

Madame Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished Members of the Panel

At UN Environment we are taking a specific focus on SDG 4.7 and 4.4 where we will work in close collaboration with UNESCO and other key partners in government and the private sector.

Our focus is simple: to help create the next generation of young leaders. Without their support, we will not deliver on the global goals.

Our scope is to work in both higher education and non-formal education.

There **we want learning to be both interdisciplinary** so that sustainability is pollinated across all courses, **and then applied in both life and work.**

For our work in formal education, we focus on three areas:

- 1) Green campuses: Working with partners to support green campuses across the world and to scale up the vision and application of this work.
- 2) Behavioural Insights and civics: Higher education is where habits and norms are shaped. This is where we want to incentivise Universities to nudge the behaviour of all students to shift behaviours and norms and support civics being taken forward on campuses.
- 3) Collaboration:
 - a. We want to raise the voice of Higher Education, both as chair of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative and supporting institutions in raising their voice.
 - b. We also want to see how we can connect education and environment ministries together so they can drive a joint agenda
 - c. Also, we want to support the voices of education. Tomorrow, networks of 7021 Universities will declare a climate emergency and support a 3-point plan of action and the demand for action is growing.

However, we know that we can't address all these problems on the campus and the classroom.

We may need to go where young people are, rather than where we want them to be.

We are building partnerships with the Scouts, Girl Guides and Junior Achievement in a new set of programmes on environmental education for their 90 million members, one of which we will be launching at the Global Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in two weeks time.

We are also exploring how the video gaming industry can inspire 2.6 billion players to put nudges and environmental messages in their platforms.

We will have a major initiative on this announced as part of the Play for the Planet initiative in September.

But ultimately we need **to help young people to at a minimum, to have sustainable habits but ideally to also have the skillsets to move into green jobs** to support the transition the world needs to address the growing threat of climate change.

For this, we are talking to ILO and private sector partners as to how we can set defaults and set sign-posts up for green jobs.

In short, we need to explore new investment, new partners and new innovations to drive this agenda forward and UN Environment stands ready to drive this agenda boldly forward.

The question I would leave the panel is how can we can fast track education system that create the mindset, skillset and capability for the future.

Thank you.