

Interculturality in STEM

**Co-Organized by UNOSSC, UNESCO IESALC, and INNOSPEC
In collaboration with Global Student Forum, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network,
University of Sao Paulo, and Global Center for Pluralism**

[13h00-15h00, September 20, 2024]

Online Registration: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMUce2vrTstHdz2xirJs9q29yeMqW5IIWil>

Language: English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Sign Language

1. Background

The 2030 Agenda and evolving priorities represent pivotal opportunities to continue building our planet, to restore trust, and to illustrate the power of international cooperation in tackling both current and imminent challenges, particularly in the realm of climate change and sustainability. The urgency of the situation cannot be overstated, and it is imperative that we prioritize sustainable development under the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond.

UNESCO IESALC is committed to promoting sustainability in higher education through a holistic Greening Higher Education agenda, including a) greening teacher training and curriculum; b) greening science, technology, and innovation; 3) greening skills and jobs; and 4) greening higher education institutions with a focus on empowering youth at the core of leadership and different intergenerational stakeholders supporting our current and future generation.

By engaging with students, underserved youth, and youth-led climate initiatives, UNESCO IESALC works for a multistakeholder and multicultural approach that includes partnerships with the private entity, civil society organizations, and public sector, fostering interculturality and collaboration among academia, and working towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future for all.

Creating connections between higher education institutions and STEM fields is essential in ensuring that green skills training and educational opportunities are accessible to all, particularly those in underserved communities, such as marginalized, rural, and indigenous populations. By bridging this gap, we can empower young people to take an active role in building a greener future, regardless of their background.

To support the connections, UNOSSC, UNESCO IESALC, and INNOSPEC, in collaboration with other partners, will host a discussion to address current challenges and focus on implementing innovative solutions in Interculturality in STEM under the framework of Greening Higher Education agenda. The discussion aims to deepen our understanding of various pillars of greening higher education, promote equity and inclusion for underrepresented groups such as underserved youth, and advance STEM education for a more sustainable future, involving the engagement of students, the private sector, civil society organizations, and government.

2. Objectives of the Event

- **Objective 1:** Promote a collaborative and inclusive STEM learning environment where equity-deserving groups, underserved youth and students, and stakeholders from higher education and the private sector engage in knowledge-sharing and exchange of ideas on implementing environmentally friendly education practices.
- **Objective 2:** Encourage intercultural STEM education that incorporates the perspectives of equity-deserving groups, underserved voices of underserved youth, as well as insights from academia and civil society organizations, on sustainable development. This dialogue will blend traditional knowledge with modern advancements in the field, enhancing collaboration among youth and students, and the broader global south community.
- **Objective 3:** Facilitate intercultural dialogue and knowledge transfer in STEM through a multi-stakeholder approach involving equity-deserving groups, underserved youth and students, academic institutions, civil society organizations, government agencies, and private sector organizations. This collaboration will work towards sustainability goals while emphasizing inclusivity, equity, and diversity.
- **Objective 4:** Highlight innovative projects and initiatives that unite a network of partners—including youth and students from the global south—committed to advancing sustainability efforts through intercultural collaboration and dialogue, particularly focusing on the contributions of underserved youth, civil society organizations, and academia.

3. Speakers and Agenda

- **Moderators:** Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and UN Liaison, UNESCO IESALC
- **Agenda**

Event Segment & Duration	Flow of Event
20 mins	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks, highlighting the importance of inclusivity among youth, students, academia, the private sector, civil society, governments, underserved youth, and their perspectives in the Global South on interculturality in STEM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Dima Al Khatib, Director, UNOSSC (Online - 5 mins) - Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC (5 mins) - Ms. Vali Rae Jerome, President, Fuel Specialties, INNOSPEC (5 mins)
20 mins	<p>Panelist discussions on challenges and opportunities in improving capacities at higher education level to support interculturality with STEM education, especially in supporting equity deserving groups, including underserved youth and students from the Global South.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strategies can be implemented to empower underserved students and youth in STEM fields, especially in the global South? • How can higher education institutions adapt their programs to promote interculturality in STEM? • What are the current barriers to ensuring that STEM education is accessible and inclusive for underserved groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Trust Fund Director, UNOSSC (5 mins) - Ms. Nathalie Sirois, Senior Education Manager, Global Center for Pluralism (5 mins) - Ms. Nayla Pariamachi, BIBO Network Member (5 mins)
20 mins	<p>Panelist discussions on integrating equity deserving groups and intercultural knowledge and perspectives into STEM in higher education, emphasizing the roles of academia and civil society in promoting interculturality in STEM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways can academia, private sector, and civil society

	<p>collaborate to advance intercultural understanding in STEM education?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What roles can student organizations and youth networks play in promoting equity and inclusion in STEM education in collaboration with different stakeholders, especially the UN? • How can traditional knowledge systems be integrated into concurrent STEM education to promote more inclusive curriculum and research? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Marcio Lobo Netto, Associate Professor, Electronic Systems Engineering, University of Sao Paolo (5 mins) - Ellen Dixon, Global Student Forum Former Steering Committee Member / SDG4 Youth & Student Network Member Executive Committee Member (5 mins) - Mr. Francesc Pedro, Director, UNESCO IESALC (5 mins)
20 mins	<p>Panelist discussions on the role of international cooperation among governments, the private sector, and civil society in promoting unity and collaboration for a greener, more sustainable, and more environmentally friendly future, with a focus on the contributions and leadership of young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can governments, private sectors, and civil society work together to accelerate progress toward sustainability goals through South-South Cooperation and global collaboration? • What role do young leaders play in shaping policies and practices for a greener and more sustainable future? • How can international partnerships foster a unified approach to addressing global environmental challenges, especially in the Global South? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Alland Dharmawan, Personal Assistant to the Presidential Advisor, Member of Smart Team, Presidential Advisory Council of the Republic of Indonesia (5 mins) - Ms. Elisabeth Ilboudo, Co-Chair of Observatoire International de l'université Paris Dauphine PSL for scientific pedagogy and curricular, General Coordinator of Africa MUN (5 mins)
25 mins	Interventions from the floor

	<p>Call-to-actions from the audience, encouraging participation from students, youth organizations, and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>15 mins</p>	<p>Ways forward and call-to-action for building bridges between higher education institutions and equity deserving groups, underserved communities, and the private sector to foster intercultural dialogue and collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call to actions – All partners – 1 min for each partner - Announcement of UNESCO-IESALC-INNOSPEC Partnership - Any other partnership by other partners on the panel