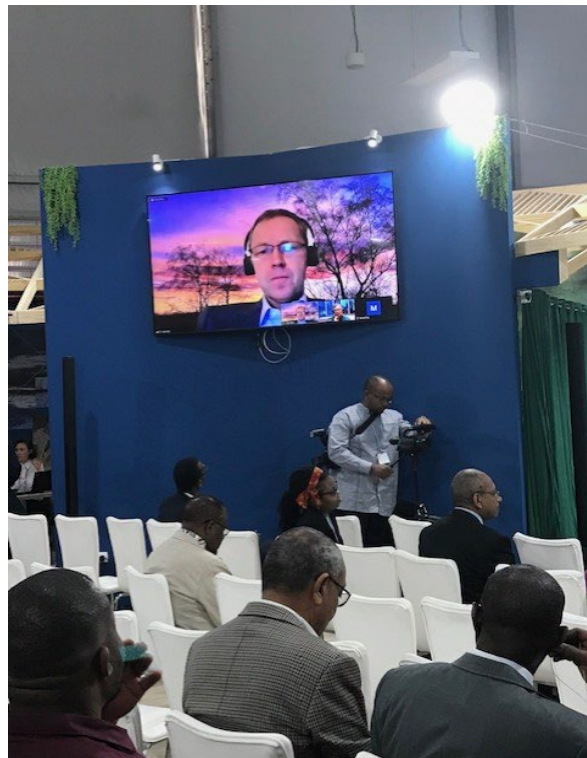


# The SDG Accord

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



## *SDG Accord Case Study*

### **Integration of SDGs in**

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

### **Focus on**

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

### ***Summary:***

The Universities of the N8 Research Partnership, Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York, have established a partnership with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to jointly tackle issues such as sustainable infrastructure development, clean energy and food security. The partnership aims to meet complex challenges by bringing together multi-disciplinary teams, including researchers from the N8 universities and other institutions and agencies in the 55 African Union Member States. As a Chair of the N8-AUDA NEPAD Steering Group, Professor Ashraf Osman has co-organised in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) as part of the N8-AUDA Nepad partnership a side event at COP27 in the African Pavilion. The event addressed strategic aims around strengthening capacity in key areas such as energy and food security, infrastructure and climate change adaptation. The event showcased innovative research capabilities and world-class interdisciplinary, collaborative, translational research programmes. The event represented a platform for engagement with stakeholders and a discussion forum for transforming the innovative research carried out in the N8 universities into policies and development plans in Africa. In this event, policymakers,

## *SDG Accord Case Study*

researchers and partners shared experiences and deliberated on how research can be effectively translated into policy decisions.

Estherine Fotabong, Director of Programmes at AUDA-NEPAD, stated that “*Partnership and collaboration within countries, among the stakeholders, and North-South collaboration which is demonstrated by the partnership between AUDA-NEPAD and the N8 universities are all very important, and there are key messages that have come out of this very high-level event.*”

### ***Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:***

- 1. Increased research collaboration between the N8 Universities and the African Union.*
- 2. Increased institutional awareness of sustainable development issues in the Global South.*
- 3. A strategic partnership between Durham University and AUDA-NEPAD on sustainable development. Durham University has allocated professional support staff to coordinate and strengthen this partnership.*

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

- 1. Lack of communication between academics and policymakers. These sort of events provides an excellent platform for networking and icebreaking between academics and policymakers.*
- 2. Integrating local knowledge and conditions in technological solutions. Collaboration between Global North-Global South researchers is very important.*
- 3. The timeframe for organising events at COP27 is very short. Efficient communication between the partners involved in the event overcame this challenge.*

### ***Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:***

This COP27 event highlighted the importance of partnerships, sharing experiences, and innovative approaches to energy for sustainable development and food security in Africa. There is a need to discuss mechanisms to maximise the impact of the N8 research in Africa, enhance collaboration with African partners, and identify a range of policy options that African countries could deploy in strengthening planning for clean energy, sustainable infrastructure and food security.

The potential of internationalisation and collaboration at COP, attended by over 35,000 delegates, and 10% academia, is huge. The academic community can play an important role in driving evidence-based climate adaptation policies.