



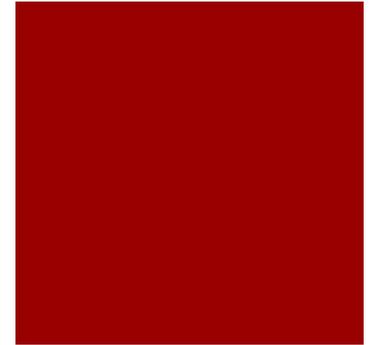
# UNESCO–Japan/MEXT Project on “Broadening the Application of the Sustainability Science” Approach”

**An integrated approach for building bridges between disciplines and institutions  
– and a basis for strengthening cooperation between SC, SHS, ED and the Field**

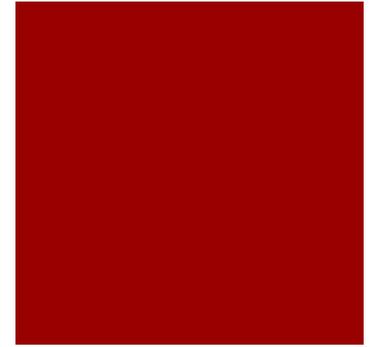
Salvatore ARICÒ, UNESCO, 5 April 2016

# UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021 (“37 C/4”)

- Strategic Objective 5, “Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development”. Para. 52: **“UNESCO will put into practice integrated approaches to science and engineering for sustainable development, called ‘sustainability science’”**; and
- Strategic Objective 6, “Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles”, Para. 58: **“UNESCO will seek to develop a future-oriented understanding of the dynamics at work, based on the approach of sustainability science, to assist countries in the design and review of inclusive evidence-based public policies”**.
- Strategic Objective 1, **“Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all”**.



# History of the debate



- Independent review of MPs II and III in the early 2000s
- Need to reorient conventionally discipline-based, expert or community of practice based work towards joint, multidisciplinary common outcomes for the benefit of multiple stakeholders, so as to effectively tackle the challenges posed by the [MDGs] [SDGs]
- The academic debate on sustainability science mature enough to enter the policy circles
- Opportunity for a change step

# Member States progressively embrace the challenge

- Japan and the “36 C/5” (2012-2013 Programme & Budget)
- Continuously growing support of Member States
- At the UNESCO GC in November 2015: Cote d’Ivoire, Canada, Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea, Egypt, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia
- Japan through its MEXT offer to consider a project proposal



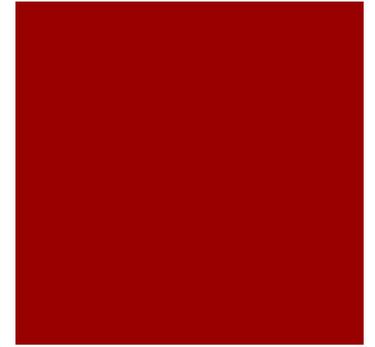
# The Project's Steering Committee

- ❑ Academia / Expert practitioners
- ❑ Natural Sciences / Social and Human Sciences / Education
- ❑ Member States
- ❑ UNESCO HQ & FO

- ✓ **Maik Adomssent**, Leuphana University Luneburg
- ✓ **Eduardo Brondizio**, Indiana University and Future Earth
- ✓ **Mathieu Denis**, International Social Science Council (ISSC)
- ✓ **Kazuki Fukuda**, Japan/MEXT
- ✓ **Heidi Hackmann**, International Council for Science (ICSU)
- ✓ **Luiz Oosterbeek**, International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH)
- ✓ **Lutz Möller**, German National Commission of UNESCO
- ✓ **Mohamed Saber**, National Research Center (NRC), representative of the Government of Egypt
- ✓ **Kazuhiko Takeuchi**, United Nations University (UNU)
- ✓ **ADG/SC** and **ADG/SHS**

# Guidance from the Project's SC

- A bottom-up process, largely driven by the expert communities, Member States and FOs, against the vision and priorities of Member States
- Operationalizing the discourse on sustainability science will require taking into account diverse experiences, aspirations, and views and perceptions
- In light of key developments in late 2014/2015 (Sendai Action Plan on DRR, Nagoya PoA on ESD, Addis Accord on FfD, 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement), sustainability science represents a possibly very useful thread to orient the work of UNESCO in support of these processes and deliberations



# Value-added of a UNESCO-led initiative in the area of sustainability science



- Bridge diverse schools of thought and of practice of science and education with the policy community in demonstrating and step up the contribution of the sciences and education to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Outputs will have the form of policy guidelines

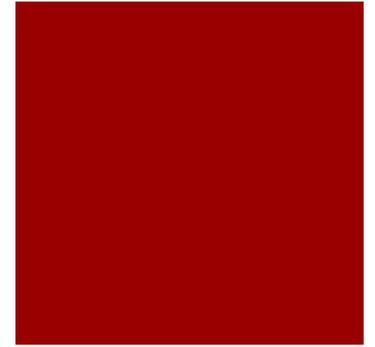
# Three Symposia

## ➤ 2016

- **5-6 April** - Inception Symposium
  - Project SC + Key Experts + Member States
- **October / November** - Regional / Thematic Symposium
  - Key actors in the five UNESCO's regions
  - Particular regional characteristics + priorities + needs + gaps + challenges

## ➤ **March 2017** – Global Policy Forum

- Government + scientific representatives
- Guidelines
- EXB Document
- UNESCO Initiative on Sustainability Science to the GC in the fall of 2017



Thanks !