

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES (IAU)		
<i>Established in:</i>	1950	<i>Headquarters:</i> UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
<i>Official relations with UNESCO:</i>	1950	
<i>Aims and mission:</i>	IAU is the leading global association of higher education institutions and organizations from around the world, which provides a global forum for leaders of institutions and associations – www.iau-aiu.net	
<i>Geographical representation of its members</i>	International (global - with Members in 130 countries from all continents)	
<i>Cooperation with UNESCO:</i>	<p><i>Report on IAU cooperation with UNESCO during the period under consideration [2012-2020], including information on agreements, joint projects, contributions to UNESCO's programme, etc., as well as future perspectives for cooperation.)</i></p> <p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>IAU was called into life by UNESCO at the UNESCO Conference in Utrecht in 1948, it signed its Constitution in 1950 under UNESCO auspices, and has been housed at UNESCO headquarters since its creation. Throughout its 70 years of existence, it has always maintained very close relations with UNESCO and through its activities supported the mandate of UNESCO, particularly in relation to the work of the Education sector but also the sciences and the communication sector. This report focuses on the period 2012-2020, yet, it is important to stress that since IAU has been working in support of UNESCO since its inception, some of the projects and activities described are continuations of initiatives which have been initiated and developed jointly beyond this timeframe.</p> <p>The mandates of UNESCO and the International Association of Universities (IAU) have always been intrinsically linked. Higher education is a key sector and partner for the analysis of issues, identification and development of solutions to the global challenges of our time which is an underlying principle for our longstanding collaboration.</p> <p>Specific areas where our programmes align are: the work on higher education and research for sustainable development; the digitalisation of higher education; international cooperation; values based higher education.</p> <p>Higher education is a key stakeholder in society and furthermore part a parcel of the Sustainable development Goal 4 (SDG-4 Quality education). UNESCO has been designated as lead organisation on SDG-4 by the UN and IAU supports UNESCO in this work particularly in the area of higher education.</p> <p>Technologies are developing at a rapid pace and impact the development of the societies, this another area where UNESCO and IAU are aligned in the pursuit of shaping the digital future while positioning humans at the centre.</p> <p>Fostering international collaboration is the core function of UNESCO and IAU was founded on the same principles, to foster collaboration and mutual understanding</p>	

among universities around the world. IAU supports UNESCO's motto 'to build peace in the minds of people' by fostering cooperation in teaching and research and through community engagement, thus fostering better understanding by connecting knowledge and science systems around the world. Through its network and its outreach capacity to some 20,000 universities and other higher education institutions (HEIs) around the world, IAU has always been a strong partner to mobilize the higher education community around the different values and principles that our organizations share. We furthermore share the transversal principle of gender equality and we always seek resources to support participation of representatives from the LDCs, and most particularly representatives from African countries.

This comprehensive report, details how this collaboration over the past 8 years has translated into a range of different initiatives, mutual support and collaboration. We take pride in being a brain child of UNESCO and look forward to continuing this close collaborations at a time where multilateralism is increasingly being challenged. We believe that this is a key mechanism that needs to be supported strongly to develop common goals and solutions to the global challenges of our time.

EDUCATION

2020 -

As the most recent initiative and during this time of pandemic, IAU is pleased to have joined and to support the **UNESCO Global Education Coalition** to contribute to this coordinated response to disruption of education across the world, from primary to tertiary education. IAU is pleased to be part of this coalition, to make its expertise and resources available in the context of this important initiative and to support the higher education community globally.

2019 -

IAU joined the Advisory Board of the UNESCO 'Futures of Education'

initiative and took an active part in the global virtual Meetings in 2019 and 2020. The latest meeting brought together **International Commission on the Futures of Education and the Advisory Board, in June 2020, which** led to the publication of a report presenting "Education in a post-COVID world: Nine ideas for public action" today that will advance education tomorrow. IAU is tasked with the organisation of a dedicated Debate on the Future of Higher Education in the context of this broader initiative (it will be hosted jointly by UNESCO and IAU and will take place online on Friday 6 November 2020).

FROM EFA TO SDGs: Fostering the role of HIGHER EDUCATION

From 2000 to 2015, UNESCO moved from playing a lead role in the Education for All (EFA) movement and the EFA coordination mechanism to taking the lead role for the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). It builds on the EFA movement, while expanding in scope, policy focus and geographical coverage as we saw the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the same manner IAU has been supporting the EFA movements with emphasis on the higher education sectors and has likewise shifted to the focus on the role of higher education sector in the pursuit of *Agenda 2030 – Transforming Our World* and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IAU Contributions to SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee and the Global Education Meeting (GEM)

The IAU is an Observer to the work of the **SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee**. It attended the Committee's strategic meetings to represent the voice of higher education institutions. IAU called for the recognition of higher education as a key stakeholder for achieving SDG4 and all 17 SDGs.

UNESCO Education 2030 High-Level Meeting, Paris, November 2015: IAU was one of five NGOs selected to comment on the Education 2030 Framework For Action which focuses on SDG 4 specifically.

The IAU is an Observer to the **UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Meeting (GEM) Advisory Committee Meetings**. IAU took an active part in the [UNESCO Global Education Meeting \(GEM\)](#) hosted by Belgium in 2018. IAU contributes to the conversation and provides reflections and feedback and fosters attention to the importance of higher education. In 2020, IAU took part in the *Education post-COVID-19: Extraordinary session of the Global Education Meeting (2020 GEM)*, on 20 and 22 October. Together with ACU and AUF, IAU provided feedback on the GEM Declaration and IAU represented the three organisations in the October meetings.

Regional Consultations on the Education 2030 Agenda

IAU contributed to the debates evaluating the state and future perspectives on higher education and attended the Regional Consultation for West and Central Africa, Dakar, Senegal on 23-25 November 2015 and the Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRES 2018), Cordoba. These meetings discussed how to translate global Education 2030 commitments into practice at the national and regional levels.

IAU takes an active part in the **UN High Level Political Forums and attended HLPF 2019 and HLPF 2020** (virtually) through official side events (with HESI, UNESCO and the Council of Europe, UN DESA, UNITAR and UNODC).

The **HLPF 2019**, including a three-day ministerial meeting, reviewed Sustainable Development Goal 4 for the first time since the 2030 agenda was adopted in 2015. Goals 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (global partnership) were also reviewed that year.

As lead organisation for SDG 4, UNESCO has organised multiple events. IAU took part in the discussions on SDG 4 took place on 9 July. UNESCO and the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee highlighted that the world is not on track to achieve SDG 4 by 2030 and called governments and stakeholders to

#CommitToEducation!. As well, UNESCO ADG/ED and Secretary General IAU took part jointly the Higher Education for Sustainability Initiative (HESI) panel on the future role of higher education in Agenda 2030 and in the UNESCO – Council of Europe and IAU panel on SDG4 - Quality Education, hosted by the Belgian UN Delegation in New York.

UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP-ESD) – IAU Key partner Network to Action Area 2

2016 –

In the broader frame to promoting knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to promote sustainable development, IAU has been invited on board as key partner the **UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP-ESD)** which, today, is followed-up by the **Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)** for the period 2020-2030.

At the **2016 meeting of the UNESCO GAP Partner Networks**, UNESCO nominated IAU to be a member of the *Steering Group for Action Area 2 - Transforming learning and training environments* IAU developed a Global Survey on the Role of Higher Education in Fostering Sustainable Development. The initial outcomes were presented in Paris at the UNESCO GAP inception Meeting. IAU committed to foster higher education's involvement in addressing the SDGs through advocacy and HE leadership development, research on SD and the development of its Global portal. It was tasked with the development of the outcomes document on a Whole Institution Approach to ESD.

Examples of events IAU contributed to:

2017: the **UNESCO Week for Peace and Sustainable Development: The Role of Education** (Ottawa, Canada), where IAU co-organized a debate on *Transforming learning Environments – what works best?*

2018: the annual meeting of key partners to the UNESCO Global Action Programme **UNESCO Gap Meeting, “Looking into the Future of ESD, together”** San José, Costa Rica, April. IAU committed to developing a project on the Whole Institution Approach to ESD, including survey on the topic.

2019: during the UNESCO 2019 Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) which took place in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, in July that year, IAU advocated for the importance of integrating tertiary education as a key partner network in the education for sustainable development processes.

2009-2014

After having been involved in the **UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development** (Bonn, Germany, 2009), IAU was invited on board the **Reference Group of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD) and the International Steering Group (ISG)** in preparation of the conference end of Decade World Conference on ESD (WC-ESD), Aichi Nagoya, Japan (November). During the WC-ESD, IAU organised the workshop on **Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development** and took part in working groups, panel discussions and in the drafting of the Conference Statement.

The Conference Declaration incorporates the recommendations stated in the *IAU Iquitos Declaration on HESD on **Blending Higher Education and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development*** as adopted at the IAU 2014 International Conference.

2015

COP 21, in Paris (December 2015) - **IAU represented its Members at COP 21**, In Paris in **December 2015** and spoke on climate change as part of the curriculum. IAU collaborated on the Open Letter to COP21 Ministers on Higher Education Institutions & Climate Change which was handed over to COP21 General Secretary Pierre Henri Guignard during the Higher Education for Climate Change Action Event at UNESCO Headquarters. The event was hosted by the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), created by a consortium of UN entities UNESCO, UN-DESA, UNEP, Global Compact and UNU, and supported by the IAU. The IAU President and Secretary General took part in this event and affirmed the importance of the Climate Change agenda as part of the HESD work carried out by the IAU.

2019-2021

IAU is involved in the preparation of the upcoming **UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development** planned to take place in Berlin, in May 2021.

In addition to the UNESCO led mechanism, IAU also supports this work through its own activities and held a launch meeting on the **IAU Global Cluster on Higher Education and research for Sustainable Development (HESD), at UNESCO headquarters**, in January 2019. Supported by the financial assistance from the Participation Programme, and from the ESD Section, this meeting welcomed 30 people from 15 universities from 5 continents. Nine UNESCO country delegates also attended the meeting and made valuable contributions to the strategic plan.

2018-

The Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Education (MECCE) Project

IAU is an organizational partner in the [MECCE project](#), which aims to advance global climate action through improved quality and quantity of Climate Education. The project officially launched with the first meeting in September 2020 and IAU has been involved in the development and funding applications of this project. The MECCE Partnership team is steered by SEPN (Sustainability and Education Policy Network) and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and its Advisory Committee members include UNESCO, UNFCCC, the UNESCO GEM Report, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as includes several academic partners/universities and civil society partners. IAU has a key role in policy and knowledge brokerage, working closely with its partners such as UNESCO and bringing in its expertise on the topic and network of HEIs.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR EDUCATION FOR ALL

From 2011 to 2015, IAU implemented a project entitled **Higher Education for Education for All (HEEFA)** to advocate for better higher education involvement in support of the United Nations' Education for All (EFA) initiative. Several events were planned by IAU in respect of the HEEFA project.

2012 - Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA (CCNGO/EFA) (October) - IAU was invited to join the group of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA (CCNGO/EFA) whose main role was the organization of UNESCO Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA which took place at UNESCO in October 2012.

2012 - NGO-UNESCO Seminar on Early Childhood: Seeds for the Future (April) - IAU was involved in the organization of the 2012 NGO-UNESCO Seminar on Early Childhood: Seeds for the Future which took place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France on 23 April 2012.

2012 - HEEFA Workshop - Tribuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal (December) : the Workshop in Kathmandu brought together 57 high-level representatives from five universities, the Ministries of Education and Finance, **UNESCO**, and various local NGOs working on EFA in Nepal.

2013 - IAU Collaborative Workshop to envision higher education for EFA locally: University of Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya (January) : the Workshop in Nairobi brought together participants from the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University, the Ministries, UNESCO, UNICEF and representatives of civil society. The Director for Basic Education at UNESCO agreed to convene a meeting with the participants at the Ministry of Education to follow-up on the outcomes of the Workshop.

2014 - Global Education Meeting (GEM) and 7th Meeting of the CCNGO/EFA (May): as an elected Member of the 2012-2014 Coordination Group of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA (CCNGO/EFA), the IAU participated at two critical events: 2014 Global Education Meeting (GEM), 12-14 May, Muscat, Oman and the 7th Meeting of the CCNGO/EFA, 21-23 May, Santiago, Chile, contributing to the preparation of the latter.

2014 - HEEFA Follow up Seminar Ankara, Turkey (November): HEEFA: In November 2014, the IAU organized a Follow-up Seminar in collaboration with Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. The seminar brought together hosts of the 5 Capacity Building Workshops that had been organized within the framework of the project as well as other IAU HEEFA Reference Group Members, **UNESCO representatives**, and academics and students from Hacettepe University.

2015 - World Education Forum Incheon, Republic of Korea (May) : IAU attended the World Education Forum (WEF) organized by UNESCO where the proposed UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education was discussed first among NGOs (NGO Forum, 18-19 May), then among Ministers and selected high level representatives of civil society (WEF, 20-22 May).

RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

UNESCO Global Convention on Recognition of Higher Education qualifications

IAU was a Member of the Expert Group for the UNESCO Global Convention on Recognition of Higher Education qualifications: the IAU Secretary General participated in meetings of the Expert Group which reviewed the feasibility study for the elaboration of a *Global Convention for the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in Higher Education* and prepared the next phase of development for

approval by UNESCO General Conference 2019, IAU participated contributed to the multilateral drafting process.

2015

The IAU Secretary General contributed to the **Recognition of Studies – Addis Convention (UNESCO)**, as she provided an overview of major trends in higher education for the UNESCO meeting in July 2015 to set up an Informal Working Group for the Implementation of the 2014 Addis Convention on the recognition of studies and academic qualifications in higher education in African States. This led UNESCO to invite IAU to sit on the Expert Group on the feasibility of the UNESCO Global Convention. This was the natural continuation of the work of IAU as it was involved already in the initial drafting of the regional conventions back in the 70s and 80s.

Linked to this, IAU and UNESCO work jointly on the continuous development of the **World Higher Education Database (WHED.net)**. In 2015 UNESCO and IAU signed a renewed **framework agreement** for collaboration on the IAU WHED Portal. The IAU WHED team receives the support of a Steering Committee composed of all IAU Executive Committee Members and a representative of UNESCO. Every year a letter co-signed by IAU and UNESCO is sent out to concerned stakeholders for the update of information on the national education systems and the information related to the higher education institutions (HEIs). In 2019, a new feature to facilitate the identification of HEIs: the Global WHED ID – a digital code that uniquely identifies HEIs - was developed in support of the *UNESCO Global Convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications*. Derived from WHED and published every two years, the most recent edition of **the International Handbook of Universities (IHU)** was published in 2020 in collaboration with UNESCO. This 2020 edition of the IHU is available in e-format and in print on demand. The first Handbook was published in 1956, the last one in 2020.

As well **IAU-UNESCO** jointly created the **Information Centre on Higher Education**. The initial agreement was signed in 1989 and was tacitly reconducted since. Linked to this is the **International Bibliographic Database on Higher Education, HEDBIB**. It was created and is maintained by the IAU since 1988. Updated on a continuous basis, HEDBIB currently contains over 40,500 records. IAU partners with UNESCO and the Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) for populating the database.

COLLABORATION WITH UNESCO INSTITUTES OF EDUCATION

IAU has also a longstanding tradition of collaboration with several of the UNESCO institutes of Education. The collaboration is detailed in this section:

1. IAU and UNESCO Lifelong Learning Institute (UIL) project

in January 2020 IAU launched the joint research project on Higher Education Institutions' Contribution to Lifelong Learning (LLL) at the UIL Expert Meeting, in Hamburg. It was developed in the context of a comprehensive research project carried out by UIL, IAU and key organisations around the world. The project consists of different components, including a Global Survey. The pilot

Survey was launched in March 2020 and the full Survey was launched in October 2020. The Survey report will inform the upcoming UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education.

2. IAU-UNESCO IESALC Agreement to boost the use of research evidence in higher education policymaking. This agreement was signed in April 2020. IAU and UNESCO will cooperate on the publication of regional reports drawing on IAU's global survey results and thus disseminating the available evidence in critical areas such as the contribution of HE to the Sustainable Development Goals, the digitalization of HE, the internationalization of higher education, and the impact of COVID-19 on higher education, among others.

3. Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP): Quality Management in Higher Education

The UNESCO Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-UNESCO), in collaboration with the International Association of Universities (IAU), have published *Quality Management in higher education: Developments and drivers*. This publication fills a knowledge gap on the state of quality management in higher education institutions. The Report draws on the responses of over 300 institutions worldwide to map recent developments, drivers, and obstacles in quality management today. As the first truly global survey of its kind, it provides first-hand primary data on this salient issue in higher education reform.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The activities in this section are grouped by topic and contributes to the programme of the Education, Social Sciences and Communication and Information Sectors.

2020: IAU contributed as an observer to the **UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Meeting for the ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** which were held in May and September 2020 to contribute to the development of the draft UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

2019-2020: the IAU was actively involved in the **UNESCO Mobile Learning Week (MLW)**. In 2019 IAU organized a workshop on 'Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Higher Education' and in 2020 IAU chaired the workshop on "Higher education resources for distance learning".

2018-2020: IAU set up an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the development on a IAU Policy Statement on ***Transforming Higher Education in the Digital World for the Global Common Good***. Representatives from UNESCO Education and Communication and Information Sector have been actively involved in this work seeing to distil the key principle and values that must underpin the digital transformation of higher education and society.

2015: **Open Educational Resources (OER) online seminar** (March): The IAU organized an online seminar in March as part of the international Open Education Week (OEW). The event was organized with participants from the 2013 Validation Workshop for the IAU Training and Support Programme for Academic Librarians on Open Educational Resources (OER) held in Accra, Ghana.

2015: **ICT for information accessibility in Learning (ICT4IAL)** : together with UNESCO, IAU was one of 4 partners in the project ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning (ICT4IAL) project. The aims of the project are to raise awareness and increase the visibility of the issue of accessible information provision and its relevance for equitable lifelong learning opportunities. The project is coordinated and funded by the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education with funding from the European Commission. **The other partners are the European Schoolnet (EUN), UNESCO, the DAISY Consortium.** Guidelines developed were disseminated at an international conference, organized in May 2015, in Riga, Latvia. They are now available in an open access format and translated in all European languages.

2014-2015: **UNESCO International Conference on ICTs for Persons with Disabilities** (November): linked to the IAU's involvement in ICT4IAL, IAU participated as rapporteur of the session on *Open and Distance Learning Services for Learners with Disabilities: The Right Perspective*, during UNESCO's International Conference on From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities (New Delhi, India 24-26 November 2014). Organised by UNESCO Communication Sector and the Government of India, IAU provided feedback on the Guidelines on the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning Using Open Solutions, released by UNESCO, in 2015.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

5th edition of the Global Survey on Internationalization

UNESCO was one of the main partners that supported the **5th edition of the IAU Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education**. UNESCO provided IAU with a financial contribution of 5 000 USD under contract number 4500340594 to support the monitoring function of the internationalization of higher education. The 5th edition of the IAU Global Survey collected data from more than 900 Higher Education Institutions in 126 different countries, making it the most geographically comprehensive collection and analysis of primary data on internationalization of higher education ever undertaken. The survey report, published in 2019, covers all aspects of internationalization from policy and activities to research, human resources and staff development, student mobility and the design of curricula.

DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

IAU organised a **research seminar on Making Doctoral Education Work in Africa and for Africa** (December 2014, UNESCO, Paris). The Seminar brought together 26 doctoral education and research experts from 15 different countries to brainstorm and scan the state of doctoral education within African higher education

institutions today. The project was supported by the UNESCO division on Priority Africa.

UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

IAU has also supported the implementation of the UNESCO Programme priorities through the UNESCO Participation Programme.

In the period 2012 – 2020, this support enabled the following IAU projects to take place:

IAU Project “IAU-International Research and Networking Workshop on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development: the IAU Global HESD Cluster’s joint project to accelerate action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” received financial **support from UNESCO PPP 2020-21**: the IAU submission was successfully approved. IAU gratefully received the support of 6 national commissions/country delegations to UNESCO to back up its project application with a Cluster workshop in 2021. The supporting delegations were: France, Sweden, Colombia, Thailand, Kenya, and Canada.

IAU Global Cluster on Higher Education and research for Sustainable Development (HESD) meeting. In January 2019, IAU launched its flagship project - the **IAU Global Cluster on Higher Education and research for Sustainable Development (HESD)** Supported by the financial assistance from the Participation Programme, the first Cluster workshop took place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. IAU welcomed 30 people from 15 universities from 5 continents. Nine UNESCO country delegates also attended the meeting and made valuable contributions to the strategic plan.

Internationalization Strategies Advisory Service - two ISAS projects and workshop (January 2016) Thanks to the support of the UNESCO Participation Programme, two Bangladeshi universities benefited from the IAU Internationalisation Strategy Advisory Service (ISAS), culminating with expert panel site visits in January 2016 at American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) and Daffodil International University (DIU), both located in Dhaka. Final reports with recommendations were sent to both universities in March 2016.

Open Education Resources (OER) Use, Reuse, and Production - A Training and Support Programme for Academic Librarians (September, 2013)

IAU organized a Validation Workshop on a proposed new IAU Training and Support Programme for Academic Librarians on Open Educational Resources (OER) Use, Reuse, and Production. The Workshop took place in Accra, Ghana in September, 2013 with financial support from the UNESCO Participation Programme and in partnership with the Association of African Universities (AAU). It was attended by participants from 10 African countries, including representatives from UNESCO.

MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT OF THE UNESCO AND IAU PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Beyond the numerous activities where IAU has been activity involved in the delivery of the UNESCO Programme. In the same manner UNESCO representatives have also been very active in IAU specific initiatives and conferences as our mandates are well aligned.

UNESCO has always been invited officially to attend the IAU Administrative Board Meetings and is invited to attend the **IAU General Conferences**, taking place once every four years. Several UNESCO representatives took part in the IAU 15th General Conference (Bangkok, Thailand, November 2016). Among these, David Atchoarena, then Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems from the Education Sector, Aaron Benavot, then Director, Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) at UNESCO, Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, then Programme Specialist in the Communication and Information sector at UNESCO and Ushio Miura, then Programme Specialist in the regional UNESCO office in Bangkok. The 16th General Conference is planned to take place in Dublin in October 2021, at University College Dublin.

UNESCO contributed a paper to the IAU 70 years' anniversary book: The Promise of Higher Education: in 2020-21 IAU celebrates 70 years of international cooperation. To mark this important anniversary IAU called for papers and the ADG / ED contributed a key paper to the book to be launched at the occasion of the anniversary on 9 December 2020.

IAU BBC project featuring Stefania Giannini, ADG Education: in 2019, IAU invited UNESCO on board the IAU BBC project to mark the importance of higher education's contribution to society around the world. Stefania Giannini was part of the introductory video stressing the important cooperation between IAU and UNESCO. The video is available here: <https://www.iau-aiminghigher.org/about.html>

Meeting with UNESCO Director General and ADG/ED - The IAU Executive Committee met with the UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova in March 2016 and the ADG/ED, Stefania Giannini in April 2019 to exchange on the important role of Higher Education in numerous spheres of UNESCO activity and for development of sustainable societies more generally. These meetings among the senior leadership of our organizations allow to identify common priorities and initiatives for further collaboration.

IAU at UNESCO General Conferences: IAU attends UNESCO General Conferences every second year, participates in the debates and is often part of the exhibition space to engage with stakeholders and inform about the activities of IAU and how it relates to the work of UNESCO. IAU

NGO COLLABORATION MECHANISM

IAU has also continued to take part in the different mechanisms set up to favour collaboration between NGOs and UNESCO. For example, IAU takes part in NGO and

CCNGO Meetings at UNESCO, in particular the Collective Consultation NGOs ED2030, meetings, *UNESCO's key mechanism for dialogue, reflection and partnership with NGOs working in the field of education and IAU is in close contact with the NGO UNESCO Liaison committee and its president Mme Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré.*

More information about IAU (electronic resources)

Institutional resources :

- IAU Website: <https://iau-aiu.net/>
- Members of the IAU Administrative Board (2016-2021): <https://iau-aiu.net/Governance-Structure>
- IAU Secretariat: <https://iau-aiu.net/Secretariat>
- IAU Members: <https://iau-aiu.net/List-of-IAU-Members?lang=en>
- IAU Annual Reports: <https://iau-aiu.net/Annual-reports>

Special initiatives in light of the current Covid-19 pandemic:

IAU Global Survey Report on the impact of Covid-19 on higher education:
https://www.iau-aiu.net/IMG/pdf/iau_covid19_and_the_survey_report_final_may_2020.pdf

IAU Special resource pages for universities during the Covid-19 pandemic
<https://www.iau-aiu.net/Covid-19-Higher-Education-challenges-and-responses>

IAU Global Webinar Series on the Future of Higher Education
<https://www.iau-aiu.net/IAU-Webinar-Series-on-the-Future-of-Higher-Education-929>

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