



UNESCO Chair in
Community Based
Research and
Social Responsibility
in Higher Education



Invitation for Collective Mobilization to Transform Higher Education

During the closing plenary of recently held 30th Anniversary International Conference of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs (held in UNESCO Paris during November 3-4, 2022), we made an appeal for collective mobilisation of all higher education institutions, UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN Networks and UNESCO National Commissions present to take action on Agenda 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in "Transforming Knowledge for Just & Sustainable Futures".

Higher education institutions and their partners generate the knowledge and innovation needed to address the most complex and intractable issues of our time. Through teaching and learning, they shape generations of graduates and leaders who will go on to tackle these challenges in their professional lives. Through community engagement, they also enable local partnerships and the co-production of critical knowledge.

The two-day conference echoed several key messages emerging from a number of important UNESCO Conferences, Recommendations and Reports in recent years:

Decolonisation, multiplicity of knowledge systems, indigenous knowledge in higher education, transdisciplinarity, epistemic justice & co-creation, open science, inclusion & diversity, greater engagement with societal actors, collaboration.

- ['Transforming Education: An urgent political imperative for our collective future'](#), Vision Statement of Secretary-General of United Nations, delivered at the Transforming Education Summit held at the United Nations (New York) during September 16, 17 & 19, 2022.
- ['Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education'](#), Report from the International Commission on the Futures of Education, UNESCO 2021.
- ['Knowledge-driven actions: Transforming higher education for global sustainability'](#), prepared by Independent Expert Group on the Universities and the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO, 2022.
- ['Beyond Limits: New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education'](#), Roadmap proposed for the 3rd World Higher Education Conference (WHEC 2022), held during May 18-20, 2022.
- ['Indigenous Perspectives on Higher Education'](#), prepared by Canadian Commission for UNESCO, 2021.
- GUNi World Report Special Issue: ['New Visions for Higher Education towards 2030'](#), published in 2021.
- [2021 Talloires Network Declaration on Higher Education: A Moment of Challenge and Opportunity](#)

This invitation is to encourage discussion of ideas and recommendations contained in these documents and reports in your networks, associations, higher education institutions and partners.

Further, this invitation is to collectively mobilise our voices and energies to support practical changes needed to transform higher education systems to become active partners to achieve these visions.

Invitation made by UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education.