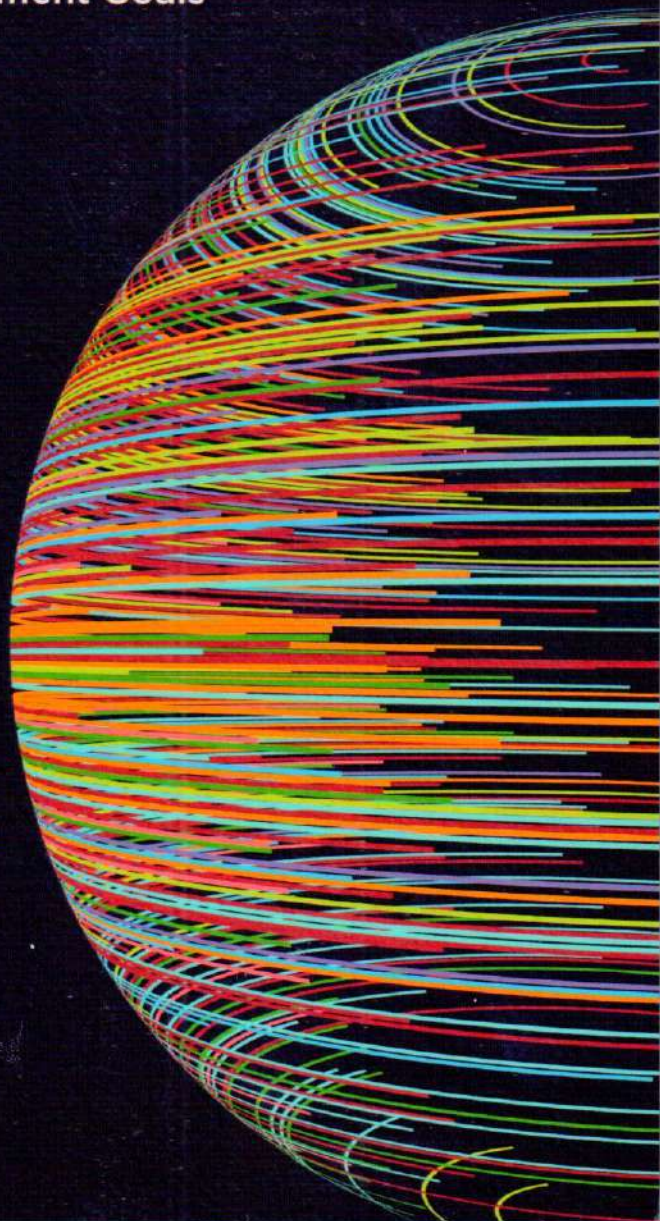


GLOBAL GOALS, GLOBAL EDUCATION

Advancing the United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals

EDITED BY

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Strategies for Integrating the SDGs into University Goals and Priorities: The Case of Mount Kenya University

*By Mwangi Peter Wanderi and Judy Wambui Mwangi,
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In a speech at Madison Park High School in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1990, Nelson Mandela, the founding president of the Republic of South Africa, said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world" (Mandela 1990). This idea applies equally in the developed world and the developing world. However, the need for education as a means of self-edification and for social empowerment is very much reflected in the developing world; empirical evidence shows that education contributes to reduced inequalities (Pronoy and Husain 2019; Tyagi et al. 2021).

In addition to the economic challenges that affect learners in educational institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries, health and livelihood challenges also contribute to large dropout rates in schools and higher education institutions (HEIs) (Brock and Cammish 1997). A combination of all these challenges can impede students' progression in education, often resulting in incomplete education at various levels within the developing world. As the report on the launch of the O3Plus pilot project that was jointly conducted by the University of Nairobi and Mount Kenya University explains, "supporting students' health and well-being... [and] promoting a safe campus environment" could raise and improve their university education completion rates (Lillian 2021). The detailed activities covered under the O3Plus Project targeted "reduction of new HIV infections through positive reproductive health practices, prevention of unintended pregnancies, sexual and gender based violence, drug abuse and mental health challenges among HTEIs students" (Mount Kenya University, n.d.-b). Efforts to address these adverse factors can support students' timely completion of a degree and enable them to make positive contributions to their communities, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 and the SDG principle of Leave No One Behind.

Mount Kenya University (MKU) is a chartered, nonprofit, certified HEI in Kenya, in the eastern region of Africa. MKU has designed an education program that draws attention to student welfare and therefore helps mitigate the challenges faced by students and communities. In recognition of these efforts, in 2021, MKU was awarded the opportunity to serve as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Hub for SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities for a period of three years, between 2021 and 2024. MKU has established a conspicuous presence in East Africa, with its main campus in

Global Goals, Global Education: Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals offers a comprehensive guide on how higher education institutions worldwide can contribute significantly to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. Divided into five parts, the book explores developing a holistic and intentional approach to higher education Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) engagement; integrating the SDGs into institutional goals and priorities; advancing the SDGs through teaching and research; bridging global, regional, national, and local communities; and considering the way forward. With sixteen chapters that highlight higher education institutions from around the world that have effectively embedded the SDGs into their work, this book serves as a practical guide for higher education institutions that want to build or strengthen their alignment with the SDGs.

"This is a unique book that not only shows the important role of higher education institutions in achieving the SDGs but also the how-to. It should be read by all educators, students, and policymakers. The book offers valuable insights on the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, integrating the SDGs into the institution, cocreation and research, and the campus as a bridge between partners and local communities."

Mari Elka Pangestu, former World Bank managing director of development policy and partnerships and Indonesian economist

"This book illustrates a variety of innovative pathways for higher education institutions to act on the shared values of the SDGs and reveals common principles of partnership, leadership engagement, aligning incentives, and systems-level thinking across the many initiatives explored. It offers an insightful addition to our collective understanding of what's possible, what's needed, and challenges we must learn from to accelerate SDG engagement from higher education institutions. This is a valuable resource for anyone looking to develop new SDG initiatives that spread awareness or deepen institutional connection to the Global Goals, in HEIs and beyond."

Caroline Kleinfox, director of U.S. SDG policy planning, United Nations Foundation

"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not only a call for action but also an existential imperative. *Global Goals, Global Education: Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals* highlights the critical role of higher education to mobilize scholars and students to drive progress in achieving the SDGs through innovation, strategic partnerships, evidence-based research, pedagogy, and community engagement. For those working to strategically align their institutions and educational praxis with the SDGs to create a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, this book is a must read."

Jayashri Wyatt, chief of education outreach, United Nations Department of Global Communications



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