

INCEPTION SYMPOSIUM ON BROADENING THE APPLICATION OF  
THE SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE APPROACH IN SUPPORT OF 2030  
AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5-6 APRIL 2016  
UNESCO HEADQUARTERS

***Highlights of the second day***

## Panel 5: Sustainability science involvement in different sectors

### Key Points/ Messages

- Universities need to rethink their self-image as “ivory towers”
- Universities need to work out a clear strategic framework for fulfilling a vision of becoming sustainability universities
- Transforming higher education for a sustainable tomorrow
- The cultural dimension of sustainability is conceptually and strategically indispensable for research and education
- Education for Sustainable Development (EDS) plays a central role in the promotion of sustainability science
- EDS must be holistic, contextual, critical, transformative and committed to equity

### Recommendations

- Interrelatedness of sustainability and sustainable development deserves educational attentiveness by professors and students
- It is essential to make sustainability science a tangible experience for professors and students
- Exposing undergraduate students early to collaborative sustainability projects across disciplines contributes to the promotion of sustainability science
- Bolder actions are needed to integrate sustainability into academic curricula at all levels
- Champion sustainability research activities that are transdisciplinary and that prioritize innovative thinking and new knowledge
- Conscious effort is required to highlight the direct connection between EDS and three particular targets of the 2030 development agenda: targets 4.7; 13.3; and 12.8
- The forthcoming regional symposium of this project should provide an opportunity to discuss the cultural dimension of sustainability

## Panel 6 Revolution and innovations in sustainability science and governance

### Key Points/ Messages

- **Global understanding is an essential human condition**
- **The main goal of the International Year for Global Understanding (IYGU) is to promote global understanding in an praxis centred way and change problematic actions**
- **The relevance of taking into account peoples politics:**
  - **Emphasizing the cultural dimensions of sustainability**
  - **Local, individual choices shape global change**
  - **Change must come from the bottom up.**
- **R & D plays an important function in achieving sustainable development**

### Recommendations

- **Making visible impacts of local actions for global sustainability**
- **Empower bottom-up movements.**
- **Moving from knowing about sustainability to living sustainably**
- **Promote global understanding that is relevant to sustainability science through:**
  - **Research: Bringing together the humanities, social and natural scientists**
  - **Education: Bringing research results at all levels in classrooms throughout the world**
  - **Information: Utilization of print media, social networks, internet platforms and TV programs**
- **Utilization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a Tool for achieving sustainable development**