

University Global Coalition

2022 Annual Gathering Report



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Annual Gathering Overview

Purpose and Mission

The [University Global Coalition's](#) (UGC) Annual Gathering supports UGC's mission of creating a more sustainable future for all through programming, initiatives, and tools that connect globally engaged universities and higher education associations working in partnership with the United Nations (UN) to achieve the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). The Annual Gathering fosters an environment where ideas are shared, networks are engaged, and students, faculty, staff, and organizational partners participate to create and promote awareness of work towards the 17 SDGs.

The gathering this year focused on four of the 17 goals:

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

University Global Coalition Annual Gathering
Closing Session: SDG Networks
Friday, October 7
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EDT

Keynote by Jeffrey Sachs
President, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Florencia Librizzi
Co-chair (former), United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), Program Director, International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP)

Gift Achuenu
Youth Sustainable Development Conference

María Cortés Puch
VP of Networks
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Moderated by Ángel Cabrera
President, Georgia Institute of Technology
Chair, UGC

universityglobalcoalition.org

UNIVERSITY GLOBAL COALITION

2022 Annual Gathering

Above image: Promotional graphic featuring the panelists for this year's closing session "Stronger Together: SDG Networks."

Schedule Overview

The UGC Annual Gathering was held virtually the week of October 3 - 7, 2022 over four days. The session schedule can be seen below. All times are in Eastern Daylight Time.

To view full session details, including descriptions and presenter information, visit the [UGC webpage](#).

DAY 1	Monday October 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi-Sector Partnerships: The Convening Power of Universities 10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. EDT 2. Introducing the UGC SDG Dashboard 1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
DAY 2	Tuesday October 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In Pursuit of Peace 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
DAY 3	Wednesday October 5	NO SESSIONS (YOM KIPPUR HOLIDAY)
DAY 4	Thursday October 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Higher Education SDG Leadership Panel 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 5. Partnerships for Climate Action 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 6. Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
DAY 5	Friday October 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. From Traditional to Transformative Engagement 10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. 8. Stronger Together: SDG Networks 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Above image: Session panelists for an SDG16 discussion: “In Pursuit of Peace”

Organizers

The University Global Coalition wishes to thank our 2022 Annual Gathering committee for sharing their time, ideas, and passion to help shape this year's Gathering:

Arturo Condo, President, EARTH University (Chair)

Afroditi Anastasaki, Partnerships Consultant, UNITAR

Drew Cutright, Senior Strategy Consultant, Georgia Tech

Emine Mavi, Adjunct Instructor, Koç University

Gbemi Disu, Executive Director, Carnegie Mellon Africa

Joanna Regulska, Vice Provost and Dean - Global Affairs, Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, University of California, Davis

Luis Gillen, Professor, EARTH University

Paola Visconti Arizpe, Líder de Vinculación Estratégica, Tecnológico de Monterrey

Sally Crimmins Villela, Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs, SUNY

Samuel Karanja, Strategy Consultant, Georgia Institute of Technology

Silvia Gallart Parramon, Directora, Unidad de Relaciones Institucionales y Desarrollo Sostenible, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

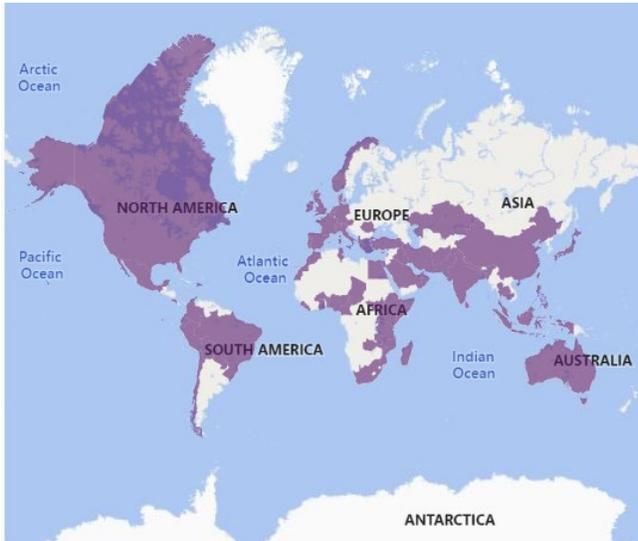
With communications support from **Georgia Tech Research Institute** communications.



Above image: Logos of the organizing institutions.

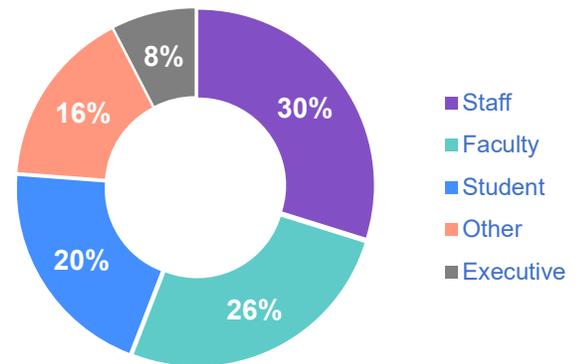
Attendee Demographics and Impact

 **83** countries represented



Above image: Geographic map of the countries represented

 **580** registered participants



Above image: Attendee breakdown by title

Attendees at the Gathering represented various sectors including non-profit, higher education, and private institutions. A majority of attendees responding to the conference survey noted that the diverse perspectives, the ability to connect with others on a global scale, and the insights provided to initiatives advancing the SDGs were important takeaways from the Gathering. Others were inspired to mobilize leadership at their respective institutions, with ideas to align agendas and strategy in support of the SDGs. Moreover, **82%** of attendees are highly likely to recommend UGC events to friends and colleagues. Below are a few selected statements from attendees:

“It was all just terrific - one of the best conferences I have attended In These Times.”

“So much inspiration, but principally, I was looking for ideas to get my university leadership mobilized, and I found plenty.”

“I thought it was a wonderful addition to have a representative of IBERIA Air in the discussion, thank you!”

“Loved this event, and I would love to hear from students. Hear from more businesses - large, small, micro and how these partnerships impact them...”

In addition to the geographic, sectoral, and role diversity of the Annual Gathering audience, Gathering reach and impact can be seen in the actions catalyzed by the Gathering, including:

- A furthering of the work of the UGC SDG2: Zero Hunger consortium through a student challenge, pairing students from different geographies and study areas together to solve pressing food/nutrition global challenges.
- Deepening partnerships with other higher education SDG networks, including the United Nations [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative](#) (HESI) and the United Nations [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) (SDSN), through follow-up discussions and planned collaborations on education guides and SDG-focused events.
- A partnership between the newly named “[SDG Week Canada](#)” and the UGC’s annual “[SDG Action and Awareness Week](#)” to further promotion and participation in the week’s events (to be held March 6-10, 2023).
- Additional universities engaging with the [UGC SDG Dashboard](#), developed by St. Joseph’s University, as a tool to showcase best practices in SDG-related teaching, research, operations, and partnerships.
- Continued collaboration of UGC with the [Open Geneva](#) and [Geneva Triologue](#) initiative, which seeks to engage students in driving technology-based solutions to SDG-related issues.

Conference Content and Recordings

Recordings of all 2022 UGC Annual Gathering sessions are available on the University Global Coalition’s webpage at <https://universityglobalcoalition.org/videos/> under the Annual Gathering Recordings section header and denoted as (2022) in their title. Sessions from 2021 and 2020 are also available here.

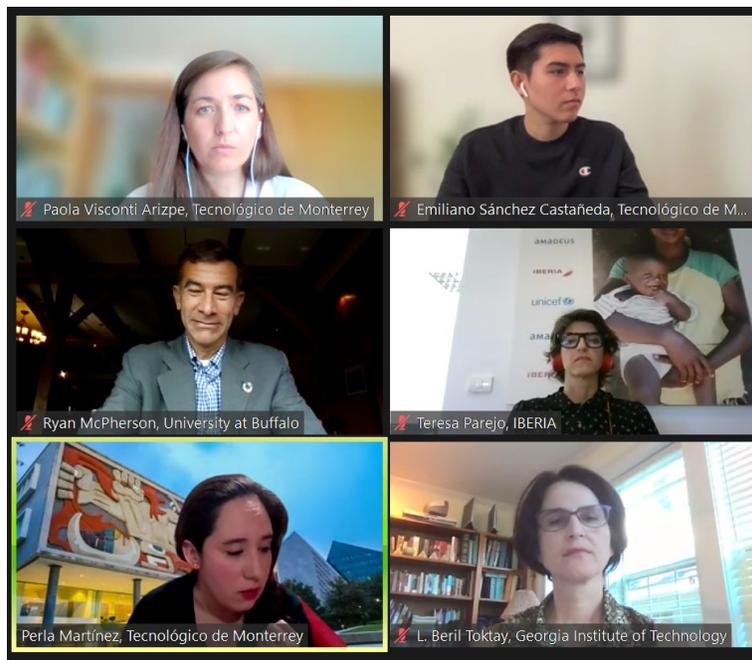
Videos

Annual Gathering Session Recordings

The UGC’s virtual annual gathering was held on October 3-7, 2022. The 2022 videos can be viewed below, followed by videos from the 2021 and 2020 gatherings. To view the 2021 Pavilion videos (5-10 minutes each), see Lightning Talks category below.

Multi-Sector Partnerships: The Convening Power of Higher Education (2022)	The UGC SDG Dashboard (2022)	In Pursuit of Peace (2022)	Higher Education SDG Leadership Panel (2022)
Session featuring business, non-profit, government sector participants and higher education institutions	Join St. Joseph’s University for a demonstration of the UGC SDG Dashboard and learn more about how UGC member institutions can engage with the Dashboard.	This panel addresses the pressing challenge of global conflict/war in Ukraine, its effects on SDG progress, and how higher education can partner with other sectors to support	This session features leaders of colleges/universities who have made significant progress on the SDGs discussing how to develop an institute-wide

Above image: The University Global Coalition website displaying Annual Gathering Recordings.



Above image: Panelists for an SDG13 session: “Climate Action Partnerships.”

Additional Information and Contact

For more information on the work of the UGC, we invite you to visit the UGC website: <http://universityglobalcoalition.org>. The Annual Gathering is one of three signature events of UGC (in addition to SDG Action & Awareness Week and the Geneva Trialogue); however, we partner on and promote initiatives and engagements throughout the year on our [UGC Calendar of Events](#), through our newsletter, and through our social media channels.

All contact information and newsletter sign up for UGC can be found at: <https://universityglobalcoalition.org/contact-ugc/>

For email inquiries: universityglobalcoalition@gmail.com

Twitter: [@uniglobal](https://twitter.com/uniglobal)

LinkedIn: [University Global Coalition](#)

2022 Annual Gathering



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