The potential of Higher Education for the common good
SDGs and the new social contract to leave no one behind
December 13th, 12:30-14:00 CET

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SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES (IAU)
The International Association of Universities (IAU)

- **Created in 1950** under the auspices of UNESCO
- An **independent international** Non-Governmental Organization
- An **official partner of UNESCO** and based at its headquarters in Paris

**IAU Offers**

- Global Events
- Advisory services
  - Training & peer-to-peer learning
- Global advocacy & representation
- Research & trends analysis
- Publications & specialized portals

**VALUES**

- Ethics & integrity
- Academic freedom & institutional autonomy
- Equity, solidarity & cooperation
- Quality in learning, research & outreach
- Appreciation of diversity
- Global responsibility towards all communities

*INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES - THE GLOBAL VOICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION*
The International Association of Universities (IAU)

Members

- 600+ institutions
- 30+ organizations
- 20+ affiliates
- 120 countries

IAU is an NGO, global in scope in official partnership with UNESCO (with Associate status). In addition, IAU partners with national and regional associations as well as organisations working on specific issues related to higher education.

Mission

- To promote collaboration among its Members
- To pursue the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge
- To advocate policy and practice that respect diversity and focus on equity and social responsibility
- To act as a forum for innovation, shared and mutual learning, and joint action

Vision

- Be the most representative and influential global association of diverse higher education institutions and their organisations
- Promoting and advancing a dynamic leadership role for higher education in society

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2016-2022 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Values-based Leadership
Internationalization
Higher Education and Research on Sustainable Development
Digital transformation of HE
Higher Education and Research for Sustainable development

**Objectives**
- Encourage peer-to-peer learning
- Monitor trends, develop and share expertise on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Foster whole institution approaches at the leadership level to integrate SD priorities
- Provide leadership training, capacity building and networking services

**Activities**

**Mapping HESD Initiatives**
IAU HESD Global Portal gathers successful initiatives from IAU members

**Conducting Research**
IAU HESD Global survey, publication series on SDGs, articles and more

**Capacity building & Evaluation**
Multi-stakeholder partnerships; Projects; and monitoring of developments related to sustainable development and higher education

**Developing & Sharing Knowledge**
IAU HESD Cluster enhances development & sharing of expertise on SDGs.

Global events
Advocacy
IAU Global Cluster on HESD
IAU Global Cluster on HESD

- Launched in 2018
- **16 Universities** from all world regions lead SDG 1 – 16
- 2-8 **Satellite universities** per subcluster (80 HEIs)
- **IAU** leads SDG 17: **Partnerships**
  - IAU Member Organisations can join SDG 17
- **1 common Goal**: to bring Sustainable Development in Higher Education and Research forward
- List of Cluster Members and Satellites:

  https://www.iau-hesd.net/contenu/4648-iau-global-cluster-hesd.html
The IAU Global Cluster on HESD - Satellites in Subclusters

THE IAU GLOBAL HESD CLUSTER LEADERS AND THEIR SATELLITES (as of January 2021)

- University of Ghana
  - Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan
  - McMaster University, Canada
  - UNICAMP, Brazil

- Antonio Narino University, Colombia
  - Universidad Federal do Ouro Preto, Brazil
  - University of Oslo, Norway
  - Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

- The Open University of Catalonia
  - Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
  - University of Crete, Greece
  - University of Agder, Norway

- York University, Canada
  - Leopoldina University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
  - Charles University, Czech Republic
  - Rhodes University, South Africa
  - International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia
  - University of Peace, Costa Rica

- University of Bologna, Italy
  - Al Ain United University, UAE
  - Universidad de Colima, Mexico
  - University of Western Sydney, Australia

- University of Tehran, Iran
  - University of Caracas, Venezuela
  - University of Antioquia, Colombia
  - University of the South Pacific, Fiji

- Assam Don Bosco University, India
  - Qatar University, Qatar
  - Strathmore University, Kenya

- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
  - Makerere University, Uganda
  - Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
  - University of Nigeria, Nigeria
  - University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

- University of Nairobi, Kenya
  - University of Pretoria, South Africa
  - Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
  - University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- University Arab University, Lebanon
  - The University of Maliboo, Slovenia
  - The University of Carthage, Tunisia
  - City University of Hong Kong

- University of Tsukuba, Japan
  - The University of Maliboo, Slovenia
  - University of the South Pacific, Fiji
  - University of Antioquia, Colombia
  - Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

- Siam University, Thailand
  - The University of Maliboo, Slovenia
  - University of the South Pacific, Fiji
  - Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

- Luther College, University of Regina, Canada
  - Mal University, Kenya
  - Vrije University, Germany
  - Universidad del Bosque, Colombia
  - Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
  - Universiti Sales Malaysia, Malaysia
  - University of Kelapa, Sri Lanka

- The University of the West Indies
  - SUNY, USA
  - University of Bergen, Norway
  - NRRI School of Advances Studies, India
  - University of the South Pacific, Fiji
  - University of Waterloo, Canada
  - Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
  - University of Wittenberg, South Africa
  - University of Aruba, Aruba
  - University of Boston, United Kingdom
  - University of Ghana

- University of Bergen, Norway
  - The University of the South Pacific, Fiji
  - University of Cape Town, South Africa
  - Christian Albrechts-Universitet zu Kiel, Germany
  - The University of the West Indies, Jamaica
  - Ocean University of China
  - Ballarat University, Canada
  - University of Western Australia
  - Universidad de Magdalena (UNIMAG), Colombia

- University of Costa Rica
  - University of Copenhagen, Denmark
  - James Madison University, USA
  - University of Tokyo, Japan

International Association of Universities
IAU leads the work on SDG17 by building synergies among higher education stakeholders, promoting their role in Agenda 2030, and making the science-policy interface stronger at international events (UN High-Level Political Forum, UNESCO, etc.)

More information: www.iau-hesd.net / Contact: contact@iau-hesd.net
« Leaving no one behind » & SDG 4 - the role of HE

« Leaving no one behind » is the most prioritized cross cutting principle discussed in the Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) submitted to the UN High Level Political Forum meeting each year in NY (*Beyond commitments 2019: how countries implement SDG4*)

Countries identified gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, language, migration and displacement status as characteristics for which groups should not be left behind and discriminated against.

An analysis of *DESA* of the 43 VNRs submitted in 2017 found that while 39 mentioned the principle, only 19 referred to explicit strategies to implement it.

Another analysis by the *Overseas Development Institute* found that most provided no detail on what « leaving no one behind » meant in their countries.
Leaving no one behind – the IAU Policy Statement on Equitable Access, Success and Quality in HE (2008)

Three key IAU principles:

1. Access to higher education should be made available to all regardless of race ethnicity, gender, economic and social class, age, language, religion, location or [dis]ability
2. A well educated citizenry is the foundation of social equity and stability, cohesion among nations, full development of national human resources, and successful participation in the global knowledge economy.
3.

Equal access to higher education is by no means a reality, nor is it alone a guarantee of success. Both access and success should receive equal attention.
Sustainable societies should ideally be based on

Rule of law
Democracy
Appreciation of cultural diversity
Respect

These values are acquired through education: in schools at university and at home
Universities:
• help develop expertise;
• enhance the analysis of problems;
• strengthen domestic institutions;
• serve as a model environment for the practice of good governance, conflict resolution and respect for human rights;
• enable academics to play an active part in the global community of scholars.

Universities should be considered as primary tool for development in the new century and all around the world.
Higher education matters

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