

UNESCO Chairs Seminars Towards a Pact for the Future

Sustainable development and financing for development

Date and time: Tuesday 9 April 2024, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time)

Languages: English and French

Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Progress towards achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) by the 2030 deadline is off-track. Myriad challenges, including persistent and widening inequalities, environmental degradation, climate change, protracted conflicts, and others, continue to threaten prospects for socially just, economically inclusive, and environmentally sustainable development. Multilateral responses must adapt to the changing times to meet the needs of present and future generations. Realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may involve renewing our understanding of sustainable development and shifting towards more integrated, interdisciplinary, and holistic solutions. Urgent commitment to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to realize Agenda 2030 and fully implement the SDGs are needed, leaving no one behind.

The financing gap for sustainable development, however, presents a major obstacle. Since 2020, this has further widened by 56% in developing countries, reaching about USD 4 trillion annually¹. Current levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) are insufficient to meet needs and often heavily earmarked, making a new approach that leverages all sources of finance for sustainable development – domestic, public, ODA, private sector investments, innovative modalities - ever more critical. A surge in financing for the SDGs and additional commitments in line with the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) are critical. The outcome document from the [UN Summit of the Future](#) will look at the viability of international financial systems overall – and envision inclusive, fair and equitable international financial systems that better reflect the socio-economic needs and realities of today.

This UNESCO Chairs Seminar on “*Sustainable development and financing for development*” provides a platform to engage in critical dialogue and knowledge exchange on the multidimensional and evolving concept of ‘sustainable development’. With reference to Chapter 1 of the draft [Pact for the Future](#), participants will address (1) the issue of how to raise the profile of education, the sciences, culture, and communication on the international agenda, in view of existing and widening financing gaps and (2) how to attract and channel resources from various sources towards these crucial areas of UNESCO’s mandate, setting them on a sustainable path for financing. These insights can help to foster more equitable, integrated and coordinated long-term approaches to financing research, policies and programmes at all levels.

¹ OECD. 2022. [Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2023: No Sustainability Without Equity](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

Provisional Agenda

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| 14:00-14:10 | <p>Welcome</p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Julien Pellaux, Director, Division for Partnerships, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO</p> |
| 14:10-14:20 | <p>Global actions for education financing: the investment case for education and innovative financing</p> <p>Olaf Kooijmans, Senior Finance Adviser, UNESCO SDG4 Global Cooperation Section and Inter-Agency Secretariat</p> |
| 14:20-14:50 | <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Caroline Siebold, Executive Officer, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirian Vilela Executive Director, Earth Charter International, UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter, UPEACE, Costa Rica • Fabio Rubio Scarano UNESCO Chair in Planetary Wellbeing and Regenerative Anticipation, The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) & Museum of Tomorrow, Brazil • Andy Pratt Professor of Cultural Economy & Director, CCCI, UNESCO Chair on Global Creative Economy, City University of London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 14:50-15:25 | <p>Comments and Q&A</p> <p>Moderator: Caroline Siebold, Executive Officer, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO</p> |
| 15:25-15:30 | <p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Caroline Siebold, Executive Officer, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO</p> <p>Keith Holmes, Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, Future of Learning and Innovation Division, UNESCO</p> |

**** [Register here](#) ****