The International Debate on Higher Education: The Sustainable Development Goals

G7 University –Education for All, Udine, 29 June 2017

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Fordham University: The Jesuit University of New York

Jesuit, Catholic research university in New York City

Founded in 1841 – recently celebrated our 175th anniversary.

15,000+ students from more than 70 countries.

Three Undergraduate Colleges:
- Gabelli School of Business (Undergraduate)
- Fordham College – Rose Hill
- Fordham College – Lincoln Center

Seven Graduate & Professional Schools:
- Gabelli School of Business (Graduate)
- Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- Graduate School of Education
- Graduate School of Social Service
- Graduate School of Religion & Religious Education
- School of Law
- School of Professional & Continuing Studies

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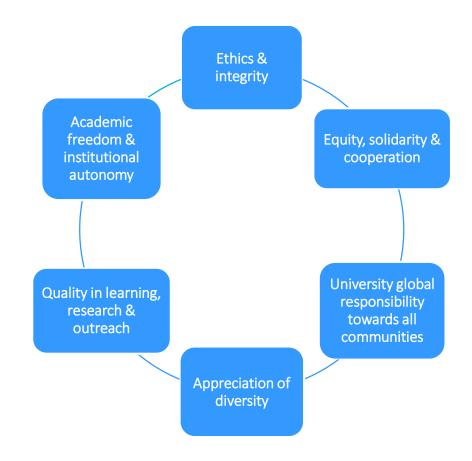# International Association of Universities

Created in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO

An independent international NGO

An official partner of UNESCO and it is based at its headquarters in Paris

A membership organization comprising more than 650 universities and associations of universities worldwide.

Promoting HE that is values-based, appreciative of diversity, committed to solidarity and social responsibility

Ethics & integrity

Equity, solidarity & cooperation

University global responsibility towards all communities

Appreciation of diversity

Quality in learning, research & outreach

Academic freedom & institutional autonomy

Contextual Forces Driving Change in Higher Education

✓ **Knowledge** is at the center of economic development

✓ Growth and **economic development** are main paths to success

✓ Globalization brings unprecedented levels of **interconnectedness** in all spheres of life

✓ More multipolarity and greater regionalization is leading to **increased competitiveness**

✓ Growing recognition of **unsustainability** of current higher education models promoting economic growth

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Contextual Forces Driving Change in Higher Education (cont.)

✓ **Inequalities** both among and within nations bring unforeseen consequences such as populism, protectionary policies and new alliances

✓ Significant **demographic trends** impacting both North and South

✓ Continuous and rapid innovation in technology effecting higher education delivery and format

✓ Higher level of **insecurity** due to greater geopolitical tensions between and within nations

✓ Increased **volatility, complexity and unpredictability** as we approach change in higher education

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Higher Education Agenda Going Forward

Higher Education Institutions are expected to:

- ✓ demonstrate **quality and relevance**
- ✓ contribute to national competitiveness, ensure **individual employability**
- ✓ advance knowledge and **solve local and global challenges**, real world problems
- ✓ offer access to quality and affordable HE and ensure success of all learners
- ✓ be i**nnovative**, engage in research, knowledge transfer, enhance entrepreneurialism, link with community and industry
- ✓ **anticipate** and offer unbiased critique of current developments
- ✓ demonstrate **social responsibility, locally and globally**
- ✓ **prepare graduates** to be world ready, culturally sensitive and discerning

Do all of this with less and less financial support from the public purse

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Global Trends in Higher Education

1. Expansion and growth – primarily in emerging economies

2. Increased focus on quality and accreditation

3. Paradigmatic shift from teaching to learning – and learning outcomes

4. Priority given to employability with an **overwhelming focus on STEM**

5. Local and global competition for excellence, defined by international rankings and pursuit of World Class status

6. Increasing share of private funding in higher education – including private funding of public higher education, private-for-profit and cross border providers

7. Growth of online and distance education alongside traditional higher education

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UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

- ✓ The 17 SDGs are all interconnected : solutions need to be holistic in nature

- ✓ None of the goals can be achieved without involvement – through research, education and outreach – of higher education institutions

- ✓ None of the SD goals can be achieved without international collaboration and commitment

Priorities for HE Development and Inter-university Cooperation

Leadership
Promoting values-based leadership in higher education

Internationalization
Remaining a leader for inclusive, fair and ethical internationalization of higher education

Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development
Integrating sustainable development fully into higher education strategies

Information & Communications Technologies
Using ICTs to improve access to knowledge

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Conclusion: Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development

What to do going forward?

- ✓ Develop & share expertise on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with colleagues and partner institutions

- ✓ Encourage peer-to-peer learning institutionally

- ✓ Monitor trends and issues related to higher education sustainable development

- ✓ Provide capacity building and networking services

- ✓ Map and analyze assessment tools related to higher education sustainable development

- ✓ Enhanced initiatives in higher education sustainable development around the globe

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Thank you for your attention

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