



HESI Global Forum 2024

The Future of Higher Education for Sustainable Development

15 July 2024, 3-6 PM, Conference Room 1, UNHQ, New York

Background

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) is a partnership between several United Nations entities and the higher education community. For 2024-2025, the Initiative is chaired by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN University, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education, and the Sulitest Association.

Each year, HESI organizes a global forum as a special event to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) – the UN’s main platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The forum highlights the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development.

The 2024 HESI Global Forum, under the theme "*The Future of Higher Education for Sustainable Development*" will feature:

- **Multi-stakeholder discussion** on the intersection of education, innovation, and sustainability, considering the impact of AI and other emerging technologies amid the concerns about stagnant progress towards the SDGs.
- **Inspiring initiatives** from the UN system, HESI action groups, and beyond.

The Forum will also serve as a preparatory platform for upcoming initiatives to be advocated or launched at the 2024 Summit of the Future. Recommendations and strategies from the Forum will inform policy and practice, shaping advocacy efforts and action plans for sustainable development in higher education.

Outcomes

- Recognition of the imperative to transform higher education to address the dynamic global landscape and unpredictable futures, while valuing local knowledge and partnerships, seizing global opportunities for innovation, and promoting sustainable and equitable development worldwide.
- Identification of areas where higher education can advance SDGs through inclusive emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, while managing related social changes.

- Expansion of the network and membership through active engagement of diverse HESI Action Groups.

Programme

Time	Session
03.00 – 03.20 PM	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA • Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education (video message) • Ms. Shen Xiaomeng, Vice-Rector in Europe & Director, United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security
03.20 – 03.30 PM	<p>Keynote address - Rethinking Higher Education for a Sustainable Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir Hillary Beckles, Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (video message)
03.30 – 04.20 PM	<p>Kicking it off - Innovative Higher Education Initiatives for Sustainable Development</p> <p>This segment aims to inspire participants by showcasing innovative projects that align with the SDGs and explore the potential of emerging technologies like AI. Through brief presentations, it will emphasize the possibilities for leveraging these technologies to enhance sustainability efforts in higher education. Additionally, the segment will highlight the importance of collaboration and synergies among different initiatives, demonstrating how collective action can lead to significant global impact.</p> <p><u>Moderated by Mr. Jean-Christophe Carteron</u></p> <p><u>Initiatives and speakers:</u></p> <p><i>HESI Action Groups:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Action Group: Mr. Paulo Speroni, Manager of Strategy, Governance & Innovation, Principles for Responsible Management Education • Rankings, ratings, and assessments: Mr. Duncan Ross, Times Higher Education • Higher Education for Small Island Developing States: Mr. Sai Navoti, Division for SDGs, UN DESA • The Futures of Higher Education and Artificial Intelligence: Ms. Jonghwi Park, UNU • Education for Green Jobs & SDG Publishers Compact: Dr. Debra Rowe, President, U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development (video message) <p><i>Other initiatives:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sulitest: Mr. Aurelien Decamps, Sulitest • SDG Accord, International Green Gown Awards, Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges: Ms. Quinn Runkle, SOS-UK • Sustainability Evaluation Tool for Higher Education Institutions: Ms. Victoria Galán-Muros, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education • United Nations Academic Impact SDG Hubs and innovative partnerships to drive progress towards the SDGs: Ms. Jayashri Wyatt, Chief of Education Outreach Section, UN Department of Global Communications <p><u>Guiding Questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Exploring Future Potential of Emerging Technologies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do you envision leveraging emerging technologies, such as AI, to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the future? ○ What potential AI technologies or tools do you see integrating into your project moving forward? ○ What challenges do you anticipate in implementing AI technologies, and how do you plan to address them? 2. <u>Synergizing Efforts and Avoiding Duplication</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can we synergize and avoid duplication of efforts among various initiatives on higher education for sustainable development? ○ What strategies do you propose for better coordination and collaboration among different initiatives? ○ What are some successful examples of collaboration between different initiatives that you can share? ○ How can stakeholders in higher education, including institutions, educators, students, and policymakers, work together more effectively to support sustainable development?
04.20 – 05.30 PM	<p>Multi-stakeholder panel: Integrating Education, Innovation, and Sustainable Development in The Future for Higher Education</p> <p><u>Moderated by</u> Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Miki Sugimura, UNESCO Chair on Education for Human Dignity, Peace and Sustainability, Sophia University and Vice Chair, ProSPER.Net (Japan) • Ms. Gbemi Disu, Vice President at Northeastern University (USA) • Ms. Jennifer Milam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Excellence, University of Newcastle (Australia) • Mr. Arturo Condo, President, EARTH University (Costa Rica) • Mr. Kevin Hall, President, University of Victoria (Canada)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Mohammed Alshehri, the Vice-Rector for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, Majmaah University (Saudi Arabia) • Ms. Lydia Logan, Vice President, Global Education and Workforce Development, Corporate Social Responsibility, IBM (USA) • Ms. Zamzam Ibrahim, Director, SOS-International (Somalia) <p><u>Respondents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Krishna Kishore Pandalaneni (India) <p><u>Guiding questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can higher education institutions adapt to and integrate emerging technologies, such as AI, to advance Sustainable Development Goals? • What innovative teaching and learning practices can promote sustainability in higher education? • How do you envision the future of higher education and its contribution to sustainable development with the tools of emerging technologies? • How can partnerships between universities and various societal sectors be strengthened to effectively support sustainable development?
05.30 – 06.00 PM	<p>Fireside Chat: Government Perspectives on the Role of Higher Education in Shaping Sustainable Development</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Brian Christopher Manley Wallace, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations • H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Alwasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nikhil Seth, UNITAR Executive Director and UN Assistant Secretary-General <p><u>Guiding question</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can higher education institutions support sustainable development efforts both nationally and globally?