



Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) Special Event

Where Next? Redesigning Further Education for the Future

8 July 2020, 08.00-10.00 (NY time) // Location: Zoom Webinar – [Register here](#)

Introduction

Higher Education plays a vital role in educating the current and next generation of leaders, driving the research agenda for both the public and private sectors and plays a critical role in shaping the direction of national economies.

In this era of uncertainty, the question for this year's Higher Education Sustainability Initiative Annual Conference at the High-level Political Forum is how can we redesign higher education in support of sustainable development, a green recovery, and regenerative pathways for education. This agenda will support the theme of this year's High-level Political Forum which is *"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*.

The discussion will seek to provide insight on how Covid-19 will affect the sector and what new ideas are being considered that can enable higher education to enable radical change and regeneration. In addition to this discussion, there will be a special HESI Members roundtable that will be held on 9 July to reflect on this discussion and encourage actionable next steps.

Event Objectives:

1. **Reflect on where we are:** Through the discussion, to understand the impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education so we know "where we are";
2. **Explore where we want to get to:** Explore new ideas as to how we can regenerate, renew and revitalise Higher Education and explore different pathway that would offer ideas on how to Redesign Higher & Further Education for the Future;
3. **Be inspired, while considering access and equity, to build collective intent:** Be inspired by new, propositional fresh thinking as to what we can achieve collectively while also ensuring that we consider inclusion and equity at all levels, everywhere.

Timeline

Session

08:00 AM

Opening and welcoming remarks:

Her Excellency Mona Juul, President of the Economic and Social Council

Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

8:10 AM	Setting the Context: The Urgency of Where we are Now Mr. Nathaniel Smith, Founder and Chief Equity Officer for Partnership for Southern Equity <i>Critical introduction to the present context facing higher education: a context which is not unique to higher ed and hinges on connecting environmental issues and social justice given the Black Lives Matter protests that have taken place across the world.</i>
8:20 AM	Introduction: HESI and where we are now Master of Ceremonies: Sam Barratt, Chair of HESI and Chief of Youth, Education and Advocacy at UN Environment <i>Welcome and brief overview of the progress we have made over the past 12 months and the aim of the discussion today.</i>
8:25 AM	Keynotes: Learning from our present context and creating regenerative pathways for the future Moderator: Dr Hilligje van't Land, Secretary General, International Association of Universities; Executive Director, International Universities Bureau <i>Brief remarks with insights from those that are assessing how both (1) Higher Education and (2) Agenda 2030 are being affected by Covid-19 and the long-term implications.</i>
<i>5 mins</i>	
<i>8 mins</i>	Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
<i>8 mins</i>	Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, President, SDSN; Columbia University Professor and Director, Center for Sustainable Development
<i>15</i>	<i>Moderated Discussion</i> <i>Closing Remarks with Session Moderator summarizing 4-5 key points</i>
9:00 AM	Moderated Session: Higher Education to Support Regenerative Pathways Moderator: Satya Tripathi , UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office, UN Environment Programme <i>Short statements with insights from leading thinkers across the higher education sphere, addressing major issues facing higher ed and suggesting future directions, challenges, and opportunities facing HEIs and educational leaders.</i>
<i>Format TBD</i>	A view from youth: What do students want from their Higher Education experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Zamzam Ibrahim - Teach the Future Youth Representative, SOS-UK ● Mr. Rituraj Yadav - Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), Nepal/USA A view from Government: How are governments supporting the redesign of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog & Minister of Planning, India A view from Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University <i>Moderated Discussion</i> <i>Closing Remarks with Session Moderator summarizing 4-5 key points</i>
9:55 AM	Summary and next steps
10:00 AM	Technology Transfer to Green Gown Awards

Connectivity

This will be the first time for the HESI meeting of the High-level Political Forum to be hosted virtually. In order to engage as many different stakeholders as possible, you will be able to participate in the conference in two different ways. First, you can register to attend the live event. Connection details to join the Zoom Webinar as a participant will be circulated via email on Monday, 6 July. Alternatively, this broadcast will be shared on [YouTube](#) and the link for free viewing will be distributed an hour before the event begins on Wednesday, 8 July.

Following this event, the [International Green Gown Awards](#) winners will be announced. Connection details to join this special event will be shared during the HESI event. International Green Gown Awards recognise leadership of higher education institutions in integrating sustainability across their programs. We invite everyone in attendance to join the International Green Gown Awards special event!