

## **2021 SDGs Learning, Training and Practice at the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF)**

Title: Accelerating progress towards the SDGs through education

**Session number 8**

**Friday, 9 July during the Afternoon (2:00 to 3:45PM EST) time slot.**

Partners

- Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University
- International Council for Adult Education
- Sulitest

Background:

COVID-19 has made it evident that we not only have to “build back-better” but we need to bring transformative change in the way we approach education. What is the purpose of education? Can education help to build a better, more just and more caring society? COVID-19 brought to light the glimpse of the un-equal world that hidden or forgotten. It showed us that the burden of environmental and social fallouts rests on the communities that are the most marginalized. These communities face racial prejudices, economic marginalization and class fragmentation. These are the same groups that are fallen behind in the Sustainable Development Goals, especially education and health. Therefore, in order to avoid the waves of the pandemic for all, marginalized communities will need extra attention. The impacts of the pandemic are here to stay for the next couple of years, the time to think about building back a better society for all is now. If so how can education help to make those bridges. According to Sharma (2020) “value based education” should be the transformative change in education that we need the most. Elizondo (2020) identified these values as, respect and care for the community of life, unity in diversity, empowerment, trust, justice, and integrity. Therefore the framework that we adopt should center on a justice oriented and an empowered society that takes care of its people and the planet.

The objective of this panel will will be to discuss -

- How can education build bridges and lead towards a more equitable and justice oriented society?
- How can SDG 4 and more specifically SDG 4.7 to bring about transformative education?
- What have the global education community learned from the pandemic about reaching the vulnerable and the at risk population population

More specifically, the panelists will discuss about using SDGs as a tool to achieve the 21st century learning skills. The panelists will discuss the mechanisms to integrate the SDGs using case studies and their respective areas of expertise. This will include discussing technology, curriculum development, lesson plans, curricular resources and and other such aids that will help to achieve SDG4 along with meeting the targets of all other SDGs.

#### References

Elizondo, Alicia Jimenez (2020) Building the foundations of the earth Charter schools seal. In *Earth Charter, Education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. Research, Experiences and Reflections*.Ed. Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jimenez.

Sharma, Namrata (2020)Value-creating global citizenship education and the Earth Charter: Integrating diverse perspectives within the UNESCO-led practice of GCE. In *Earth Charter, Education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. Research, Experiences and Reflections*.Ed. Mirian Vilela and Alicia Jimenez.