Summary of DSGC (2020)  
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**Summary**

The main argument from DSGC (2020) is that clear government action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will bring about a multiplier effect as private companies will get *confidence* to contribute private action for SDGs (see Figure 1). The actions for SDGs, or the lack thereof, are expected affect a set of outcomes: Health standards, Number of jobs, Competitive advantage of Dutch companies, Supply chain inclusivity and Speed of sustainable transition. Based upon the text (DSGC, 4:2020), the author assumes that these outcomes will reinforce the economy, feeding back to public and private capability for SDGs action. Last, it is assumed that the Health standard and Economic resilience have an effect on the size of required COVID-19 recovery instruments, ultimately halting the need for SDG action.



Figure 1. Causal loop diagram depicting the argumentation from DSGC (2020)

**How to read the causal loop diagram**

Each arrow denotes a causal link. The full arrows are links found within the source literature (see Table 1), while dotted arrows are author assumptions. Causal links are read according to their polarity, which is either positive (+) or negative (-), so that a positive polarity link means that variables move in the same direction while a negative link means that they move in the opposite direction. For example, the link from Supply chain inclusivity to Economic resilience (2 in Table 1) is read as follows: “More supply chain inclusivity increases economic resilience” or “Lower supply chain inclusivity decreases economic resilience”.

**What is understood as (government or private) action for SDGs?**   
According to DSGC (5:2020), which claims “We would strongly encourage using the EU Recovery Funds for substantial investments in the fields of energy transition infrastructure, circular economy models, capability development, cleaner mobility solutions (including cleaner fuels), nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration and schemes to drive low-carbon product demand.”, action for SDGs is understood as investments in circular economy business models, nature based solutions, capability development, ecosystem restoration, cleaner mobility solutions, schemes to drive low-carbon product demand and energy transition infrastructure.

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| **N.** | **Source** | **Quote** | **Causal link** | **Polarity** |
| 1 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | A focus on social responsibility and climate action through the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will reinforce economies | Government action for SDGs -> Economic resilience | Positive |
| 2 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | Building supply chains with inclusiveness and sustainability embedded will help to create stable and more resilient economies on both sides. | Supply chain inclusivity -> Economic resilience (contained within 1) | Positive |
| 3 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | Given the size of the required recovery investments and the shortening time until our Paris commitments, we should take full advantage of this opportunity. | Time until Paris commitments -> Government action for SDGs | Negative |
| 4 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | Given the size of the required recovery investments and the shortening time until our Paris commitments, we should take full advantage of this opportunity. | Size of required COVID-19 recovery investments -> Government action for SDGs | Positive |
| 5 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | The EU Green Deal combined with a strong strategy for investments, global trade and diplomacy has the potential to accelerate sustainability transitions in global value chains. | Global trade -> Speed of sustainability transition | Positive |
| 6 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | The EU Green Deal combined with a strong strategy for investments, global trade and diplomacy has the potential to accelerate sustainability transitions in global value chains. | Diplomacy -> Speed of sustainability transition | Positive |
| 7 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | The EU Green Deal combined with a strong strategy for investments, global trade and diplomacy has the potential to accelerate sustainability transitions in global value chains. | Government action for SDGs -> Speed of sustainability transition | Positive |
| 8 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | Subsequently, this will increase EU GDP, improve health standards and create millions of decent jobs. | Government action for SDGs -> EU GDP (contained within 10 and 11) | Positive |
| 9 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | Subsequently, this will increase EU GDP, improve health standards and create millions of decent jobs. | Government action for SDGs -> Health standards | Positive |
| 10 | (DSGC, 4:2020) | Subsequently, this will increase EU GDP, improve health standards and create millions of decent jobs. | Government action for SDGs -> Number of jobs | Positive |
| 11 | (DSGC, 5:2020) | By investing in selected sustainability competencies, innovations, and knowledge, we can build competitive advantages. | Government action for SDGs -> competitive advantage of Dutch companies | Positive |
| 12 | (DSGC, 5:2020) | Investments in sustainable solutions in the medium-term are necessary for our economy’s long-term earnings model | Government action for SDGs -> Long-term economic earning (contained within 1, 10 and 11) | Positive |
| 20 | (DSGC, 5:2020) | Investments following from the EU Green Deal ...have the potential to bring about a multiplier effect in mobilizing the required public and private capital | Government action for SDGs -> Private action for SDGs | Positive |
| 21 | (DSGC, 5:2020) | When done right, these clear objectives and roadmaps provide companies with the confidence to invest in green, net-zero emission solutions for our future needs. | Government action for SDGs -> Company confidence for sustainability-driven investments (contained within 20) | Positive |
| 22 | (DSGC, 5:2020) | We would welcome an independent Dutch study on how we can “Make markets fit for SDG purpose”. | Public guidelines for fitting markets to SDGs -> Company know-how for sustainability driven investments (contained within 20) | Positive |

Table 1. Causal links found within DSGC (2020)

**References**

Dutch Sustainable Growth Coalition (2020) *Dutch businesses endorse sustainability in COVID-19 recovery.* https://www.dsgc.nl. accessed on 5 October 2020.

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