



Programme

Higher Education: global engagement to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Monday 27 – Wednesday 29 January 2020 | WP1755

Today's complex global challenges from climate change and sustainable cities, to peace, justice and equality, need an increasingly collaborative global approach in order to meet them that spans across sectors and stakeholders. The globally shared objectives of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides a framework to work towards addressing these challenges.

The Higher Education (HE) sector can contribute to meeting all 17 goals and is increasingly engaging with them at various levels.

University research can generate the knowledge and innovation needed to address the most complex and intractable global challenges. The teaching and learning provided by Universities is shaping the next generation of graduates who will spend their professional careers tackling these challenges. Creating globally engaged citizens will play a key part of this. Engagement between universities and their local community, or with international partners, will also play a significant role in working towards achievement of the goals at local, national and international level.

This Wilton Park and ACU dialogue will explore the ways in which the HE sector can actively engage with and be supported to contribute fully to the delivery of the SDGs, bringing together those who are leading the strategies of Universities and their international outreach, together with academic and other experts on the SDGs.

In partnership with The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and with support from Coventry University and the University of Sussex

Monday 27 January

1300

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500-1520

Welcome and introduction

Alison Hilliard

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Faye Taylor

Head of Strategic Partnerships, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London

1520-1645

1. HE and the SDGs: past, present and future

What progress has been made with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? How is the international community making this progress? How do non-HE partners view the commitment of Higher Education to the SDGs and what progress has the sector made?

Melissa Leach

Director, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Brighton

Aldo Stroebe

Executive Director, National Research Foundation (NRF), Pretoria

Emma Torres

Associate Director; Head, New York Office, United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), New York

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. How is Higher Education expected to contribute to the SDGs?

What's the potential for Higher Education to achieve the SDGs, and what's expected of the sector? How can universities be a major delivery agent of the SDGs? How does Higher Education manage the interactions and synergies between the SDGs and achieve multiple goals? What mechanisms could aid HE contribution?

Graham Long

Senior Lecturer, Newcastle University

Paz Portales

Education Programme Specialist, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris

Julia Kemp

Deputy Director, Research and Evidence Division, Department for International Development (DFID), London

1900

Reception followed by dinner

After dinner fireside chat in the Library

moderated by:

Joanna Newman

Chief Executive and Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London

in conversation with:

Adam Tickell

Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex, Brighton

Barnabas Nawangwe

Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Kampala

Tuesday 28 January

0800-0845

Breakfast

0830-0845

Briefing meeting for Session 5 world café facilitators in the Library

0900-1030

3. Higher Education and the SDGs: partnerships in practice I

What partnerships have been formed within Higher Education and with society to achieve the SDGs? How are universities engaging with local communities, governments, industries and international partners? What are the different methods of approach by the HE sector?

Dhanjay Jhurry

Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius, Réduit

Phil Cotton

Vice-Chancellor, University of Rwanda, Kigali

Adam Tickell

Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex, Brighton

Kate Joyce

Director, Higher Education and Science, British Council, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1300

4. Higher Education and the SDGs: partnerships in practice II

How are networks of universities focusing on the SDGs? How might these be enhanced? What does this mean in practice for research, interface with government and other sectors? This session will start with a discussion on all SDGs, and then focus in on SDG 13 and SDG16.

Hilligje van't Land

Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU), Paris

Joanna Newman

Chief Executive and Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London

SDG13: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**David Smith**

Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Development, University of West Indies

Joseph Alcamo

Director, Sussex Sustainability Research Programme, University of Sussex, Brighton

SDG16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**Shaun Ewen**

Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous, University of Melbourne

Samaila Suleiman

Deputy Director, Bayero University, Kano

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

Free time and informal networking

1500-1745

5. World café: how can Higher Education better deliver on the SDG agenda? Good practice, structures and incentives

Universities work in different ways towards the SDG agenda; this session unpacks five strands of complementary activity. Underlying each are some common questions: What does good practice look like? How can the range of universities' contributions with partners to sustainable development be recognised and incentivised? How can the policy environment (at a local, national, and international level) encourage SDG contributions from universities? How can a whole sector approach be realised?

Introduction to world café in plenary, followed by world café groups in the Great Hall, Library and Common Room

a. Partnerships: how can HE work better with partners to deliver the SDG agenda?**Alex Wright**

Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London

Joanne Dobson

Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Group Policy, Coventry University

b. The globally engaged citizen: how can HE create globally engaged citizens who will play a key role in addressing the most complex and intractable global challenges and deliver the SDG agenda?

Pamela Dube

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of the Western Cape, Bellville

Nathalie Fomproix

Executive Director, International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), Orsay

c. Civic contributions: what is the civic contribution of universities working with local community, local partners including local government to help meet the SDGs?

Catherine Moran

Assistant Vice-Chancellor Academic, University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Vincent Lomotey

Deputy Registrar, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

d. Research: how can HE contribute through research to meeting the SDGs?

Julian Skyrme

Director of Social Responsibility, University of Manchester

Barnabas Nawangwe

Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Kampala

e. Estates and stewardship: how can HE contribute to the SDGs through sustainable operations in estates and stewardship, in addition to its other SDG priorities?

Joy Bhowmik

Lecturer-cum-Research, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Dhaka

Ian Rowlands

Professor, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo

1745-1800

Express tea/coffee

1800-1845

6. How can Higher Education better deliver on the SDG agenda? Reflections from world café

Facilitators to draw out their three key highlights and resulting recommendations.

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Wednesday 29 January

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0915-1045

7. The longer-term Higher Education advocacy of and for the SDGs

How can the HE sector act more as stewards for the SDGs and 'articulate the common good' beyond teaching, research and outreach? How can HE broaden the interface with other sectors, governments, NGO and civil society, private sector and the international community (UN, multilateral organisations)? How does HE advocate its role on the international stage?

David Smith

Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Development, University of West Indies;
Coordinator, University Consortium of Small Island States, Kingston

Shona Bezanson

Head of Eastern and Southern Partner Network, Scholars Program, Mastercard Foundation, Kigali

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1125

8. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1125-1300

9. Conclusions, next steps and actions

What recommendations are there for: a) policy makers; and b) universities on how universities can work with partners to address the SDGs? What incentives/mechanisms can support them?

Georges Malamoud

Strategy Advisor to the Rector, Francophone University Agency, Paris

Hillegje van't Land

Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU), Paris

Joanna Newman

Chief Executive and Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart