

Inspire. Change. Together.

Innovative approaches and partnerships to strengthen the role of educators & academia to implement the SDGs

Brief Description

On 20 December 2017, the General Assembly adopted the resolution, *Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The resolution reaffirms previous commitments to strengthen the role of education to realize the SDGs and to do so innovatively and with the cooperation of countries, international organizations, NGO's and all relevant stakeholders.

The purpose of the resolution is clear. Now that there is an understanding about the SDGs, there needs to be a more concerted effort in realizing new approaches and partnerships to fulfill them. It is in this context that looking to educators and academia becomes increasingly important. Both groups are an overlooked resource with huge potential for achieving the SDGs.

This session emphasizes the important work done by academia and educators to support the international community in its efforts to achieve the SDGs. The focus will be on innovative partnerships and initiatives, and on showcasing innovative approaches taken by various educational institutions, such as universities and international NGOs/civil society networks from around the world aimed at supporting the Agenda 2030.

Objective

The objective of this session is to demonstrate the significance of partnerships between the United Nations, academia, educators and civil society organizations and how these actors can – in an innovative way – support the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The session will demonstrate not only that these partnerships are possible, but also showcase real examples of where this has already been achieved and highlight lessons learned and best practices for the future. Participants will be informed on the tools developed, the approaches taken and will learn from case studies how they can make a difference in their countries. The audience will experience how education institutions around the world already engage with the SDGs in various ways and that there are many opportunities and synergies to unleash partnership potential. Ultimately, this session will contribute to a better understanding of how the different actors can support and complement each other's work with regard to the Agenda 2030.

Training Methodology

The session will start by a joint statement of the organizers, calling for further recognition of the crucial role played by both educators and academia as supporters of the SDGs and the importance of partnerships. This statement will be followed by two panel discussions, which will provide a catalyst for a stimulating audience discussion. This discussion will apply the "Living Library concept," where the audience 'the "readers" – are invited to ask questions to the "living books". The "Living Books" – representatives from universities, CSOs and the United Nations - will share their first-hand experiences working and contributing to the implementation of the SDGs. They will answer questions from the readers, share lessons they learned in doing so and will inspire the "readers" to take similar action in their respective local contexts.

Key note speech by Dr Joanna Newman, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

Panel 1 “Building Bridges” to achieve the SDGs and to inspire change together

- Opening Remarks & Moderator: Ms. Bianca Kopp, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Representative from MS (tbc)
- Prof. Muneo Kaigo, University of Tsukuba
- Prof. Elena Diaz Galan, Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid and Carlos Fernández Liesa, University of Carlos III
- Ms. Ricarda Motschilnig, International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)
- Dr. David Smith, University of the West Indies

Coffee Break (kindly provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC))

Panel 2 “Education as a tool to achieve SDG 16 and 17”

- Opening Remarks & Moderator: Ms. Hilligje van’t Land, International Association of Universities (IAU)
- Prof. Adam Tickell, University of Sussex
- Prof María Sagrario Morán and Cástor Díaz Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid
- Ms. Leyla Tavernaro-Haidarian, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- Ms. Katarina Popovic, International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)
- Dr. Tor Halvorsen, University of Bergen

Living Books Discussion

Closing remarks by Moderators