

THE UNIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The university the world needs now
and the future demands





The University for Sustainability

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The University for Sustainability

Mission:

Requisite to the challenges we face, the University for Sustainability's mission is to accelerate a just and humanitarian transformation to global sustainable development with challenge-driven education, scientific research and innovation.

The future is unwritten. It will be shaped by who we choose to be and what we choose to do. Join us in shaping the future the world needs now and the future demands.

Description:

Ushering in an era of Science 2.0; leveraging open science and open innovation; the University for Sustainability is a state-of-the-art digital platform for and global network of universities and research institutes accelerating breakthrough research and innovative solutions that catalyze transformation at scale and at speed. With the conviction that education, research, innovation, and collaboration can transform the world toward sustainable development, we are synergizing the experience and reach of thousands of scientists and innovators worldwide to turn knowledge into action.

Powered end-to-end by socially responsible Artificial Intelligence at scale to make today's scientific research more efficient, and tomorrow's revolutionary, a network-wide research cloud shall offer high performance research computing as a service to provide new ways of doing science, harness data science for sustainable development, and enable world-class cross-disciplinary research and game-changing innovation.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on the Global South, 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 mitigation and adaptation solutions. We are the university the world needs now and the future demands.

The university the world needs now and the future demands; the University for Sustainability will be known for the societal impact of its challenge-driven post-graduate education, scientific research and innovation.

The University for Sustainability's influence will be determined by its connectivity; the responsible knowledge flows it facilitates and by technology transfers it enables in support of a just and humanitarian transformation. Its ability to effect change will be determined by its relational influence through its network.

With more than 650 member institutes, 150,000 researchers, 400,000 postgraduate students, research expenditures in excess of US\$2.1 billion and a portfolio of over 3,000 patents, by 2024 we will have significantly increased the level of research and established ourselves as the most impactful global network advancing sustainable development research and innovation.





Sustainability science exists at the nexus of social science, ecology and economics. The University's Master of Sustainability students will learn about the science and politics of climate change, poverty and development, corporate social responsibility, ethics and the environment and much more in the process of coming to understand the new and profoundly important field of sustainable development. Due to their highly interdisciplinary nature, our challenge-driven Master of Sustainability programmes embrace perspectives from: Anthropology, Philosophy, Data Science, Management, Economic Analysis, Business, Political Science, Environmental Studies, Design and Engineering. Students will find a range of professors, resources and materials coming from different disciplines, combining to form a rich fabric of learning.

We seek to cultivate life-ready system thinkers who, appreciating the value of critical and ethical thinking are challenge-driven. Our graduating students shall be shall leaders, future decision- and change-makers and creative social entrepreneurs ready to shape a new world. For with deep knowledge of global systems analyses, our graduates will lead in the development of regional and national solutions.

Executive Education with Master Classes

Executive education is hosted by the Centre for Sustainability Leadership -- a globally influential centre for developing leadership and solutions. The Centre's aim is to develop leadership and creative solutions to accelerate a just, peaceful, and humanitarian transformation to sustainable development.

Grounded action research and systems thinking, we:

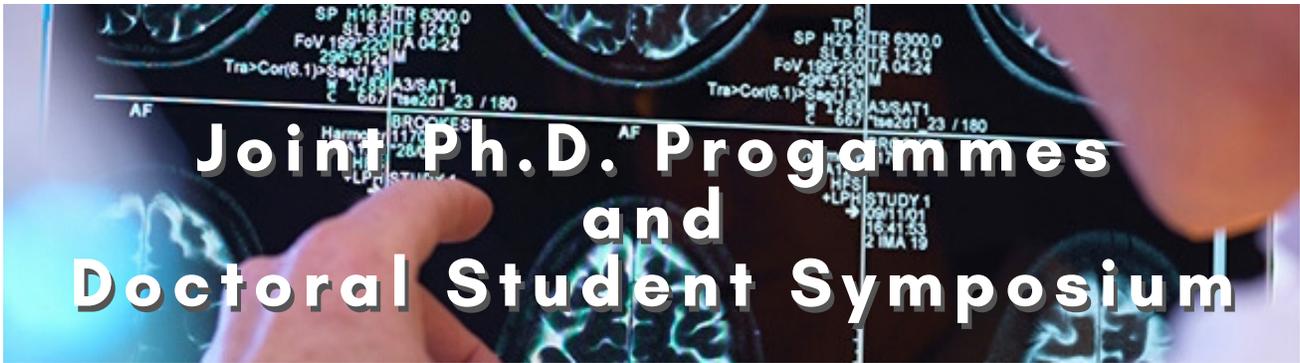
- Build the leadership capacity of individuals to create the future we need through executive and graduate education.
- Catalyse innovation and solutions through our business and policy leaders groups, and working with individual organisations.
- Develop the capability of organisations and regions to lead the sustainability transformation through our advisory services and customised programmes.
- Our work is underpinned by multidisciplinary research, systems thinking, and grounded in practitioner insights from exceptional people from business, policy, civil society and academia.
- Facilitate collaboration and dialogue across conventional boundaries through our business and policy leaders groups.





Our Sustainable Development Studies programme is an exciting way for students at our member institutes to learn about sustainable development with courses held in the classroom, online, in the field, and around the world. The programme offers a unique opportunity to learn about interdisciplinary sustainable development and prepares students for advanced study or professional opportunities in fields as diverse as resource management, data science, energy, finance, and international law.

The Sustainable Development Studies core curriculum has been developed as a collaborative effort with member institute, involving leading experts on sustainable development issues. The Sustainable Development Studies programme consists of two required components: Sustainable Development Core and an Advanced provision. The Core Courses consists of an introductory course and upper-level advanced courses in three interdisciplinary fields of study. Together, the core enables students to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the lands, peoples, and critical issues of the Sustainable Development. Advanced study are research-focused on an area, issue, or problem of particular relevant to Sustainable Development. Core courses and Advanced offerings are offered on-site at participating member institutes.



Joint Ph.D. Programme

Explore research, training and life in two diverse research intensive university communities while undertaking a tailor-made PhD programme. The University for Sustainability shall establish a unique framework for jointly awarded PhDs. Unlike other joint degree programmes, within this scheme, two member universities will create a tailor-made programme of study for each student, taking individual research needs into account and enabling collaboration with another of the University for Sustainability's member institutes. This exciting opportunity will enhance considerably students' research and social entrepreneurship opportunities on an global scale.

Doctoral Student Symposium

Symposium participants present their research projects and engage a range of topics grouped under an annual theme. Advancing multi-disciplinarity, participants gain fresh perspectives and innovative ideas from peers from related or different fields of studies. These give them new ways of addressing some of the most important issues or research questions in their respective fields of studies.

The Symposium aims to provide doctoral students with a platform to discuss their career aspirations and pathways within and outside academia and enhance their international experience by providing them with networking opportunities and a supportive venue for constructive peer critique of ongoing research efforts.

The University for Sustainability Prize for Excellence in Sustainable Development Research shall be established to honour those whose work has advanced knowledge by crossing disciplinary boundaries and recombining different specialised subject fields in their research or writing.

Knowledge Transfer Partnership Programme

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) accelerate the uptake of responsible "smart" innovations to advance Sustainable Development and Climate Action. The programme leverages the University for Sustainability's global ecosystem in support of its academic institutes, social enterprise, youth and responsible technological innovation for a just and humanitarian transformation.

The KTP helps member academic institutes to increase their research productivity, postgraduate student success, and social impact while across sectors social enterprises improve their competitiveness and productivity through access to innovative sustainable development solutions that reside within the University for Sustainability global ecosystem. The programme serves to meet a core strategic need to identify innovative solutions to help grow social enterprise. It delivers benefits for social enterprise partners through improved quality and operations, access to smart solutions and markets. It does this by linking social enterprise partners with a University for Sustainability academic or research organisation member and a postgraduate student. It thereby enables a social enterprises to bring in new leadership skills, the latest scientific thinking, and innovations to deliver a specific, strategic project through a knowledge-based partnership.

The University for Sustainability social enterprise partner shall help to recruit a suitable postgraduate, referred to as an Associate. The partner will act as the employer of the Associate, who then works at the organisation for the duration of the project.

For Social Enterprises: Taking part in a partnership can help your to develop your enterprise. You can get academic expertise that you don't have in-house. This can improve your performance and help you to become more productive, social benefit and impact. A Partnership may be partially funded by a grant. Your enterprise will need to contribute to compensate the Associate who will work with you, plus the cost of a partner academic supervisor who will oversee the scheme. The enterprise contribution depends on the scale and length of the project.
For Academic or Research organisations: The University for Sustainability's academic member who take part in a Knowledge Transfer Partnership produce more new research projects and research papers for each project.





International Students At-Risk Network

Of the world's 26 million refugees only 3% have access to higher education. With record levels of displaced people, foreign aid falling and an expected surge of climate refugees, forced migration shall rise substantially in the coming years. Climate change shall confront countries with waves of migratory human flows that they will find hard to accept and inhumane to refuse. The Red Cross estimates that within 10 years 150 million will be displaced due to the climate crisis. The UN's 2030 agenda for sustainable development calls for the international community to ensure that "no one is left behind", including the growing number of refugees and displaced people. In response, the University for Sustainability is developing with partner organisations an International Students-at-Risk Network (ISRNet). It shall enable conflict- and violence-displaced and refugee students to connect with educational opportunities so they may continue formal post-graduate studies with member institutes of the University for Sustainability.

Governments, NGOs, foundations and volunteers are making great efforts to assist displaced and refugee students but are often unaware of parallel or similar initiatives in the field. To bridge this gap, ISRNet is creating a platform that offers a database with post-graduate opportunities and additional resources for at-risk students. With our partner organisations we are assessing the deployment of blockchain techniques to provide credential verification. The ISRNet engages with the University for Sustainability's member institutes to build capacity and create new opportunities for collaboration among the University for Sustainability's participating member institutes.

By 2025, the ISRNet shall:

- Offer a database with post-graduate opportunities and additional resources for students;
- Engage with the University for Sustainability's member institutes to build capacity and create new opportunities for collaboration among participating member institutes including the provision of independently verifiable tamper-proof blockchain credentials;
- Not jeopardize the legal status or negatively affect the protection space for refugees in refugee countries;
- Negotiate availability of places in member institutions in host countries with Ministries of Education and other competent bodies to secure host country agreement and support, and so as not to overload host institution capacity;
- Assure accreditation and programme equivalency recognition is arranged with the member institutes and host country authorities to ensure that at-students obtain a recognized and transferrable degree upon completion;
- Seek to lessen the documentation requirements for admission to avoid further compromising at-risk candidates; and,
- Seek to provide financial support to socio-economically vulnerable families of at-risk students.





Fellows Programme and Global Exchange and Mobility

Fellows Programme

The University for Sustainability Fellows Programme brings together outstanding early career scientists from across the world to ask questions that matter and to work with leading global thinkers on answering them.

The Programme:

- Focuses on a selected annual theme.
- Complements scholarly discussions with synchronized field immersion experiences within the host community.
- Develops the professional capacity of outstanding early career faculty at the University for Sustainability member institutes by bringing together faculty members from a variety of disciplines.

Global Exchange and Mobility

The University for Sustainability supports the internationalisation initiatives of member institutes and encourages mobility across institutions by providing member institutes with integrated access to information on various international programs, strategic initiatives and opportunities within and outside the network.

University for Sustainability student mobility and exchange programs provide vast opportunities to study in different parts of the North. If you are currently a student at a participating US member institution, consider the North2South program. There are a wealth of study opportunities available in Sustainable Development Studies!

Member institutes throughout the Global South and Global North cooperate to provide challenge-drive learning opportunities that are sustainable development focused. The climate, geography, population, indigenous knowledge systems, economy, cultures and other aspects of the areas are emphasized in the Sustainable Development Studies programme.

Global Sustainable Development Research Network

Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of climate change on the Global South and the central role of climate justice; the Global Sustainable Development Research Network (SDRNet) seeks to promote: (a) Science, Technology and Innovation-driven sustainable development in member institutes' constituent regions and (b) South-South and South-North cooperation in the development and application of science, technology and innovation.

The objectives of SDRNet to:

- Encourage and develop means to collaboratively enable member institutes of the Global South to develop their sustainable development scientific enterprise;
- Promote the integration of sustainable development science, technology and innovation (STI) into the member institutes' development plans with a view to developing solutions to sustainable development challenges;
- Further member institutes' contribution to, and involvement in, frontier sustainable development STI programmes, which are most likely to have a strong impact upon the economic and social development of member institutes' constituent regions;
- Further the contribution to, and involvement in, global STI projects;
- Support the establishment of new centers of excellence for sustainable development in the Global South, and enhance cooperation among member institutes' existing ones;
- Promote the development of collaborative programmes between and among members of the University for Sustainability and scientific institutions and organizations of the Global South in areas of science, technology and the environment that are of critical importance to the sustainable development of constituent regions;
- Advance relations between scientific institutions and organizations in the South and their counterparts in the North through the development of bilateral links and cooperative programmes; and,
- Promote the sharing of experiences and best practices in harnessing STI for the sustainable development for and in the Global South with the Sustainable Development Research Network (SDRNet) -- a global community of practice for sustainable development research and practice. Connecting South-South and South-North STI as well as traditional and indigenous knowledge, SDRNet enables members to follow a research interest, connect with colleagues, seek new collaborations, promote researcher's work, gain access to our Research Cloud Computing facility and build connections to funders and industry partners to accelerate scalable frontier sustainable development solutions. provide a global community of practice for sustainable development research and practice.



A banner for the Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development Centre. The background is a blue-toned world map with a network of glowing blue lines and nodes overlaid. The text 'Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development Centre' is written in a white, sans-serif font, centered over the map.

Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development Centre

Synergizing expertise from across its global ecosystem, the Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development Centre (AI4SDC) is a flagship initiative of the University for Sustainability. Its vision is a future in which data science is harnessed safely and responsibly. Its mission is to accelerate discovery, development and adoption of artificial intelligence innovation for sustainable development and humanitarian action. The Centre's work will underpin interdisciplinary collaborations across the University's ecosystem, foster the next generation of data researchers and engineers and reshape the nature of the innovation process and the organization of R&D&I.

The role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in achieving sustainable development and humanitarian action cannot be overemphasized. Delivering benefits that no single institute could offer, the AI4SDC is an innovation hub, bringing together STI expertise from across the University for Sustainability's global ecosystem to advance data science and technology to yield new insights for decision-makers, improve resilience to the effects of climate change and accelerate solutions. The University for Sustainability's global ecosystem and its ability to work with partners across sectors and academic disciplines offers the ideal platform for the Centre to accelerate new applications from data science research. With strong links to a network of industry, public sector, and third sector partners, we are a convening power, bringing together academia, industry policy makers and the public with the best talent in the data science to advance the transformation to sustainable development.

The role of the Centre is to facilitate the development and accelerate the implementation of responsible data science solutions, while harnessing real-time data and new technologies for sustainable development and humanitarian action. Embracing open science and open innovation, we will address real-world problems, with recognition of the important legal, ethical and societal implications of these technologies. In this time of great transformation, data science-based solutions are crucial to the design of effective programmes and policy responses.

With our AI Innovation and Investor Network, we will channel research toward a number of sustainable development challenges which represent areas in which data science can have a game-changing impact for science, society, and the economy.

A blue-toned banner featuring a network of interconnected nodes and lines, overlaid with various icons including a cloud with a download arrow, a bar chart, and a globe. The text "AI Innovation and Investor Network" is centered in a bold, black font.

AI Innovation and Investor Network

The AI Innovation and Investor Network collaborates across borders to deliver Artificial Intelligence solutions that address today's Sustainable Development challenges. It brings together the brightest and best minds from the leaders in industry, education, research and financing; all to work towards sustainable development, climate adaptation and mitigation solutions.

The Investor Network connects investors with promising AI start-ups to encourage cross-border financing and co-investments. The network brings private and institutional investors together with pre-screened high-potential start-ups, making it possible to leverage greater local and international funding at a faster pace. The AI Innovation and Investor Network that connects promising AI start-ups with private and institutional investors for financing and co-investment. Through the Network, start-ups seeking early-stage private equity funding above USD500,000 have the opportunity to be introduced to more than 35 early stage venture funds, family offices and institutional investors, as well as 800 private business angels.

- We facilitate: Our network creates a platform for responsible AI-based innovation to flourish by providing those who work with us with high impact support including business modelling, product testing and refinement, funding and access to investment and expertise so that breakthrough ideas can be rapidly implemented.
- We collaborate: We build strong links between industry, research and education to create an atmosphere where those who may not usually work together can collaborate closely.
- We create: Our network creates new products and services that put the health of citizens front and centre. As a result, we create new businesses, jobs and valuable research. We educate: We provide education to promote healthy living and improve the skill sets of students, citizens, entrepreneurs and industry professionals.



Sustainable Development Research Cloud

The Sustainable Development Research Cloud (SDRC) vision is to provide member institutes of the University for Sustainability with a world-leading opportunity in scientific data infrastructure and to ensure that member researchers reap the full benefits of data-driven open science.

In the history of science, new technology has often spurred new advances. In the 16th and 17th centuries, telescopes and microscopes empowered Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Leeuwenhoek and Boyle. Later, the greatest achievements of science – an understanding of electromagnetism, quantum physics, and genomics – were all enabled by new tools and technologies. The SDRC is another such tool.

Open science is a key driver, not only of scientific progress, but also of economic and societal innovation for sustainable development. To harness its full value the University for Sustainability fosters an open, collaborative platform for the management, analysis, sharing, reuse and preservation of research data on which innovative services can be developed and delivered.

Promoting scientific excellence, advanced analytics, and data re-use, the SDRC offers researchers from across disciplines seamless access to advanced digital capabilities, resources and the expertise they need to collaborate and to carry out data- and computing-intensive science. As scientists make increasing use of connected sensors and the Internet-of-Things, the SDRC shall concentrate on helping researchers access integrated real time data, tools and manipulate data using supercomputers. The SDRC engages researchers in governing, managing and preserving resources in an open science open innovation environment.

The SDRC shall offer member online services and stimulate new ones so researchers can easily share data, scientific instrumentation sharing and knowledge. The goal: a sustainability research “commons” for University for Sustainability member institutes. Laying the groundwork for the democratization of sustainable development research, the SDRC shall make today’s science more efficient, and tomorrow’s revolutionary.

The SDRC will leverage its member's investment in scientific infrastructures—experimental facilities, networking, high-performance and high-throughput computing, cloud services, scientific software and institutional and community data repositories—by connecting infrastructures and services.

Research Infrastructure-as-a-Service

Providing Research Infrastructure as a Service, the University of Sustainability offers a cloud solution for smart research infrastructure and technology providers to quickly build stable, cost-efficient, and reliable ubiquitous research platforms.

Internet-of-Things Solution

Build innovative applications to gather, process, analyze, and act on data generated by connected scientific instrumentation, equipment and devices, without maintaining a separate infrastructure. Take your smart research infrastructure to the next level with stable, cost-efficient, smooth, and reliable cloud services. This lets you quickly build bespoke solutions with fully integrated, data-driven and highly scalable cloud computing solutions.

Smart Hardware Solution

The University for Sustainability offers intelligent IoT cloud solutions which integrate with your smart scientific equipment, hardware devices and provide real-time data to establish an instant exchange of information between the hardware and web application. This provides essential data which can be processed in real-time accelerating insightful research.



University for Sustainability System of Governance

The University for Sustainability was founded and is governed by a Board of Directors and a University Council. The Council provides strategic leadership and the voice of our members. The Board of Directors is the highest governing body and has general responsibility for the University's strategic development and setting the main priorities, including finances and staffing. The Board is made up of elected individuals all of whom serve in their professional capacities on behalf of the University. Each member institute of the University for Sustainability is represented in the University Council. It oversees programme development and the direction of the organisation. The Council also acts as a forum of consultation, networking and cooperation between all members. The Executive Leadership Team of the University for Sustainability's manages day-to-day activities as overseen by a President and Vice-Presidents. They collectively form the Executive Leadership Team. The Executive Leadership receives expert counsel from several groups.

Scientific Steering Committee:- brings together experts and leaders from a variety of scientific disciplines who are committed to the University for Sustainability's mission and activities. It engages regularly to synthesize scientific advances, discuss research policy and

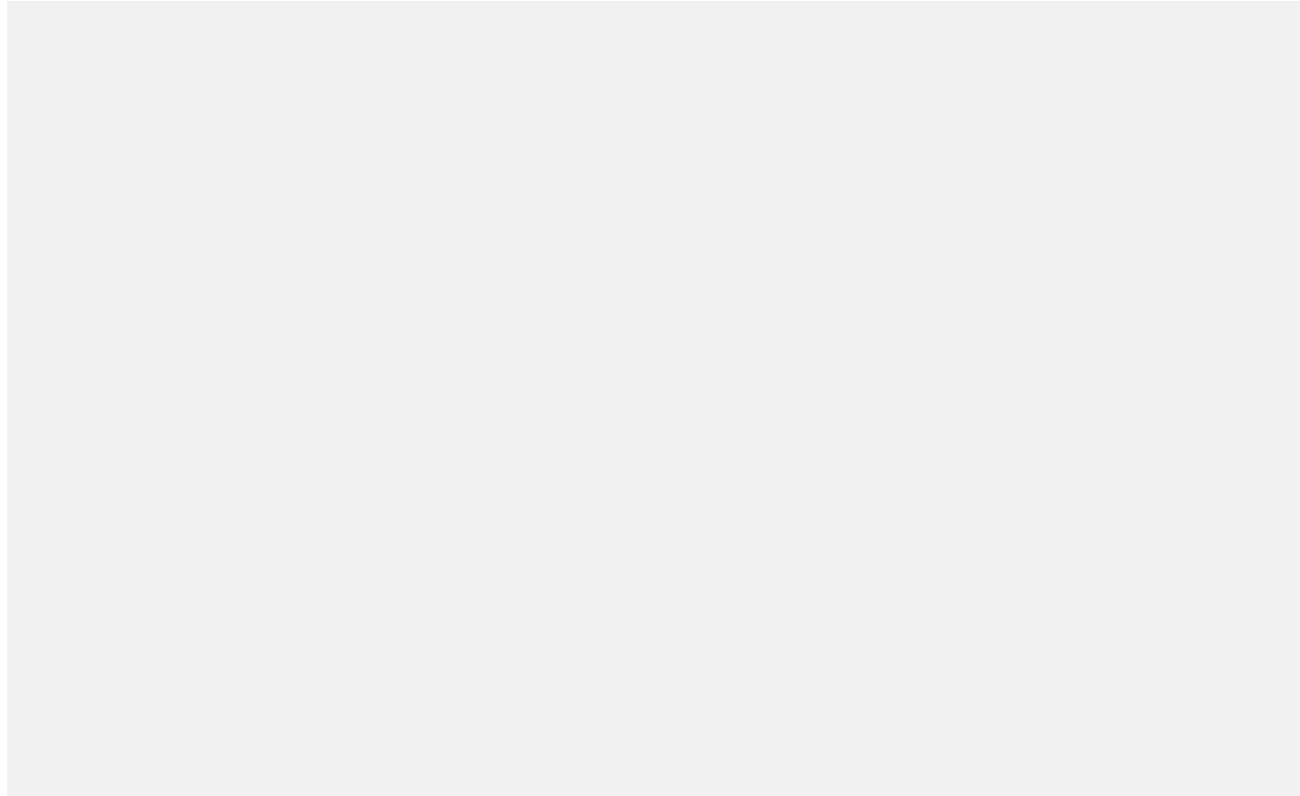
future research priorities of the University for Sustainability and to inform members of the University's Executive and Board of Directors. The Committee provides robust and unique expertise and experience. Unless otherwise indicated in the Charter of the University, Committee members shall be nominated and elected by the University's General Council. Their tenure shall be for a period of three years. However, membership on the founding Committee will be by invitation of the Executive Leadership.

Global Governmental Advisory Council:- brings together thought leaders and senior policy experts committed to the University for Sustainability's mission and activities. Providing strategic advice, the Council works to extend the University for Sustainability's outreach and relevance by informing members of the University's Executive and Board of Directors on governmental developments of potential relevance to the University. Members of the Council provide strategic advice and diverse perspectives on global governmental developments, along with candid insights into how the University for Sustainability and its policies affect the achievement of the University's mission and delivery against the UN's sustainable development goals. Council members meet from time to time to bring to the attention of the University matters of potential interest and discuss ways to advance the University's mission. With renewable tenure of four years, Council membership is by invitation only.

Global Business Advisory Council:- brings together senior business and finance experts committed to the University for Sustainability's mission and activities. Briefing the Executive Leadership and Board of Directors, members of the Council provide strategic advice along with candid insights on global business and finance developments that may shape the University's efforts to have a global impact. Council members meet from time to time to bring to the attention of the University matters of potential business and finance interest and discuss ways to advance the University's mission. With renewable tenure of four years, Council membership is by invitation only.

Regional Advisory Councils: Though global in outlook, having a strong regional presence is essential for the further development of the University for Sustainability. An in-depth understanding of regional and local differences is crucial to our success. To this end, we are founding regional advisory councils (Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa as well as Sub-Saharan Africa). Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) bring together experts committed to the University for Sustainability's mission and activities. Briefing the Executive Leadership and Board of Directors, RAC members provide regionally-focused guidance along with candid insights on regional developments that informs the University's efforts to have a regional impact. RAC members meet from time to time to bring to discuss ways to advance the University's mission. With renewable tenure of four years, Council membership is by invitation only.

Notes



"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." These simple but powerful words are the first line of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1949. The declaration's power has always depended on our collective will to uphold its noble aspirations. The University for Sustainability does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability in any of its policies, procedures, or practices.



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