

New education and academia stakeholder group for Agenda 2030 formed

New York



The Global Campaign for Education has sustained its engagement with the SDG processes in New York for which a new architecture is developing that will follow up and review progress made.

In 2013, the UN General Assembly agreed a Resolution on the 'Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development' which agreed that a *"high-level political forum, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments..."* The High level Political Forum is thus the main UN formation that steers on the follow up work of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further, the same resolution outlined, *"the need for the forum to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions..."* The 'Major groups and other Relevant Stakeholders' represent the institutionalised mechanism by which broad participation of all sectors of society and of civil society is facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development.

Traditionally, the Major groups and other relevant stakeholders' have been organised around – (1) 6 major groups - Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers; and (2) Other stakeholder groups - local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families as well as older persons and persons with disabilities. The 2013 UN resolution however, made specific reference additionally to 'educational and academic entities' and 'private philanthropic organizations' as stakeholder groups active in areas related to sustainable development, *"...to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum..."*

With GCE's active engagement in the processes defining the new development agenda and SDGs in 2014-2015, it was asked to facilitate the coming together of the Education and Academia stakeholder group. The structure involves bringing together 'Organising Partners' (OPs) for this constituency. The OPs are expected to coordinate work of this constituency group with respect to facilitating CSO substantive input and involvement in the global SDG follow up processes and will also work towards broadening the constituency base of the Education and Academia stakeholder group. The OPs of the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group are the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) which has been acting as the Convenor, the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), Education International (EI) and the European Students Union (ESU). Existing stakeholders such as the Major Groups, as well as new constituencies, are coming together to form a HLPF coordination mechanism, the 'Steering Group of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders HLPF



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Coordination Mechanism' around the follow-up and review mechanisms of the SDG Agenda. In early May, the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group was accepted for representation within the Steering Group of the Major Groups (MOGs) HLPF Coordination Mechanism. GCE represents the Education stakeholder group in this body. With this development, GCE members now have a clear route to engage the UN processes on the SDGs.

One of the first joint initiatives of the Education and Academia Stakeholder group was a consultation process to craft a submission of the education CSO constituency to the HLPF 2016 process.

Click [here](#) to read the results of the consultation led by the Education and Academia Stakeholder groups and GCE.

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