IAU HESD
HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Since the early 90s, the International Association of Universities (IAU) advocates for the key role higher education can play for sustainable development. The Association supports and informs Agenda 2030 and is part of the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development (ESD for 2030) projects and discussions.

Through the strategic thematic priority Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD), IAU promotes a Whole Institution Approach to SD, which fosters the incorporation of sustainable development concepts and principles in all dimensions of universities – teaching & learning, research, community engagement and campus initiatives.

Activities are guided by an international working group of experts, which adopted an ABC-Strategy: Advocacy & Analysis; Building Synergies & Networking; Communicating & Convening.

Partnerships for Sustainable Development

IAU develops partnerships for sustainable development around the world. The IAU Global HESD Cluster is a unique network of universities engaged with the SDGs. Lead institutions interact with some 80 universities from all 5 continents in subclusters.
OUR STRATEGY AND ACTIONS

Advocacy & Analysis

Policy Statements on HESD
IAU Iquitos Statement on Education for Sustainable Development, 2016;
IAU Kyoto Declaration on Sustainable Development, 1993. Each statement is the product of an extensive drafting exercise and international consultations.

Global Surveys
Provide analyses of global and regional trends on institutional approaches to sustainable development. The first survey was conducted in 2016 and a subsequent survey in 2019. The next iteration is being prepared and will be launched in 2022.

Building Synergies & Networking

The IAU HESD Cluster
Enhances knowledge-sharing and develops expertise, projects and recommendations on how higher education can help meet the SDGs. 16 IAU Member Universities lead one SDG each, while IAU leads SDG17.

International Cooperation
IAU is a key partner of the UNESCO ESD for 2030 strategy. It also works with other international and national entities, and sits on several committees to advance cooperation in HESD.

Communicating & Convening

HESD Global Portal
Maps university and HEI initiatives, and showcases best practices on sustainable development from around the world. It includes 1000 HEIs and university associations and 1250 news and actions.

SDG Publication Series
Initial publications available focus on SDG 5, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 16. Others are being planned. The publications highlight IAU Member and partner initiatives.
USE IAU HESD TO…

Learn
- Follow the IAU HESD Cluster and learn about new ideas to help meet the SDGs
- Learn from and with IAU through peer-to-peer engagement about Agenda 2030 and sustainable development

Share
- Publicise your initiatives and plans via the portal or the SDG Publication series
- Share your views with others at IAU events and seminars

Create
- Take part in the UNESCO ESD discussions and the annual UN High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs and create a global dialogue on higher education
- Develop a Whole Institution Approach to sustainability at your university
- Contribute towards building a better world for future generations!

JOIN IAU!
- Expand your Outreach
- Make your Voice Heard
- Benefit from Tailor-Made Services

membership@iau-aiu.net
www.iau-aiu.net/Join-IAU
IAU IN A NUTSHELL

Created under the auspices of UNESCO in 1950, the International Association of Universities (IAU) is an independent international NGO with 640 Members (Institutions, Organisations, Affiliates and Associates) in more than 120 countries. It has UNESCO Associate status. It also partners with many national and regional associations, as well as organisations working on issues related to higher education around the world. The IAU Secretariat is based at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

IAU serves the global higher education community by offering opportunities for exchange and collaboration, advisory services and training, trends analysis and specialised portals. The four thematic priority areas of work are: Internationalization, Leadership, Digital transformation of HE, and Sustainable Development. IAU connects 20,000 universities and other HEIs around the world through the WHED (see: www.whed.net).

Through established partnerships with international organisations, IAU promotes the interests of its Members and the importance of higher education, while placing particular emphasis on values and leadership.