



Higher Education Sustainability Initiative

Higher Education Institutions – Key Driver of the Sustainable Development Goals

19 July 2017, 3-5 PM, Conference room 1, UNHQ, New York

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), a partnership between United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNESCO, United Nations Environment, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative, United Nations University (UNU), UN-HABITAT and UNCTAD, was created in 2012 in the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). With commitments from over 300 universities from around the world, HESI accounted for more than one-third of all the voluntary commitments that were launched at Rio+20. Through its strong association with the United Nations, HESI provides higher education institutions with a unique interface between higher education, science, and policy making.

On the occasion of the 2017 session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - and in conjunction with the 2017 Global Forum for Responsible Management Education - the partners of HESI, in collaboration with United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), are organizing an event for higher education institutions to showcase how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, is being integrating into sustainability strategies, research, teaching, pedagogy, and campus practices, and to position higher education institutions as key drivers for achieving the SDGs.

In support of the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda, UN DESA has collaborated with a flagship initiative supported by HESI – The SULITEST – and has include questions around the SDGs in the Sulitest assessment platform for assessing knowledge of students of Higher Education Institutions around the world. To date, over 60,000 tests have been administered. The results, which will be presented at the event, followed year after year, will help to identify gaps in knowledge on sustainable development.

Participants of the HESI event will include government officials, academia, university administrators, UN representatives, sustainability professionals, major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

ATTEND THE EVENT

The special event is open to all accredited HLPF participants. For non-accredited participants, please click on the following link to apply for a special event ticket, available on a first come first served basis: <https://goo.gl/Lszb6m>

JOIN HESI

HESI provides a unique interface for higher education institutions to share their experiences and strategies for advancing the sustainable development agenda. All higher education institutions may join the network freely. Higher education institutions part of HESI commit to:

- 1) Teach sustainable development across all disciplines of study,
- 2) Encourage research and dissemination of sustainable development knowledge,
- 3) Green campuses and support local sustainability efforts, and
- 4) Engage and share information with international networks.

Join by clicking “Register initiative” at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/hesi>

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION
OPENING PANEL	
3:00 PM – 3:05 PM	Welcoming remarks - Jonas Haertle, Head, PRME Secretariat, United Nations Global Compact
3:05 PM – 3:10 PM	Keynote address - H.E. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st session of the General Assembly
3.10 PM – 3.20 PM	Remarks by HESI partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD • Marie Paule Roudil, Director, UNESCO New York Office • Jamil Ahmad, Deputy Director of UN Environment-New York
DIALOGUE	
3:20 PM – 3:25 PM	Presentation: SDG SULITEST Assessment, Aurélien DECAMPS, Associate Professor, KEDGE Business School / General Secretary, SULITEST
3:25 PM – 5:00 PM	Moderated Dialogue - Integrating SDGs into sustainability strategies of Higher Education Institutions. <i>Each speaker would have 3 minutes to provide concrete examples on how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has transformed their institutions and areas of work.</i> Moderator: Raina Fox, Partnerships Director Millennium Campus Network (MCN) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Derek Ouyang, Stanford University (United States) 2) Tatiana Landysheva, Global Vice President of Public Relations, AIESEC (Global) 3) Katrin Muff, Dean, Business School Lausanne (Switzerland) 4) Maria Virginia Lasio, Dean, ESPAE-ESPOL (Ecuador) 5) Michaela Rankin, Deputy Dean, International, Monash Business School, Monash University (Australia) 6) Julie Newman, Director of Sustainability, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (United States) 7) John Holmberg, Senior Advisor to the President/CEO, UNESCO Chair, Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden) 8) Hrefna Briem, Director, Reykjavik University (Iceland)

Discussion Questions:

- How has the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, transformed the work of your higher education institution?
- Where do you see higher education institutions having the greatest impact in supporting implementation of the SDGs?
- Can you share any examples of your participation in successful partnerships for the SDGs? For example: across student groups or between students and administrators, inter-departmentally, across institutions in your city/region, with civil society, government, business agencies, etc?
- What role could HESI play in bridging the academia-to-public policy gap?
- What are some of the major challenges of integrating the SDGs into your curriculum and institutional strategies? What approaches have worked to address these challenges?
- Has the adoption of the 2030 Agenda increased the level of interest in sustainability studies among students at your higher education institutions?
- What opportunities do you think the 2030 Agenda presents for students?

Open dialogue with all participants