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International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean

World Earth Month

Strengthening International Higher Education Cooperation for Sustainability

29 April, 2025

Session 2: Greening Higher Education – Multistakeholder OER (Open Educational Resources) on Sustainability by UNESCO IESALC-NGL Collaboration

Background

In the face of escalating global challenges that threaten societal progress, it is crucial to move away from unsustainable development practices and embrace a transformative, cooperative approach. As highlighted in the *Futures of Education Report* "Reimagining our Futures Together", education is a powerful catalyst for change. Higher education, situated at the intersection of knowledge and practice, has a pivotal role in advancing international cooperation, especially in the Global South, by engaging diverse stakeholders across education sub-sectors and broader society to address critical sustainability issues.

Higher education institutions play a crucial role in driving innovation and leading actions that harness the potential of education, research, and knowledge for sustainability. This is particularly important through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and other multistakeholder collaborations. When coordinated among higher education institutions and affiliated partners, these approaches can be diversified to support sustainability initiatives, enabling evidence-based, exchange-oriented, and cross-regional actions.

In celebrating World Earth Month, UNESCO IESALC and National Geographic Learning (NGL) aim to further promote higher education's leadership in sustainability. The launch of the UNESCO IESALC-NGL online OER on greening higher education will serve as a practical tool for higher education stakeholders to drive sustainability. This panel is part of a broader effort to engage higher education leaders, scholars, and stakeholders in building sustainable and transformative global education networks, especially through multistakeholder collaboration and public-private partnerships.

Objectives

- To launch the UNESCO IESALC-NGL online OER on "Introduction to Greening Higher Education."
- To foster multistakeholder collaborations, including public-private partnerships, in advancing sustainability through higher education.
- To provide a practical demonstration of the online OER as a tool to guide higher education stakeholders in integrating sustainability into the four functions of Higher Education.
- To highlight the importance of international higher education cooperation, particularly in the Global South, in addressing sustainability challenges.

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness of how to integrate sustainability into higher education through the new online OER.
- Strengthened collaboration between diverse stakeholders, including public-private partnerships, to advance sustainability in higher education.
- Expanded adoption of the online OER as a tool for greening higher education stakeholders globally.
- Greater emphasis on South-South cooperation and multistakeholder partnerships in advancing sustainability through higher education.

Details

- Date: 29th April 2025
- Location: UNESCO Headquarters (Paris, France)
- Time: 120 minutes
- Room capacity: 96 people
- Language: English
- Interpretation: Spanish and French interpretation services will be provided for the event to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for a global audience.

Agenda (1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

Time	Session	Description
1:00 – 1:15 (15 minutes)	**Welcome & Opening Remarks**	Opening remarks, outlining the event's role in advancing sustainability through higher education. **Moderator:** Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and Agenda-Setting Unit, UNESCO IESALC **High-Level Speakers:** - Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC - Mr. Romero Hayman, Senior Vice President, Strategy, and General Manager, National Geographic Learning

1:15-1:25 (10 minutes)	**Introduction to Greening Higher Education**	Greening Higher Education Presentation **Moderator:** Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and Agenda-Setting Unit, UNESCO IESALC
1:25-1:53 (28 minutes)	**Panel Discussion on Greening Higher Education Pillars**	A panel discussion featuring four speakers will explore the four pillars of Greening Higher Education: Greening Teaching, Training, and Curriculum; Greening Science, Technology, and Innovation; Greening Skills and Jobs; and Greening Higher Education Institutions. **Moderator:** Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and Agenda-Setting Unit, UNESCO IESALC **and** Ms. Daniela Moreno Farfán, Member, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network **Panelists:** - Mr. Daniel Barber, Author, National Geographic Learning – 5 *mins* - Ms. Nora Fayssal, Lecturer and researcher, Water security and Water Education, Lebanese American University – 5 *mins* - Mr. Virendra Rawat, Founder and Director, Green Mentors – 5 *mins* - Ms. Jennifer Boyer, Vice President, Sustainability, Technological University Dublin – 5 *mins* • ***Greening Teaching, Training, and Curriculum*** *Daniel, from your experience as an author contributing to educational resources, how can educators effectively integrate sustainability principles into teaching and curriculum design? And how do you*

		see teacher training institutions support with making such integration more accessible and impactful to drive whole-system transformations towards more greening approach? • ***Greening Science, Technology, and Innovation*** *Nora, your research focuses on water security and education. How can scientific research and technological innovation in higher education contribute to sustainable solutions, particularly in climate-vulnerable regions? And what are your incentives and strategies towards conducting interdisciplinary greening research?* • ***Greening Skills and Jobs*** *Virendra, with your experience in Green Mentors, how can higher education institutions better prepare students with the skills needed for the green economy? What are some successful models of collaboration between academia and industry to create sustainable career pathways?* • ***Greening Higher Education Institutions*** *Jennifer, as a leader in sustainability at a technological university, what are the key challenges and opportunities for institutions looking to greening campuses, operations, strategies and even ambitions? How can universities act as role models for sustainability, influencing not just students but also local communities and industries?*
1:53 – 2:35 (42 minutes)	**Launch of the UNESCO IESALC-NGL OER**	Discussion on the objectives, importance, and expected outcomes of the "Introduction to Higher Education" OER. And presentation of the OER.

		Moderator: Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and Agenda-Setting Unit, UNESCO IESALC **and** Ms. Daniela Moreno Farfán, Member, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network **Panelists:** - Ms. Yuma Inzolia, Chief of Capacity Building, UNESCO IESALC – *10+2 mins* - Ms. Jemma Hillyer, Managing Editor of Global Partnerships, National Geographic Learning – *10+2 mins* **Respondents:** - Mr. Marcio Lobo Netto, Associate Professor , Electronic Systems Engineering, Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo / Leader University Representative , United Nations South-South University Cooperation Network – *5 mins* - Mr. Abdul Matheen Yousuf, Chief Executive Officer, Project You / Member, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network – *5 mins* • *Yuma, Capacity-building is a crucial part of embedding sustainability in higher education. Can you elaborate more on that?* • *Jemma, National Geographic Learning has a strong focus on bringing the world to the classroom and the classroom to life with real-life educational content and strategic partnerships. What inspired this collaboration with UNESCO IESALC?* *[Teaser video] - 3 mins*

		• *Marcio, as a professor working in electronic systems engineering, how do you see open educational resources like this one influencing STEM education and research towards sustainability, particularly in technological fields?* • *Abdul Matheen, from a youth and entrepreneurship perspective, what are the keyways in which this OER can equip and enable students and young professionals to act in greening higher education and their future careers?* • *Jemma, How do you see this jointly produced OER supporting wider educators and institutions in making higher education more sustainable?* • *Yuma, how does this co-created OER fit into UNESCO IESALC's broader efforts to strengthen institutional capacity for greening higher education across five UNESCO regions?*
2:35-2:40 (5 minutes)	Menti	What is the *most important element* for achieving sustainability through higher education? https://www.menti.com/alsbha3ybuz5
2:40-2:50 (10 minutes)	Q & A	
2:50-3:00 (10 minutes)	**Next Steps**	Summary of key takeaways and next steps for fostering multistakeholder collaboration and public-private partnerships for sustainability.

		Moderators: Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and Agenda-Setting Unit, UNESCO IESALC and Ms. Daniela Moreno Farfán, Member, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network **High-Level Speaker:** - Mr. Romero Hayman, Senior Vice President, Strategy, and General Manager, National Geographic Learning

Target Audience

- University and higher education institution administrators.
- Faculty and educators involved in curriculum development and sustainability education.
- Policymakers, particularly those focused on education and sustainability in the Global South.
- Private sector partners with a focus on sustainability through education and innovation.
- Civil society organizations committed to education and sustainability.
- Youth, students, and future thinkers focused on driving sustainable change.