

E4J Dialogue Session: UNODC and IAU:

Reaching SDG16 through higher education: Are we ready to educate the future leaders?

Date: Thursday, 3 December 2020 14:00-15.30 CET (Paris/Vienna)

Registration:

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/about-e4j/global-dialogue-series-2020/registration.html>

About the session



Five years into the adoption of the UN Agenda 2030 and its roadmap with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 sub-targets, many stakeholders have started work with the Goals, which are particularly valued for their interconnectedness and universality. Realizing that the SDGs will not be achieved if we continue doing things as we have always done them, stakeholders including Member States, various UN entities and academia have come up with new ways and more innovative approaches. Linking various SDGs, such as **SDG4 on Quality Education** and **SDG16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** is one of these new approaches. Higher Education has a special role to play in educating future leaders; leaders are required to promote the rule of law thereby contributing to the achievement of SDG16.

While the global goals need to be translated to strategies sensible to local and regional realities, innovative capacity building, learning, and **integrating sustainable development into peacebuilding plans** is also crucial and linked to SDG16. This, in turn, does not come without challenges – hence the need to address the implementation of the 17 SDGs also in the peacebuilding context, for which **higher education can play a crucial role in post-conflict recovery**. Higher Education can contribute through teaching, research, and beyond to SDG16, and to finding solutions to the challenges faced in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. For example, incorporating **teaching modules on justice and governance** at universities, such as the modules developed by E4J, not only in disciplines related to conflict studies and peace-building, but also beyond, encourage critical thinking and interdisciplinary approaches. After all, students are the future experts and leaders in their region. Furthermore, **identifying the synergies between the SDGs and higher education** can also benefit resource mobilization and help increase access to higher education. Particularly, there is a strong need for a multi-stakeholder approach, including collaboration with higher education institutions and academics, in order to ensure **mutual reinforcement of SDG4 and SDG16**.

This session is jointly organized by the **International Association of Universities (IAU)** and the **UNODC Education for Justice (E4J) initiative**. The E4J initiative aims to support educators to teach more on issues related to the rule of law, including topics such as crime prevention and criminal justice, anti-corruption, counter-terrorism and organized crime. It aims to build bridges between different stakeholders committed to promote the rule of law, including policy-makers, academics and educators. IAU is the global voice of higher education and understands its role as a facilitator for multi-stakeholder partnerships also outside academia. Furthermore, the IAU Global HESD (*Higher education and research for sustainable development*) Cluster connects over 80 universities worldwide teaching with and researching on the SDGs, including a subcluster on SDG16.

In this context, the virtual dialogue aims to stress the link between Higher Education and SDG16. After a short presentation round, in which panelists reflect on the topic with their different backgrounds and perspective (UN organization, research, institutional/university) the discussion will address the following **guiding questions**:

1. How can we support higher education institutions to empower the next generation through teaching, research activities and engaging students and staff with sustainable development, particularly SDG16?
2. Which resources (human, and financial) and strategies are needed to build capacities for universities and academics in fragile state contexts?
3. What is needed on the policy side and what peacebuilding efforts are required to mobilize and support HEIs?

Session Structure

Session segment	Speaker	Time (90min)
Setting the scene and introductions	- Dr Hilligje van't Land , Secretary General, International Association of Universities	10min
Presentation rounds of speakers	- Dr Thenya P. Thuita , Senior Lecturer at Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies. University of Nairobi, Kenya - Dr Terry Beitzel , Professor of Justice Studies and director of the Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, James Madison University, USA - Dr Sansom Milton , Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar - Bianca Kopp , Global Coordinator of the higher education component of the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	40min
Roundtable discussion	Moderated discussion and exchange between speakers addressing input questions	25min
Conclusions and Q&A	Moderator, speakers	15min

Description of the E4J Global Dialogue Series (1-4th December 2020)

The virtual event series by the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will connect different stakeholders and focus on how the international education community needs to respond to the growing challenges that education is facing. For all aspects of society, the rule of law is fundamental for forging relationships of mutual accountability, reliability and building trust in public actors and institutions. Acknowledging the importance of strengthening the rule of law around the world, the E4J initiative closely links to the Doha Declaration and Agenda 2030. The initiative promotes an innovative and creative approach to foster teaching topics related to the rule of law at schools (primary and secondary levels) and higher education institutions worldwide.

Full Programme and Registration: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/about-e4j/global-dialogue-series-2020/index.html>

Partner Websites:

- <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/index.html>
- <https://iau-aiu.net/>

Contacts for this session

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