

**Statement by University Leaders in Support of The Summit of the Future
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
June 22, 2024**

We university leaders from around the world are united in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and pledge to support governments, businesses, and civil society to achieve these goals. As members of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), we issue this statement to support the UN member states as they prepare for The Summit of the Future (SOTF).

SDSN was created in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General to help governments promulgate the SDGs, and then achieve them, through the education of young people, scholarly research, incubation of technical and institutional innovations, outreach to society, and active work with government, business, and other stakeholders. SDSN has around 2,000 member institutions in more than 140 nations. Its SDG Academy offers free online university courses and other educational materials across the range of sustainable development fields and topics. The SDSN is committed to supporting the UN in its vital efforts for peace, human rights, sustainable development.

The SDGs provide a unique and compelling framework to achieve sustainable development in all parts of the world and to leave no one behind. We take heart that governments around the world are striving to achieve the SDGs, as evidenced by the 188 of 193 UN member states that have presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the High-Level Political Forum.

Nonetheless, accelerated actions are needed at the local, national, regional, and global levels to achieve the SDGs. To this date, progress is far too slow. This is the result of serious shocks to the world economy in recent years, including the pandemic, wars, and geopolitical tensions, and to the inadequacies of the Global Financial Architecture (GFA), which directs insufficient high-quality finance to the emerging and developing economies. Nonetheless, the SDG framework is proving invaluable to governments, business, and civil society. For this reason, we believe that at the Summit of the Future, the world's governments should extend the mandate of the SDG framework to 2050, with updated high-ambition milestones and quantified objectives.

We also underscore the many specific observations on the SOTF agenda raised in the [SDSN Statement on the Summit of the Future](#) in the [2024 Sustainable Development Report](#).

On our part as university leaders, we pledge the continued best efforts of our universities to support the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Framework for Biodiversity, and the other globally agreed goals for sustainable development. We firmly believe that universities have a unique responsibility and key role in helping our societies to move to sustainable development in the coming years.

We underscore the pivotal role of universities.

First, in today's global knowledge economy, higher education is indispensable for economic success. Successful economies that are able to support high living standards and to be at the forefront of rapidly advancing technologies, must ensure that a significant proportion of young people achieve a tertiary education. Moreover, the qualified teachers for primary and secondary schools are also the product of the universities, and are vital in instilling a sustainable development ethos and the skill-sets for future leaders of our societies.

Second, the universities uniquely bring together the expertise spanning the natural sciences, engineering, social science, behavioral sciences, and the humanities, in order to address the sustainable development challenges, including the end of extreme poverty, social justice for all, and the successful fight for a safe climate and protection of biodiversity. This interdisciplinary strength supports innovative and cutting-edge solutions to complex SDG challenges.

Third, the universities undertake inclusive, interdisciplinary, problem-solving research on how to achieve the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development, and are able to take into account the specific national conditions regarding culture, demography, patterns of development, physical geography, geopolitics, and global change.

Fourth, the universities are important convenors of governments, businesses, and civil society for a long-term, multi-stakeholder approach to sustainable development. Few other institutions in society have such close and trusted links with all major stakeholders and have the capacity, mandate and opportunity to take a long-term perspective on societal transformation.

Fifth, universities are essential and effective incubators for private-sector and civil-sector innovations and businesses. Cutting-edge new industries, and especially start-ups around the world, are co-located with universities.

Sixth, universities are globally interconnected, with extensive collaborations of scholars, joint degree programs, and networks of students. Universities in resource-plentiful settings partner with and support universities in resource-scarce settings, and can do more.

Seventh, each nation's universities link the nation with academia in all parts of the world, and help to keep the nation's economy and culture interconnected as well.

Eight, universities help to keep their nations connected with cutting-edge developments in science, technology, and culture in other parts of the world, and promote open science and the access of all nations to cutting-edge knowledge and technology.

As university leaders we pledge to do our part to harness these unique roles and responsibilities of the universities on behalf of our nations and the world community. We also commit to do more to engage Indigenous people's worldviews and knowledge systems in sustainability, and to create the space for culturally diverse ways of addressing the sustainable development challenges and opportunities of our world today.

Specifically, on the occasion of the Summit of the Future, we pledge to do our part in the following areas:

- Develop new education programs, including degree programs and professional certification programs, to train our students in the central challenges of sustainable development, including effective climate action;
- Promote interdisciplinary education and research to identify solutions to the central challenges of sustainable development;
- Work closely with governments at all levels – local, sub-national, national, and regional - in order to devise new, bold, and science-based strategies to achieve the SDGs in all of their dimensions: economic wellbeing, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and global peace and cooperation;
- Work closely with the business community and entrepreneurs to incubate new start-ups that can advance technological solutions for the national economy and the SDGs;
- Work with indigenous peoples to mobilize their knowledge systems, expertise, and world views in fashioning approaches to education, research, and policy making;
- Strive to make our own campuses fully sustainable, shifting to renewable energy, circular economy, resource efficiency, and the protection of biodiversity;
- Utilize the new online technologies to expand our delivery of quality education and to enable greater access in the population, while also enhancing on-site education on our campuses;
- Partner with universities across the world, through the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and via other collaborations and networks, promoting exchanges of faculty and students, joint programs, innovative curricula, open science, and practical support as helpful for universities in resource-scarce settings.
- Promote innovation and technology transfer, including green technologies to enhance the prospects of a successful transition to net-zero energy systems;
- Work closely with governments and SDSN to boost research outputs in the emerging and developing economies.
- Work closely with SDSN to develop student programs to foster peace, appreciation of cultural diversity, and enhance conflict prevention and resolution at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions.

The world today yearns for solutions – to end wars, vanquish poverty and hunger, end social exclusion, and ensure environmental sustainability. The family of nations must rise to occasion to give hope, succor, and practical pathways to the future that we want. Universities around the world pledge to do their part. The commitment to our common global home, and to the world’s youth and future generations, is at the essence of our purpose and role.

List of University Signatories

Prof. Taofik Adewale	ADEDOSU	Director of Centre for Research and Development	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology	Nigeria
Ilesanmi	Adesida	Acting President and Provost	Nazarbayev University	Kazakhstan
Prof. Johnson	Adesodun	Rector	Ekiti State Polytechnic, Isan-Ekiti	Nigeria
Santiago Acosta	Aide	Rector	Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja	Ecuador
Adenike A.	Akinsemolu	Dr.	The Green Institute	Nigeria
José Luján	Alcaraz	President	University of Murcia	Spain
Nana Aba Appiah	Amfo	Vice Chancellor	University of Ghana	Ghana
Prof. Dr. Biljana	Angelova	Rector	Ss Cyril and Methodius University	North Macedonia
Norah Aziamin	Asongu	Doctor	University of Yaounde	Cameroon
Raiane Patrícia Severino	Assumpção	Reitora	Universidade Federal de São Paulo - UNIFESP	Brazil
Dr. Benoit-Antoine	Bacon	President and Vice-Chancellor	University of British Columbia	Canada
Miguel Sopas de Melo	Bandeira	Pro-Rector	University of Minho	Portugal
Dr. Fana Hagos	Berhane	President	Mekelle University	Ethiopia
Raquel	Bernal	Rector	Universidad de los Andes	Colombia
Professor Rufus	Black	Vice-Chancellor	University of Tasmania	Australia
Dr. José Manuel Saniger	Blesa	Secretary of Research and Development and Chair of SDSN Mexico	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Mexico
Professor Freddy	Boey	President	City University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong

Dr. Baribeshya Jean	Bosco	Vice Chancellor	Institut d'Enseignement Supérieur de Ruhengeri (INES-Ruhengeri)	Rwanda
Tim	Brailsford	Vice Chancellor	Bond University	Australia
Roque	Brandão	Vice President of ISEP	ISEP- Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto	Portugal
Roque	Brandão	Vice-president of Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto (ISEP)	School of Engineering of Polytechnic of Porto	Portugal
Dr Kevin	Brown	President	University of Technology, Jamaica	Jamaica
Pueyo	Campos	Vice-President for Planning, Sustainability and Infrastructure	University Zaragoza	Spain
Graham	Carr	President and Vice-Chancellor	Concordia University	Canada
Francesco	Castelli	Deputy Rector	University of Brescia	Italy
John Jairo Arboleda	Céspedes	Rector	Universidad de Antioquia	Colombia
Cheat	Chealy	Rector	Royal University	Cambodia
Prof. Tan Eng	Chye	President	National University of Singapore	Singapore
Prof Philip	Cotton	Vice Chancellor	University of Global Health Equity	Rwanda
Prof. Tasman	Crowe	Vice-President for Sustainability	University College Dublin	Ireland
Sophie	D'Amours	Rectrice	Université Laval	Canada
Lusine	Danielyan	Director of External Affairs	Armenian State University of Economics	Armenia
Patricia M.	Davidson	Vice Chancellor and President	University of Wollongong	Australia
Principal Patrick	Deane	Principal and Vice-Chancellor	Queen's University	Canada
Professor Andrew	Deeks	Vice Chancellor & President	Murdoch University	Australia
Prof. Rosa	Devés	Rectora	Universidad de Chile	Chile
Dr. Raman	Dhaliwal	Associate Vice-President	University of Manitoba	Canada
Jorge Humberto	Dias	Coordinator of the Corporate Social Responsibility Office	Instituto Universitário Atlântica	Portugal
Ignacio Sanchez	Diaz	President	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	Chile
Prof. (Mrs.) Rita Akosua	Dickson	Vice-Chancellor	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science	Ghana

			and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi	
Dimitar	Dimitrov	Professor	University of National and World Economy	Bulgaria
Mohd Fadhil Bin Md	Din	Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr.,	Universiti Teknologi	Malaysia
President KIM	Dong-One	President	Korea University	South Korea
Professor	Doran	Interim President	Technological University Dublin	Ireland
Prof. Wahab	Egbewole, SAN	Professor	University of Ilorin	Nigeria
Enrique	Etchevarren	Academic secretary and interim rector	Universidad de Montevideo	Uruguay
Hong Tat	Ewe	President	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman	Malaysia
Lawrence Ikechukwu	Ezemonye	Professor	Igbinedion University Okada	Nigeria
Dato' Prof. Dr. Ahmad	Farhan bin Mohd Sadullah	Vice Chancellor	Universiti Putra Malaysia	Malaysia
Luis	Ferreira	Rector	Universidade de Lisboa	Portugal
Profa. Dra. Karen Spadari	Ferreira, PhD	Diretora da Secretaria de Relações Internacionais	Universidade Federal de São Paulo	Brazil
Professor Ian	Findlay	President and Vice-Chancellor	University of Puthisastra	Cambodia
Orla	Flynn	Dr	Atlantic Technological University	Ireland
Natassa	Frederickou	President of the Council	Frederick University	Cyprus
Carla	Fresquez	Director of Sustainability	UC Davis	USA
Francisco Javier	García Rodríguez	Rector	University of La Laguna	Spain
Luis	Garcia-Ghezzi	General Secretary	Universidad Austral	Argentina
Owunari Abraham	Georgewill	Vice-Chancellor	University of Port Harcourt	Nigeria
Kevin	Hall	President and Vice-Chancellor	University of Victoria	Canada
Dr David	Halliwell	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Partnerships	Deakin University	Australia
Dr. José Antonio De los Reyes	Heredia	General Rector	Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana	Mexico
Maria Augusta	Hermida	President	Universidad de Cuenca	Spain
Simon S.M.	Ho	President	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong

Professor Holenu Mangenda	Holy	Rector	Simon Kimbangu University	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dr Nida	Hussain	President	Ziauddin University	Pakistan
Prof. Yahaya Zayyana	Ibrahim	Professor (Associate) in Global Environmental Change and Geospatial Analysis and Director Academic Planning	African Aviation and Aerospace University, Abuja	Nigeria
Professor Patricia	Iglecias	Head of Environment	University of São Paulo	Brazil
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Naci	İnci	Chair of SDSN Türkiye - Rector of Boğaziçi University	SDSN Türkiye - Boğaziçi University	Türkiye
Sothy	Khieng	Professor	CamTech University	Cambodia
Tim	Killeen	President	University of Illinois System	USA
Prof. Koffi	Kouakou	Président	Université Alassane Ouattara	Côte d'Ivoire
Kanat	Kozhakhmet	President	Narxoz University	Kazakhstan
Phouphet	Kyophilavong	Vice President	National University of Laos	Laos
Dukagjin	Leka	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Public University "Kadri Zeka"	Serbia
Rongyu	Li	Vice-President (Global Engagement)	The University of Queensland	Australia
Matteo	Lorito	Professor	UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II DOCENTI	Italy
Jacky	Lumarque	Rector	Université Quisqueya	Haiti
Ali	MAHAMANE	Former Rector of the University of Diffa, Currently Prof. Dr. Ir. at the University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey	University Abdou Moumouni	Niger
Gregor	Majdič	Rector	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
Yasutomo	Nasu	President	Okayama University	Japan
Atsufumi	Yokoi	Vice President	Okayama University	Japan
Prof. Stavros	Malas	President	The Cyprus Institute	Cyprus
Fr Stephen	Mavelly	Vice-Chancellor	Assam Don Bosco University	India
Adolfo	Meisel	President	Universidad del Norte	Colombia
Essam Shaban Bersy	Mohamed	Assistant Professor	American University in Cairo	Egypt
Pornchai	Mongkhonvanit	President	Siam University	Thailand

J A Ian	Montgomery	Professor	Ulster University	Northern Ireland
Professor MT	Mosia	Interim Vice Chancellor and Principal	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Lauren	Müller de Pacheco	Rectora	Universidad Privada de Santa Cruz de la Sierra – UPSA	Bolivia
Dr. Eroid	Naomab	Vice-Chancellor	Namibia University of Science and Technology	Namibia
Valeriy	Naumyk	Vice-Rector	National University “Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic”,	Ukraine
Prof. Dr. Nelus	Niemandt	Rector	Hugenote Kollege	South Africa
Professor Johnson	Nyarko Boamong	Vice-Chancellor	University of Cape Coast	Ghana
Professor Ciarán	Ó hÓgartaigh	President	The President of University of Galway	Ireland
John	O’Halloran	President	University College Cork	Ireland
Br. Bernard S.	Oca FSC	President	De La Salle University	Philippines
Professor Temi E.	Ologunorisa	Vice Chancellor	Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology	Nigeria
Hor	Peng	Rector	National University of Management	Cambodia
Manuel	Perez-Mateos	Rector	University of Burgos	Spain
Marilen Gabriel	Pirtea	Rector	West University of Timișoara	Romania
Prof. Irene	Polycarpou	Rector of UCLan Cyprus & President of the Cyprus Rectors' Conference	UCLan Cyprus	Cyprus
Prof. Sibrandes	Poppema	President	Sunway University	Malaysia
Philippos	Pouyioutas	Rector	University of Nicosia	Cyprus
Pr. Mamy	Ravelomanana	President	University of Antananarivo	Madagascar
Professor Daya	Reddy	Vice-Chancellor	University of Cape Town	South Africa
Robert G.	Ridley	Vice-Chancellor	Unicaf University	Malawi
JULIÁN ESTEBAN	RODRÍGUEZ	Rector	Universidad Austral	Argentina
Elisabeth	Rukmini	Vice Rector	Universitas Pembangunan Jaya	Indonesia

Honglim	Ryu	President	Seoul National University	Korea
João	Sàágua	Rector	Nova University	Portugal
Jeffrey D.	Sachs	President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development	Columbia University	USA
Dr. Enrique Castañeda	Saldaña	President	Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia	Peru
Jaba	Samushia	Rector	Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University	Georgia
Prof. Isaac	Sanga Kosgey	Professor	Moi University	Kenya
Rath	Sethik, PhD	Dean of Faculty of Development Studies	Royal University of Phnom Penh	Cambodia
Juraj	Sipko	Director at Institute of Economic Research	Slovak Academy of Sciences	Slovakia
Professor SK	Sobhee	Vice-Chancellor	University of Mauritius	Mauritius
President Prof. Jin-Guang	Teng	President	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong
Alexandra	Teodosio	Vice-rector for Internationalization and Sustainable Development	University of Algarve	Portugal
Suvit Sae	Tia	President	King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi	Thailand
Rocky S.	Tuan	Vice-Chancellor and President	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Victor	Udo	Director of Campus Sustainability	Bucknell University	USA
Sarah	Willie-LeBreton	President	Smith College	USA
Professor Barry	Winn	Vice-Chancellor and President	Taylor's University	Malaysia
Professor Joseph	Wong	Vice-Chancellor	University of Port Harcourt	Nigeria
PROSE IVY G.	YEPES	Dr.	VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Philippines