

THE UNIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Summary
Research Strategy
2018 - 2022



INTRODUCTION

The global transformation – evident in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement on Climate Change – sent a clear signal that we must find a common path forward, based on a shared understanding of both the threats and the opportunities ahead. For our future security and prosperity depends not on the strength of national borders or the size of armies, but our ability to work towards new partnerships based on a spirit of global solidarity and peaceful coexistence.

Global problems require global solutions; the greatest of global challenges demands uncommon boldness; and the urgency demands the broadest of global cooperation. For we have common interest in rising above the challenges of our time to find a common path forward based on our shared future and in a cooperative endeavour to build new institutions requisite to the challenges before us.

In this regard, higher education institutes are the primary intellectual problem solvers in the situation described in the October 2018 IPCC Incheon report, not least because that responsibility has been abrogated by so many other actors. As the report makes clear, it is urgent for higher education institutes to act upon their mutual ethical obligation to focus on the cascading challenges we see gathering force. However, while universities have an ethical obligation to focus on the grand challenges they are sub-optimally organized to do so at the scope, scale, and pace necessary. Requisite to the challenges we face, the University for Sustainability embraces a distinctive organizational model.

The University for Sustainability is a platform for and global network of universities, colleges, research institutes and other organizations concerned with education and applied research advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and accelerating breakthrough solutions that catalyze transformation at scale and at speed.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on the global South and in the spirit of solidarity, the University will scale and strengthen resources and a collaborative infrastructure to enable member institutes to better serve their constituents and their regions. Supported by a state-of-the-art research infrastructure, synergizing research collaboration, and advancing joint educational programmes, our goal is to provide extraordinary value in the provision of sustainable development-themed education, breakthrough research, and climate adaptation solutions.older



Professor K.M. Stokes, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

THE UNIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

AMBITION FOR 2022

- With more than 650 member institutes, 150,000 researchers, research expenditures in excess of US\$2.1Bn and a portfolio of over 3,000 patents, we will have significantly increased the level of research and established ourselves as the most impactful global network.
- Providing extraordinary value in the provision of sustainable development-themed education, breakthrough research, and climate adaptation solutions, we will be one of the world's pre-eminent modern universities for excellent challenge-driven research.
- The University the world needs now and that the future demands, we will be known for the societal impact of our research locally and globally.



VALUES

DEVELOP

US actively develops its global research alliance and education programmes to meet its objectives

NURTURE

US actively develops its global research alliance and education programs to meet its objectives

INNOVATE

US seeks and instigates innovation in knowledge management and educational exchange.

IMPACT

US exists to make a difference. Its research produces new knowledge that influences policy and impacts society to improve lives.

COLLABORATE

US promotes opportunities that accelerate internationalisation for global collaborations among its member universities and with government, international organisations and industry on issues of global significance.

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Strengthen our members

- Develop and maintain a dynamic portfolio of research and education programmes in alignment with US members' priorities.
- Strategically grow the membership as an ecosystem of universities with complementary strengths and regional diversity.
- Build ownership and leadership within US to increase collaboration, commitment and sense of community.

Cultivate an influential research ecosystem

- Focus on Global Challenges
- Responding to Climate Change
- Global Higher Education and Research (access and equity, new technologies)
- Incorporate the research centres into our global challenge programmes.
- Strengthen leadership and accountability to ensure quality and delivery

Nurture research talent

- Create opportunities for the engagement and career development of talented researchers at the postdoctoral, postgraduate and undergraduate level in international research collaborations.
- Facilitate the mobility of students and academic staff
- Promote equity for researchers in our programs.

Enhance the visibility and impact of US

- Position US as a recognised thought leader in our areas of expertise, engaging the US through leaders and experts as an international think-tank and as policy advisors.
- Increase the power of the US "voice" in an ambassadorial and lobbying role
- Strengthen the US brand and profile, ensuring US is recognised for the vast potential of its intellectual resources.

Notes

The background of the page is a light blue gradient. It features several abstract, flowing lines in various shades of blue, ranging from very light to a medium blue. These lines create a sense of movement and depth. In the upper right corner, there is a grid pattern of thin, light blue lines that curves and flows along with the other lines, adding a technical or architectural feel to the design.