The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals





Integration of SDGs in

- $\hfill\square$ Institutional governance/strategic level
- \boxtimes SDGs in research
- \Box SDGs in campus operations
- \Box SDGs in curriculum development
- $\hfill\square$ SDGs in student engagement activities
- $\hfill\square$ SDGs into community activities
- $\hfill\square$ SDGs at a whole-institution level

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Focus on

- \Box Goal 1 No poverty
- □ Goal 2 Zero hunger
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 3 Good health and wellbeing
- □ Goal 4 Quality education
- □ Goal 5 Gender equality
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 6 Clean water and sanitation
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 7 Affordable and clean energy
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth
- □ Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- □ Goal 10 Reduced inequalities
- □ Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production
- ⊠ Goal 13 Climate action
- □ Goal 14 Life below water
- □ Goal 15 Life on land
- \square Goal 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- ⊠ Goal 17 Partnerships for the goals

Summary:

Recent research, led by Professor Chris Stokes (e.g. Stokes et al., 2022: *Nature*), has highlighted the importance of the Paris Climate Agreement to prevent several metres of sealevel rise from the world's largest ice sheet in East Antarctica (which currently stores the equivalent of 52 m of sea level rise). This research showed that exceeding the Paris Agreement temperature target of 2 °C would directly impact on at least 230 million people who inhabit land within 1 m of sea level. It is therefore directly relevant to 'climate action' (SDG 13) and Professor Stokes attended COP27 to share this research and contribute to side events hosted in the Cryosphere Pavilion, which was coordinated by the International Climate Cryosphere Initiative (ICCI).

A culmination of the work of the ICCI was that a broad coalition of 20 governments - led by Chile and Iceland - joined together to create a new high-level group at COP27 called 'Ambition on Melting Ice (AMI): On Sea-level Rise and Mountain Water Resources'. The AMI group includes polar and mountain nations as well as low-lying nations that exist on the front line of cryosphere change. The 'AMI' group aims to ensure impacts of cryosphere loss are understood by political leaders and the public, and not only within mountain and polar regions, but throughout the planet. Following COP27, climate negotiators, primarily but not exclusively from the AMI group continue to meet to discuss how the latest cryosphere science can be brought into the various UNFCCC negotiation tracks dealing with adaptation, and loss and damage; as well as the mitigation required to decrease irreversible global impacts from cryosphere loss. Professor Stokes attended their follow-up meeting in Stockholm in March 2023 to update the group with the latest science and with a strong message that 1.5 °C should be seen as an upper limit if we are to prevent several metres of sea level rise. This theme/message will also be the focus of a one-day SB58 pre-sessional

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technical workshop in June 2023, where Professor Stokes will contribute his research expertise funded by the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP).

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

1. Increased awareness of the response of the cryosphere to temperature thresholds that are crossed beyond 1.5 $^{\rm o}{\rm C}$

2. Increased communication and cooperation between scientists and policymakers/negotiators

3. Increased emphasis on the cryosphere and 'thresholds' in the UNFCCC

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

There were no obvious barriers or challenges.

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

Much of the above would not have been possible without the work and coordination of the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI) who are a network of senior policy experts and researchers working with governments and organizations to create, shape and implement initiatives designed to preserve as much of the Earth's cryosphere as possible. A key conclusion/recommendation is that these networks/partnerships are essential to help scientists communicate the most urgent and up-to-date science (i.e. on shorter time-scales than the IPCC report cycles) directly to policymakers/negotiators and aid in decision-making and planning.