The role of universities in the achievement of the UN sustainable development goals

Dr. Mohamed Saeudy, Portfolio leader and Research Centre leader for ResCAFE

University of Bedfordshire Business School (UBBS)

University of Bedfordshire

Background

The UN SDGs are becoming an increasingly important theme for researchers in multiple fields to investigate. They represent a core guideline for governments, individuals, and businesses to plan future directions and strategies. Universities play an important role in meeting these goals by providing training, and best practices and preparing future generations to achieve these goals successfully.

Introduction

This poster aims to identify key development and innovations needed to advance the achievement of these goals. Therefore, it aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How to develop institutional tools to manage the achievements of these goals?
2. How business organisations could make profit and business opportunities from achieving these goals?
3. What is the role of higher education institutions in achieving the SDGs?

Global Networks of Higher Education Institutions call for Action on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (the Big Tent group)

This group urge Higher Education leaders worldwide, students, policy makers, research funding agencies, academics, industry and civic society partners to commit to collaboration, cooperation and action on the following 10 Point Plan:

1. Address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs hereafter) through informed research and innovation activities.
2. Work with national Government agencies to ensure cooperation, implementation progression and impact;
3. Incentivise and build capacity across the higher education sector;
4. Undertake a review of policy, infrastructure and protocols on campus to embed the SDGs;
5. Introduce approaches to the study of the SDGs across programs
6. Engage research funding agencies to address the SDGs through funding calls.
7. Promote personal reflection of students and faculty to take responsibility and action towards achievement od SDGs;
8. Demonstrate University Social Responsibility by adopting and championing SDGs;
9. Monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs in teaching, research and enterprise activities;
10. Develop a strategy to lobby conference organizers to include SDGs as main themes.