



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

Session 10b --Reaching out to the world: Training and Learning for Sustainable Development

Moderated roundtable discussion

Wednesday, 1 July 2015, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The post-2015 development agenda that is being elaborated at the United Nations has, as its main objectives, the eradication of poverty and the achievement sustainable development. Already in 1987 the Brundtland Commission's report stated that "Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."¹

Clearly, our combined actions today are shaping tomorrow's societies and their environment. Training and learning for sustainable development are critical to uphold our responsibilities towards future generations. Promoting good citizenship based on solidarity, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect, cooperation and partnerships is the only way to build prosperous and inclusive societies that respect the Planet's boundaries and live in harmony with nature.

Training, learning and education should ensure that all human beings understand and strive for sustainable development. People need to be aware of the way their actions and choices impact on the well-being of humanity and the health of our Planet. They should be equipped to make informed choices in their personal and professional lives. Education for sustainable development can also promote critical thinking and help us imagine future scenarios. It can help ensure that decisions are made with economic, social and environmental dimensions in mind. Ultimately, this can spur the right kind of policies and decision-making based on evidence, science and the engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

Sustainable development is a life-long learning process. Training, learning and education should take place at all levels and be part of a continuous awareness raising effort for all citizens. They must be both formal and informal, and take place at home, at school, at the workplace, and through the way we communicate and relate to each other.

At the same time, sustainable development is a complex endeavour. In many countries and areas, schools, universities and training institutions are critically underfunded and lack the capacities to impart an adequate knowledge about sustainable development. There are many gaps and shortcomings even in the wealthiest countries.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. How can we ensure that training and learning institutions have the capacities to teach and build awareness about sustainable development?
2. How should educational and training institutions transform themselves to be able to adapt their curricula to shape a sustainable future?
3. How interdisciplinary learning and training can be best ensured to help implementation of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda?

¹ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, 1987
<http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>