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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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>October 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Multi-Sector Partnerships: The Convening Power of Universities</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. EDT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Introducing the UGC SDG Dashboard</td>
<td>1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 2</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>October 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. In Pursuit of Peace</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 3</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>October 5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO SESSIONS (YOM KIPPUR HOLIDAY)</td>
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<tr>
<th>DAY 4</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>October 6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Higher Education SDG Leadership Panel</td>
<td>9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Partnerships for Climate Action</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030</td>
<td>1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>DAY 5</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>October 7</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. From Traditional to Transformative Engagement</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Stronger Together: SDG Networks</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
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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, Undidad 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

580 registered participants

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 Trialogue 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.
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 signatures events of UGC (in addition to SDG Action & Awareness Week and the Geneva Triologue); 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

LinkedIn: University Global Coalition