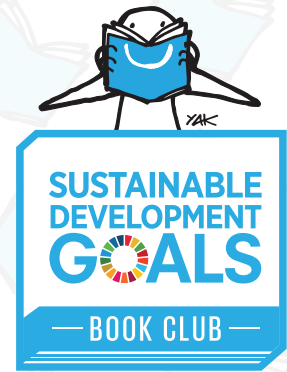# Organize your SDG Book Club Online

A lot of us are practicing social distancing at the moment to protect ourselves and our loved ones from COVID-19. This can be difficult at times, especially when you miss your friends or relatives. How about connecting with them virtually by organizing your own online get-together to read and share books?

Here are some ideas to help you get started.

Start a booklist

- Take stock of your books and make a list of books that you would like to share with others.

- Need inspiration for new books to read? Check our SDG Book Club reading lists, where you can find fun and educational books about how to solve problems like hunger or injustice around the world, available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish (the official languages of the United Nations).
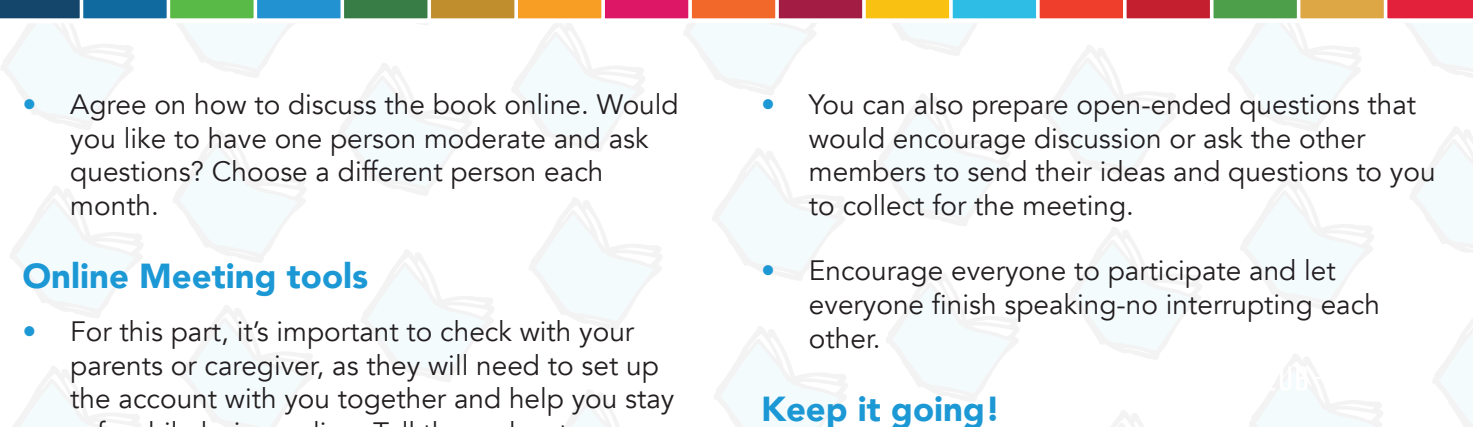
Invite your friends to join

- Invite your friends, classmates, teammates, and family members to join! Decide how many members your book club should have. 3-5 is probably a good number.

- Post something on your school or community online board or send an email or text message to your close friends.

- Share what motivated you to start this project so that it attracts more people with the same goals. Maybe you want to learn more about the topics of the SDG Book Club, perhaps you want to spend time with your friends, or you are looking for a way to use this time of staying at home in a meaningful way.

- Find a name for your SDG Book Club and discuss your ideas with the other members of the book club. The name can be related to a specific theme, or the name of a city, or any related topic that the entire group agrees to use.

- Set goals that you would like to accomplish together as a result of this book club project. Make your goals clear and write them down. *Tip: Learn more about how our environment can be better preserved, or how can we educate others for a more sustainable future.*

- Invite your club members to co-create some ground rules.

Create your own rules together

- What do we want to accomplish together as a group?

- How do we decide which books to read?

- Should we discuss prepared questions, or should we each prepare a presentation for the different ideas we have?

- What activities can we do when we meet virtually?

- How often do we plan to meet?

- What channel do we use to communicate and meet online?

- How long should each meeting last?

- Can the books we choose to be accessed by everyone? (Since a lot of bookshops and libraries are currently closed, would all the books be available for everyone to order or read online?)

- Agree on how to discuss the book online. Would you like to have one person moderate and ask questions? Choose a different person each month.

Online Meeting tools

- For this part, it's important to check with your parents or caregiver, as they will need to set up the account with you together and help you stay safe while being online. Tell them about your project, and we are sure that they will be happy to help.

- Find a way to communicate with each other that everyone can access, for example, a WhatsApp group, Google Hangouts, a Facebook group or Snapchat. Here you can decide on the book to read, the time and platform to meet, and share other ideas.

- Agree on an online meeting platform, ideally with video, so that you can see each other during your meeting.

Write a to-do list for your online meeting

- Start with a round of introductions, so everyone can get to know each other. Then you can dive into a presentation if you decided to have one or start the discussion about the chosen book.

- Give yourself about 40 min- 90 min depending on the size of the group.

- You can also prepare open-ended questions that would encourage discussion or ask the other members to send their ideas and questions to you to collect for the meeting.

- Encourage everyone to participate and let everyone finish speaking-no interrupting each other.

Keep it going!

- How did it go? Did everyone enjoy a lively discussion? Now it's important to keep active.

- Send a thank-you note to everyone for joining.

- Make sure to pick the next book together and give everyone enough time read it.

- Feel free to use materials other than books that you think are interesting, and that everyone in the teams agrees to use.

- Keep a journal where you can record everything you have learned during this process!

- Share your accomplishments via **#SDGBookClub** and tag **@UNpublications,** and you'll have a chance to be featured on the SDG Book Club blog.