



**Higher
Education
Sustainability
Initiative**

HESI+10
Celebrating 10 years
with Higher Education
Sustainability Impact

**HESI+10
GLOBAL FORUM**
6 July 2022

HESI+10 Global Forum

Role of higher education in building back better from COVID-19 and advancing the 2030 Agenda

6 July 2022, virtual

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) is an open partnership between several United Nations entities and the higher education community launched in the run up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 in 2012). HESI is currently chaired by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and SULITEST. Other UN partners include UNESCO, UN Environment Programme, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative, UN University, UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD, UNITAR and UN Office for Partnerships.

Each year, HESI organizes a global forum as a special event to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)¹ – UN's main platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level - to highlight the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development. In 2022, HLPF (5-7 and 11-15 July 2022, New York) will be held under the theme "*Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*". It will also review in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land), 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), and include 45 Voluntary National Reviews by member States on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The HESI+10 Global Forum, which will be held on 6 July 2022 as a virtual event, will place a particular focus on deepening the understanding of the challenges and opportunities the higher education community can play in building back better from the COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the theme of HLPF in 2022.

As 2022 marks 10 years since the establishment of the HESI network, the forum will highlight and celebrate key higher education initiatives that drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda through education, teaching and learning - particularly around SDGs under review at HLPF (Goal 4, 5, 14, 15, 17). The forum also aims to contribute to the momentum for the Transforming Education Summit² which will be held in September 2022, convened by the UN Secretary-General.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

² <https://sdg4education2030.org/2022-transforming-education-summit-brief-un-dsg-9-march-2022>

The HESI+10 Global Forum will be open to all relevant stakeholders. Efforts will be placed to connect voices from higher education communities from around the globe.

The HESI+10 Global Forum aims to:

- Provide a deeper deepening the understanding of the challenges and opportunities the higher education community can play in building back better from the COVID-19, including how the pandemic has transformed higher education
- Highlight and celebrate key higher education initiatives that drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda through education, teaching and learning - particularly around SDGs under review at HLPF (Goal 4, 5, 14, 15, 17).
- Convene an evolving and action-oriented conversation on the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development.

Output

The forum will produce a *HESI+10 Communique* which will be submitted to HLPF. The Communique will be based on the discussions and recommendations from the webinars and the forum discussions.

Registration

Registration to the Forum and webinars is available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/education/hesi>

HESI+10 Webinars

Three open webinars on topics related the theme of HLPF will be held in the lead-up to the forum. The output of the webinars will feed into the discussions of the forum.

Date	Focus
27 April 2022 09.00 – 10.30 AM (NY time)	Transformation of higher education post COVID-19 The disruptions that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused to societies, including in the education sector, is unprecedented. The webinar will explore how the pandemic has transformed higher education's approaches to education and learning, its ability to reach and engage students, including challenges and inequalities for those that lack capacities for rapid digital transformations and online learning.
31 May 2022 09.00 – 10.30 AM (NY time)	Integrating Sustainable Development Goals into higher education For the implementation of the SDGs to have the greatest impact, they must be interwoven and mainstreamed into national policies, plans and strategies. This notion also applies to programmes, curricula, and strategies of Higher education institutions (HEIs), which act as hubs for innovation and critical

	thinking, nurturing each generation of leaders, policy makers, entrepreneurs, scientists, researchers, and educators.
21 June 2022 09.00 – 10.30 AM (NY time)	Inspirational higher education initiatives for SDG 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 Highlight and celebrate key higher education initiatives that drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda through education, teaching and learning.