



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"> • Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA (tbc) • Mr. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (video message) • Ms. Stefania Giannini, UNESCO ADG for Education (tbc)
03.20 – 03.35 PM	<p>Keynote address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Rethinking Higher Education for a Sustainable Future”</i> – speaker tbc
03.35 – 04.00 PM	<p>Member States' Perspectives – <i>“Shaping the Future of Higher Education for Sustainable Development”</i></p> <p><u>Moderated by</u> Mr. Nikhil Seth, UNITAR Executive Director and UN Assistant Secretary-General</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the perspective of your Member State, what are the key challenges and opportunities in shaping the future of higher education to effectively contribute to sustainable development efforts, and how can these be addressed through national and international collaboration?
04.00 – 05.00 PM	<p>Multi-stakeholder panel – <i>“Integrating Education, Innovation, and Sustainable Development in The Future for Higher Education”</i></p> <p><u>Moderated by</u> Ms. Lily Bosen Liu, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Universities</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Miki Sugimura, UNESCO Chair on Education for Human Dignity, Peace and Sustainability, Sophia University and Vice Chair, ProSPER.Net 2. Ms. Gbemi Disu, Vice President at Northeastern University 3. Ms. Jennifer Milam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Excellence, University of Newcastle 4. Mr. Arturo Condo, President, EARTH University 5. tbc • <i>Students</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. tbc • <i>Private sector</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. tbc

	<p><u>Respondents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 Stakeholders <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?
05.00 – 05.45 PM	<p>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 utilize emerging technologies like AI. Through brief presentations, it will highlight practical successes in integrating sustainability into higher education, demonstrating the potential for meaningful global impact.</p> <p><u>Moderated by</u> Mr. Jean-Christophe Carteron</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Groups + other relevant initiatives <p><u>Guiding questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has your initiative leveraged emerging technologies, such as AI, to advance the Sustainable Development Goals? <p><u>Followed by</u> Q&A</p>
05.45 – 06.00 PM	<p>Closing and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN University