

“Our Collective Humanity and Pluralism: Multistakeholder Support for the Right to Higher Education”

**Co-Organized by Interstellar Foundation and UNESCO IESALC
In collaboration with Partnership Accelerator/DESA, Global Center for Pluralism, Global Student Forum, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network, Una Generacion, Columbia University, Future of Space, NASA, Deep Space Initiative, Accept International, and STEM and Space Education**

[9h30-12h30, September 20, 2024]

Online Registration: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcuivpj0jH9wofuI7Fn-wsy2A1eIwPdsG>

Language: English, Spanish, 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. As we unite key stakeholders from various sectors, we hope to shape a path toward a world that is more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous and a world that we are proud to present to the universe. Central to this vision is the role of higher education, which serves as a foundational element in societal development by equipping individuals with the specialized knowledge and skills necessary to drive innovation and progress across diverse fields, including Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI).

As global interest in space exploration and communication continues to rise, it is imperative that a global consensus is reached to unlock the opportunities presented by space. Such collaboration is crucial not only for scientific advancement but also for fostering a more inclusive approach to space that acknowledges the contributions and needs of the Global South. The youth population, especially in developing regions, stands as a powerful force for positive transformation. Nonetheless, many young individuals face significant barriers, including poverty and limited access to quality education and essential services, which hinder their ability to realize their full potential and positively impact society.

In this context, the Interstellar Foundation and the UNESCO International Institute for Higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), will spotlight the critical intersection of youth empowerment, higher education, space exploration, and collective humanity and pluralism. By emphasizing the importance of space education as a tool for empowering young individuals, the event aims to cultivate collaboration in

exploring space and its potential benefits for collective humanity and pluralism. Diverse stakeholders will be represented, including persons with disabilities, refugees, female students, and youth from the Global South, as well as participants from academia, government, private sectors, UN agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs). Through the showcasing of youth-led initiatives, this event will underscore the significant role of higher education in advancing space exploration and fostering synergistic efforts among academia, government, and industry. This collaborative spirit is essential for cultivating the next generation of leaders and innovators in the field of space, ensuring that the future of humanity and pluralism in space is bright and inclusive.

2. Objectives of the event

1. Foster conversations and collaboration: Create a platform for dialogue among space industry professionals to establish consensus on communication strategies that advance space exploration and research.
2. Integrate space education into youth curriculum: Explore effective methods for incorporating space education into existing youth curricula to inspire new partnerships and collaborative initiatives in space.
3. Highlight youth-led initiatives: Showcase the importance of youth-led initiatives in advancing humanity's collective goals in space exploration, as well as the supportive role of higher education in nurturing these initiatives.
4. Empower young leaders on partnership of collective humanity and pluralism: Identify ways in which higher education institutions can empower young people to assume leadership roles in space-related projects and initiatives, fostering a new generation of informed and engaged leaders in the space sector.

3. Agenda and Programme

Time	Theme	Speaker
10 mins	High-level Opening	<p>Moderator: Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and UN Liaison, UNESCO IESALC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Francesc Pedró, Director, UNESCO IESALC - Mr. Nick Searra, Founder, Interstellar Foundation
30 mins	Panel 1: Earth vs. space: What is	Moderator: Ms. Sofía Bermudez, UNESCO

	<p>collective humanity and pluralism?</p>	<p>SDG4 Youth & Student Network / Okayama University/ One Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the concepts of collective humanity and pluralism influence global space initiatives, and what lessons can we apply to earth-based challenges? • How can space exploration foster a shared sense of responsibility towards the common good of humanity, particularly among marginalized and underserved communities? • What roles can academia and cultural institutions play in promoting pluralism in space-related initiatives? • How can we promote pluralism and systematically foster multi-stakeholder collaboration? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Nathalie Sirois, Senior Education Manager, Global Center for Pluralism - Mr. Daniel Fox, Explorer & Artist, Future of Space - Ms. Karen Lewis, Professor of Linguistic, Columbia University - Mr. Darian Stibbe, Head of Partnering Initiative, Partnership Accelerator/DESA
<p>30 mins</p>	<p>Panel 2: How can space education powerfully encourage youths in understanding partnership and collaboration?</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Nick Searra, Founder, Interstellar Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can space education promote partnership overall at higher education level? • How can space education be integrated into youth curricula to

		<p>inspire global collaboration and partnerships in space research?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What innovative strategies can be employed to make space education more accessible to underserved communities, especially in the Global South? • How can we encourage more youth-led initiatives in space science and STEM fields to foster a diverse and inclusive future for space exploration? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jonathan H Jiang, Scientist, NASA JPL - Ms. Aidyl Gonzalaz Serricchio, Scientist, NASA - Ms. Janet Ivey-Duensing, Science and Space Educator, CEO, Janet’s Planet & NASA Ambassador - Mr. David Brothers, Astronaut, International Institute for Astronautical Sciences
30 mins	<p>Panel 3: Effective youth-led initiatives and role of higher education in collective humanity and pluralism</p>	<p>Moderator: Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and UN Liaison, UNESCO IESALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an example of the inter-generational project being implemented involving diverse multistakeholders to support young people on space-related programme? • How can higher education institutions support youth leadership and contribute to promoting pluralism on a global scale? • What are some key examples of youth-led initiatives that have successfully advanced the idea of

		<p>collective humanity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we ensure that young people from marginalized communities are fully empowered to lead their own initiatives through collaboration? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Maria Joao Filgueiras Rauch, SDSN Portugal - Mr. Yosuke Nagai, Founder and Executive Director, Accept International (Japan) - Ms. Sofia Bermudez, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network / Okayama University/ One Generation
15 mins	Ways Forward	<p>Moderator: Ms. Bosen Lily Liu, Head of Partnership and UN Liaison, UNESCO IESALC</p> <p>Speakers: Call to actions – All partners – 1 min for each partner</p> <p>Call to action - Young People – Video (5 mins)</p>
<p>10 mins:</p> <p>UNESCO IESALC and Interstellar Foundation calling for Collaboration on Youth Partnership Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Francesc Pedró, Director, UNESCO IESALC - Mr. Nick Searra, Founder, Interstellar Foundation 		
55 minutes	Intergenerational Fireside Chat on “what messages can we send to the space from higher education”	<p>Facilitator: Mr. Nick Searra, Founder, Interstellar Foundation & Mr. Francesc Pedró, Director, UNESCO IESALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What messages can we send to the universe about humanity’s

		<p>aspirations for unity, cooperation, and pluralism through space exploration?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can intergenerational dialogue foster a stronger, more inclusive approach to space exploration and its potential to benefit all of humanity? <p>Fireside chatters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Jonathan H Jiang, Scientist, NASA JPL- Ms. Sofia Bermudez, UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network / Okayama University/ One Generation- Mr. Jacob Blasius, Executive Director, Global Student Forum- Ms. Michelle Lucas, Science Educator & Former Astronaut, STEM and Space Education- Ms. Mary McGuinness, Founder, Citizens of the Solar System
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