reporting system. The lead PI will receive log-in credentials after the award has been confirmed. Inputs to this system should reflect the perspectives of the entire consortium. The reports are due annually on June 10th for the lifetime of the award.

1. **Timeline**

2022 Feb. 16 SSCP Call Opening

2022 May 10 due for Registration-Proposal Submission

2022 Early July 1st PoE held

2022 Oct. 10 SSCP Full Proposals received

2022 End of Nov. 2nd PoE held

2023 Early months to launch

1. **How to apply**

All relevant call documents for SSCP, including guidelines for applicants and the submission portal, can be found at the Belmont Forum Grant Operations site (<https://bfgo.org>).