



HESI Networking Forum

21 May 2025, 09.00 – 11.00 AM (EST) | Virtual

On 21 May 2025, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM (EST), a virtual HESI Networking Forum will be held, offering a dedicated space for higher education institutions, student organizations, UN entities, and other stakeholders to connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen the HESI community.

The objectives of the Networking Forum include:

- Facilitating dialogue and collaboration among members of the HESI community.
- Providing a platform for HESI members, UN partners, HESI Action Groups, and related initiatives to share updates and promote active engagement.
- Identifying synergies, fostering new partnerships, and exploring common areas of interest.
- Encouraging broader and more inclusive participation in the annual HESI Global Forum by serving as an accessible entry point for both new and returning stakeholders.

Open to HESI Members

The Networking Forum is **open to all members of the HESI community**, with a special emphasis on welcoming new participants and introducing them to HESI's work. (registration now closed).

Not a member yet?

The HESI community brings together UN entities, university networks, student organizations, and higher education institutions committed to advancing sustainable development. Membership is free and open to any higher education institution or interested organization. Consider joining the [HESI Community](#) and becoming part of this global effort.

Exhibition Hall

The Networking Forum will also feature a virtual exhibition space, where members can showcase their work related to higher education and sustainable development. Participants may express their interest in exhibiting through the sign-up form.

More information

<https://sdgs.un.org/HESI/Networking>

Programme

Time	Session
15 mins	Opening by HESI Co-Chairs and overview of the Networking Forum • Mr. Ola Goransson, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA • Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC
45 mins	Interactive Networking Sessions <i>Participants will be randomly assigned to breakout rooms with 5 participants per room, rotating through three rounds.</i> <i>In each round, participants are invited to briefly introduce themselves and respond to the following prompts:</i> • <i>Where are you based, and what's your role in your institution or organization?</i> • <i>What does sustainable development mean to you personally or professionally?</i> • <i>Have you collaborated with other institutions or organizations on sustainable development issues?</i>
15 mins	Introduction to HESI's UN Partners <i>Presentations by UN partners, highlighting their higher education-related work in support of sustainable development.</i> <i>Rooms:</i> 1. UNESCO IESALC by Ms. Bosen Lily Liu 2. UNESCO by Mr. Noah Webster Sobe 3. UN Global Compact PRME by Ms. Meredith Storey 4. UN University by Ms. Jonghwi Park 5. UN Environment Programme by Ms. Giulia Salvetti 6. Sustainable Development Solutions Network by Ms. Maria Cortes Puch <i>Participants choose rooms based on interest.</i>
15 mins	Introduction to HESI Action Groups <i>Brief overview by Mr. Jean-Christophe Carteron (5 mins) followed by breakout group presentations (10 mins) by the HESI Action Groups, including opportunities to learn how to get involved and a short Q&A.</i> <i>Rooms:</i> 1. SDG Publishers Compact Action Group by Ms. Sally Wilson 2. Education for Green Jobs by Ms. Debra Row 3. Student Action Group by Mr. Darren Axe 4. Futures of Higher Education and Artificial Intelligence Action Group by Mr. Jerome Sardido and Ms. Bosen Lily Liu

5. Rankings, ratings, and assessments (tbc)

Participants choose rooms based on interest.

15 mins **Exhibition Hall of Member Contributions**

A limited number of breakout groups will showcase HESI member-led initiatives, including research on sustainable development, integration of sustainability into curricula, innovation, and example of promising partnerships.

Opportunities to present in this segment will be based on expressions of interest collected through the Networking Forum registration form.

Participants may choose breakout rooms based on interest.

1. **TASK: the first international and psychometric tool to assess and monitor your education for sustainability strategy** by Ms. Alix Robine
 2. **Challenges and opportunities to embrace Education for Sustainability and Global Citizenship in Latin America: perspectives from a UNESCO Chair** by Ms. Carla Sabbatini
 3. **EduFix: Sustainable Education Infrastructure Management through AI-Powered Solutions** by Dr. Hemachandran K
 4. **Building higher education partnerships for sustainable development and the SDGs - 30+ years of experience from the International Association of Universities** by Ms. Isabel Toman
 5. **Scientific Literacy for Sustainability: A University-School-NGO-IGO Collaboration** by Dr. Rúben M. Costa, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
 6. **Integrating Sustainable Development Goals into the Curriculum: The BUIITEMS Experience** by Prof. Dr. Bilal Sarwar
 7. **Higher Education as a Catalyst for the SDGs: Ajman University in Action** by Ms. Maya Haddad
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10 mins **Presentation of the HESI Partnership Framework**

Overview of the framework guiding collaboration within HESI, followed by a brief Q&A.

- Mr. Ola Goransson, Division for SDGs, UN DESA
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5 mins **Closing & next steps**

- Ms. Jonghwi Park, UN University

Including introduction of the **2025 HESI Global Forum - Breaking Barriers in Sustainable Development Through Scientific, Inclusive, and Equitable Solutions**
